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**And Defending
CHAMPION...**

Volume 8, Issue #98

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FROM THE Head Rail

MIKE HOWERTON

As the International Open 9-Ball division was coming to it's end, I focused on the idea that Aloysius Yapp could possibly repeat as Champion. Winning in a field like that is quite an accomplishment. In my opinion, defending that title and winning it a second time back to back is equal to winning something like the US Open back to back.

Then when Shane Van Boening defended the 10-Ball crown and Mario He then defended the Straight Pool title, I was completely floored.

I think we sometimes write off things like Shane winning Bigfoot events, because he is so dominant on the 10' table, but I don't think we have ever seen anything like three divisions being won back to back like this.

Since Derby City is the king of multiple discipline divisions, I went back and checked. At no time, has Derby seen repeat champions across three divisions.

What does all of this mean in the grand scheme of things? Probably nothing, but I found it interesting.

Until next time,
Mike





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THE AIMING CYCLE

Aiming your shots results from following a very well-orchestrated process. Each step is done in sequence, whether fast or slowly, consciously or subconsciously.

The Shot Cycle (TSC) is the method I developed for planning, executing, and evaluating your shots, one after another. I talked about it at length in *Capelle's Practicing Pool*, and I will be providing readers with 48 big pages on The Shot Cycle in my upcoming book, *Pool Is The Answer*.

A big part of TSC is my aiming process, which I call The Aiming Cycle (TAC). Aiming is not a moment in time where you find a contact point, or when you (supposedly) finish aiming while standing and facing the shot. Rather, aiming is a complex process that evolves throughout its own cycle, and is an integral part of TSC.

In this column I am going to take you through the aiming process as you proceed step by step right up to the moment of truth, when your tip contacts the cue ball – and beyond as you evaluate the results, good or not-so-good.

STEP 1 – PLANNING AN OFFENSIVE SHOT

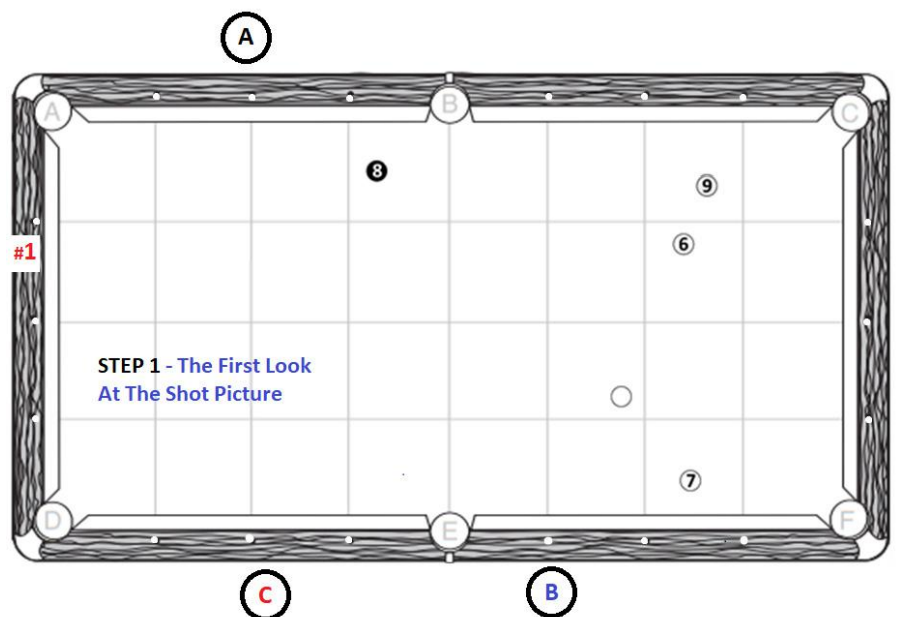
Once your previous shot is complete or it becomes your turn at the table, the first thing is to determine if you have a reasonable opportunity to continue your run, or to go on the offensive. This step requires that you look at the shot facing you, and then make your decision. For the purposes of this discussion, we'll assume that you are going to attempt to pocket the ball and to play position for the next ball.

While standing and possibly looking at the shot down the line-of-aim (LOA) you will evaluate The Shot Picture to determine what kind of shot you are facing. There are so many factors that contribute to aiming, but your first initial look will tell you much about the cut angle (almost every shot has one). So, after that first look, you will now know if you are facing a cut along a spectrum from nearly straight to razor thin (but still makeable). The Shot Picture is instrumental in planning the shot, and it is the first bit of information that you will be gathering in TAC.

Diagram #1 shows a mid-rack layout in a game of Nine Ball. Position A is, for this example, where you are stand-

ing when you finished the last shot. You then walk to Position B to see the Shot Picture of one you are now facing. In this case, the cut is not too severe (it is 37 degrees), the 6-ball is not far from Pocket C, and the cue ball is relatively close to the object ball. Furthermore, getting from the 6-ball to the 7-ball is a relatively easy position play. But first things first: does the 6 pass the 9-ball? To be sure that it does, you walk over to Position C, which gives you a much better view of its passability. (Yes, it is a word. LOL!)

Once you have confirmed that you have a very makeable shot with a moderate cut into a full pocket, it is time to move on in the planning process.



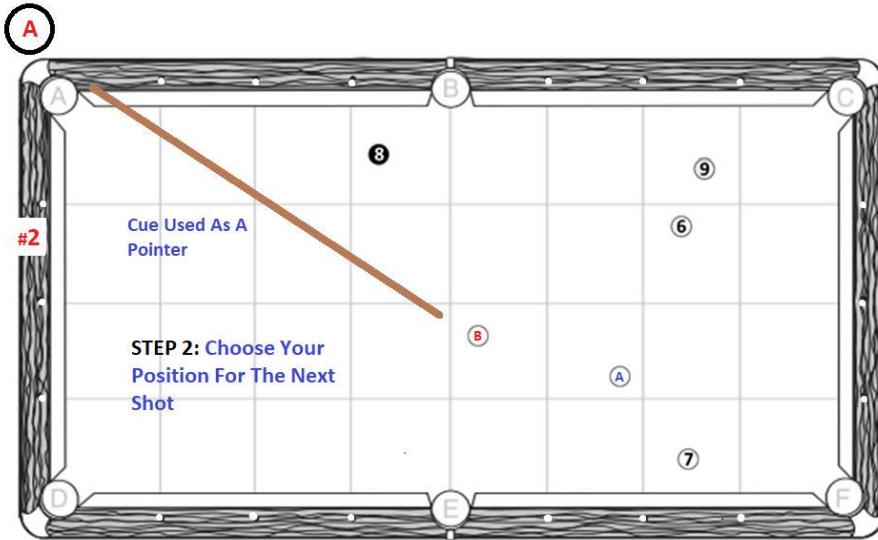
will want to be positioned so that you can land with your cue pointing down that line.

While standing, you may wish to perform several air-warmup-strokes (AWUS). These involve moving your cue back and forth through an air bridge before landing. These strokes buy you valuable time to look out at the Shot Picture (as defined by the red lines) while your feel for your aim and for the shot you are about to play, including a feel for speed, is further developed.

By the time you have completed your standing position and possibly taken a few AWUS, you should be ready to make a great landing. (For details on the landing process, please see last month's Buzz.)

STEP 4 – LAND AND ADJUST

While looking at **Diagram #4**, imagine that you have just landed as close to perfectly as you can on the LOA. At this point you will probably need to make a few micro adjustments to get to where you feel comfortable and just right over the shot. These adjustments include fine tuning your LOA.



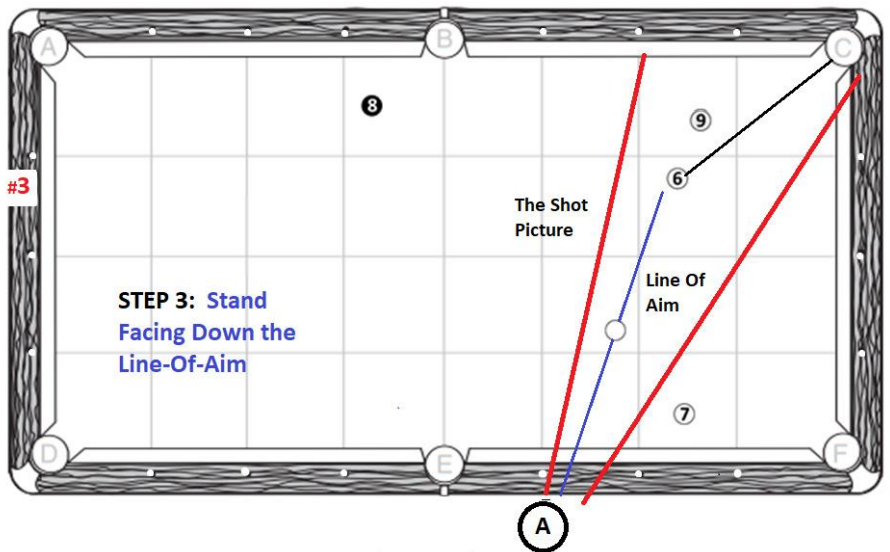
STEP 2 – CHOOSE YOUR POSITION

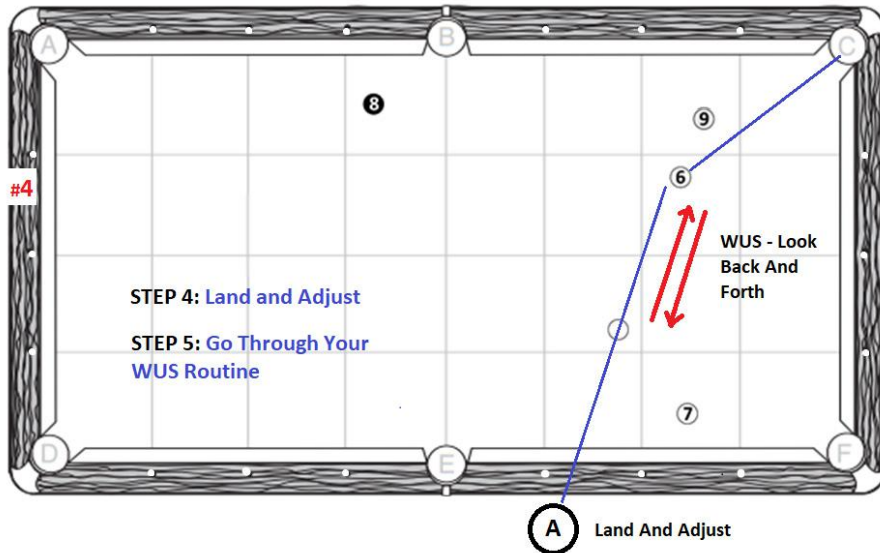
You know that you can make the shot, so now you need to determine where you want to send the cue ball. **Diagram #2** shows Position A, which is where you where the cue ball rests. So, now you should walk to Head A to look down the a line that leads from Position B, where you want to send the cue ball, to the 7-ball. When watching so many of today's top pros, you will see them use their cue as a pointer to assist in planning their shot, as is shown in the illustration.

Knowing where you want to send the cue ball is part of the aiming process because it helps to determine the cuing and speed that you will be using. Both of these factors are then plugged into your subconscious, where so much of your aiming is handled easily and automatically. On this shot, you will be using a medium-soft speed (about a 3.5) and half a tip of left english. With this speed and cuing, you know that you will need to allow for the english, which is going to throw the ball to the right. At this speed and distance, deflection is not much of an issue.

STEP 3 – STAND AND PREPARE TO LAND

Now that you have completed the planning process and made a firm decision on the shot you are about to play, it is time to move into the position from which you will be landing on the table. You should move to the place where you will be facing the LOA, which is the line from the cue ball to the position it will occupy when making contact with the object ball. In **Diagram #3** Head A shows where you will be standing prior to landing. You





the shot and are aiming it is being held in your working memory. And, as you can see, TAC moves through so many stages right up to and including your final forward stroke into contact with the cue ball. Then, as you make a quick transition to the Learning Cycle, you should be watching the object ball on its way to the pocket.

