



Giroir Reflects on Largest Payout

By Dave Lukow

Jerry Giroir, in terms of winnings, had the best day of his poker career.

From Lafayette, La., Giroir outlasted 1,737 other players to win Event 1, the \$300,000 guaranteed NLH tournament, of the Gulf Coast Poker Championship at the Beau Rivage Resort & Casino in Biloxi. The victory paid \$68,952.

“It feels pretty good,” Giroir, a retiree since selling his own business about five years ago, said. “It’s my biggest cash ever.”

Timothy Burt was second, a performance worth \$42,563. Dustin Paulen earned \$33,490 for finishing third.

“The deeper you got, the tougher it got,” Giroir said. “There was some pretty good competition.”

Overall, 207 places paid.

A regular at the Beau Rivage, Giroir has been working on his game for more than a decade.

“My wife and I both play,” he said. “We come here on average about once or twice a month. I’m going back to 2004 or 2005, so I’ve been playing about 13 years.”

Giroir finished 207th in the Main Event of the 2017 World Series of Poker. He pocketed \$46,096 for the showing. After finishing 48th in Event 34 of this year’s WSOP, he took home \$11,830.

“I cashed in the Main Event last year, so that’s probably my best performance,” he said. “But, again, this is my biggest cash. This was a good one.”

Burt, a Mississippi resident, cashed six times at the 2018 WSOP. Before heading to the Beau Rivage, he had more than \$990,000 in winnings on the live circuit. Only four players from Mississippi have made more money playing poker.

Paulen, playing out of Fort Worth, was 24th in Event 6 of the Lone Star State Poker Series in August.

James Burnham, Jr., from Alabama, banked \$28,586 off a fourth-place finish in Biloxi, while Mohammad Serry (fifth) received \$23,681.

Sixth place, a spot occupied by Nesrin Can, paid \$19,268.

The prize pool for Event 1, which ran from September 7-9, was \$504,020.