

Billiards Buzz

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vol.8, Issue May 2023



Souto at SBE

Pro Men's 9-Ball
Players Championship
First Place
Hosted By
Allen Hopkins Productions
at
Super Billiards Expo
April 13th-16th, 2023

Volume 8, Issue #78

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FROM THE
Head
Rail

MIKE HOWERTON

It occurred to me this month that I had been remiss in something. Over the last couple of months, I have excitedly talked about bringing new writers into the pages of the Buzz, and I don't believe that I have given nearly enough credit to "all" of the deserving parties.

Anyone who has ever read a story in these pages or on the AzBilliards website, has surely read words that were written by Skip Maloney. It seems like Skip has been writing for AzBilliards forever, but I got curious as to just how long he has been working for us. Skip has been writing articles for us, about pool tournaments (big and small) since 2009, and he has written just a little over 2500 different stories.

That is a lot of different stories, and he has continued to find unique angles to take, each and every time. There are only so many ways to word "Player X beat Player Y in Tournament Z". I don't know how he does it, but he just keeps on doing it.

So, I want to send out a special thanks to Skip this month. I hope he keeps doing what he does, for a long long time.

Until next time

Mike



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BREAK SHOT PATTERNS

PHIL
CAPELLE



THE GREAT GAME OF 14.1

For many of you I realize that I am going to be preaching to the choir. Still, let me state most emphatically that playing Straight Pool by yourself is one of the best practices exercises in pool. While trying to run balls, and possibly set your high run record, you will be honing a variety of foundational skills that will be of great value in most games. These include planning patterns, playing position with great precision, and fine tuning your shooting routine.

A typical rack of straight pool (if there is such a thing!) can be roughly divided into three phases – the opening (balls 1-4), the middle (balls 6-10), and the close (balls 11-14). These groupings are estimates, and will vary from rack to rack.

WHAT MY RESEARCH REVEALED

One day back in 2009 while watching videos of the greats playing Straight Pool, I began to key in on the closing phase of each rack. I made hundreds of diagrams of the pro's play

and then studied the for countless hours. As I did, certain patterns started showing up over and over again. I then began putting them into groups. In due time, I settled on 18 categories, and these resulted in the 18 chapters that make up the content of *Break Shot Patterns*, my book/video combo.

In the process of conducting this research I taught myself what to look in the closing phase. In time, these patterns began to jump out at me – so much so that, from that point on, my enjoyment in watching the pros play increased by leaps and bounds.

I believe the same thing will happen to once you begin to work on the close in your practice sessions. Armed with this skill, you will become far more effective at negotiating end-of-rack patterns, the ones that escape most players, including your competition and even some pros!

As further motivation, considering this math. In practice, it is common practice for a player to set up a break shot and then play it as the beginning of their runs in practice. If you

are able to set up a good break shot at the end of the first rack, you can run at least 28 ball. If you can do this two times, your run could grow to 42 balls. Three successful closes in a row can get you in to the 50s, and six can result in a 100+ ball run!

TWO RECORD SETTING PERFORMANCES!

It has become a popular way to practice to set up a break shot and go from there, as we've seen the pros do. Using this format, on May 8, 2019, John Schmidt set a record run of 626 balls. This run required that he close 44 straight racks successfully! This run has since been eclipsed by Jayson Shaw, who, on January 22, 2022, closed out 51 straight racks with a playable break shot in his way to running 714 balls (the official record is 669). Obviously these two players showed superhuman skill at executing this critical closing segment of each rack, a phase where one misstep can easily end a run.

I can tell you from experience that trying to run balls

is a fun way to practice. Still, I think it will definitely help you to run more balls if you take some time out in your Straight Pool practice sessions in which you try to run balls to practice the close. As I mentioned, I chose four balls for the closing segment because this number of balls can create a very effective funnel to the break shot with each shot building towards a super precise shot on the ball before the key ball.

LABELING THE BALLS IN THE CLOSE

In my first column for the *Billiards Buzz* (Jan. 2023), I emphasized the importance of learning key terms because they can act as shorthand for mastering the key concepts with relative ease. For this lesson on Straight Pool I will be presenting terms for the four closing balls, in addition to the break ball.

In my book I used these labels because they can enable you to quickly establish the order in which you are going to play the balls in the close. The definitions are presented in the definitions box, which appears below. These definitions, which I shortened for this column, will become crystal clear once you study the

examples below and then put them into practice. (Note: More detailed ones can be found in my book.)

DEFINITIONS

SHOTS THAT MAKE UP THE CLOSE

B4 – The B4 ball is where randomness and multiple options typically ceases, and a well-defined plan for closing out the rack begins.

B3 – The B3 ball is a vital link in the chain and a stepping stone to the two closing balls.

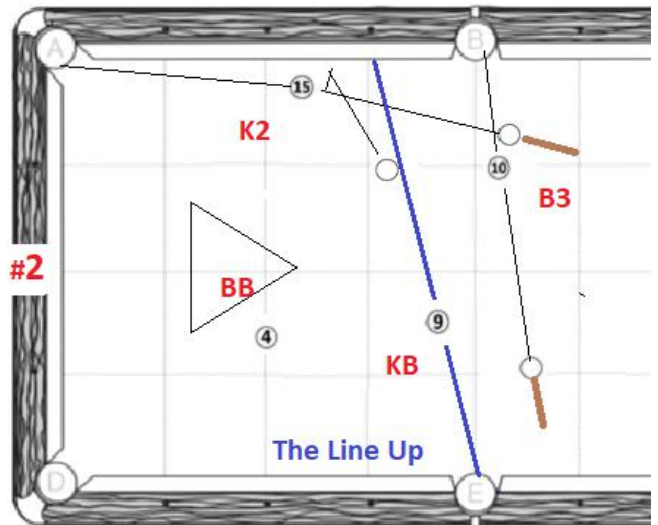
K2 – This ball should be a simple route to the Key Ball and, as such, a vital part of the closing one-two punch. (Note: I call this the KB2KB in *Play Your Best Straight Pool*.)

KB – The Key Ball is ideally a foolproof route to superb shape on the break ball.

BB – The break ball is the first shot in every rack. The primary goal is to open the rack so you can continue your run.

DEMONSTRATING THE TERMS IN ACTION

In **Diagram #1** we see the four balls that make up the close, and the 4-ball, which in this layout is obviously best positioned for the break ball (BB). As you will see in a moment, these remaining balls offer an ideal path to the BB. To arrive at a point where you have well-positioned balls for the close like this, you need to think about the balls you are going to save for this phase as you close out the

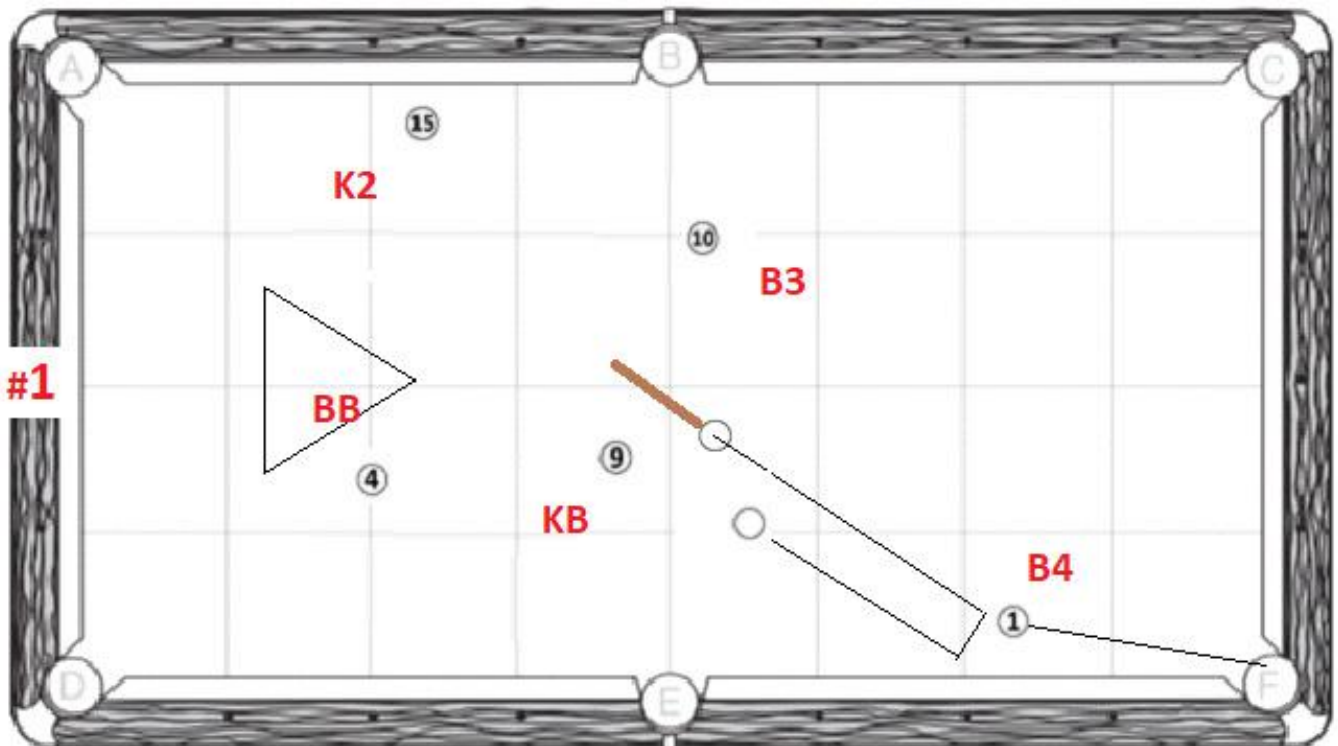


Middle Phase of the rack. The 4-ball is a no brainer for the BB, and the 9-ball is in the classic position for use as the KB.