STEP 7 - WATCH, EVALUATE, AND LEARN

Watch very carefully to see where the object ball goes. Did it enter the center or the side of the pocket? And, if the shot did not drop, where did it miss, and by how much? Remember, you learn to aim by playing each shot with your full attention. This enables you to imprint positive Shot Pictures in your mind, and to correct for those when your aim (and/or possibly your stroke) were off the mark.

Diagram #5 shows some possible outcomes. When the 6-ball is made, it will follow the blue line into the pocket, and the cue ball should stop at or very near Position B. If the shot is undercut, as shown by Line 1, the cue ball could stop short and wide of the desired position at Ball 1-a. And, if the shot is overcut as shown by Line 2, then the cue ball will travel further

STEP 5 - GO THROUGH YOUR WUS ROUTINE

Diagram #4 also shows the movement of your eyes as you engage in several gazes that are split between the cue ball, the object ball, and the Shot Picture, which may include the pocket. It is during this phase of TAC that you will begin to really zero in on your final LOA. Your perception of the LOA that you develop while in the shooting position is the one that counts most. When you sense that all elements of the shot are at their state of maximum readiness, you are set to make your final stroke back and forward into contact with the cue ball.

to use this information to automatically make any last-split-second super-small adjustments. The LOA that your subconscious chooses for you matters the most, so it is best to trust in your higher powers where billions of neurons are firing in an all-out attempt to assist you in playing your shot as accurately as possible,

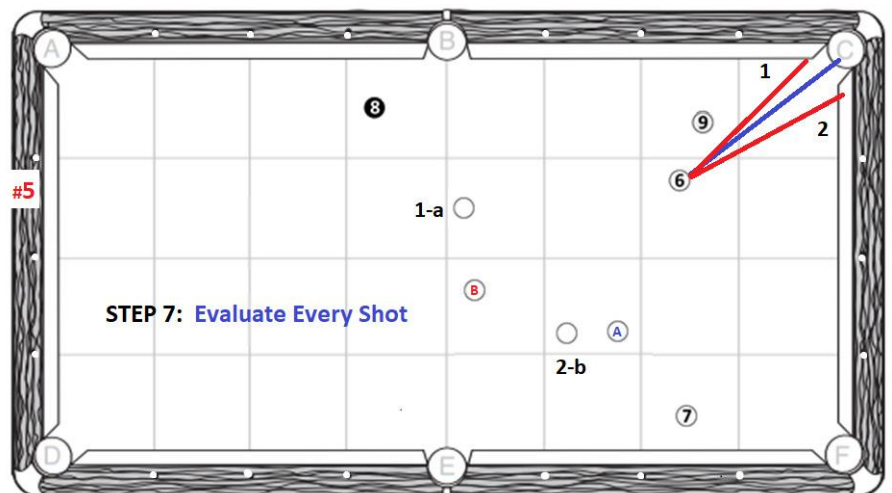
As you can see, a lot takes place during TAC, that contributes to playing fine shots, one after another. But luckily for us, much of this process is handled easily and automatically once we have trained ourself to use the Natural Aiming method. And yes, this progression of the way you see

STEP 6 - AIMING ON YOUR FINAL STROKE

Please remember to keep this principle in mind:

Pool IS an eye/brain/hand coordination sport!

As you look out at the object ball during your final stroke, your shooting arm and hand, unbeknownst to you, are going to continuously receive signals from your motor cortex – and



than intended and down a different path, possibly stopping at Ball 2-b.

So, your aim needs to be adjusted as you move through TAC. You must trust your subconscious, over the long run, to make the needed corrections because it will – effortlessly and automatically. And, the cue ball's resting place that results from a missed shot is not the same as what it would have been if you'd made the shot.

BELOW IS A QUICK SUMMARY OF THE 7 STEPS OF TAC.

- 1 – Take your first look at the Shot Picture. Do you have an offensive shot?
- 2 – Choose where you want to send the cue ball for the next shot.
- 3 – Stand on the LOA and prepare to landing. Possible take a few AWUS.

4 – Land and adjust. Make minor adjustments in your stance just after landing

5 – Perform your WUS routine:

6 – Aiming during your final stroke. Remember: pool IS an eye/brain/hand coordination sport.

7 – Evaluate your shot. Both the object ball and where the cue ball stops.

So, there you have it – TAC in its entirety. Aiming is not a moment in time where it just happens, and it is not about contact points and other bogus theories. Instead, aiming is a process that you follow on each and every shot. Doing so will enable you to play each shot as well as you can, and to learn from your successes and from your mistakes.

ABOUT PHIL CAPELLE

Beginning in 1968, Capelle spent 27 years competing in money games, leagues, and tournaments. In late 1994 he founded Billiards Press, and has since written 12 instructional books on pool. Over the last eight years he has conducted extensive research in preparation for his upcoming book, *Pool Is The Answer*. For a detailed profile of Phil Capelle, see his interview with Melinda Bailey in the April 2019 issue of the Billiards Buzz.

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THE IMPORTANCE OF RAIL BRIDGES IN POOL: PRECISION AND CONTROL

ANTHONY BEELER

Every time I work with amateur players, one problem I consistently see is improper use of the various rail bridges. In the game of pool, every shot demands focus, precision, and a strong foundation.

While most players are comfortable executing shots with a traditional hand bridge, rail bridges present unique challenges and opportunities. Mastering the rail bridge is essential for any player seeking consistency and accuracy, particularly when faced with shots that require the cue ball to be struck from near or against the rail.

What Is a Rail Bridge?

A rail bridge is a type of bridge formed when the cue ball is positioned close to or touching the rail. Instead of using a traditional open or closed hand bridge on the table surface, the rail itself supports the cue. This technique ensures stability and allows the player to deliver an accurate stroke under constrained conditions.

Types of Rail Bridges:

- 1. Rail Bridge** – Used when the cue ball is off the rail slightly.
- 2. Extended Rail Bridge** – Used when the cue ball is frozen to the rail.
- 3. Power Extended Rail Bridge** – Used when the cue ball is frozen to the rail, and you need to strike the shot hard.

Why Rail Bridges Matter:

- 1. Essential for Tight Positions**
 - In many games, the cue ball often ends up near the rail due to de-

fensive plays or positional errors. A rail bridge becomes necessary to avoid fouling and still maintain precise control over the shot. Without a proper rail bridge, players risk miscues, poor accuracy, or unwanted spin.

2. Stability on Difficult Shots

- The rail provides a natural groove for the cue stick, offering stability and support. When executed correctly, a rail bridge can reduce unintended side spin and ensure that the cue ball reacts correctly.

3. Cue Elevation Management

- When the cue ball is against the rail, players must elevate their cue stick slightly to avoid miscuing. A good rail bridge ensures the proper angle and elevation, minimizing errors and keeping the stroke smooth. It is very important to

keep the cue as level as possible. For every degree you elevate your cue, it is estimated that you lose 5 percent accuracy!

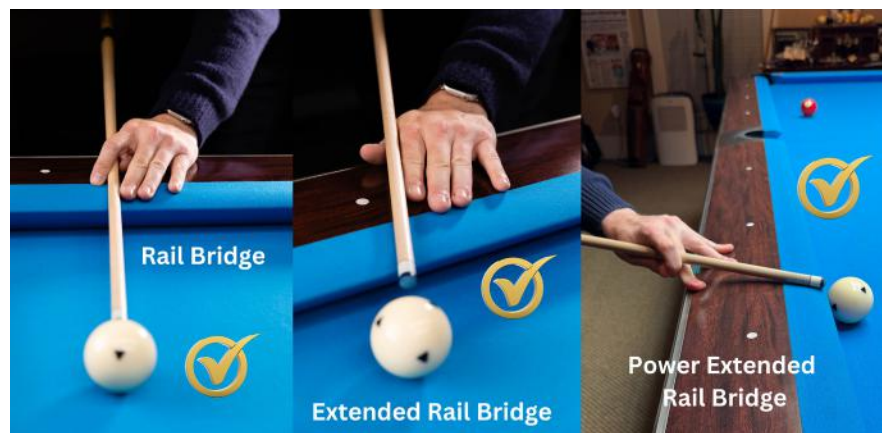
4. Improved Spin Control

- Effective rail bridges allow players to apply spin, even from tight positions. Mastering the angle and right amount of elevation helps execute draw, follow, or side spin with accuracy.

How to Execute a Proper Rail Bridge

1. Placement:

- Rest the shaft of the cue on the rail, ensuring it glides smoothly along the groove formed by your fingers.
- Use your index finger or thumb to stabilize the cue stick on top of the rail.





2. Hand Position:

- If the cue ball is near the rail, you can use a rail bridge.
- If the cue ball is touching the rail, keep your hand low, and use an extended rail bridge.
- If you need to strike the shot hard, use power extended rail bridge.

3. Angle Adjustment:

- Elevate the back of your cue stick slightly to avoid hitting the rail during your stroke. Adjust

the elevation based on the type of spin or speed required for the shot.

4. Stroke Execution:

- Keep your stroke smooth and deliberate. Avoid quick movements, as the elevated cue can amplify small errors.

Practicing Rail Bridges

To develop confidence with rail bridges:

- Practice straight shots with the cue ball close to the rail and frozen to the rail.
- Work on applying spin with the various bridge types.

Conclusion

Rail bridges are a critical skill for every pool player. Whether executing a straightforward shot or a complex one, mastering the rail bridge allows for precision, stability, and confidence in challenging scenarios. As you refine

this technique, you'll find yourself prepared to handle shots that leave others struggling—and that's the hallmark of a player who has a complete game. So next time your cue ball nestles against the rail, remember it's not an obstacle, but an opportunity to showcase your skill.

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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Gospel Trick Shot #58

Make Our Paths Straight

History of the Trick Shot: This shot was created by GTS RACK team members Michael Hewitt and Jason Lynch who recently in October returned from England representing the USA in the 2024 BI World Blackball Team Championships. They also competed in the first ever 2024 WPA World Artistic Blackball Championships at that same venue. Michael and Jason also collaborated to create last month's shot called Noah and the Ark which was performed in a special Gospel Trick Shot show during that Artistic Blackball event. This past month in honor of Veteran's Day they had special guest Army Veteran Gary Reedy perform the shot. The brainstorm and execution of the shot happened at the Rising Hope Church in the community center in Muncie, IN, where they hold an after-school breaktime program.

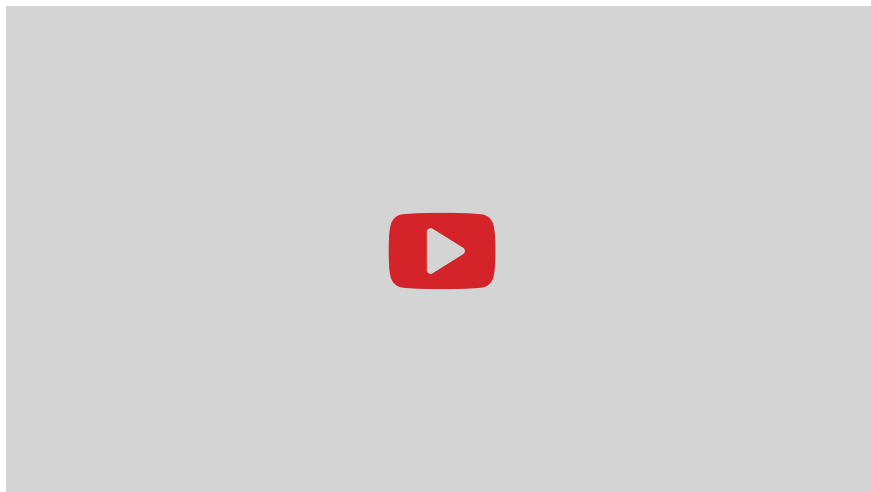
GTS Name and Why: Pastor Michael Hewitt of the Rising Hope Church also known as the "Pastor of Pool" named this shot "Make Our Paths Straight" due to the row of balls and the 8-ball that drops down to complete the shot. The redirection of the balls shows that even when the Lord's straight path is not apparent, we are often surprised when He reveals it to us in unusual and surprising ways. With the 8-ball suspended in the air on top of the edge of the rack it is not clear how it will follow straight down into the side pocket. Watch the video and be surprised!

Scripture References (NIV): Proverbs 3:5-6 "Trust in the LORD with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways submit to him, and he will make your paths straight."

