



## WSOP CIRCUIT 2021-22 EVENT REPORT

Circuit Stop:	Choctaw (Durant, Okla.)	Date:	11 January 2022
Event:	NLH Double Stack	Entries:	465
Buy-in:	\$400	Prizepool:	\$153,450

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### **SHAWN SPARKS SCOOPS 2<sup>ND</sup> WSOP CIRCUIT GOLD RING**

*Oklahoma native legitimizes original gold ring achievement by securing second Circuit title – Aces laid down twice.*

Shawn Sparks successfully scooped up his second World Series of Poker gold ring after topping a field of 465 entrants in Event #5: \$400 No-Limit Hold'em Double Stack at the Choctaw Durant Circuit series. The tournament took two-days and 32 levels poker to deem a champion, leaving Sparks as the last man standing.

“This one legitimizes the first one. The first one wasn’t just luck,” Sparks declared.

The Oklahoma native has now won a gold ring at each of the WSOP Circuit stops located in his home state. Sparks’ original gold-ring run came in March of 2018 at Hard Rock Tulsa when he defeated 163 opponents for \$13,284.

With Choctaw’s considerably larger fields, the 52-year-old walked away with more than double his previous first-place cash, this time banking \$30,200.

“I mostly just play Circuits. I’ve got a full-time job. This is a hobby for me. I love it. I would never, ever want to play this game professional,” Sparks said with a laugh. “I enjoy it. I love the game too much. For me, I want it to be fun.”

For Sparks, playing poker is an enjoyable pastime. The hobby is arguably more enjoyable when a player is the chip leader, a post Sparks did hold for much of Event #5’s home stretch, including the beginning of Day 2 and subsequent redraw to the official final table.

His prominent position was relinquished a couple times along the way. However, even in the toughest spots, Sparks excelled in his decision making.

“I laid aces down twice,” said Sparks. He went on to divulge a hand that occurred between him and Vu Nguyen (5<sup>th</sup> Place - \$7,654). Nguyen stuck around on a king-high flop with two hearts, then fired when the turn card added a third heart to the board. Sparks folded his bullets, which visibly deflated Nguyen. “Probably the best lay down I’ve ever made with pocket aces,” he stated.

“The second time saved me, really,” Sparks added. During another instance, Sparks held pocket rockets and was up against Sandra Banks (3<sup>rd</sup> Place - \$13,683). “She had Jack-Eight. The flop came Jack-Eight-Six. I was on the button. The turn was a Jack. She perked up. She was playing really good. I knew she had something.”

An eventual clock call helped Sparks fold his aces for the second time. He continued his Event #5 tournament run and ultimately defeated Brian Lee, heads up.

The fun-loving husband, father, and grandfather (a.k.a. “Grumps”) was thrilled following his win and readily happy to share the achievement with his family.

“I would love to play the main, but I’m probably going to my 5-year-old granddaughters birthday party on Saturday,” Sparks mentioned before taking his leave.

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## MEET THE LATEST WSOP CIRCUIT RING WINNER

Name:	Shawn Sparks	Age:	52
Nationality:	USA	Occupation:	Vice President
Birthplace:	Chickasha, OK		Protein Procurement
Current Residence:	Jay, OK	WSOP Bracelets:	0
		Previous WSOP Circuit Rings:	0

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## DIRECT LINKS

[FULL RESULTS](#)

[SHAWN SPARKS’S OFFICIAL WSOP PLAYER PROFILE](#)

[OFFICIAL WINNER PHOTO](#)