Now, some players might mistakenly shoot the 10-ball first so they can get on the 15-ball, which could be construed as a troublesome

ball, especially this late in the rack. The wiser course of action, however, is to play the 1-ball first. This ball is acting at the B4 as it kicks off the close. A draw shot off the side rail has left it in position for the 10-ball.

Diagram #2 makes it clear that saving the 15-ball, is



the smart play, because it is ideally positioned for duty at the K2 despite the fact that it is close to the side rail. A soft follow shot on the 10-ball produced a 10 degree cut on the 15-ball. This shallow angle is perfect for sending the cue ball away from the rail and in position for a stop shot on the 9-ball, the KB.

The blue line shows a line that run from the pocket through the KB and across the table. If the K2 ball is close to (or on) this line, as in this layout, then you are set for a super strong two ball closing sequence that is all but guaranteed to result in great shape on the BB! After the 15-ball, the cue ball is just off the

blue line and in excellent position for a stop shot on the KB.

PRACTICING THE CLOSE

There are a number of ways that you can use the 110 patterns in *Break Shot Patterns* to develop your skills at closing out racks of Straight Pool. While setting up the patterns, you may want to put donuts under each ball. This will enable you to easily replay each pattern, which will allow you to fine tune the position plays in each pattern.

You could methodically work your way through the patterns in the book, one by one. Or, you could pick

a chapter to master before moving on to another grouping of patterns.

Another fun way to practice is to pick the patterns at random. The link below will help you to create a list of runs at random. It is easy to use, and in doing so you will add an element of surprise to your selections as you jump around from one type to another, much as you would in an actual game.

<https://www.calculator.net/random-number-generator.html>

Those of you who play Eight Ball will also find great value in practicing the closing patterns in the book/video. The BB now

serves as the 8-ball. In this role, you will realized how much more flexibility you have in getting shape on it – and you will gain a greater appreciation for the precision that is needed for getting fine position on the break shot in 14.1.

The video of the 110 patterns is available at <https://youtu.be/UBzjn-MTQk6o> at no cost to you. The companion volume of the book is available at the Accu-Stats store, and at billiardspress.com.

I think you will discover that working on these patterns will do wonders for your game, and for your ability to consistently run more balls. Good luck!

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THREE STRATEGIES THAT WILL HELP YOU PLAY BETTER UNDER PRESSURE

ANTHONY BEELER

It's one thing to be a great shot maker in practice, but it's another to do it when the pressure is on. In this article I'm going to show you three ways that you can play better under pressure.

HOW TO PLAY BETTER UNDER PRESSURE

In order to play better and take your practice game into a tournament, we need to figure out what changes between these two environments.

What happens as a result of pressure?

- Your heart rate increases
- There's tension in your muscles (many players grip the cue tighter)
- You're not able to think as clearly
- There's "thinking" while you're



down on the shot: "Don't miss it" or "If I can just make this one..."

But, it doesn't have to be this way. With a few simple strategies, you can play better under pressure.

I've spent the last 12 years working with players to put together strong pre-shot routines and help them with their mental game, so they can actually play *better* under pressure, than they do in practice. How do we do it?

When you're feeling pressure, it's because you're focusing too much on the outcome. When you are practicing, you're simply focusing on the proper steps (your process) and the intention for the shot (not the consequence of it). Your mind is quiet. Once the angle, speed and spin of the shot has been determined, you make your stroke without any conscious thought.

WHERE TO PUT YOUR FOCUS

During a tournament, pool is a harder game than most due to the amount of time that you're *not* playing. 90% of the time you are in-between matches. This gives you several hours to think about how you're playing, why you're not playing well, how you might place etc. All these thoughts cause "performance anxiety", which manifests itself in those



symptoms listed above. The product of this is a sub-par performance.

MAKE PROCESS THE GOAL TO SHOOT BETTER UNDER PRESSURE

The 3 main goals for my students in any tournament are: Process, Presence and Acceptance.

Process

If you make process the goal for every shot (and hold yourself accountable to it), it ensures you're doing the things you *need* to be doing to maximize your chances of success. The sequence should be consistent every time, down to the number of seconds spent finding your standing aim. You don't want to be looking at the shot for too long – this can create a lack of focus as you try to connect the perfect line from the cue ball to the object ball. Your mind needs to be fully engaged to keep the stroke as fluid as possible.

Process focus is the opposite of outcome focus. All my students focus on the process of the shot rather than the outcome. This keeps them focused on what they can control (their process), instead of what they can't fully control (the score of the match). This lowers performance anxiety and allows players to play their best.

Present

Playing in the "present" is incredibly important, especially to shoot better under pressure. When you are present, your mind is quiet, and your body is tension free. Compare that to

over-thinking what just happened or what might happen in the future.

Acceptance

Acceptance of negative outcomes is an absolute must in pool. We all make mistakes (pro players included) and we all shoot bad shots from time to time. Being accepting and self-compassionate is another measure that I hold my students accountable to.

Make these your 3 goals for your next match, instead of focusing on the results, and you'll play better under pressure and have an overall better performance.

Anthony Beeler is the current *Billiards Instructor of the Decade* and is a former BCAPL National Champion. He has numerous "Top 25" national finishes and is the primary author of the ACS *National Billiards Instructor's Manual*. He has also authored the book *Unstoppable! Positive Thinking for Pool Players*. Anthony currently has the highest established Fargo Rating of any Master Instructor. He has won over 300 tournaments and has defeated numerous professional players in tournament competition.

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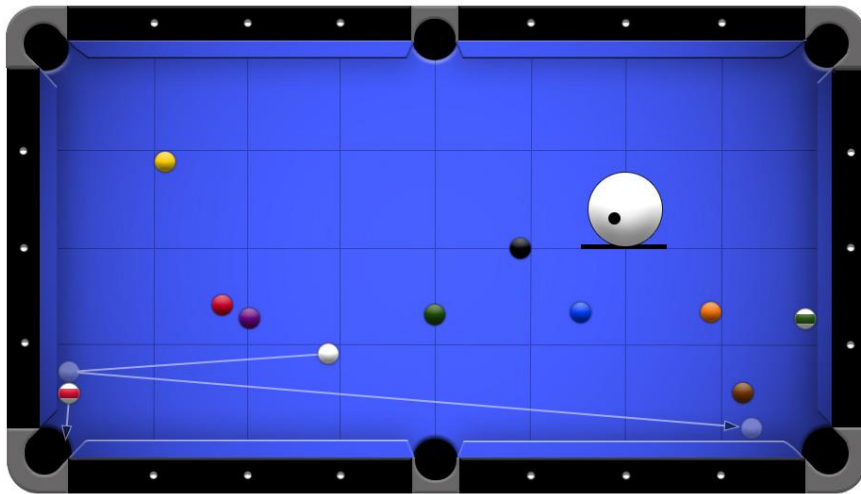
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Billiards Buzz

F R O M



Accu-Stats Video Productions has been bringing us World Class Pool on video for the last 30 years. With this column, we hope to bring you some examples of the best shots that come up between the greatest players who play this game.

This month's shot comes from the 2017 "Make it Happen" 8-Ball Invitational. Jayson Shaw was facing Joshua Filler and trailing in the match 4-2. He was running out from the break and left himself this tough 11-ball. He didn't even pause before coming with this great rail first shot with perfect shape to a very small window.

Just another day in the trenches for "Eagle Eye", Jayson Shaw.



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Gospel Trick Shot #39

Robin Dodson's The Dog Catcher

History of the Trick Shot: BCA Hall of Famer (2005) Robin Dodson is the author of this amazing Gospel Trick Shot. She has been a volunteer and helper with Gospel Trick Shot Ministries, Inc. (GTS) since 2001 where she first appeared with the original GTS team of seven including GTS President and Founder Steve Lillis and fellow Hall of Famers Mike Massey (2005), Tom Rossman (2017), and LoreeJon Ogonowski-Brown (2002), along with National Trick Shot Champion Steve Geller, and then GTS VP and MC Jeff Ballantyne. Robin has been sharing the Gospel with pool since 1983 and this shot is yet another example of her creativity in sharing her amazing faith in the Lord Jesus Christ.

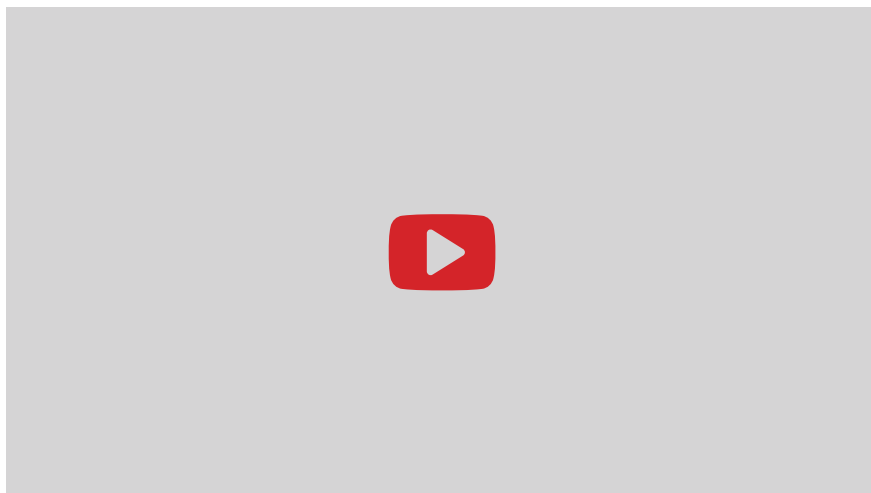
GTS Name and Why: Robin shares in the video her story about a nightmare she had many years ago when she was a new Christian and recovering from drug addiction. In the dream there were three fanged nasty looking cats represented by three striped object balls chasing her down the stairs and out of the house. On the street was a dog catcher who represents Jesus and is the cue ball who was there to help Robin as long as she stayed close to him. The three object balls disappear as Jesus (The Dog Catcher) takes care of the problem(s) and in the end Robin (the one ball) learns to stay close to Jesus and let him take care of all of her problem(s) because she cannot on her own!