Cue Ball Placement: Resting on the cue sticks with two pieces of chalk holding it slightly in place. Leave enough of a gap between the chalks for the cue ball and the other object balls to clear. The cue ball can be resting near the tips of the two cue sticks as shown in the video or slightly forward as shown in the diagram.

Object Ball(s) Placement: The 8-ball is positioned on top of the rack with the weight of the 1-7 balls holding the rack up. Balls 1-7 are on the set of cues with a small piece of paper holding the row of balls in position on the cues. Two racks full of balls are used to hold the cues in position so the path is straight to the side pocket, as indicated in the diagram. Look at diagram and video for proper set-up.

Objective: Hit the cue ball up the sticks with just enough speed to dislodge the paper holding the row of balls. The paper will fall off, releasing the balls to follow the cue ball into the side pocket.



The rack with the 8-ball will then "lever" down, hit the sticks, and run down into the side pocket.

Special Notes: Be patient, as it took a few attempts especially on the set-up to produce the video. The balancing 8-ball might be the most challenging aspect of the set up. It must be at the correct angle to allow gravity to lever the 8-ball and the rack downward after the weight of the 7 balls is removed. The rack also must be the type that has an edge for the 8-ball to rest on.

Crowd Reactions: The video was the first time this shot was executed and the reaction on Army Veteran Gary's face says it all. We are so grateful for our veterans and it is a privilege to hon-

or Gary and all our other vets with this Gospel Trick Shot of the month. The shot reminds us that when we trust God he will make our paths straight. He is our creator and the sustainer of our lives! The Lord has a plan for each of us if we submit to Him in all our ways. Even if we think that the route we are on is taking too long, we should not despair because the Lord already knows where the finish line is and that He has great plans for us. This month as we think about our veterans, their sacrifices and our freedoms, let's also remember the sacrifice of Jesus on the cross to set us free from the penalty and the bondage of sin. With the end of the year coming up wish you Happy Holidays, Merry Christmas, and a Happy New Year! God bless you in 2025!



A collection of Tiger brand pool cues and accessories is displayed on a blue background. The items include several pool cues, some with black and white barrels and others with black barrels. One cue has 'ICEBREAKER' written on it. There are also pool balls, a yellow and red striped cloth, and a small black card with the Tiger logo. The Tiger logo is prominently featured at the top and bottom of the image.

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International Open

crowns three repeat championships in 9-Ball Open, “Big Foot” and Straight Pool

Article by SKIP MALONEY - AzB Staff / All photos courtesy ERWIN DIONISIO

Yapp, Van Boening and He crowned in their respective disciplines for second straight year

The 2024 International Open, held for the first time at The World Golf Village Renaissance Resort in St. Augustine, FL in the week (nine days) that preceded Thanksgiving expanded in a number of directions (and contracted in one) from its predecessor, the 2023 International Open in Norfolk, VA. It increased the ‘footprint’ of the room in which it was held, added more tournaments than seemed (but was not) more than nine days could possibly hold, reduced the

entrant size of its “Big Foot” Challenge Invitational and for the first time, ever, crowned three repeat champions; in the International Open’s Open 9-Ball event (Aloysius Yapp), the “Big Foot” Challenge Invitational (Shane Van Boening) and in the newly-absorbed, Peter Burrows’ American 14.1 Straight Pool Championship, this year, known as The International Straight Pool Open (Mario He).

In a clear indication like no other, the move proved that size does indeed matter. For all of its 45,000 (+/-) square feet of space, the large ballroom at the Renaissance Resort set aside for the tournaments was somehow cozier

than its ‘smaller footprint’ predecessor in Norfolk, VA. In addition to its 32 pool tables, 16 situated to either side of the Aramith Simonis TV Arena for featured matches (for which a 10-ft table was switched out with its usual table for the “Big Foot” challenge), there was a gathering space between its two sides, located near the ballroom’s main entrance, just outside the arena, with 10-ft. round tables, where folks either not playing or spectating could sit down, chat and avail themselves of some food options, also available in the space. Lighting sconces at the perimeter of the room, while having very little to do with the main or table lighting, lent the atmosphere a welcom-



Moritz Neuhausen and Aloysius Yapp

ing, kind of ‘home feel’ to the place. The area surrounding the 32, general-play tables was more user-friendly than the spaces in Norfolk, which kept spectators at a distance, surrounding the entire area at once. Here, spectator chairs surrounded each group of four tables, while the AccuStats Arena had the expected, tiered seating, from which spectators could view the featured matches.

As to the added tournaments, there were six of them altogether, beyond the ‘signature’ three and the Juniors event. There was a Semi Pro Open 9-Ball (192 entrants), an International One Pocket (17), an International Short Rack Banks (20), the Jersey Girl Billiards’ two Split Brackets that drew a combined total of 48 (leading to a single winner) and the Natural Born Women’s tournament (32). Not to mention an ongoing series of ‘mini-tournaments,’ all playing out on ‘bar box’ tables in an adjacent room.

There was a long list of the ‘usual (international) suspects’ competing in the Pro events, including all 10 of the competitors who would, when the International Open was done, shift to Orlando, FL to compete in the Mosconi Cup. None of the 10 made it past the quarterfinals in the single-elimination



Aloysius Yapp

phase of the US Open 9-Ball event. Not surprisingly, the Semi Pro Open drew the largest playing crowd, all but 14 of which were US competitors. There were 11 Canadians, and one each from the UK, Vietnam and Lithuania.

Yapp becomes the first of the International Open’s three repeating champions

The ‘signature’ tournament of the week was The International 9-Ball Open, which first came about when

Barry Behrmann’s US Open 9-Ball Tournament was sold and moved out of its last home in Norfolk, VA and AccuStats’ Pat Fleming created the International Open to fill the vacuum left in its absence. As Matchroom Sports took over the original US Open 9-Ball and moved it to Atlantic City, Fleming and his International Open settled into the Sheraton Waterside Hotel in Norfolk, three years ago. This latest move to St. Augustine could become its last move for a while, as negotiations for next year and possibly further on down the road are underway.



Niels Feijen

After four days of double-elimination play that started with 128 entrants in the International 9-Ball Open, the first day of single-elimination (Thurs., Nov. 21) went from 16 players down to four in a proverbial heartbeat. And the opening round of play in that single-elimination phase featured some hard-fought battles; six of the eight matches finished with scores of either 10-8 (4) or a double-hill score of 10-9 (2).

The field whittled down to four semi-finalists; Moritz Neuhausen battling Pijus Labutis and the defending champion, Yapp, squaring off against BCA Hall of Famer, Niels Feijen, who’d

become something of a fan favorite during his earlier matches. First, in order, came Neuhausen and Labutis, for which Neuhausen set an immediate 'tone' by winning the first three games. Labutis got on the board by winning the fourth, but Neuhausen came right back to win the next two.

At this juncture, 5-1, they traded racks back and forth through the next five, with Labutis winning three of them. At 7-4, close enough to maintain a 'comeback' possibility, it was, for all intents and purposes, over. Neuhausen won the next three and Labutis conceded the 9-ball in the final rack.

The Yapp/Feijen match was another story altogether, both in terms of the game play itself *and* spectator interest in the ongoing 'drama' of Feijen's very appearance in the semifinals. Feijen had qualified for single-elimination play by downing Jayson Shaw in the last, winners' side qualifying round and *then*, in order, eliminated Fedor Gorst and Joshua Filler, both 10-8, in highly entertaining battles.

Good-sized crowd in the Arena for this match, many of whom had spent a lot of standing-room-only time watching



Pijus Labutis

Feijen defeat Filler at one of the outside-of-the-TV-Arena tables. There was a definite 'buzz' of anticipation in the very air as the event's defending champion squared off against something of a fan-favorite 'dark horse.'

Yapp took the opening two racks, Feijen won the third and Yapp came back to win the next two. Down 3-1, Feijen mounted a four-rack run which

excited the crowd, a lot. At 5-3, Yapp silenced them a bit, winning the next two to tie it up. Shooting at the next two balls in racks #9 and #10, Yapp accidentally dropped the 9-ball twice. A mild shot at the 2-ball in rack 9 was successful, but as balls continued to move, the 9-ball dropped, and he dropped the next 9-ball, breaking the 10th rack.

The two traded racks that left Feijen in the lead at 7-6, at which point, Yapp popped the crowd's anticipation 'balloon' by winning four straight and advancing to the finals.

As he had done in the semifinal, Yapp won the first two and the last four games of the final. Neuhausen got on the board with a modest three-pack after Yapp had taken the early 2-0 lead. It would give Neuhausen *his* one and only lead.

Yapp tied it at 3-3 and then went on a 'five-pack' run that put him ahead 8-3. Neuhausen checked in with two that brought the score to a presumably manageable for Neuhausen 8-5.

They traded racks to 9-6, before Yapp went on his match/tournament end-



Ramon Alvarado celebrates with friend

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ing run of four to earn his second straight International 9-Ball Open title.

Semi Pro Open and Juniors take stage ahead of “Big Foot” Challenge and start of Straight Pool

Four days of non-stop, day-into-night action in four separate tournaments all came to a conclusion on that Friday night. Earlier in the day, Ramon Alvarado had completed an undefeated, 10-match run, winning 72 of the 99 games he played (66%) in the International’s Semi Pro Open. The tournament played out in a format that was single-elimination but allowed competitors to ‘buy back in’ to the event following a loss. In the finals, Alvarado met up with Justin Mawyin, who’d won his first three matches and bought back in to win seven in a row (two, double hill), earning the right to face Alvarado. In a race to 9, they battled to double hill before Alvarado claimed the inaugural International Semi Pro Open title, which, to the best of our knowledge became his first major title.

In the 2024 Predator Junior American Series Championships, Lazaro Martinez III went undefeated and bested Joey Tate in the finals to claim the 16-entrant, 19U Boys title. With his 20th birthday coming up in June, it was likely to have been among the last events at which Tate will be an ‘official’ junior competitor. Eight young women competed for the 19U Girls title and it was 13-year-old Jordan Helfrey who went undefeated to claim that title, defeating Joey Tate’s younger sister, Noelle, twice, in a winners’ side semifinal and final of that event.

Three down and two to go, with the International Open crowning its second repeat champion

The eight-player, single-elimination format of the International Open’s

“Big Foot” Challenge Invitational gave each of its entrants the opportunity to win just three matches to claim the title. Prior to stepping into the Simonis Aramith TV Arena, just after 8 p.m. on Sunday night, Shane Van Boening had engaged in eight matches since the International had begun six days earlier; two in the “Big Foot Challenge,” three in straight pool, and three in the International 9-Ball Open, one of which he lost, to Austria’s Max Lechner 10-6.

After surviving a double-hill challenge from Roberto Gomez in the opening round of the “Big Foot” Challenge, Van Boening advanced to down Robbie Capito 10-4 in the semifinals to claim his spot in the finals. He was met by Lee Vann Corteza, who had also survived an opening-round, double-hill battle versus Pijus Labutis and then went on to defeat Fedor Gorst in the semifinals.

In three of the first five games in the race-to-10 final of the “Big Foot Challenge,” Van Boening and Corteza broke dry. Corteza scratched on one of them and only Van Boening managed to drop a single ball on those five breaks. So, not at the start, shaping up as a masterpiece for either of them.

At the end of those five racks, after Corteza had won two, Van Boening held a slim, one-rack lead at 3-2. Corteza broke and ran rack #6 to tie it up. At that point, Van Boening began a three-rack run that began when he dropped the 10-ball, breaking rack #7. He then ran the table following Corteza’s dry break and chalked up his second ‘break and run’ to re-establish his three-point lead at 6-3.

Cortez broke dry in the 10th rack, but won it to pull within two at 6-4. Assuming a much-hoped-for double-hill match, it was at the half-way point, and regardless of how it turned out, a critical juncture point for Corteza. They traded racks at that point, to include Van Boening’s contribution of his third break-and-run, and in effect, sliding that critical juncture point ahead to 7-5.

Van Boening opened the final stage of the match with his fourth break-and-run and chalked up two more to claim his first “Big Foot Challenge” title.

