



WSOP CIRCUIT 2021-22 EVENT REPORT

Circuit Stop:	Choctaw (Durant, Okla.)	Date:	7 January 2022
Event:	Congress (5 Card PLO Hi-Lo)	Entries:	299
Buy-in:	\$400	Prizepool:	\$98,670

MIKE BUDDE CLAIMS 3RD CIRCUIT GOLD RING

Two-time Seniors Event winner pulls off first-place run in Choctaw's Congress ring event.

Mike Budde came away with his third-career World Series of Poker gold ring by closing out Event #3: \$400 Congress (5 Card PLO High-Low) at the Choctaw Durant Circuit series, a tournament that drew 299 entrants.

The 71-year-old's first two trips to the WSOPC winner's circle occurred during Seniors Events, which hold a tag of "unofficial ring events" on account of their exclusivity. With his achievement at Choctaw Casino in Durant, Oklahoma, Budde now lays claim to his first official gold-ring accolade.

"Well, it's enjoyable to beat the players here because, generally speaking, these players are very knowledgeable. These are not easy guys to beat," Budde claimed, while comparing his previous first-place finishes.

Not only did Budde find success in an open ring event, he found it playing an alternative game type. Congress, also known as Big O, is a staple in the Oklahoma/Texas arenas and is a game Budde is familiar with.

"Yeah, I've got some experience with Big O," said Budde. "I play a lot of cash and tournaments"

The 5-Card PLO High-Low game type can be a lot of fun, but also can bring out some heavy hitters. Budde's head-up opponent was no exception. Shawn Rice, owner of nearly \$500,000 in WSOP earnings, was Budde's eventual heads-up opponent.

Rice and Budde were the top-two stacks going into the final table. By the time heads-up began, Budde had overtaken the chip lead from Rice. Rice, looking for his first Circuit title, could not overcome the deficit and had to settle for the runner-up position (\$13,877), leaving him one spot short of the elusive gold ring.

Budde, from Williamsburg, Missouri, walked away with the nice payday of \$22,445, his third Circuit gold ring in hand, and an automatic bid to the Tournament of Champions.

MEET THE LATEST WSOP CIRCUIT RING WINNER

Name:	Mike Budde	Age:	71
Nationality:	USA	Occupation:	N/A
Birthplace:	Williamsburg, MO	WSOP Bracelets:	0
Current Residence:	Williamsburg, MO	Previous WSOP Circuit Rings:	2

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