Scripture References (NIV): "Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid or terrified because of them, for the LORD your God goes with you; he will never leave you or forsake you" (Deuteronomy 31:6). "So we say with confidence, 'The Lord is my helper; I will not be afraid'" (Hebrews 13:6).

Cue Ball Placement: The cue ball is placed down the center of the table and about one diamond to the right of the two side pockets, as indicated in the diagram.

Object Ball(s) Placement: Two striped object balls (14 & 13 balls as in the diagram), are frozen to the cue ball, with the striped 13-ball lined up to the furthest pocket point of the side pocket. The other striped 12-ball is lined up to the left pocket point of the corner pocket. This is to allow for the throw effect of the two frozen object balls. The 9-ball is near the opposite side pocket and the 1-ball is half diamond to the right of the side pocket, as shown in the diagram. Three cues are also used as props on the table.

Objective: Shoot the cue ball with high left-hand side spin making the two frozen striped object balls into the side and corner pockets.



The cue ball will run off three rails and make its way up between the cues, make a u-turn in the corner pocket, and then slowly run down the other two cues towards the 9-ball. After the cue ball makes the 9-ball into the side pocket, it will come to rest near the 1-ball.

Special Notes: The direction of aim for the cue ball is about one and a half diamonds from the corner pocket. Ensure that the three prop cues fit snug in the corner pocket so that the cue ball can make the U-turn down the other cues. Position the two cues so that the cue ball cuts the 9-ball into the side pocket and comes to rest near the 1-ball. Playing too hard will result in the cue running up the cues and off the table. Playing too soft will result in the cue ball not making it all the way up the cues to make the U-turn.

Crowd Reactions Through the Years: Over the past 22 years, yours truly Steve Lillis has done Gospel Trick Shot shows with Robin and also shared Gospel Trick Shots in her vendor booths at the BCA and APA Pool League Championships events along with the Hopkins Expos in Valley Forge, PA. I have seen people brought to tears as Robin would share her amazing testimony about how God miraculously delivered her from heroin addiction. For more on Robin's testimony go to <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1xiDTz6pDuA>. In addition, Robin's husband Roy led many GTS Bible studies at those events and many people through the years have been touched by the love of Jesus through the Dodson's.



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Spain's Jonas Souto

Is The Diamond Billiard's SBE 2023 Pro Player Open Champion

Story by SKIP MALONEY - AzB Staff / Photos by ERWIN DIONISIO

Of the 56 competitors who signed on to the Open 9-Ball Pro Players Championship at the Super Billiards Expo this past weekend (April 13-16), Spain's Jonas Souto was not on many people's list as a presumed favorite.

That designation was assigned to Scotland's Jayson Shaw who came to Oaks, PA to defend the title he'd won last year when he defeated his friend Darren Appleton in the 2022 finals. Souto defied the 'presumed favorite' odds and spoiled the two-in-a-row party for Shaw, downing him in a five-set, 40-game final match that took a little over three hours.

The 56-entrant field this year lacked a bit of 2022's firepower. Though Appleton was present, primarily man-

ning his Dynamite Billiards booth this year, he remains on the mend, following a serious heart attack in January, and did not compete. Neither (from 2022) did Fedor Gorst, Billy Thorpe, Ralf Souquet or Thorsten Hohmann among others. Returning from last year's championship (in addition to Shaw) were John Morra, Jonathan Pinegar, Kang Lee, Warren Kiamco and Earl "The Pearl" Strickland, all of whom finished among the top 16 in the 2022 event.

In defying the 'odds-against' him, Souto played three of those returning veterans; Kiamco, then Morra, and in the end, Shaw. He entered the finals having survived a quarterfinal, double-hill (set) battle against Kiamco and a relatively easier 3-1 win over Morra (5-4, 2-5, 5-3, 5-2).

Shaw played four matches to get into the finals and three of them were 3-0 set victories. The only real 'trouble' he ran into was against 'young gun' Shane Wolford, who battled him to



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double hill before Shaw prevailed in one of the quarterfinals (5-3, 2-5, 3-5, 5-3, 5-2). Shaw chalked up his last match win against Jonathan Pinegar in the semifinals (5-2, 5-4, 5-2).

While the final match had its share of top-notch shooting, excellent pattern play, fine cue-ball control and its share of crowd-pleasing jump shots, it got off to a slow start. They battled their way to a 3-3 tie in an opening set that featured seven unforced errors, a couple of dry breaks, and a pair of squandered ball-in-hand opportunities. Shaw broke the tie and won the opening set 5-3.

The second set didn't look much better. Shaw broke the first rack, but an unforced error shooting at the 3-ball led to Souto clearing the table. Souto followed up with a break-and-run that gave him a two-rack lead. Shaw came back with a break-and-run to get on the board. Souto won the next two to take a 4-1 lead, before Shaw responded by clearing the table off of Souto's dry break and then, broke-and-ran to pull within one at 4-3. Souto closed it out to tie the sets at one each.

The third set found them engaging in a number of safety battles, which eventually played out to a 4-4 tie. Shaw broke the tie and won the set to reach the hill (in sets) at 2-1. The fourth set stretched out to another double hill tie in games, with Souto finishing it to knot the whole shootin' match at double hill.

While the match was continuing to have its entertaining moments and the double-hill final set was a bit of a nail-biter, the two were still having their troubles. The 'wheels' started coming off at the point when they only played back and forth to a 1-1 tie in their final set. Souto broke the third rack, but scratched. With ball-in-hand, Shaw was looking at a few 'traffic' problems and had to play safe,



Jayson Shaw

shooting at the 3-ball. This led to a safety battle that went back and forth until finally, Souto found the opening necessary to clear the table and take the lead, 2-1.

Shaw broke the 4th rack, ran to the 7-ball and missed a bank shot. Souto cleaned up to make it 3-1 and then broke and ran the 5th rack to reach the hill, ahead by three. Shaw chalked up what would prove to be his last game win, when he broke and ran the 6th rack. Souto broke dry in the final rack, but Shaw, unable to 'see' the 1-ball had to play safe, which led to another safety battle, a failed jump shot by Shaw and a final scramble to the end for Souto, who walked away with the 2023 Open Pro Players Championship.

Shaw was out of the arena in seconds after congratulating Souto warmly. Later, when fans attempted commiserating with him over the loss, Shaw just shrugged.

"I don't know what happened," he said, "I was up 2-1 (in sets, after winning the third game, double hill) and

then a bunch of weird things happened."

Souto was elated. He spent a few minutes when it was over, accepting congratulations from friends and ahead of the obligatory session of photography with the trophy, stepped aside and made a video call to his father in Spain. All by himself, circling around a random pool table in the arena, with a smile as wide as the country he comes from, he shared his elation and his happy face with his family.

"I just tried to stay positive and do my best," he said of his first SBE Pro Players Championship and the roller-coaster ride that characterized his final match. "I like the (short-matches) format, but it does take a toll."

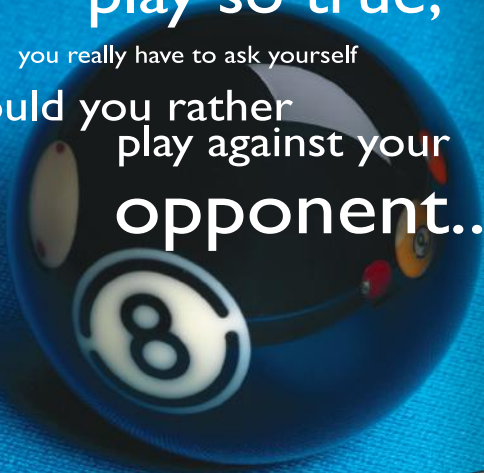
"It's super tough, psychologically," he added, "because it's very long and sometimes you are playing well and sometimes, you're not playing so well. You have to stay focused because anything can happen."

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Claims Inaugural Diamond Seniors Pro Players Championship

Story by SKIP MALONEY - AzB Staff / Photos by ERWIN DIONISIO

Among the many intriguing possibilities that did not emerge from last weekend's (April 13-16) Super Billiards Expo's two Pro events (Open & Seniors) was the potential for Mika "The Iceman" Immonen to have played in both of them.

He wouldn't have been alone; Frankie Hernandez and Jimmy Rivera played in both events and both advanced to the semifinals. The reason that Immonen didn't sign on to the Open event was not for lack of interest, but circulating misinformation about whether or not it was allowed.

"Someone told me you couldn't, that they weren't allowing it," said Immonen, moments after capturing the in-

augural Seniors Pro Player Championship title on Sunday afternoon. "And then, someone else told me that the Open Pro was full."

Neither turned out to be true. The Open Pro Players Championship drew 56 entrants and awarded eight byes in its opening round to the highest ranked competitors. So, plenty of room on the bracket for the likes of Mika Immonen to have tossed his hat into that ring. And as it turned out, the fact that the 'powers that be' (ultimately, that would have been Allen Hopkins) were allowing players to compete in both, created a few minor



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scheduling issues to accommodate the players who did play in both.

This might have gotten trickier if quite a few of the senior-eligible Pro Players had decided to double up, but they didn't. We might have seen Earl Strickland squaring off against The Iceman in Sunday's final. Or road buddies, Strickland and Rodney Morris. Or Morris versus Kennedy. There might possibly have been a semifinal featuring four former US Open 9-Ball Champions from back in the day; all present at the 2023 SBE.

From Immonen's perspective, going into and coming out of the Seniors Pro Player Championships, while it might have been fun to 'get the band back together' for a last 'table' concert, he was happy with the way it worked out.



