



HARRAH'S CHEROKEE CASINO RESORT TO HOST 2015 WSOP NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP

Robust series of events run July 23 - August 2

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The eleventh season of the WSOP Circuit will wrap up under the bright lights of the ESPN cameras with the 2015 WSOP National Championship - an official WSOP gold bracelet event - and a share of \$1,000,000+ in prize money on the line. Series events begin July 23 and run through August 2 at the Harrah's Cherokee Event Center.

National Championship events take place July 29-31 with two last seats to the Championship up for grabs during qualifying events running July 24-26.

ESPN will televise this event on Tuesday, August 18 at 9:00 PM ET, with two-hours of coverage planned. The defending champion is Germany's Dominik Nitsche, who entered last year via the World Rankings qualification \$10,000 entry fee and walked away with \$352,800 and his second WSOP gold bracelet (He now has three). Nitsche currently sits 21st in the World Rankings and therefore is eligible to buy-in again this year.

"North Carolina has long been home to National Champions across a number of sports and so it's only fitting to bring a prime-time showcase of our game to the state," said WSOP Executive Director Ty Stewart. "We applaud the leadership of Harrah's Cherokee on their passion for big events and a vision to be one of the top poker destinations in the world, not just the South."

In addition to the Championship series beginning in July, Harrah's Cherokee Casino Resort is also hosting a Circuit Event Series April 16-27, awarding two more seats in the Championship.



Harrah's Cherokee began hosting WSOP events with a Satellite Event in April, 2011 and has enjoyed continued success with record-breaking tournaments, annually.

ABOUT THE WSOP CIRCUIT

The World Series of Poker (WSOP) Circuit Events are a series of poker tournaments hosted throughout the United States beginning in July each year, and culminating the following May. The National Championship, a qualifying tournament with a \$1,000,000 prize pool provided by WSOP and televised on ESPN awards the victor a WSOP gold bracelet. WSOP Circuit Events are designed to give the recreational and amateur player an opportunity to participate in the WSOP experience at a more affordable price point and with less of a time commitment than the traditional WSOP in Las Vegas. Each stop features 12 official events in 12 days, including a \$1675 buy-in No-Limit Hold'em Main Event - the most expensive buy-in event on the 12-event schedule at each stop. Official WSOP Circuit events range in buy-in from \$365-\$1675 and award a prestigious WSOP gold ring to each victor. These poker tournaments are designed to reach a winner within two playing days, with some events even structured to complete in one day. In 2014-15, the WSOP Circuit season consists of 20 unique stops all tied together by a cumulative points system that awards points based on finish in individual events. A season-ending National Championship is held each July with the Top 100 qualifiers. The winner of each stop's Main Event (the only three-day structured event) gains automatic entry into the season-ending WSOP National Championship, as does each stop's Casino Champion - the person who accumulates the most points throughout the 12 official events at a stop. Two players at each stop earn automatic entries into the season-ending championship, with the remaining players being made up of at large qualifiers whom have accumulated the most points throughout the Circuit season. Players who finish within the top ten percent of the field are typically awarded prize money on an escalating scale until there is one player who has captured all the chips. That victor wins the largest share of the prize pool, a WSOP Circuit gold ring and points towards national championship qualification. The WSOP Circuit Events are a regional offshoot of the longest-running, largest, richest and most prestigious gaming event in the world, dating back 45 years

to 1970 - the famous World Series of Poker. This marks the eleventh year the WSOP Circuit Events have been held. They were initially established by Caesars Entertainment (then Harrah's Entertainment) after its purchase of the WSOP brand in 2004 as a way to bring the WSOP experience to Harrah's-owned properties throughout the U.S. In the inaugural season (2004-05), the WSOP Circuit featured five stops - Atlantic City, Lake Tahoe, Las Vegas, San Diego and New Orleans. Now, with 20 stops, the WSOP Circuit visits 14 U.S. states and cumulatively features more players participating in it than the Las Vegas version of the WSOP. Caesars Interactive Entertainment, Inc., (CIE) owns the WSOP and the WSOP Circuit Events. For more information, visit www.wsop.com/2014/Circuit/ or www.blog.wsop.com or follow us on Twitter at www.twitter.com/wsop.