“You have to be tall to play on these tables,” Van Boening told table announcer, Derrick Keith shortly after winning and responding to a question





Jordan Helfrey

Mika Immonen) 150-105 and eliminated The Hitman, Germany's Thorsten Hohmann 150-46 in the other semi-final. The all-Austria stage was set.

At the end of the day (and final race to 150), He and Lechner ended up with identical match records for the tournament (7-2). As it turned out, Lechner dropped more balls, overall, than He (1143-1092), while his opponents dropped less balls against him than opponents did versus He (629-793). The important stat was the final score that gave He his second straight, Straight Pool title.

In many ways, a straight pool match (to any number, but let's say 150) is not always a *single* match, but a series of them; sometimes short, sometimes long and often separated by where a given long run of balls begins and ends (Lee Vann Corteza's opening round of play in this event was a 125-0 blowout for a single-run, *very short* match). In the final 'scene' of the straight pool tournament, He and Max Lechner played about five of them.

Match #1 took them through a rather normal, 'getting into the groove' stage, which came to an end with He ahead 28-26, effectively beginning Match #2. At the time, He was seven balls into what would become the start of a 52-ball run. At 73-26, He missed a soft bank shot, and turned the table over to Lechner. For reasons that puzzled Mike Sigel, commenting in the stream booth, and presumably a lot of spectators, Lechner followed a single, made shot with an attempt at a short-stroke combination that failed.

Looking back on that moment and speculating what Lechner *might* have accomplished, but for the sake of that one, missed ball, that short exchange of turns at the table could well be defined as Match #3. Match #4 began when He also rattled a ball in a hole, attempting a combination, and Lechner headed out on an 88-ball run,

about what he thought were important considerations of playing on the larger surface.

He would go on in a short interview to discuss his plans between now and the start of the Mosconi Cup in Orlando, FL, to include his induction into the BCA Hall of Fame on Friday.

"Just going to play every day," he responded.

Asked about any meaningful influences that have affected his career at the tables, Van Boening spoke about his grandfather, who was influential as a mentor even before his career began.

"If it wasn't for him," he said. "I wouldn't be here today."

Mario He loses two in Round Robin, goes undefeated in Phase 2 to claim Straight Pool title

The 42 original entrants in the International Straight Pool Open (formerly Peter Burrow's American 14.1 Straight Pool Championship) began their quest for the 2024 title on Saturday (Nov. 23). Six competitors in seven groups ('flights') began that quest

with a round robin phase, setting out in races to 150 (one point per ball) to play five games against the opponents in their flight, which took until late Monday night to complete. When those 105 matches (six competitors x five matches per flight x seven flights) were done, an analysis of win/loss records for each of the flights advanced two competitors with the best records to a 16-player bracket. Two 'wild card' selections (the best two, based on a comparison of point-differentials between a player and his five opponents in the round robin phase) were added to the 14 who advanced automatically. That group began their final push, eight matches, which, by late Monday night, had been whittled down to four matches.

In the 16-player, single-elimination phase, Austria's Max Lechner, who'd defeated Poland's Wiktor Zielinski 150-40 and the Philippines' Lee Vann Corteza 150-103, met and defeated Estonia's Dennis Grabe 150-93 in one in one of the semifinals. Austria's Mario He, looking to defend his title, had defeated the Netherlands' Niels Feijen 150-69, the Iceman (Finland's

which became, at its very end, the longest possible run of the match.

Match #5, which began at the end of Lechner's run, now ahead 110-84. They both had a couple of short runs, back and forth, which allowed He to close the gap down to 8 at 115-107. In setting up his break ball for a next rack, He scratched. Lechner made his first shot, to make it 116-107, but when he missed the following shot, he vented some frustration, which led to a stick foul, reducing his score back down to 115.

He returned to the table and by the end of that rack had tied the score at 115 and moved on to take a 119-115 lead, his first since he'd been ahead 84-82 in the middle of Lechner's 88-ball run. The match tied up again at 126, as Lechner passed He and moved on to complete a 17-ball run that put him back out in front by five at 131-126.

The last 'Mini' Match (# 6), began when Lechner rattled a ball in a hole to turn the table back over to He, who promptly dropped five balls, leaving one on the table for the next rack and the score tied for the last time at 131. One complete rack of 14 and five balls

into the next rack, He had claimed the 2024 International Straight Pool Open title.

Mike Delawder checks in to win two of the International Open's auxiliary events

While the final curtain came down on the 2024 International Open at the Renaissance World Golf Village Resort in St. Augustine, FL at the conclusion of that match, there were (as noted earlier) four tournaments that crowned winners as the main tournaments were playing out during the week. Mike Delawder, who went two-and-out in the International Open 9-Ball event, returned to win the International One Pocket and Short Rack Banks event. He earned exactly the same amount of prize money winning those two events (\$1,750) that he would have earned finishing in the eight-way tie for 17th place in the Open 9-Ball; in the company of (among others) Jayson Shaw, Billy Thorpe, and Shane Van Boening.

In claiming the inaugural, 17-entrant, 2024 International One Pocket title, Delawder shut out his first three opponents before being shut out by Roberto Gomez. With a 'buy back' into

the bracket, Delawder shut out David Grossman 2-0 and won his rematch versus Gomez 2-1 to claim the title. Ian Costello finished third, with Grossman in fourth.

In the (also) inaugural, 20-entrant, Short Rack Banks event, Delawder won his first five. Racing to 3, he won two of them, double hill, before falling, double hill to Brandon Shuff. Delawder 'bought back in' to the bracket, downing Justin Hall 3-1 and in a rematch versus Shuff, shut *him* out to claim the title. Hall finished third and Kevin Ping finished fourth.

Jersey Girl Billiards mounted three events that crowned two winners

As busy as we were keeping track of the main events, Chrissy Perlowski of Jersey Girl Billiards had her hands full with three separate events, running a series of 'mini' tournaments and a laundry list of other tasks that fell to her during the week-plus. On a daily basis, she was assigned more ancillary tasks than we could reliably keep track of during the week. All related to events going on outside the main ballroom where the 32, 9-ft tables held sway during the main events.

At the center of this maelstrom of activity were three events, or two, depending on how you look at it. The one clear event of the 'three' was the double-elimination (and handicapped), Natural Born Women's tournament which drew 32 entrants. Advancing to the hot seat, undefeated, was Jennifer Berzinski, who got by four opponents, including Remy Fitzgerald, who battled her to double-hill in a winners' side semifinal. Berzinski advanced to defeat Karin Andreatta 6-2 to claim the hot seat.

Among those that Berzinski had defeated along the way, in a winners' side quarterfinal 5-3, was 13-year-old Jordan Helfrey, who'd won the Pred-

Shane Van Boening



The Duchess of Doom



ator Junior American Series Championships' 19UG division earlier in the week. Helfrey moved to the loss side, where she won four in a row, including two shutouts and a 5-1 semifinal victory over Andreatta in the semifinals. Helfrey took the opening set of a true, double-elimination final versus Brezinski 5-1, but Brezinski turned the tables on the teenager in the second set, defeating her by the same 5-1 score to claim the title.

The two tournaments that crowned a single winner were two Split Brackets; one (High Side) that ended up accommodating 22 entrants, ranging in FargoRates from 608 to 781 (with one unrated competitor) and another (Low Side), which drew 26 entrants with Fargo Rates ranging from 356 to 569 and four unrated.

Graham Swinson went undefeated to the hot seat in the High Side bracket, downing Bob Lea 7-3 in that hot seat match. Scotty Boggs emerged from the loss side after winning five matches, including a 'semifinal' 6-3 win over Lea. Those two would enter the Final Four of the Split Bracket event.

Emerging from the Low Side bracket to join the Final Four were Jeremy Neal, who shut out Roxanne Schroth to claim that bracket's hot seat and David Nunn, who'd won six on the loss side, including a shutout over Schroth in the semifinals.

The hot seat occupants of both brackets (Swinson and Neal) battled in the end-game hot seat match, as Boggs and Nunn played on the loss side. Nunn defeated Boggs 5-1 before Swinson downed Neal 7-1 to remain the only undefeated competitor in the Split Bracket event.

Neal moved over to take on Nunn, whom he defeated 4-2, earning a shot, and as it turned out, second shot versus Swinson, waiting for him in the hot seat. Neal took the opening set



Mario He

4-3 (Swinson racing to 7) and the two battled to double hill, before Swinson closed it out at 7-3 to claim the overall Split Bracket title.

That, pool friends, is a lot of pool in nine days, which, in retrospect, felt a lot shorter. Comfortable surroundings, great technical support (up and down the 'tech' scale), from construction of the Diamond tables, the Ararith Simonis TV Arena, the 'live stream' paraphernalia (actual cameramen, remote cameramen), the commentators in the 'live stream booth' (Mike Sigel, Mark Wilson, and others) and of course, the hundreds and hundreds of pool players whose activities made it all worthwhile; for themselves, promoters, vendors and spectators across the board (tables).

Though the signatures to bring it all back to St. Augustine for the next International Open series of events in 2025 have yet to be put to paper, there are a lot of indications that those signatures will appear on those papers, sometime soon. Anecdotally, meaning "everybody – players, spectators, tech support people and reporters – had a story" about their reactions to

the new venue and the added events. Those 'stories' ranged through a variety of opinions about everything from the venue itself (to include some comments about the day people had to wear coats to be in the main room, and the day+ that room occupants had to deal with no air conditioning in their rooms) to any number of relevant and irrelevant issues that pleased or annoyed them. Like any major pool tournament.

From the perspective of the person who's writing what you're reading, it was a *crazy*, non-stop week, somewhat akin to being in bumper-to-bumper, rush hour traffic with all of the vehicles traveling at 70 mph. The thing is, it went smoothly, with no indications whatsoever of major 'accidents' or indications that the 'drivers' didn't know what they were doing. That alone should qualify it for a return in 2025, when many of the minor issues that ruffled the occasional set of feathers about something, will not be a part of the next International Open.

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KRISTINA TKACH

CLAIMS THE 2024 WPA VENBILLIARDS WOMEN'S WORLD 10-BALL TITLE

Article and photos courtesy Predator Pro Billiard Series

The 2024 VenBilliards Corporation WPA Women's World 10-Ball Championship concluded with a thrilling final that saw Kristina Tkach claim her first-ever world title, defeating Seoa in a rollercoaster match that lasted over 4 hours and included 30 intense racks.

Tkach defeated Jasmin Ouschan in a gripping semifinal, winning 3-1 in sets. **Seoa** triumphed over defending champion Chezka Centeno in her semifinal, also securing a 3-1 victory. This marks the first World Championship final for both Tkach and Seoa.

Seoa dominated the first set, taking it 4-1, but the match shifted after a crucial mistake by Seoa. In the second

set, tied 3-3, Seoa scratched on the 9-ball, handing Tkach the opportunity to equalize and win the set.

The third set saw another 3-3 scoreline, where Tkach missed the 1-ball, allowing Seoa to clear the table and take the set.

In the fourth set, Tkach rallied back, winning 4-3 to tie the match 2-2, setting up a dramatic fifth and deciding set.

The final score was 3-2 in sets, with Tkach taking home the \$50,000 prize, while Seoa earned \$30,000 for her runner-up finish.

This world championship marks the end of a week full of world-class pool action in Puerto Rico, featuring four pro events and new champions:

Han Yu and **Wu Kun Lin** were crowned champions of the Kamui Mixed Doubles.

Joshua Filler won the Challenge of Champions by Medalla Light.

Vitaliy Patsura emerged as the champion of the Puerto Rico Men's Open by Samsung TV Plus.

The **VenBilliards Corporation WPA Women's World 10-Ball Championship** was a fantastic culmination of high-level competition, setting the stage for more thrilling tournaments ahead.

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FILLER COMES FROM THE LOSS SIDE TO DOWN FEFILOVA IN FINALS OF WPBA'S CAPITAL CITY INVITATIONAL

By **SKIP MALONEY** - AzB Staff / Photos courtesy **WPBA**

The above headline had to do some 'arm wrestling' with an alternative that previewed an arguably much more compelling tale.