"I'll take it," he said. "I came in as the favorite in this, and who knows? If I'd played in both, I might have been worn out and not done so well in this one."

And he did do quite well in this one. The extent to which his name has been circulating in the current, upper branches of the pool player 'tree' may be related to how closely you pay attention to the European species of 'tree.' But it's clear that he's a long way from the days in '08/'09 when he went back-to-back at the US Open 9-Ball championships and had his best recorded earnings year ('09), finishing that year as the #1 player on the AZBilliards Money Leaderboard.

This somewhat 'out of sight, out of mind' phenomenon may have contributed to the fact that someone doubted his eligibility for the Senior event. Someone who'd not been paying attention apparently tried to 'card' him.

"Someone wanted to see my birth certificate," he said.



Robert Krull

As it happened, the man that Immonen faced in the finals of this event – Robert Krull – had his best (recorded) earnings year at about the same time. His 2010 earnings were better than his '09 earnings by \$50. He earned all of his 2010 money by winning a single stop on the Joss NE 9-Ball Tour. He has not, as far as we know, cashed in a pool event since, until this weekend.

Immonen benefited from an opening round match that didn't happen. His opponent failed to show up. He opened up with a tough, double-hill fight against Thomas Haas in the second round (his son, Scott, was battling in the Open Pro event). Haas took the in the second, third and final set. The last two races to five went double hill. Immonen went on to shut out Bret Huth (5-0, 5-2, 5-1) and drew Frankie Hernandez in one of the semifinals.

Like Immonen, Krull, after downing Ken Kerner 5-3, 5-2, 5-1, met his

toughest opponent in the 2nd round, Tommy Kennedy, who gave him an immediate hard time by winning the first two sets of their match 5-3, 5-1 to be on the hill, real quick. Krull rallied to win three in a row 5-2, 5-3, 5-1 and advance to shut out Bryan Farah 5-2, 5-1, 5-3. Krull picked up Jimmy Rivera in the other semifinal.

Immonen and Krull shut Hernandez and Rivera out, respectively. Immonen won his three sets by an aggregate score of 15-7. Krull ended up winning his final set by shutout, making his aggregate score 15-4.

Based on his performance in the final, Krull might have caught up to the Iceman had the set races been the best of nine, instead of five. As it happened, Immonen grabbed the first two sets of the final 5-2, 5-3. Krull put up a double-hill fight in the third set, but in the end Immonen dropped the last 9-ball to claim the SBE's first Senior Pro Players Championship title.

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FILLER is KING of The Alps

Story by LUKE RICHES - Photos courtesy EPBF

JOSHUA FILLER IS the Dynamic Billard St Johann im Pongau Open champion as he defeated Poland's Daniel Maciol 9-5 in an entertaining match.

Filler (Germany) can lay claim to his fifth Euro Tour title from 10 final appearances and with his consistent level of high-quality play, there may be many more in store. For Maciol, it was his first Euro Tour final in an eight-year career mixing it with Europe's finest. In fact, the quarter-finals were the furthest he'd ventured previously.



Joshua Filler

For the Pole, a slow start proved to be his downfall as he matched Filler in the latter stages but the gap was always going to be too much as the German put his foot down.

Commented Filler, “Today I felt fresh and came with so much energy and maybe I frightened my opponent with my energy and my break was amazing. There were times when I made three, four balls on the break and had the position and that gives you more confidence, especially when you’re four games up. Super proud and super happy.”

Filler took the opening two racks before Maciol scratched on the break in the third game. The German quickly cleared the table to take an ominous 3-0 lead. Three balls off the break and great position on the lowest numbered ball, the 3, meant that Filler took the fourth game to leave Maciol in a hole.

Maciol needed a great break in next and managed to down three balls but his shot on the 2-ball wasn’t any sort of formality. He played an aggressive cannon onto the 4-ball to stay at the table and from there he ran out to get on the scoreboard as well as give himself some confidence given the task in hand.

An illegal break from Filler gave the table back to Maciol but he declined the shot. It was Joshua who got to the 1-ball first and given a sniff, he cleared the table in no time for a 5-1 lead. Maciol though, looked good to take the seventh game and he composed himself to run out. Joshua though, banged in three balls from the next break and fairly quickly it was 6-2.

Three off the break from Maciol and a shot on the 2-ball saw him run out to keep Joshua in his sights at 6-3. With the alternate break format, though, he needed Joshua to falter. Filler made a good break in the tenth rack, spreading the balls out nicely and from there he ran out to increase his lead.

Another terrific break, this time from Maciol, and he ran through the balls to get to 7-4. They went back and forth on the 2-ball before Joshua accidentally potted it but there was nothing available on the 3-ball. His safety wasn’t tight but it was good enough and Maciol’s response left it out in the open. It was all Filler needed and he cleared up to reach the hill at 8-4

Maciol wasn’t done though and he came with some solid shot-making to secure the 13th game and reduce the deficit to 5-8. Dramatically, Filler scratched directly into the centre pocket in the next to give Maciol some hope. He missed a bank shot on the 5-ball though, and Filler made the same shot to put the winning-line in his sights. He made no mistakes as he downed the final 9-ball for his fifth Euro Tour crown.

Filler continued, “The fifth was amazing but I have to mention that I’ve lost five finals already and I played my fifth or six final in St Johann as well. It’s just amazing and besides that, I’ve made some third-place finishes in St Johann. I feel like it’s the home of Euro Tour for me as every time I’ve come here it’s an amazing feeling because I

love the food in the restaurant and the view of the mountains is amazing.

“If I’m feeling pretty good, I play really quick and confident and if I can keep going like that, I can continue winning more but my goal is to find my rhythm and have fun, which I had and if I win in the end, that’s great and if I lose, obviously, I’m angry about it but I just have to look at myself and get better.”

The Dynamic Billard Euro Tour reconvenes in Tampere, Finland with the Tampere Open which runs from 27-29 May.

As well as the prize money, there are Tour ranking points on offer, so there is everything to play for. All Euro Tour tournaments are 9-ball and players compete in a double-elimination format, playing down to the last 32 competitors, and then single elimination until the finish. All matches are races to 9 racks with alternate break.

All the matches can be viewed live by visiting www.epbf.com/tournaments/eurotour/ and clicking on the ‘LIVE’ button. This will take you through to viewing options. In addition, selected matches will be streamed on Facebook Live on the EPBF page.

Daniel Maciol



It's Ivanovskaia At Last

Story by LUKE RICHES - Photos courtesy EPBF

VERONIKA IVANOVSKAIA of Germany claimed victory at the EPBF St Johann Open on the ladies' Euro Tour as she defeated Bojana Sarac (Serbia) by 7-3 in the final.

It was her first-ever ET title after having come so close last time out in Tallinn where she went down 7-6 to Oliwia Zalewska in the title match. Ranked #18 coming into the tournament, Ivanovskaia will be climbing the rankings once they are recalculated shortly.

It was her third Euro Tour final and Ivanovskaia finally got over the line. She was naturally delighted with her performance.

"It feels incredible. I must say I'm overwhelmed with my emotions. After losing out in Estonia, a very special

person – my fiancé and coach – told me that I'm on a very good wave and should just keep doing what I'm doing and always believe in myself and today I think I proved to myself that I have it in me" she said.

Ivanovskaia had looked in control throughout the tournament, defeating a string of top players en route to the championship match. Entering the final, she found herself 3-1 down as Sarac asserted herself in the early stages. The German girl got the game back to 3-3 before edging out in front at 4-3.

In the next, Sarac worked her way through the table but lost position going from the 8 to 9. She missed a tricky cut to take the rack and left the 9-ball hanging, allowing Ivanovskaia to take a two-rack lead at 5-3. Sarac took advantage of an illegal break in the next but once again, a poor positional shot from 8 to 9 saw her miss, and worse still, the cue ball scratched.

That left Ivanovskaia on the hill at 6-3. An illegal break from the Serbian girl, though, gave Ivanovskaia an opportunity for victory. The 5 ball though was blocked by the black 8 but a good



safety saw her back at the table and she held her nerve to claim her first Euro Tour title.

Ivanovskaia added, "I'm feeling good, I'm playing well and I'm very excited for the future because I believe I've found my zone and I feel very comfortable under pressure."

For the up-and-coming Sarac, it was her second Euro Tour final and second runners-up spot as she lost out in the same venue last year. Despite her obvious disappointment, there are clearly good things in store for her in the future.

"I played good throughout, up until the final. I made a few mistakes that cost me and she played great. I can't say I felt anything but it was one mistake after the other. I felt good when I started coming back but I missed two 9-balls that I'm not supposed to and that's pretty much it," said Sarac.

All the matches can be viewed live by visiting www.epbf.com/tournaments/eurotour/ and clicking on the 'LIVE' button. This will take you through to viewing options. In ad-

dition, selected matches will be streamed on Facebook Live on the EPBF page. Results, live scoring, and draw are available at www.epbf.com

Bojana Sarac



SZEWCZYK

Wins PRP Nineball Open in Spain

Wojciech Szewczyk has won the PRP Nineball Open in Zaragoza, Spain beating Aleksa Pecelj in the final 9-6 to claim a vital \$12,000 World Nineball Tour ranking points and move inside the top 16 in the world as well as 5th in the Race to Mosconi Cup standings for Team Europe.

A 128-strong field where over 20 countries were represented descended on the Spanish city to do battle in a stacked field with the likes of WNT No.1 and Spaniard Francisco Sanchez Ruiz, World Pool Championship runner-up Mohammad Soufi of Syria, Khalid Alghamdi, Niels Feijen, and Alexander

Kazakis amongst the much-fancied names battling it out for the top prize.