The alternative – 13-year-old Savannah Easton downs world champion Kristina Tkach in 'undercard' match at WPBA's Capital City Invitational – lost the hypothetical, arm-wrestling contest, because while it certainly highlights an important moment in the tournament, it fails, as headlines are expected to do, to encapsulate the event and a the most significant fact of its occurrence.

So, Filler and Fefilova. They played twice, hot seat match and finals, at the \$15,000-added stop on the WPBA Tour, which drew 64 entrants to Capital City Billiards in Concord, NH this past weekend (Nov. 21-24). The win for Filler will edge her upwards a step or two from her #15 position in the WPBA standings that she held going into the event, while Fefilova's runner-up finish will move her ahead of Allison Fisher to occupy the second spot behind Tkach.

Filler's path to the winners' circle started with two matches in which she gave up only a single rack; none at all in her opener against Suzy Dickstein and the one to Emily Duddy. Then she ran into two straight, double-hill matches against (until recently) #1 and #2 in the WPBA standings, Kwikfire (Kelly Fisher) and Tzu-Chien Wei. Filler got by those two rather monstrous hurdles and in her winners' side semifinal, drew Savannah

Easton, who had just defeated Tkach 8-3 in a winners' side quarterfinal.

Fefilova's trip to the winners' side semifinal went through Jessica Barnes (3) and Lisa Cossette (4), before encountering two of the three women who adorned the poster for

the Capital City Invitational, Briana Miller (3) and Veronique Menard (6), who, on the poster, are captured 'down on the table' poised between a standing and rather stern-looking JoAnn Mason Parker. Fefilova drew Bean (Meng-Hsia) Hung in the other winners' side semifinal.



Pia Filler

Filler sent Easton to the loss side 8-5, as Fefilova was working on her 8-6 victory over Hung. It was Fefilova who claimed the hot seat 8-4.

Upon their arrival to the loss side of the bracket, Easton and Hung discovered that they would be standing in the way of advancement to the quarterfinals of two, very good friends. Easton drew Kelly Fisher, who'd lost a third-round, double-hill match to Filler and set out on a four-match, loss-side winning streak that had recently included the elimination of Veronique Menard (3) and Lonnie Fox-Raymond (4). Hung picked up Tzu-Chien Wei, who'd also lost to Filler, right after Filler defeated Fisher. Wei then chalked up two, loss side wins; a forfeit by Monica Webb and an 8-4 win over Kaylee McIntosh.

Very alert to the prodigious talent of Savannah Easton, against whom

she has battled before, Fisher has articulated respect for the teenager's talent and knew before the first rack broke, that she could not be taken for granted. The match proved her right. Though Fisher would advance to the quarterfinals, it was not before Easton had drawn within a game of double hill and potentially, two games ahead of defeating her. Tzu-Chien Wei allowed Hung just a single rack in advancing to the quarterfinals against Fisher.

They battled to double-hill, the two friends, and it was Fisher who prevailed to draw a rematch versus Filler in the semifinals. Filler downed Fisher a second time, edging out in front, avoiding a double-hill rematch by just a game (8-6).

If you ever want an absolutely assured jolt of confidence, there would be no more effective medicine than a victory over Kelly "Kwikfire" Fisher. Filler

took that medicine, adding it to her own talent and downed Fefilova in the finals 10-7.

WPBA representatives thanked the ownership and staff at Capital City Billiards for their hospitality along with sponsors Viking Cues, Olhausen Billiards, Jacoby Custom Cues, Brunswick, Diamond Billiard Products, Aramith Balls, Simonis Cloth, How Tips and Cues, Big Family Custom Creations, www.icatraining.com, Kamui, Castillo Handmade Leather Products, RJH Custom Cues, digitalpool.com, Perfect Rack, Iowa City Pool League, Holt Family Dental Care and Iowa City Women's 8-Ball League.

Next up for the 'wonderful women' of the WPBA will be the \$35,000-added Dr. Pool/Jacoby Tour Championships, scheduled for Dec. 11-15 at the Central Wisconsin Expo Center in Rothschild, WI.



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IT'S SZOLNOKI'S TITLE IN TURKEY

By LUKE RICHES - EPBF / Photos courtesy EPBF

OLIVER SZOLNOKI, SEARCHING for his maiden DYNAMIC BILLARD Euro Tour title, finally came good in Turkey as he defeated Poland's Daniel Maciol 8-6 to lift the Dynamic Billard Antalya Open.

The 26-year-old Hungarian had been knocking on the door for some time and finally got the job done in a tense match that started one way then went the other before a dramatic conclusion.

Commented Szolnoki, "Finally, that's a relief! I had to wait quite a long time for it and finally everything came together and I managed to win it. It

was a crazy day. I started the last 16 against Joao Grilo and he was 4-0 up on me and destroying me. I had no chance in that match and then he missed an 8-ball and it gave me a chance to comeback. Against Stefan Kasper it was similar except I was leading 4-0 and then missed a 10-ball and he came back but I managed to close it from 6-4 to 8-4. The semis and final were just hectic."

Both players had the chance to ascend to the No.1 position in the rankings but it is Szolnoki who will end the year at the top of the tree following a steady climb over the past 18 months. He stated yesterday that, 'to win the tournament is in my hands but the Polish guys are chasing me,' and so it proved with the Poles filling five of the eight quarter-final spots and three of the four in the semi-finals.





Daniel Maciol

A successful break from Maciol saw a ball drop and the 1-ball available. His next shot was a tricky 2/8 combo but it proved no problem and from there he ran the table to restore parity. Two balls down from Szolnoki and a shot on the 1-ball was ideal and he wasted no time as he reached the hill at 7-6

It was a big break shot for Maciol but he suffered an unfortunate scratch as the white was kicked in uptable. The rack wasn't over though as a tricky cluster forced Szolnoki to call the safety on the 6-ball and he locked it up behind the 9. For Maciol, it was hit-and-hope and it didn't work out as he left the 6 on.

The 7-ball was tight on the top rail which meant another safety from the Hungarian but it left the 7 available in the top left pocket. Maciol looked good for the rack but missed the 8-ball, leaving a long cut for Szolnoki. He made it and with the last two balls handily placed, he cleared to take his first-ever Euro Tour title

Szolnoki added, "In both the semis and the final I felt like I was hitting the breaks very well; my white was jumping, it stayed strong and stayed in the middle but somehow the balls kept each other out of the pockets so it gave my opponents more chances to come back. Especially against Daniel, I was 7-6 up, played a good safe, made the 6, but got one or two balls too short on the 7, and I didn't have the extension. I played a bad safe and thought it would be hill-hill and because my break wasn't really working it was never a guarantee, but he missed the 8-ball and I managed to make a crazy cut shot on it and win the match.

"This feels great as I'd never managed to lead the rankings and this year I've managed to tick some things off my bucket list. I won the 10-ball EC, qualified for the World Games and now finally, after like, 14 years, I've finally won the Euro Tour and am leading the rankings!"

Maciol, who won his first ever Euro Tour crown in Tallinn in 2024's opening event, was situated at #4 in the ranking. He had earlier defeated countryman Mateusz Sniegocki, who also had designs on the No.1 spot, by 8-5 in the semi-final. Szolnoki – ranked at No.2 – put paid to the hopes of Radoslaw Babica by a similar scoreline.

Taking place at the Xanadu Resort Hotel in Belek, Szolnoki won the lag and got things up-and-running. A loss of position, going from 2 to 3 forced a tight safety and Maciol's escape wasn't good enough to stop Szolnoki getting among the balls and he cleared the table for the early lead.

Szolnoki had another opportunity in the second game after Maciol failed to make anything of the 1-ball following his break. The classy Hungarian wasted no time in increasing his lead to two, with a valuable break of serve.

A dry break set Maciol on his way and he steadied the ship with a nice run out. With a ball down from his break and a nice spread, Maciol had a great chance to level the match and he made no mistakes.

Szolnoki attempted a long jump shot on the 1 ball but it fell into a non-nominated pocket and under the call-shot rules, the table returned to Maciol. They traded safeties before Szolnoki got a look at the 3-ball and he rolled

it in to set up the run out and restore his lead at 3-2.

Maciol looked good for the break and run in the sixth game but a bad miss on the green 6 unravelled his chance. A great long pot from Szolnoki, taking the 6-ball off the rail was the hard work done and he cleared to increase his lead.

A dry break gave Maciol a good look at the table although it was by no means a formality. A couple of tricky shots were well-negotiated and he downed the 10-ball to reduce the deficit to 4-3. The stylish Pole then came up with a tidy break and run at the most opportune time to square the match.

Szolnoki lost a bit of position in the next going from 1 to 3 and it forced a miss, leaving the 3-ball available for Maciol. He took full advantage as he ran out to take the lead for the first time with his third consecutive rack.

Another dry break from Maciol left the 1-ball on for Szolnoki and he sprang into action to clear the table and take this fascinating match to 5-5. With nothing on the break from Szolnoki, it left no realistic attacking shot on the 1-ball. Maciol went for it anyway, missed, and disastrously scratched down table. Not one to shun such a gift, Szolnoki ran out to get a step closer to the finishing line at 6-5.

QUEEN INA RULES IN TURKEY

By LUKE RICHES - EPBF / Photos courtesy EPBF

INA KAPLAN CEMENTED her position at the top of the PREDATOR Ladies Euro Tour ranking as she completed three championship victories out of three, beating Switzerland's Claudia Von Rohr 8-0 to seal the Predator Ladies Antalya Open.



Ina Kaplan

It's been a stellar year for the German lady with victories in Slovenia in July, Italy in August and now Turkey. Already leading the rankings, she now has an unassailable lead as the season draws to a close.

In well over a decade paying on the Euro Tour, Von Rohr had previously managed a quarter-final appearance on several occasions and she started a big outsider against an in-form Kaplan. And so it transpired. It was Kaplan's seventh Euro Tour title in her career.

Von Rohr won her semi-final match by a draining 6-5 scoreline over Slovenia's Ana Gradisnik while Kaplan triumphed 6-3 over Jolien Schuurman (NED).

Commented a jubilant Kaplan, "It's just awesome and I'm over the moon! I can focus now a little bit better and I've made some adjustments to my mental game and that was key."

The final got underway promptly and the German No.1 took the opener against the break and looked set to take the second before a missed 8/9 combination gifted a great opportunity to Von Rohr. She left herself a real tester on the 10-ball, though, which went wide of the pocket. Kaplan duly potted it to move to 2-0.

A dry break from Von Rohr left a difficult table but with an open shot on the 1-ball, Kaplan set about it. A two-way shot on the 2-ball missed but left it nicely covered by a group of balls mid-table. The escape was an easy one and they traded shots until Kaplan downed the 2-ball to give herself a chance. She then missed the 4-ball into the centre pocket – it fell into the opposite bag – to lose the table. Von Rohr had a chance but a miss on the 7-ball effectively handed the rack to Kaplan.

A dry break from Kaplan left the 1-ball hooked and Von Rohr's push-out al-



Claudia Von Rohr

lowed the German lady to tuck the cue ball up nicely. Von Rohr's miss gave Kaplan a ball-in-hand opportunity and she confidently went through the table to make it 4-0.

With nothing down from Von Rohr and a shot on the 1-ball, Kaplan was in another strong position and she laid another tight snooker for her opponent. She managed to escape but left the 2-ball on but Kaplan missed it. Von Rohr couldn't make a telling shot to gain any advantage, and Kaplan ran through the table to reach the hill at 5-0.

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"Of course, I knew that her battle against Ana (Gradisnik) was hard so the chances were good for me, I think. Next is Christmas, so it's family now but next week is the German Championships so I will play there so I'll bring my kids with me. Of course, I'll do my best in the New Year and try and keep this going," she added.

CALDERON SWEEPS BEASLEY OPEN!

By MARY KENNISTON

Owners Rich Kuntz and Tammy Frampton welcomed players and fans to the legendary Brass Tap & Billiards in Raleigh, NC for the \$15,000 added Beasley Open.

Featuring both One pocket and nine ball divisions, this World Nineball Tour event allowed players to add their finishes to the nineball world rankings.