On Thursday, Pecelj battled through the Last 64 beating Greece's Nikolaos Chatoupis before dismantling Great Britain's Imran Majid 9-3 to reach the Last 16. The Serbian's deepest run at



a World Nineball Tour ranking event came at Matchroom UK's Open last year prior to this where he reached the quarterfinals and he continued on his ascent in Spain with victories over Max Lechner and Denis Grabe in the Last 16 and quarter-finals respectively to make the last four.

The last remaining Spaniard Francisco Diaz stood in Pecelj's way of reaching the final, but he quickly found a groove late on Thursday evening to dispatch him 9-5 and set up a tantalising final with Szewczyk.

Szewczyk meanwhile defeated rising star of Estonia Karl Gnadeberg before overcoming Andrea Milioli of Italy in the Last 32 and an impressive 9-1 win against SVB Junior Open winner Alghamdi. Lithuania's Pijus Labutis took Szewczyk to the hill in the quarters before Premier League Pool semi-finalist Sanjin Pehlivanovic was sent packing 9-6.

Sanchez Ruiz's home hopes were dashed by the impressive Pehlivanovic in the quarterfinals whilst it was Diaz who ended Alcaide's hopes in the Last 64. Players travelled from far and wide to earn the vital World Nineball Ranking Points like the 2022 Mosconi Cup representative for the USA Oscar Dominguez, but his race was run by France's Noel Bensaid. 2021 World Pool Masters champion Alexander Kazakis had his tournament ended by close friend Dimitris Loukatos in the Last 32.

Elsewhere, Bosnia Open winner Niels Feijen suffered at the hands of Alghamdi in the Last 32, and Austria's Mario He fell at the same hurdle to Konrad Juszczyszyn of Poland.

When it came to the final, Pecelj overall did a lot of the running early doors, but it was Szewczyk who pulled through to seal victory having started the week on the losers side of the draw. He said: "At some point when I

got close, I got lucky at times but later on, I watched how Aleksa struggled with his break and then I found mine. I had some faith right then. I played really bad in the first round, and I did have some luck since then but then I found my gear in the semi-final especially. There are more points to gather, I'd love to make the Mosconi Cup but for now I will enjoy this victory.

Coverage was enhanced this week with on-site support from the World Nineball Tour team with coverage provided through the Matchroom Pool social media channels as well as live stream coverage of the two semi-finals and the final on the Matchroom Pool YouTube channel which bolstered the PRP Nineball Open exposure globally with fans tuning in their thousands to sweat the action. Newly announced player ambassador Karl Boyes was also on-site in Spain speaking with World Nineball Tour players about their ideas for the future growth of the game for everyone.



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Photography ©Medium Pool

Defending Champs Poland Through to Semis

THERE WAS A PACKED night of action in St Johann im Pongau as the 2023 Longoni 9 Ball League saw six matches take place and the destination of the 12 competing teams become a little clearer.

There were two matches postponed from the opening night back in February with Germany and Norway competing twice tonight in order to catch up.

The format is scotch doubles with the matches a race to seven. The event

is divided into four groups of three countries with the competing players the highest ranked pair on the Euro Tour rankings immediately prior to evening's play.

In Group A, defending champions Poland ensured their passage into the

semi-finals with a 7-2 victory over Austria. Wiktor Zielinski and Wojciech Szewczyk were ever-presents last year on their route to the title and with a win over Turkish North Cyprus in the opening round of matches, they can't now be caught and make the last four for the second successive year.

Team Austria and Team Poland



With a plethora of Polish talent inhabiting the upper echelons of the rankings, Szewczyk and Zielinski's main goal now will be to maintain those top two spots in readiness for the semi-finals in the autumn.

Estonia kept their hopes alive in Group B with a hard-fought 7-6 win over the Czech Republic, having lost to Spain in the opening set of matches. The Estonians – tonight represented by Karl Gnadeberg and Nils Luhavee – need the Czechs to beat Spain in the remaining group match and then take their chances in the play-offs.

Norway had a wonderful evening although not in the best circumstances as they defeated Switzerland 7-6 in a thriller after Bosnia and Herzegovina failed to appear for their opening match and handed the spoils to Norway on a forfeit. That meant two wins from two for the Norwegian pair of

veteran Mats Schjetne and youngster Emil-Andre Gangflot which is enough to see them into the semi-finals from Group C.

Group D saw Germany play out two contrasting matches with two very different teams and leave everything to play for going onto the final match. Firstly, Tobias Bongers and Luca Menn were well beaten by the Dutch pair of Niels Feijen and Marc Bijsterbosch and then Joshua Filler and Ralf Souquet enjoyed a 7-3 win over the Hungarian pair of Oliver Szolnoki and Atilla Bezdán. That means that the

Netherlands can qualify with a win over Hungary but if the match goes the other way, all three teams will enter a play-off.

Commented Ralf Souquet, "It's actually been a while since I've played with Joshua but it's always nice to play with him as he's such a great player and shot-maker. You just have to leave him a ball that he can see but it adds extra pressure on his partner because you don't want to disappoint him as he hardly ever misses. On the other hand, it's nice to have such a weapon on your team. If we want to have a chance to advance to the next round, then we need Hungary to beat the Netherlands but if the Netherlands play the way they did today, then they're going to be tough to beat."

The third round of matches are scheduled for Friday 26th May in Tampere, Finland.



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Tiger is excited to announce its signing of Darren “Dynamite” Appleton to Team Tiger.

“I’m delighted to join Team Tiger, probably the most excited I’ve ever

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products full time until now,” said Appleton.

“Darren has been a part of the Tiger family for several years now as we’ve been working with him in our Tiger



Tip category. He's always been the utmost professional and has brought so much to the sport as a whole. It felt like a really natural progression for him to join Team Tiger as an official Tiger Player," said Tiger CEO, Tony Kalandaryan.

A World Champion and BCA Hall of Famer, Appleton is ready to get back to the game that he loves so much after suffering cardiac arrest late last year. With the support of Tiger behind him, the possibilities are limitless.

"This year I'm looking forward to getting back to full health. I'm on the mend, hoping to be back to full strength soon- back to playing and traveling. It's gonna be a new chapter in my life and a new chapter in my career and being a part of Tiger is perfect because it gives me that motivation and the support that I need. So far that's what I've gotten from Tiger. I'm

really looking forward to be successful on and off the table representing Tiger cues," Appleton said.

"We are very intentional with who we bring on as a Pro Player. We believe in the power of Tiger and our products so when we do bring someone on board, it's because we truly believe in them 1000% and we know that they believe in our products 1000%," said Tiger CEO Tony. "With Darren, we know the best is yet to come for him and are thrilled on be on this journey with him."

Together, Tiger and Appleton are ready to bring the experience and knowledge they have of the game while also bringing new energy to the industry. Appleton, who has been playing with Tiger Tips for years has also been testing out new Tiger products including the Fortis Carbon Fiber shaft.

"Tiger by far has the best Tips in the world. The Fortis Carbon Fiber shaft, I'm in love with that and I can't wait to play with the HD Series Cue. I just really believe in the products, the cues and tips and everything else. For me Tiger is a sleeping giant, very underrated let's say in the industry. I'm just so excited to get involved and get my teeth into it and hopefully I can help Tiger as much as they can help me," Appleton said.

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Billiard TV Partners With Accu-Stats On Extensive Library of Pool Events

Billiard TV – the first 24/7 channel devoted to the sport of billiards – has partnered with Accu-Stats Video Productions and now has access to more than 2000 additional hours of professional billiards tournaments dating back to the 1990s. Through its partnership with Accu-Stats, Billiard TV will feature the industry standard in coverage of professional pool. Accu-Stats founder Pat Fleming has been documenting the sport for more than 30 years and his legacy of pool video includes the best of yesterday and today. Nowhere else can pool fans find matches from stars like Shane Van Boening and Fedor Gorst, as well as matches from Efren Reyes and Steve Mizerak.

The Accu-Stats agreement complements the Predator Group and CueSports International partnerships, which provide

the backbone of the channel programming through its thousands of hours of library events and more than 800 hours of live programming each year.

“The Accu-Stats partnership represents an outstanding addition to the Billiard TV library of events,” said Brendan Canning, Co-Founder and Chief Commercial Officer, Triple-B Media. “Billiard fans around the world are quickly realizing that Billiard TV is their go-to channel for the sport.”

Billiard TV is a free, ad supported television channel that is available to more than 75 M homes and is distributed on YouTube TV, XUMO, LG, Sling TV, Samsung TV Plus (India), Atmosphere TV, Xiaomi, Local Now, Plex, TCL, sports.tv, The Grio, SportsTribal TV, Distro TV, Freebie TV, Rad TV, RedBox, Freecast, Stremium, Channel Box and Stream-

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Announces Five World Championships For Austria

You would be hard pressed to top Predator's last visit to the Sportspark Klagenfurt in Klagenfurt Austria last year for the Predator WPA World 10-Ball Women's Championship and 2022 Predator WPA World Teams Championship with over \$250,000 in prize money and Chieh-Yu Chou & Team Philippines's winning respective World Titles.

Predator doesn't rest on their laurels though, as they are planning on an even bigger event in Klagenfurt this October, with five World Championships to be held.

In addition to the 2023 WPA World 10-Ball Women's Championship, Predator and Richtwert will also be holding the 2023 WPA Men's World 8-Ball Championship and the three divisions of the 2023 WPA World Junior Championships.

Klagenfurt is already well known in the sport of billiards, as the hometown of brother and sister World Champions Jasmin and Albin Ouschan.

Jasmin Ouschan's Academy is a well known Billiard Academy located at the

Sportspark Klagenfurt and will be a promotional partner on the organizing committee of the events in her hometown. *"I am extremely proud that Klagenfurt will host 5 World Championships at the same time. I don't know if that has ever happened before. It is a big task but an even bigger honor. Something for the history books!"* said the 2010 WPA World 10-Ball Women's Champion.

Two-time WPA World 9-Ball Champion Albin Ouschan is also looking forward to the events: *"It's an honor to have once again the World Championships in my hometown! It shows that we did something right in the past to get the help and trust from the government and Predator to host multiple World Championships."*

Reigning World 10-Ball Women's Champion Chou will be defending her title this year, as well as reigning World 8-Ball Men's Champion Francisco Sanchez-Ruiz. Current WPA Boys Under 19 World Champion Szymon Kural will be too old to defend his title, but the WPA Girls Under 19 World Champion Xin Yu Hong will be defending hers. Current WPA Boys Under 17 World Champion Karl Gnadeberg will compete in the Under 19 division this year.

The biggest change in the Junior events will be that the game will evolve to 10-Ball this year. WPA President Ishaun Singh explained the switch to 10-Ball. *"The change of discipline from 9-Ball to 10-Ball at the*



Gerald Florian, Albin Ouschan, Jasmin Ouschan and Karim Belhaj

Junior Championships stems from the change at the World Games from 9-Ball to 10-Ball. 9-Ball was originally created as the professional game, but the rules of 9-Ball were interfered with in an attempt to fix certain flaws for it to be the

professional game and it still seems to be a problem. The 10-Ball game has since become the professionals' choice."

Event promoter Richwert's Gerald Florian is excited to see all of the top play-

ers of the sport this year. "It's a honor and huge joy to host five World Championships as well as the best players of the world at one event! Can you ask for more?! We are looking forward to welcoming everyone to Klagenfurt!"

TOURNAMENT SCHEDULE:



WPA **WORLD 8-BALL MEN'S CHAMPIONSHIP**

Predator WPA Men's World 8-Ball Championship 2023

October 17-22, 2023 /

\$200,000 prize fund

Field: 96 players

Defending champion: Francisco Sanchez-Ruiz



WPA **WORLD 10-BALL WOMEN'S CHAMPIONSHIP**

Predator WPA Women's World 10-Ball Championship 2023

October 18-22, 2023 /

\$150,000 prize fund

Defending champion: Chieh-Yu Chou
Field: 48 players



Predator WPA Junior World 10-Ball Championships

October 19-22, 2023

Boys Under 19

Boys Under 17

Girls

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World Nineball Tour

World Nineball Tour Marks New Dawn For Pool

- World Nineball Tour to provide a minimum of \$3-million prize money this year
- Over 40 World Nineball Tour events
- 1,000 hours of live pool in 2023, from the Matchroom Majors

Matchroom Pool is proud to unveil the formulation of the World Nineball Tour marking the benchmark for the game of professional pool globally with events reaching all four corners of the world boasting a minimum prize fund of \$3 million: minimum of 40 ranking events and a minimum of 1,000 live TV hours for Matchroom events globally in an ever-growing list of broadcasters creating opportunities for all players.

Following in the footsteps of Matchroom's highly successful model that has seen the Professional Darts Corporation and the World Snooker Tour both with over £15 million in prize money for the forthcoming season. The World Nineball Tour will accelerate at pace to provide a commercial platform for professional pool and change players lives.

The Nineball ranking structure has expanded to new territories to help players turn fully professional worldwide; the Tour will build a fair, transparent, and commercial constitution where players will see a profitable

future, break new ground, and inspire stars of the future globally.

2023 will see 10 major events forming the backbone of the calendar promoted by Matchroom with a new signature 256-player field Spanish Open Pool Championship recently announced as part of a wider partnership in Spain. Similarly, the Southeast Asia territory will shortly announce a host of new events aligned to the World Nineball Tour.

We believe a collaborative effort between Matchroom and the rest of the world of pool will be the best way to

ensure players have endless opportunities to earn World Nineball Ranking points that provide a gateway to the most-valuable tournaments on the calendar.

This year's schedule is ever-expanding with the World Nineball Tour keen to work with organisers and federations all over the world as underlined with the launch of numerous new Ranking events across continents including the Americas, Asia, Oceania, and Europe.

It offers a platform for not only the players to earn a fair living but also for



local organisers to grow their events with both Matchroom and the third parties set to benefit from unrivalled insight into the game. The direct goal is to also open further ranking event opportunities in the USA, South America, and central Europe.

As part of Matchroom's ongoing investment and expansion, the World Nineball Tour will launch an independent integrity unit with a remit to focus on anti-corruption, drug testing and more to ensure the continued professionalisation of the players competing in all World Nineball Ranking events.

The World Nineball Tour can also announce the appointment of a full-time Tournament Director with one of the world's best cue-sports referees Brendan Moore taking lead as a main point of contact for players as well as ensuring a consistency across World Nineball Tour events. Players will also have two player ambassadors appointed, who they can relate to and brainstorm any creative ideas.

President and Founder of Matchroom Sport Barry Hearn OBE said: "This is a time of opportunity for all players around the world irrespective of gender, nationality, age, and faith. It's also a time when anyone who truly cares about creating opportunity for players to join in this historic journey. This is Pool's big chance and with the support of all the top players and the dream of all aspiring amateurs, I believe we can create a huge global sport."

World Nineball No.1 Francisco Sanchez Ruiz said: "The World Nineball Tour gives us all more motivation to succeed. Nineball is the future with the rankings, previously we only had three tournaments now we have so many. Now you can be a professional



by playing this game, it's perfect. The World Nineball Tour means you can qualify for the biggest events and that includes the Mosconi Cup."

Five-time US Open winner and 2022 world champion Shane Van Boening is delighted to see the sport heading in the right direction: "Nineball is the future because we have a lot of events around the world coming thick and fast. It's a great opportunity to travel the world. More Nineball events means we have the opportunity to make a real career out of this sport. It lets people aspire to become something. It's important to play in World Nineball Ranking events because there are so many lucrative opportunities now to be a part of the most exclusive invitationals and of course the Mosconi Cup. It's the most important one on the calendar for me and if you want a shot of playing in that, you need to play the World Nineball Tour calendar.

Two-time Mosconi Cup MVP Jayson Shaw believes the World Nineball Tour launch is just the tip of the iceberg: "Nineball is the future because of the history of the game. The global ranking gives us all a chance in a transparent system that provides a pathway to the biggest events. For us

all it means more prize money, more travelling and more opportunities.

Whilst rising Saudi Arabian star Khalid Alghamdi says the chance to earn vital World Nineball Ranking points closer to home makes all the difference: "This gives me a path to succeed. It's a huge opportunity. It means I can play tournaments closer to my home to help me achieve my dream of one day becoming the World Nineball No.1 but first I need to finish school!

World Nineball No.10 and former world champion Ko Pin Yi said: "We're absolutely thrilled to hear the news about the World Nineball Tour. We can't wait to join these events both in Asia and other continents now with more opportunities for those in this area of the world to get in the biggest events like the World Pool Masters coming up."

Current UK Open and World Pool Masters champion Joshua Filler is excited to see where the Tour will take him: "It is amazing to see the Tour growing and expanding, especially having in mind what Matchroom have done with other sports, we are for sure looking into a great and bright future of 9-ball. I want to win every big major on the calendar, so I'll always be super motivated and hungry to put my name on every trophy!"

Tourney Results

Apr 01 - Apr 02

Joss Tour 2022-2023 Stop 14

Yale Billiards

- Wallingford, Connecticut
- 1 Nicolas Charette \$1,300
 - 2 Christoph Neumayer \$950
 - 3 Yesid Garibello \$700
 - 4 Frankie Hernandez \$500
 - 5 Steve Mack \$350
 - 5 Vincent Beaurivage \$350
 - 7 Kevin Guimond \$250
 - 7 Lukas Fracasso-Verner \$250
 - 9 Bucky Souvanthong \$150
 - 9 Dan Evans \$150
 - 9 Ron Piontkowski \$150
 - 9 Sean Morgan \$150
 - 13 Gene Hunt \$100
 - 13 Ryan Cullen \$100
 - 13 Shawn Dickson \$100
 - 13 Tom Torres \$100

Apr 01 - Apr 02

JPNEWT Tour 2023 Stop #2

Champion Billiards & Sports Café

- Frederick, MD
- 1 Briana Miller \$675
 - 2 Karen Corr \$525
 - 3 Kia Burwell \$270
 - 3 Nicole Christ \$270
 - 5 Gracie Kelly-Casey \$85
 - 5 Judie Wilson \$85
 - 5 Linda Haywood Shea \$85
 - 5 Lynn Richards \$85

Apr 01 - Apr 02

2023 Maryland State Open 9-Ball Championships

Brews & Cues on the Boulevard

- Glen Burnie, Maryland

- 1 Brandon Shuff \$900
- 2 Thomas Haas \$600
- 3 Chris Bruner \$430
- 4 Jimmy Varias \$330
- 5 Brett Stottlemeyer \$225
- 5 Josh Brothers \$225
- 7 Grai Rasmehchai \$150
- 7 Grayson Vaughan \$150
- 9 Bobby Pacheco II \$100
- 9 Chris Jenkins \$100
- 9 Joseph Tomkowski \$100
- 9 Tarek Elmalla \$100
- 13 Brian Jones \$85
- 13 Fred Baxter \$85
- 13 Mike Saleh \$85
- 13 Shawn Toni \$85

Apr 01 - Apr 01

Garden State Pool Tour Amateur Stop

Rockaway Billiards

- Rockaway, NJ
- 1 Moritz Neuhausen \$750
 - 2 Ryan McCreesh \$360
 - 3 John Francisco \$250
 - 4 Sylvain Anichini \$200
 - 5 Carmen Lombardo \$130
 - 5 Mike Salerno \$130
 - 7 Levy Lempaam \$100
 - 7 Paul Spaanstra \$100