Drawing players from all over, Reyes Cup MVP Aloysius Yapp was there along with BCA Hall of Famers Johnny Archer and Rodney Morris. Reigning

Buffalo's Pro One Pocket and Scotty Townsend Memorial Nine Ball champ Roberto Gomez was spotted along with Alex Calderon, winner of Buffalo's Pro Classic Nine Ball Championship. North Carolina State 9-Ball Champ BJ Ussery and Virginia Barbox 9-Ball champ Mike Davis was there as well as Battle of the Bull winner Billy Thorpe

and his running mate, Sky Woodward – the Big Tyme Classic 9 Ball champ.

Hot off winning both the Canadian Ten Ball and Nine Ball Championships, John Morra was there as was Tony Chohan – this year's Rack One Pocket Classic and Big Tyme Classic One Pocket champ. Josh Roberts, terror of the southeast's Rack Race events,



Alex Calderon



Title sponsor Doug Beasley & Alex Calderon

3-1 putting him back in the finals! Roberto finished in third place.

The extended race to four saw Calderon drawing first blood 8-3 and 8-0. Chohan won the next two games 8-2 and 8-5.

Now tied at two apiece, Alex won game five 8-3. Game six developed into a long safety battle with both players taking a scratch as they vied for the first open shot. Finally, it was Tony who broke the ice when he fired in a back cut combination. From there, he ran seven more and closed out his run with a long rail bank!

With the match now tied at three each, it was one game for the title!

Calderon missed a long cut allowing Chohan to pocket two balls. After a few safeties back and forth and an intentional scratch taken by Alex, Tony reached into his bag of tricks and forced Calderon to give him another ball although he left one in his own pocket to force Chohan to give him one also. Score – 3-0.

Alex later got another shot to tie it up at three apiece and then went ahead 5-3. Tony then missed a three rail bank and sold out leaving Calderon with three balls to run for the win! And that he did clinching the one pocket title!

On Thursday event the Nineball division began after a players auction, meeting and draw. Featuring 61 players, they posted their \$300 entry fees to play in this \$10,000 added event. Played on nine foot Diamonds and using template racks with the nine racked on the spot, the format was winner breaks using the break box and races to eight in the double elimination rounds. Once down to sixteen players, it was single elimination from there with races to nine. The final match was one race to thirteen.

The action began with Aloysius Yapp, Tyler Styer and Sky Woodward receiv-

young gun Lukas Fracasso-Verner, the current Buffalo's Pro Classic Open 9-Ball titlist and 2023 junior champ Landon Hollingsworth were there. Also in the room was Tyler Styer, current Midwest Billiards and Cue Expo 9-Ball winner and Chuck Markulis Memorial 9-Ball champ, 2024's Music City Classic champ Jonathan Hennessee, Bulgaria's Georgi Gorgiev and Venezuela's Gregorio Sanchez.

Presented by Beasley Custom Cues, Brass Tap & Billiards and PoolActionTV.com, local sponsors included Dayco Manufacturing, Cup O Jane Lingerie Coffee Shop, C & A Automotive Equipment and Professional Billiards.

The \$5,000 added one pocket event began on Tuesday evening with a players auction, meeting and draw. This event featured 27 players posting a \$300 entry fee and was double elimination with races to three until down to the final eight players. From there

it was single elimination with races to four.

With five byes on the board, Tony Chohan and John Morra weren't so lucky. It was all Tony as he sent John west 3-0. Chohan sliced through Jeffrey Underwood 3-1, Hunter White 3-0 and Corey Sykes 3-1 before arriving at the hot seat match.

In the lower portion of the bracket, it was Alex Calderon who tore through Machine Cerna 3-0, Oliver Ruuger 3-2, Nathan Childress 3-0 and Roberto Gomez 3-2 on his way to the hot seat match.

Playing to get into the finals, Chohan smoked Calderon 3-0 to lock up his spot. Alex headed to the one loss side to await an opponent.

Emerging from the pack was fellow Houstonian, Roberto Gomez. Although they've played numerous times, it was Calderon who won again

Beasley Open

ing the coveted byes. Drawing tough, it was Roberto Gomez who defeated Rodney Morris 8-4. Other matches of note were John Morra over Keith Bennett 8-2 and Jonathan Hennessee's win over Landon Hollingsworth 8-4.

Second round saw Alex Calderon take down Mike Davis 8-4 and Tony Chohan defeated Tyler Styer – both matches 8-4. John Morra was victorious over Roberto Gomez and Sky Woodward beat Gregorio Sanchez – both matches were 8-6.

Hennessee was defeated by Morra 8-5 in the third round and in a nailbiter, it was Johnny Archer who eked out an 8-7 win over Billy Thorpe.

Winnowed down to sixteen players, Stage 2 saw Yapp eliminate Styer 9-6 and Thorpe got another shot at Archer but to no avail. Billy went down 9-4.

Archer's next victim was Hennessee – 9-4. Yapp was bounced out by Nathan

Childress 9-2, Calderon took care of Georgiev 9-5 and Woodward notched a 9-6 win over Sanchez.

Down to the final four, Childress was red hot as he defeated Archer 9-4 to move into the finals. And, in another nailbiter, Calderon was the victor over Woodward 9-8.

As mentioned previously, the finals were one extended race to thirteen. Getting off the mark first, Childress won the first two games. Calderon answered by winning the next five games!

Nathan won the next one to make it 5-3 but Alex slowly started pulling away as he won the next three.

Down 8-3 but not out, Childress won the next two games but Calderon returned to the table making it 10-5. From there, they traded games until Alex pulled away again and reached the hill first – 12-7.

Showing heart, Nathan notched two more games before Alex sank the winning nine ball to sweep both events! Final score – 13-9.

I'm sure this won't be the last we hear of Nathan Childress. Fine event, young man! And congratulations to Alex Calderon – winner of both the nine ball and the one pocket divisions!

PoolActionTV.com would like to thank owners Rich Kuntz and Tammy Frampton for pulling out all the stops to make all the players and fans feel welcome.

Thanks to Tournament Director Tim Bryant and his assistant, Ian Jones, for a great job keeping things running smoothly.

And, last but not least, we'd also like to thank our commentators – they included Larry Schwartz, Scott Rabon, Bernie Friend, and Ray Hansen.

What a great event! We can't wait until next year!



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KHANH NGO

CLAIMS UNDEFEATED WIN AT TWCWT SEASON FINALE TO BECOME THE 2024 TOUR CHAMPION

By ALISON FISCHER - Tour Staff / Photos courtesy TWCWT

INA KAPLAN CEMENTED her position at the top of the PREDATOR Ladies Euro Tour ranking as she completed three championship victories out of three, beating Switzerland's Claudia Von Rohr 8-0 to seal the Predator Ladies Antalya Open.

It's been a stellar year for the German lady with victories in Slovenia in July, Italy in August and now Turkey. Already leading the rankings, she now has an unassailable lead as the season draws to a close.

In well over a decade paying on the Euro Tour, Von Rohr had previously managed a quarter-final appearance on several occasions and she started a big outsider against an in-form Ka-

plan. And so it transpired. It was Kaplan's seventh Euro Tour title in her career.

Von Rohr won her semi-final match by a draining 6-5 scoreline over Slovenia's Ana Gradisnik while Kaplan triumphed 6-3 over Jolien Schuurman (NED).

Commented a jubilant Kaplan, "It's just awesome and I'm over the moon! I can focus now a little bit better and I've made some adjustments to my mental game and that was key."

The final got underway promptly and the German No.1 took the opener against the break and looked set to take the second before a missed 8/9 combination gifted a great opportunity to Von Ruhr. She left herself a real tester on the 10-ball, though, which went wide of the pocket. Kaplan duly potted it to move to 2-0.

Donna Mae Bulanadi and Khanh Ngo

A dry break from Von Rohr left a difficult table but with an open shot on the 1-ball, Kaplan set about it. A two-way shot on the 2-ball missed but left it nicely covered by a group of balls mid-table. The escape was an easy one and they traded shots until Kaplan downed the 2-ball to give herself a chance. She then missed the 4-ball into the centre pocket – it fell into the opposite bag – to lose the table. Von Rohr had a chance but a miss on the 7-ball effectively handed the rack to Kaplan.

A dry break from Kaplan left the 1-ball hooked and Von Ruhr's push-out allowed the German lady to tuck the cue ball up nicely. Von Rohr's miss gave Kaplan a ball-in-hand opportunity and she confidently went through the table to make it 4-0.

With nothing down from Von Rohr and a shot on the 1-ball, Kaplan was in another strong position and she

laid another tight snooker for her opponent. She managed to escape but left the 2-ball on but Kaplan missed it. Von Rohr couldn't make a telling shot to gain any advantage, and Kaplan ran through the table to reach the hill at 5-0.

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CHENG GOES UNDEFEATED

TO HOT SEAT, SPLITS TOP TWO PRIZES WITH MILLER AT STOP #8 ON JPNEWT

By **SKIP MALONEY - AzB Staff** / Photo courtesy **JPNEWT**

In only her third try on the J. Pechauer Northeast Women's Tour, Florida's Sandy Cheng, in a winners' side semifinal, defeated the tour's most formidable opponent (and tour director), Briana Miller, who's won (outright or shared) 18 of the tour's stops over the past three years. Cheng went undefeated to the hot seat, and though Miller came back from the loss side to challenge her in the final, the two opted out of the match and split the top two prizes. As occupant of the hot seat at the time, Cheng became the event's official winner. The \$1,000-added event drew 34 entrants to Racks Billiards and Bar in Vernon, CT.

Not only did Cheng go undefeated to the hot seat, but she was responsible for sending Miller to the loss side in the first place. Cheng set a pattern in the five matches that she played; she won all five of them by a score of either 5-1 or 5-3, and alternated that pattern through to the event victory. After being awarded a bye, she opened with a 5-1 win over Christine Torrence, defeated Farrah Kirk 5-3, downed Melissa Jenkins 5-1 and drew Miller in one of the winners' side semifinals.

Erica Testa, in the meantime, also bound for the hot seat match, had a similar trip to her winners' side semifinal, except for the double-hill match in the second round. She, too, opened with a bye before defeating Amanda Laverriere 5-1 and then, running into Sandie Clang, who put up a double-hill fight in the hopes of advancing to a winners' side quarterfinal. It was Testa who advanced to meet and defeat Carol Clark 5-1 in that winners' side quarterfinal and drew Emily Smith in the other winners' side semifinal.

Cheng and Testa advanced to the hot seat match with 5-3 victories over Miller and Smith. And since it was time in Cheng's pattern for a 5-1 victory in the hot seat match, that's what she did.

On the loss side, Miller showed up and was scheduled to meet up with Sarah Archer, but Archer forfeited the match, allowing Miller to leapfrog into the quarterfinals. Sarah Bennett, who'd been shut out by Miller in one of the winners' side quarterfinals had come to the loss side and survived two straight, double-hill matches against Kim Storey and Tracey Duffin, to draw Smith.

Bennett, unfortunately, was eliminated in the same way she'd been sent to the loss side, by shutout, which advanced Smith to the quarterfinals against Miller. Miller ended Smith's short visit to the loss side 5-2 and turned to face Erica Testa in the semifinals.

They had met before, these two, Miller and Testa, most recently at JPNEWT Stop #6 in Pelham, NH. The occasion

was a winners' side semifinal, won by Miller 7-2. Testa would win three on the loss side for the right to challenge Miller in the finals, but in the end they negotiated a split of the top two prizes.

They played their semifinal match this weekend and it became a somewhat predictable, double-hill match, won by Miller, who then negotiated with Cheng (waiting for her in the hot seat) for a split of the top two prizes.

In her role as tour director, Briana Miller thanked the ownership and staff at Racks Billiards and Bar, as well as title sponsor J. Pechauer Custom Cues, Fort Worth Billiards Superstore, In the Box Sportswear, PA Pro-Am Pool, Mezz Cues and George Hammerbacher (Advanced Pool Instructor).

In collaboration with PA Pro-Am Pool, the JPNEWT's 2024 season finale will be the 2nd Annual Pennsylvania State Women's 9-Ball Championships. Scheduled for the weekend of Dec. 7-8, the \$3,000-added event will be hosted by BlueGrass Billiards in Philadelphia.