Apr 01 - Apr 02

Joss Tour 2023-2024 Stop 14 Second Chance

Yale Billiards

- Wallingford, Connecticut
- 1 Nate Marshall \$330
 - 2 Bruce Carroll \$220
 - 3 Dan Sharlow \$150

- 4 Demian Provost \$100
- 5 Mike Renshaw \$60
- 5 Ryan Cullen \$60

Apr 08 - Apr 09

7th Annual Barry Behrman Memorial Spring Open 9-Ball

Q-Master Billiards

- Virginia Beach, VA
- 1 Amil Andre Gangflot \$900
 - 1 Mikael Ogaard \$900
 - 3 Tram Nguyen \$475
 - 4 Mike Davis \$350
 - 5 Josh Roberts \$250
 - 5 Troy Miller \$250
 - 7 David Hairfield \$150
 - 7 Nathan Childress \$150
 - 9 Garrett Vaughan \$75
 - 9 Grayson Vaughan \$75
 - 9 Mike Tomlich \$75
 - 9 R.J. Carmona \$75

Apr 08 - Apr 08

PremierBilliards.com Q City 9-Ball Tour Event

The Clubhouse

- Lynchburg, Virginia
- 1 Tyler Borden \$600
 - 2 Scott Roberts \$360
 - 3 DJ Brads \$240
 - 4 Collin Hall \$155

Apr 08 - Apr 08

Garden State Pool Tour Amateur Stop

Shooters Family Billiards

- Wayne, New Jersey
- 1 Richard Ng \$660
 - 2 Noe Videz \$340

- 3 Chris Kemp \$220
- 4 Santos Carpio \$170
- 5 Marek Faras \$120
- 5 Pascal Dufresne \$120
- 7 Alejandro Azcarate \$90
- 7 Naldo Troncoso \$90
- 9 Chong Kim \$65
- 9 Lance Reiser \$65
- 9 Nick Torraca \$65
- 9 Tri Chau \$65

Apr 11 - Apr 14

2023 Super Billiards Expo Senior NineBall Pro Players Championship

Greater Philadelphia Expo Center at Oaks

Oaks, PA

- 1 Mika Immonen \$5,000
- 2 Rob Krull \$2,450
- 3 Frankie Hernandez \$1,225
- 3 Jimmy Rivera \$1,225

Apr 13 - Apr 16

2023 Super Billiards Expo Open NineBall Pro Players Championship

Greater Philadelphia Expo Center at Oaks

Oaks, PA

- 1 Jonas Souto Comino \$10,000
- 2 Jayson Shaw \$5,000
- 3 John Morra \$3,000
- 3 Jonathan Pinegar \$3,000
- 5 Earl Strickland \$2,100
- 5 Jose Alberto Delgado \$2,100
- 5 Shane Wolford \$2,100
- 5 Warren Kiamco \$2,100
- 9 Alan Rosado \$1,200
- 9 Frankie Hernandez \$1,200
- 9 Jeremy Sossei \$1,200
- 9 Kang Lee \$1,200
- 9 Martin Daigle \$1,200
- 9 Mike Davis \$1,200
- 9 Reyes Gomez \$1,200
- 9 Sina Valizadeh \$1,200

Apr 14 - Apr 17

Dynamic Billard Sankt Johann im Pongau Open 2023

Alpina Sport und Wellnesshotel

St. Johann im Pongau,

- 1 Joshua Filler \$6,571
- 2 Daniel Maciol \$5,038
- 3 Juri Pisklov \$3,285
- 3 Wojciech Szewczyk \$3,285
- 5 Daniel Guttenberger \$1,642
- 5 Maximilian Lechner \$1,642
- 5 Miesko Fortunski \$1,642
- 5 Wiktor Zielinski \$1,642
- 9 Amil Andre Gangflot \$1,095
- 9 Dominik Jastrzab \$1,095
- 9 Ivo Aarts \$1,095
- 9 Lars Kuckherm \$1,095
- 9 Mario He \$1,095
- 9 Mohammad Soufi \$1,095
- 9 Ragnar Gronsten \$1,095
- 9 Roman Hybler \$1,095
- 17 David Zalman \$657
- 17 Fitim Haradinaj \$657
- 17 Francesco Candela \$657
- 17 Georgi Georgiev \$657
- 17 Konrad Juszczyzyn \$657
- 17 Marc Bijsterbosch \$657
- 17 Marco Spitzky \$657
- 17 Mateusz Sniegocki \$657
- 17 Michael Wich \$657
- 17 Niels Feijen \$657
- 17 Oliver Szolnoki \$657
- 17 Roberto Bartol \$657
- 17 Sebastian Batkowski \$657
- 17 Senharip Azar \$657
- 17 Tobias Bongers \$657
- 17 Yannick Pongers \$657
- 33 Babken Melkonyan \$328
- 33 Jan Van Lierop \$328
- 33 Jorge Tinoco \$328
- 33 Jorn Kaplan \$328
- 33 Karol Skowerski \$328
- 33 Kristian Mrva \$328
- 33 Marco Dorenburg \$328
- 33 Mario Gulic \$328
- 33 Meric Reshat \$328
- 33 Mustafa Alnar \$328
- 33 Sebastian Ludwig \$328

- 33 Stefan Kasper \$328
- 33 Szymon Kural \$328
- 33 Tomasz Kaplan \$328
- 33 Ugar Turku \$328
- 33 Wiktor Fortunski \$328

Apr 15 - Apr 16

Predator women's Sankt Johann im Pongau Open 2023

Alpina Sport und Wellnesshotel

St. Johann im Pongau,

- 1 Veronika Ivanovskaia \$1,095
- 2 Bojana Sarac \$821
- 3 Eylul Kybaroglu \$438
- 3 Kristina Zlateva \$438
- 5 Maria Teresa Ropero Garcia \$219
- 5 Oliwia Zalewska \$219
- 5 Pia Filler \$219
- 5 Sandra Baumgartner \$219

Apr 15 - Apr 15

PremierBilliards.com Q City 9-Ball Tour Event

West End Billiards

Gastonia, North Carolina

- 1 Junior Gabriel \$500
- 2 Jakob Belka \$350
- 3 Bill Fowler \$225
- 4 Jon Jon Newman \$125
- 5 Thomas Sansone \$85
- 5 TJ Peebles \$85

Apr 18 - Apr 21

PRP Nineball Open 2023

Exe Boston Hotel

Zaragoza,

- 1 Wojciech Szewczyk \$10,976
- 2 Aleksa Pecelj \$5,486
- 3 Francisco Diaz \$2,194
- 3 Sanjin Pehlivanovic \$2,194
- 5 Denis Grabe \$1,097
- 5 Francisco Sanchez-Ruiz \$1,097
- 5 Konrad Juszczyzyn \$1,097
- 5 Pijus Labutis \$1,097
- 9 Daniel Maciol \$548
- 9 Dimitris Loukatos \$548
- 9 Iker Andoni Echeverria \$548

9 Jonas Souto Comino \$548
9 Khalid Alghamdi \$548
9 Maximilian Lechner \$548
9 Petri Makkonen \$548
9 Tobias Bongers \$548
17 Alexandros Kazakis \$329
17 Andrea Milioli \$329
17 Benjamin Belhassen \$329
17 Christos Papageorgiou \$329
17 Daniele Corrieri \$329
17 Elliott Sanderson \$329
17 Imran Majid \$329
17 Joao Grilo \$329
17 Jose Castillo \$329
17 Lazar Kostic \$329
17 Mario He \$329
17 Niels Feijen \$329
17 Noel Bensaid \$329
17 Ralf Souquet \$329
17 Riku Romppainen \$329
17 Simone Zappi \$329
33 Alex Montpellier \$164
33 Antonis Kakaris \$164
33 Ben Satchel \$164
33 Bobby Martinez \$164
33 Carlos Belmonte \$164
33 David Alcaide \$164
33 David Medina \$164
33 David Serrano \$164
33 Davy Piergiovanni \$164
33 Gerasimos Trivizas \$164
33 Gulliermo Fernandez \$164
33 Ivan Canovas \$164
33 Jesus Alcocer \$164
33 Jose Alberto Delgado \$164
33 Juan Manuel Lima \$164
33 Karl Gnadeberg \$164
33 Kevin Lannoye \$164
33 Kim Soo Garmak \$164
33 Kostas Koukiadakis \$164
33 Leandro Araujo \$164
33 Marcos Sanz \$164
33 Matthew Rigley \$164
33 Miguel Silva \$164
33 Mohammad Soufi \$164
33 Nick Chatoupis \$164

33 Nick Ekonomopoulos \$164
33 Oliver Rodriguez \$164
33 Oscar Dominguez \$164
33 Pedro Merino \$164
33 Ruben omar Docampo \$164
33 Salvador Garcia \$164
33 Sergio Lagunas \$164

Apr 22 - Apr 23

DL Billiards Tour Ladies Stop 2

Bogies Billiards & Games East

Houston, TX

1 Kelly Isaac \$350
2 Ming Ng \$210
3 Gail Eaton \$140

Apr 22 - Apr 23

DL Billiards Tour Open Stop 2

Bogies Billiards & Games East

Houston, TX

1 Roberto Gomez \$680
2 Ernesto Bayaua \$510
3 Kyle Yi \$340
4 Raed Shabib \$340

Apr 22 - Apr 23

2023 Bob Stocks Memorial 9-Ball

First Break Cafe

Sterling, VA

1 BJ Ussery \$8,000
2 Lukas Fracasso-Verner \$4,000
3 Fedor Gorst \$2,500
3 Shane Wolford \$2,500
5 Donny Mills \$1,300
5 Martin Daigle \$1,300
5 Thomas Haas \$1,300
5 Tyler Styer \$1,300
9 Billy Thorpe \$700
9 Grai Rasmehchai \$700
9 Greg Hogue \$700
9 Hunter Lombardo \$700
9 Josh Roberts \$700
9 Oscar Dominguez \$700
9 Shaun Wilkie \$700
9 Tommy Tokoph \$700

Apr 22 - Apr 22

PremierBilliards.com Q City 9-Ball Tour Event

Mickey Milligan's Sports Bar

New Bern, NC

1 Mac Harrell \$500
2 Jerry Cannon \$300
3 Robert Bridges \$190
4 DJ Brads \$55

Apr 22 - Apr 23

2023 DFW 9-Ball Tour Stop 4

VFW Post 2772

Sherman, TX

1 Gus Briseno \$1,350
2 Mohammed Alrawi \$950
3 Tony Loeper \$720
4 TJ Davis \$505
5 Johnny Garcia \$390
5 Steve Langston \$390
7 Mark Johnson \$280
7 Mike Gianino \$280
9 Carlos Aleman \$175
9 Jeff Franklin \$175
9 Jonathan Rawlins \$175
9 Neil Nabil Saidawi \$175
13 Christopher Garcia \$105
13 Pasini Taloa \$105
13 Roman Bayda \$105
13 Tim Larson \$105

Apr 23 - Apr 23

Garden State Pool Tour Amateur Stop

Staten Island, NY

1 Ray Toro \$530
2 Caitlyn Harkins \$260
3 Patrick Meyers \$170
4 Gil Costello \$130
5 Jennifer Pedutem \$90
5 Susan Durling \$90
7 Eddie Conklin, Jr. \$70
7 Qian Y Chen \$70

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Apr 25 - Apr 30

2023 Scotty Townsend Memorial Open 9-Ball

Arena Billiards

West Monroe, LA

- 1 Jonathan Pinegar \$5,000
- 2 Tony Chohan \$2,500
- 3 Chris Reinhold \$1,700
- 4 Warren Kiamco \$1,250
- 5 Billy Thorpe \$700
- 5 Justin Espinosa \$700
- 7 Alejandro Calderon \$400
- 7 Ruben Silva \$400
- 9 Joe Keith \$300
- 9 Matthew Wisely \$300
- 9 Shane McMinn \$300
- 9 TJ Barillieux \$300
- 13 Brad Weast \$200
- 13 Eric Pickar \$200
- 13 Jeremy Hundley \$200
- 13 Robb Saez \$200
- 17 Andre King \$150
- 17 Ceaser Carroll \$150
- 17 Chuck Raulston \$150
- 17 Jason Foutch \$150
- 17 Lon Williamson \$150
- 17 Rickey Cook \$150
- 17 Roberto Gomez \$150
- 17 Sergio Rivas \$150
- 25 Boog Long \$100
- 25 Chris Bottorff \$100
- 25 Dalton Walters \$100
- 25 Joey Barnes \$100
- 25 Lee Alford \$100
- 25 Monroe Jones \$100
- 25 Tim Miller \$100
- 25 William Haagensen \$100

Apr 25 - Apr 30

2023 Scotty Townsend Memorial Ladies Division

Arena Billiards

West Monroe, LA

- 1 April Larson \$850
- 2 Kennedy Meyman \$650
- 3 Gretchen Roa \$425
- 4 Brandy Sealy \$200

Apr 25 - Apr 30

2023 Scotty Townsend Memorial 10-Ball Mini

Arena Billiards

West Monroe, LA

- 1 Roberto Gomez \$1,650
- 2 Josh Roberts \$1,300
- 3 Ruben Silva \$625
- 3 Tim Miller \$625

Apr 25 - Apr 30

2023 Scotty Townsend Memorial Open One Pocket

Arena Billiards

West Monroe, LA

- 1 Tony Chohan \$10,000
- 2 Josh Roberts \$5,000

Apr 29 - Apr 30

NWPA Tour 2023 Stop 1

Legends Billiard Room

Beaverton, Oregon

- 1 Molina Ortiz \$915
- 2 Jana Montour \$630
- 3 Cindy Sliva \$440
- 4 Liz Cole \$315
- 5 Katherine Robertson \$220
- 5 Linda Massey \$220
- 7 Kathie MacDonald \$150
- 7 Regene Lane \$150
- 9 Linda Carter \$100
- 9 Liz Jensen \$100
- 9 Marion Poole \$100
- 9 Stephanie Drakulic \$100
- 13 Aimee Wilson \$70
- 13 Alfreda Amoyette \$70
- 13 Jeanne Christiansen \$70
- 13 Sophia Tran \$70

Apr 29 - May 01

Ljubljana City 'Mezz' 9-Ball Open 2023

Slovenia

- 1 Wiktor Zielinski \$3,314
- 2 Oliver Szolnoki \$2,209

- 3 Ajdin Piknjac \$1,657
- 3 Daniel Maciol \$1,657
- 5 Albin Ouschan \$939
- 5 Georgi Georgiev \$939
- 5 Jani Uski \$939
- 5 Tobias Bongers \$939
- 9 Andreja Klasovic \$552
- 9 Dimitris Loukatos \$552
- 9 George Antonakis \$552
- 9 Jakub Koniar \$552
- 9 Ksapoliteas Panagiotis \$552
- 9 Mateusz Sniegocki \$552
- 9 Pijus Labutis \$552
- 9 Riku Romppainen \$552
- 17 Alexandros Kazakis \$331
- 17 Antonis Kakaris \$331
- 17 Daniel Guttenberger \$331
- 17 Dmitro Skorokhodov \$331
- 17 Edin Redzic \$331
- 17 Faruk Terzic \$331
- 17 Felix Vogel \$331
- 17 Francesco Candela \$331
- 17 Jere Virtaranta \$331
- 17 Kreso Vukovic \$331
- 17 Michel Martol \$331
- 17 Mika van Berkel \$331
- 17 Petri Makkonen \$331
- 17 Ralf Souquet \$331
- 17 Roberto Bartol \$331
- 17 Szymon Kural \$331

Apr 29 - Apr 30

PremierBilliards.com Q City 9-Ball Tour Event

Break Time Billiards

Winston-Salem, NC

- 1 Josh Heeter \$850
- 2 Larry Hughes \$600
- 3 Niko Konkel \$400
- 4 Thomas Sansone \$200
- 5 Bill Fowler \$100
- 5 Joe Hyatt, Jr. \$100
- 7 Derek Leonard \$100
- 7 Steve Jenkins \$100




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Upcoming Tournaments

Each month *Billiards Buzz* looks ahead at the events on our calendar to give both players and fans the information they may use to plan their activities.

MAY

10th Annual Big Tyme Classic

May 03 - May 07

Big Tyme Billiards
Spring, Texas

Joss Tour 2022-2023 Stop 16

May 06 - May 07

Raxx Pool Room, Sports Bar & Grill
West Hempstead, NY

JPNEWT Tour 2023 Stop #3

May 06 - May 07

Yale Billiards
Wallingford, Connecticut

World Pool Masters 2023

May 10 - May 13

Europa Sports Complex,
Gibraltar

Wisconsin Open 2023

May 17 - May 20

Ho-Chunk Casino WI Dells
Baraboo, Wisconsin

Women's Wisconsin Open 2023

May 18 - May 21

Ho-Chunk Casino WI Dells
Baraboo, Wisconsin

Joss Tour 2023-2023 Stop 16.5

May 20 - May 21

Amazin Billiards
Malden, Ma

On The Snap Tour Stop #4

May 27 - May 28

Rusty's Billiards
Fort Worth, Texas

2023 UK Open

May 30 - Jun 04

Copper Box Arena
London, England

JFlowers Scottish Open

May 30 - Jun 04

McGoldrick's Sports Bar
Rutherglen, Glasgow

Jayson Shaw Junior Open

Jun 02 - Jun 03

Copper Box Arena
London, England

Joss Tour 2022-2023 Stop 17

Jun 03 - Jun 04

Snookers - Sports Billiards, Bar & Grill
Providence, RI

NWPA Tour 2023 Stop 2

Jun 03 - Jun 04

Players Sports Bar
Kennewick, Washington

Wisconsin Battle of the Junior Champions Qualifier

Jun 03 - Jun 03

Hollenbeck's Cue Club - Sussex Bowl
Sussex, Wisconsin

Capone's 2023 Florida Pro Cup Series Stop 2

Jun 07 - Jun 12

Capone's Billiard Lounge
Spring Hill, FL

WPBA Iron City Invitational

Jun 08 - Jun 11

Iron City Billiards
Birmingham, Alabama

DL Billiards Tour Open Stop 3

Jun 10 - Jun 11

Bogies Billiards West
Houston, Texas

DL Billiards Tour Ladies Stop 3

Jun 10 - Jun 11

Bogies Billiards West
Houston, Texas

On The Snap Tour Stop #5

Jun 17 - Jun 18

CK Billiards
Dallas, Tx

JPNEWT Tour 2023 Stop #4

Jun 17 - Jun 17

Bluegrass Billiards
Philadelphia, Pa

2023 Spanish Open

Jun 20 - Jun 25

Lugo, Spain

FSR Junior Open

Jun 23 - Jun 24

Lugo, Spain

Croatia Open 2023

Jun 27 - Jul 01

Croatia

World Cup of Pool 2023

Jun 27 - Jul 02

Lugo, Spain


Women's Croatia Open 2023



Jun 28 - Jul 02

Croatia

AZBILLIARDS MONEY LIST

	NAME	COUNTRY	\$ AMOUNT	
	Fedor Gorst	 RUS	137.700,00 US\$	
	Francisco Sanchez-Ruiz	 ESP	126.583,00 US\$	
	Eklent Kaci	 ALB	62.700,00 US\$	
	Shane Van Boening	 USA	49.700,00 US\$	
	Roberto Gomez	 PHI	43.610,00 US\$	↑
	Joshua Filler	 GER	40.171,00 US\$	↑
	Tony Chohan	 USA	40.000,00 US\$	↑
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