Erica Testa, Briana Miller, Sandy Cheng and Emily Smith



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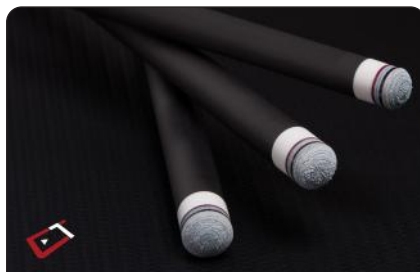
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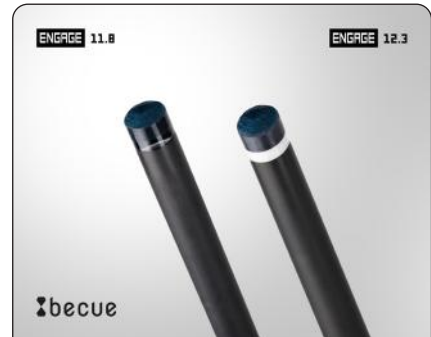
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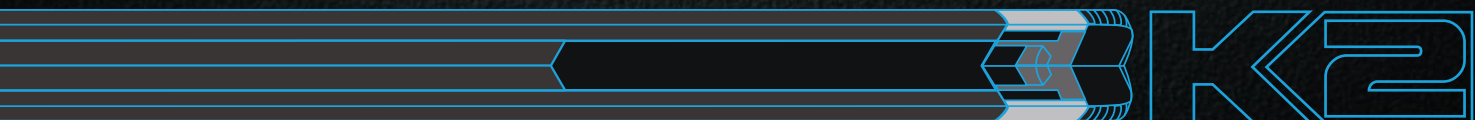
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Secure your streak with the brand new Tiger Cue Tip and Ferrule Protectors. Crafted from premium silicone and meticulously designed, our protectors shield not just your cue tip, but also the ferrule—providing unparalleled defense. As the first of its kind on the market, it sets the standard in shaft care. Available in an array of vibrant colors, these protectors let you express your unique style while making shaft identification a breeze. Elevate your game and safeguard your investment!

RETAIL: \$14

FEATURES:

- Shields Both Tip and Ferrule for Maximum Protection
 - Made from Premium Quality Silicone
 - Fits Tip Diameter of 9 mm to 13.5 mm
- Variety of Colors Make Shaft Identification a Breeze
 - Comes in a Pack of 2



MEZZ ASTR

BEYOND THE HORIZON

The ultimate cue for advancing your skills to a new frontier. Built to launch your game into a new dimension, the ASTR features tapered core butt technology and a sleek design with alternating silver and black and white rings. Paired with the straight pro taper Sigma shaft, this cue delivers a natural wooden hit with low deflection performance, while the "United" joint provides a solid hit. Enhance your play with the sophisticated high performance Mezz Astra Cues.



TIP PROTECTOR LONGONI IN SILICON

The new silicone leather protectors by Longoni have been designed to guarantee a long life to the tips installed on the shafts. They are easily adaptable to shafts of any type and brand with diameters from 11.5 mm to 12.8 mm thanks to their elasticity. They can be washed easily with soap and water: after rinsing and perfect drying, insert a little talcum powder to avoid excessive grip on the shaft. You can use TALCO NIR (cod. 3378).

Sold in sets of 3pcs.



MEUCCI CARBON PRO SHAFT

Multi-Directional Carbon Fiber provides a solid feel, lightweight design, Pro Taper, and 1/2 inch ferrule for control, consistency, and aim with minimal rise.

\$450

https://www.meuccicues.com/products/carbon-pro?_pos=1&_sid=5a71c27ef&_ss=r



CUE TIP LONGONI FUJI

Fuji are the professional laminated tips for all billiard players looking for best performances and durability. Made of 10 layers of selected pig skin, fuji can be easily installed on any cue: for best results use Longoni 977 professional glue.



MEZZ NMZ

Refined Design, Remarkable Capabilities

The NMZ Series flaunts a all-new design with the resin plate adorned with the iconic MEZZ logo, enhancing both comfort and durability when slung over your shoulder. As you carry your cues, your smartphone finds a cozy home in the front pocket, keeping your essentials close at hand. The true game-changer here is the storage capacity. This case is more than meets the eye, accommodating the MEZZ AD3 jump cue and other extended jump cue butts that are popular today. The NMZ Series is your cue companion, redefined for the modern player.



MEZZ AVANT

THE WEIGHT AND BALANCE YOU DESIRE

The revolutionary AVANT with its Dual Loading System offers unparalleled customizability allowing the AVANT cue to be balanced and weight adjusted at the same time. Optimum weight and balance can be achieved through 8 different bolts which can be inserted in butt end and forearm to adapt the weight and balance in 0.25oz increments. In addition, the AVANT comes standard with the X bumper, so the Mezz extensions (sold separately) can be installed.



MEZZ AD3

AERIAL DOMINANCE

The Mezz Airdrive 3, the latest advancement in jump cue technology that will revolutionize your game. The innovative 3-piece design and full-carbon construction makes the "Airdrive 3" your ultimate solution for superior jumping power and impeccable accuracy. The specially designed taper and newly developed front end combined with the Tsubasa tip enhances shot performance to unprecedented levels. Secure quick access is provided by the D2 joint system, crucial during shot clock events. Elevate your game to new heights with the unmatched performance of the new Mezz Airdrive 3 jump cue.



MEZZ TSUBASA TIP

The all new Mezz "Tsubasa" tip, developed specifically for jump shots. Offering excellent chalk adhesion and with the right amount of elasticity needed for jump shots, allowing you to reliably get the contact you need with the cue ball.

LUX ABS

2 butts + 4 shafts



CERTILOGO
We ensure authenticity

75 LONGONI

CUE CASE LONGONI LUX

Cue case Longoni - Vintage serie, ABS Lux version with leather. 2 locks with combination. Suitable for 2 butts and 4 shafts
External size: 820x195x80 mm
Internal size: 800 mm
Weight: kg 2
Made in Italy

Genuine Longoni product, verify it on www.certilogo.com

TIGER VINTAGE CUE CASE

The Tiger Vintage case is an instant classic. Blending timeless beauty with signature Tiger innovation, the Butterfly style-soft case comes in muted Green canvas with cream Vinyl accents. Along with its pleasing aesthetic, this lightweight case is also extremely practical offering plenty of room for all your storage needs. Multiple inner and outer pockets including a detachable section provide for protective yet convenient access to all your billiard accessories.




RETAIL:

1X1 \$190	1X2 \$200	2X2 \$250
2X4 \$325	3X6 \$400	4X8 \$475

FEATURES:

- 6 different size options
- Color: Muted Green canvas with cream Vinyl Accents
- Multiple inner and outer pockets for easy storage
- Detachable inner section for on the go
- Butterfly Style soft case



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Blue DIAMOND

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FORWARD BREAK SHAFT

Forward Break Shaft 13mm tip, carbon fiber
 Forward Weight Technology, shaft weights from 8 oz to 11 oz. The most solid break hit anywhere.

\$350.00

blackbladecarbon.com



MEZZ WX-Σ

THE PROVEN PERFORMER

The WX-Σ low deflection shaft features the straight pro taper design for a smooth and stable feel shot after shot. The re-engineered front end design combined with the XJ powerplate offers further reduction in deflection for unmatched performance and consistency.



VAPOR CUE STYLE 09, LIMITED EDITION

Vapor Cue Style 09, limited edition

Forward Weight Technology, 11 oz Butt

With 8 oz shaft. Better Billiards through More precise weight distribution.

\$750.00

blackbladecarbon.com



TIGER LEATHER BURNISHER

Introducing the newly enhanced and improved Tiger leather burnisher, designed with your comfort in mind. Its user-friendly shape provides a secure grip, making it effortless to work with. This essential tool is perfect for achieving a smooth and sealed finish on your wooden shaft. Made from specially tanned cow hide, the Tiger Leather Burnisher enhances the wood's natural grain, resulting in a sleek and moisture-resistant surface. Say goodbye to warped shafts and hello to a flawless finish with the Tiger leather burnisher.

RETAIL: \$10

FEATURES:

- Individually packaged
- 1 piece per order
- Enhanced new shape for an easy grip and better burnishing
- Made from specially tanned cow hide to protect your shaft and tip better
 - Consistent thickness and more durability
 - Made in USA



BMC CASINO 7 BY MEUCCI

The BMC Casino 7 cue combines stunning design with performance, featuring Cocobolo wood, Paua Shell inlays, a royal flush, and inlaid dice for a professional look.

\$1495

https://www.meuccicues.com/products/bob-meucci-cus-toms-casino-7?_pos=1&_sid=45b7dc848&_ss=r&variant=44523705237791



TIGER TUX-1W

Introducing the Tux Series by Tiger.

The Tux Series is more than just a visually stunning line of cues—it's designed to elevate a player's game to the next level. While the series exudes simplicity and elegance, it also incorporates cutting-edge technology resulting in a premium, handcrafted product.

At the heart of the Tux Series is Tiger's revolutionary 5X Core advanced technology, which provides unmatched stability, accuracy, and power with every shot. Each cue is meticulously crafted by skilled Tiger craftsmen in Burbank, California, ensuring that every detail meets the highest standards of quality and performance. With the Tux Series, you're not just choosing a cue; you're investing in a superior playing experience that is tailored to triumph.

RETAIL:

TUX- 1W Cue \$1,800

TUX-1W Cue with Fortis Carbon Fiber Shaft \$2100

FEATURES

- Cue Length- 58"
- TUX-1W Cue features 4 Full Splice Elforyn Points with Ebony, an Elforyn butt sleeve and the Tiger Weave Leather Wrap
 - Butt- 29"/ Shaft- 29"
 - Joint Diameter- 21.60 mm
 - Pin - Tiger Pin Stainless Steel
 - Weight- 17.5 oz- 20.5 oz
- Shaft- Paired with a Tiger Shaft. Option for Fortis Carbon Fiber Shaft also available.
- Cue Tip: Onyx for Tiger Pro Shaft(12 mm), Sniper for Tiger LD Shaft (12.5 mm), Sniper for Tiger X Shaft (13 mm).
 - Ferrule- 1/2" Saber-T® Ferrule
 - Joint protector- Set of Tiger Joint Protectors
- All Tiger Cues are packaged in a Soft Black Velvet Tiger Cue Case
 - Proudly Made by Tiger in the USA



CUETEC AVID PROOF SERIES CUES

Skyler Woodward's AVID Proof series by Cuetec proves that players can excel at the highest level without breaking the bank. Featuring AVID's Advanced glass-bonded technology and designs inspired by Sky's Kentucky heritage, every Proof cue offers the accuracy, power, and control needed to level the playing field.

MSRP \$369-399

www.Cuetec.com



BLUE DIAMOND CHALK

The best pro's chalk choice worldwide. Developed by Longoni on a traditional European formula. This creamy chalk sticks extremely long at the tip, shot after shot. The best tip on the market is nothing without the control that chalk is able to offer.

Tourney Results

Nov 02 - Nov 02

West Coast Women's Tour 2024 Stop 7

Jimmy's Billiards

Milpitas, California

- 1 Khanh Ngo \$410
- 2 Donna Mae \$310
- 3 Emilyn Callado \$235
- 4 Gigi Callejas \$185
- 5 Mary Dughi \$125
- 5 Shawn Modelo \$125
- 7 Lara Won \$80
- 7 Michelle Fraser \$80

Nov 02 - Nov 02

TOP Tour Stop

Dot's Cue Club

Rocky Mount, NC

- 1 BJ Ussery \$900
- 2 Gregorio Sanchez \$600
- 3 Joshua Padron \$400
- 4 Delton Howard \$180

Nov 03 - Nov 03

Mezz Cues LA 9-Ball Series Stop

Good Timez Billiards

Huntsville, Alabama

- 1 Jose Centeno \$700
- 2 Kevin Nakamura \$450
- 3 Luis Abarca \$310
- 4 Joseph Leon \$200
- 5 Jared Pitts \$130
- 5 Keegan Badour \$130
- 7 Jason Molina \$90
- 7 Shahdad Zand \$90

Nov 05 - Nov 10

2024 Beasley Open 9-Ball Division

Brass Tap Billiards

Raleigh, NC

- 1 Alejandro Calderon \$8,500

- 2 Nathan Childress \$5,000
- 3 Johnny Archer \$3,000
- 3 Skyler Woodward \$3,000
- 5 Aloysius Yapp \$1,000
- 5 Georgi Georgiev \$1,000
- 5 Gregorio Sanchez \$1,000
- 5 Jonathan Pinegar \$1,000
- 9 Billy Thorpe \$600
- 9 BJ Ussery \$600
- 9 Hunter White \$600
- 9 Jayce Little \$600
- 9 Michael Robertson \$600
- 9 Steven Page \$600
- 9 Tony Chohan \$600
- 9 Tyler Styer \$600

Nov 05 - Nov 10

2025 Beasley Open One Pocket Division

Brass Tap Billiards

Raleigh, NC

- 1 Alejandro Calderon \$5,100
- 2 Tony Chohan \$3,000
- 3 Roberto Gomez \$1,800
- 4 Nathan Childress \$1,200
- 5 Corey Sykes \$1,000
- 5 Hunter White \$1,000

Nov 09 - Nov 10

36th Ocean State 9-Ball Championship

Snookers - Sports Billiards, Bar & Grill

Providence, RI

- 1 Kevin Guimond \$2,600
- 2 Scott Haas \$1,800
- 3 Nicolas Charote \$1,300
- 4 Shaun Wilkie \$900
- 5 Jeremy Sossei \$750
- 5 Thomas Haas \$750
- 7 Dylan Spohr \$600
- 7 Jay Aliomer \$600
- 9 Kerry McAuliffe \$500
- 9 Matt Bonarrigo \$500

- 9 Ron Casanzio \$500
- 9 Steve Mack \$500
- 13 Ivaylo Petrov \$350
- 13 John Vitale \$350
- 13 Jordan Turner \$350
- 13 Peter Bowman \$350
- 17 Alex Bausch \$250
- 17 Beau Powers \$250
- 17 Doug Brown \$250
- 17 Frankie Hernandez \$250
- 17 Greg McAndrews \$250
- 17 Kevin Brule \$250
- 17 Ray McNamara \$250
- 17 Tyler Hallowell \$250

Nov 09 - Nov 10

36th Ocean State 9-Ball Championship Second Chance

Snookers - Sports Billiards, Bar & Grill

Providence, RI

- 1 Bill Cote \$340
- 2 Doug Masiero \$240
- 3 Brad Kresse \$180
- 4 Chrstine Cockrell \$120
- 5 Ross Muirbrook \$60
- 5 Steve Sutton \$60

Nov 09 - Nov 10

PA Pro-Am Split Bracket Event

Bluegrass Billiards

Philadelphia, Pa

- 1 Bruce Broomell \$1,500
- 2 David Fendlay \$1,040
- 3 Rachel Walters \$760
- 4 Ryan McGarry \$550
- 5 Branden Nash \$375
- 5 Ken Hahnen \$375
- 7 Andres Kinones \$250
- 7 Rosanne Daw \$250
- 9 Kelly Hosler \$125
- 9 Mark Nunan, Jr. \$125
- 9 Ryan Smith \$125
- 9 Steve Linberg \$125

13 Abi Rao \$75
13 Bud Robideau \$75
13 Doug Cogliano \$75
13 Zack Downs \$75

Nov 09 - Nov 09

Q City 9-Ball Tour Stop

Mickey Milligan's Sports Bar

New Bern, NC
1 DJ Brads \$600
2 JT Ringgold \$320
3 Eddie Almonte \$120
4 Triston Kotke \$60
5 Glenn Weatherly \$50
5 Wilson Dorsey \$50

Nov 09 - Nov 10

On The Hill Productions Winner Breaks 9-Ball

Brews & Cues on the Boulevard

Glen Burnie, Maryland
1 Roland Freolo \$550
2 Brett Stottlemeyer \$300
3 Rob Cord \$180
4 Tanner McKinney \$100
5 Bethany Sykes \$70
5 Joshua Mohammed \$70
7 Jamie Evans \$50
7 Miroslav Stojanovic \$50

Nov 10 - Nov 12

Kamui Mixed Doubles

San Juan, Puerto Rico

1 Han Yu \$7,000
1 Kun Lin Wu \$7,000
2 Tzu-Chien Wei \$3,000
2 Vitaliy Patsura \$3,000
3 Alan Rolon \$1,250
3 Alexandros Kazakis \$1,250
3 Kelly Fisher \$1,250
3 Sofia Mast \$1,250
5 Brittany Bryant \$625
5 Carlo Biado \$625
5 Chieh-Yu Chou \$625
5 Joshua Filler \$625
5 Jung-Lin Chang \$625
5 Pia Filler \$625
5 Rubilen Amit \$625
5 Wiktor Zielinski \$625

Nov 11 - Nov 16

Puerto Rico 10-Ball Open

San Juan, Puerto Rico

1 Vitaliy Patsura \$18,600
2 Fedor Gorst \$11,400
3 Albin Ouschan \$5,600
3 Carlo Biado \$5,600
5 Alexandros Kazakis \$2,800
5 Dimitris Loukatos \$2,800
5 Kun Lin Wu \$2,800
5 Mika Immonen \$2,800
9 Aloysius Yapp \$1,450
9 Denis Grabe \$1,450
9 Jason Cruz \$1,450
9 Jesus Atencio \$1,450
9 José Martinez \$1,450
9 Joshua Filler \$1,450
9 Jung-Lin Chang \$1,450
9 Pham Phuong Nam \$1,450

Nov 11 - Nov 16

2024 Venbilliards WPA Women World 10-Ball Championship

San Juan, Puerto Rico

1 Kristina Tkach \$50,000
2 Seo Seoa \$30,000
3 Chezka Centeno \$15,000
3 Jasmin Ouschan \$15,000
5 Chieh-Yu Chou \$8,000
5 Han Yu \$8,000
5 Sofia Mast \$8,000
5 Tzu-Chien Wei \$8,000
9 Chihiro Kawahara \$4,125
9 Maria Teresa Ropero Garcia \$4,125
9 Meng-Hsia Hung \$4,125
9 Oliwia Zalewska \$4,125
9 Pia Filler \$4,125
9 Rubilen Amit \$4,125
9 Silvana Lu \$4,125
9 Xiao-Fang Fu \$4,125

Nov 11 - Nov 15

2024 Challenge of Champions

San Juan, Puerto Rico

1 Joshua Filler \$22,000
2 Fedor Gorst \$10,000
3 Carlo Biado \$4,000

Nov 16 - Nov 17

JPNEWT Tour 2024 Stop #7

Racks Billiards & Bar

Vernon, Connecticut
1 Sandy Cheng \$800
2 Briana Miller \$600
3 Erica Testa \$400
4 Emily Smith \$300
5 Sarah Archer \$125
5 Sarah Bennett \$125
7 Amanda Laverriere \$75
7 Tracey Duffin \$75

Nov 18 - Nov 22

2024 International 9-Ball Open

St. Augustine, FL

1 Aloysius Yapp \$40,000
2 Moritz Neuhausen \$25,000
3 Niels Feijen \$15,000
3 Pijus Labutis \$15,000
5 Carlo Biado \$7,000
5 Georgi Georgiev \$7,000
5 Joshua Filler \$7,000
5 Wiktor Zielinski \$7,000
9 Alexandros Kazakis \$3,250
9 David Alcaide \$3,250
9 Fedor Gorst \$3,250
9 Francisco Sanchez-Ruiz \$3,250
9 Kledio Kaci \$3,250
9 Lee Vann Corteza \$3,250
9 Maximilian Lechner \$3,250
9 Tyler Styer \$3,250
17 Billy Thorpe \$1,750
17 Eklent Kaci \$1,750
17 Gregorio Sanchez \$1,750
17 Jayson Shaw \$1,750
17 Mario He \$1,750
17 Robbie Capito \$1,750
17 Shane Van Boening \$1,750
17 Tommy Tokoph \$1,750
25 JJ Faul \$1,000
25 Joey Tate \$1,000
25 John Morra \$1,000
25 Jonas Souto Comino \$1,000
25 Mickey Krause \$1,000
25 Naoyuki Oi \$1,000
25 Skyler Woodward \$1,000
25 Vitaliy Patsura \$1,000

Nov 21 - Nov 24

2024 Capital City Billiards Invitational

Concord, NH

- 1 Pia Filler \$8,000
- 2 Marharyta Fefilava \$5,400
- 3 Kelly Fisher \$4,000
- 4 Tzu-Chien Wei \$3,000
- 5 Meng-Hsia Hung \$2,000
- 5 Savannah Easton \$2,000
- 7 Kaylee McIntosh \$1,500
- 7 Lonnie Fox-Raymond \$1,500
- 9 Janet Atwell \$1,200
- 9 Kristina Tkach \$1,200
- 9 Monica Webb \$1,200
- 9 Veronique Menard \$1,200
- 13 Angela Janic \$900
- 13 April Larson \$900
- 13 Ashley Benoit \$900

- 13 Ashley Rice \$900
- 17 Briana Miller \$600
- 17 Brittany Bryant \$600
- 17 JoAnn Mason Parker \$600
- 17 Joanne Ashton \$600
- 17 Lisa Cossette \$600
- 17 Michelle Cortez \$600
- 17 Rachel Lang \$600
- 17 Tina Larsen \$600

Nov 23 - Nov 24

2024 International Open Bigfoot 10-Ball Challenge

St. Augustine, FL

- 1 Shane Van Boening \$4,000
- 2 Lee Vann Corteza \$2,000
- 3 Fedor Gorst \$1,000
- 3 Robbie Capito \$1,000

Nov 23 - Nov 26

The 2024 International Straight Pool Open

St. Augustine, FL

- 1 Mario He \$10,000
- 2 Maximilian Lechner \$7,000
- 3 Denis Grabe \$4,350
- 3 Thorsten Hohmann \$4,350
- 5 Jan Van Lierop \$2,750
- 5 Lee Vann Corteza \$2,750
- 5 Max Eberle \$2,750
- 5 Mika Immonen \$2,750
- 9 Albin Ouschan \$1,250
- 9 Anthony Meglino \$1,250
- 9 Carlo Biado \$1,250
- 9 John Morra \$1,250
- 9 Niels Feijen \$1,250
- 9 Pijus Labutis \$1,250
- 9 Shane Van Boening \$1,250
- 9 Wiktor Zielinski \$1,250

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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.

DECEMBER/JANUARY

Chohan vs Bergman One Pocket Challenge

Dec 05 - Dec 07

Railyard Billiards
Louisville, KY

NWPA Tour 2024 Stop 7

Dec 07 - Dec 08

Legends Billiard Room
Beaverton, Oregon

2024 WPBA Aramith / Dr Pool Classic

Dec 11 - Dec 15

Central Wisconsin Convention and Expo Center
Rothschild, Wisconsin

On The Hill Productions \$5000 Added Split Bracket

Dec 27 - Dec 29

Brews & Cues on the Boulevard
Glen Burnie, Maryland

Turning Stone Classic XL

Jan 09 - Jan 12

Turning Stone Casino
Verona, NY

Derby City Classic 2025

Jan 17 - Jan 27

Horseshoe Southern Indiana
Elizabeth, IN





















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AZBILLIARDS MONEY LIST

	NAME	COUNTRY	\$ AMOUNT	
	Fedor Gorst	 USA	\$499,663	
	Joshua Filler	 GER	\$316,488	
	Shane Van Boening	 USA	\$228,388	
	Carlo Biado	 PHI	\$209,275	
	Eklent Kaci	 ALB	\$184,757	
	Franciso Sanchez-Ruiz	 ESP	\$161,763	↑
	Mickey Krause	 DEN	\$144,468	↑
	Kristina Tkach	 RUS	\$135,413	↑
	Jayson Shaw	 SCO	\$124,976	↑
	Johann Chua	 PHI	\$121,250	↓

THE COUNTER-WEIGHT

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Niels Fejer

PRO CUES LINE

2023 BILLIARD CONGRESS OF AMERICA
HALL OF FAME INDUCTEE

Game cue mod. "FLAMES"

Jump Break cue mod. "TJB22"

Game cue mod. "SPARKLE"

Low deflection "LUNA NERA" graphite shaft



LONGONICUES.COM

