

Billiards Buzz

an  publication

vol.9, Issue October 2025



The Iceman
12/17/72 - 9/28/25

Billiards Buzz

Volume 9, Issue #108

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FROM THE Head Rail

MIKE HOWERTON

Damn, I understand that all of our lives are for a limited time only, but it sure feels like 2025 has been brutal with the passing of so many legends of the game.

Mika was a big part of the game for over twenty five years, but he still went way too young.

For any newer fans of the game who didn't get to see Mika in his top form, check out a couple of videos that we posted on the Accu-Stats YouTube channel.

Here's Mika with his match against Buddy Hall in the finals of the 2002 Derby City Classic.



And check out Mika playing nearly flawlessly at the 2010 US Open.



Will be fun to watch.
Mike



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Simonis Cloth and Aramith Balls

play so true,

you really have to ask yourself
would you rather play against your opponent...

...or against your

equipment?





MASTERING HOLD SHOTS

INTRODUCTION

I greatly enjoyed watching the recent Women's World 8-Ball Championship held in Green Bay, Wisconsin. During the matches the ladies played a wide variety of soft stroke finesse shots, so many of them to near perfection. Included in these were shots where the cue ball's roll after contact must be contained as much as possible, and that whitey must be stopped on that proverbial dime.

I advise that you watch a few of matches from this event. And, while you are in the knowledge gaining mode, pay close attention to the type of shots I am going to be talking about in this feature. I will get into the details of these shots in a moment.

Now, if you are looking for a player to copy who excels at these shots, my vote goes to Kristina Tkach. She has superb draw speed control, and her skill at playing soft shots where her goal is to minimize the cue ball's travels after contact is quite possibly the best on the WPBA. So, be sure to check out her matches, including the one with Margarita Fefilova Styer. Though Styer won, Tkach's soft touch shots were on full display.

POOL PHYSICS

We'll begin our discussion by going over some of the basics of soft touch hold shots. As an aside, these shots offer superb examples of pool physics in practice as it relates to distances, speeds, and cut angles.

At the risk of stating the obvious, the distances you need to know are the cue ball to the object ball, and the object ball to the pocket. These distances largely determine the minimum speed that is required to make sure that the object ball reaches the pocket, preferably with only inches to spare.

The shorter that the distance is from the cue ball to the object ball, the softer you can play the shot, which minimizes the cue ball's travels after contact. Finally, the cut angle plays a huge role in playing successful hold shots. Basically, the shallower the cut angle, the easier it is to hold the cue ball, thus minimizing its roll after contact with the object ball.

HOLD SHOT FACTORS

Ok, we've completed our primer on pool physics. Now let's turn to the factors that go into playing these shots. The kind of Hold Shots we are talking about are almost entirely no-rail po-

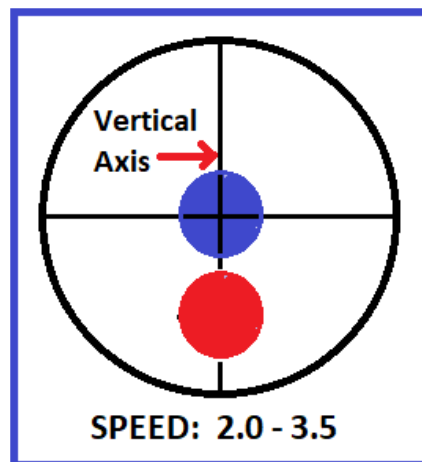
sition plays, so you aren't able to use the rail to further modify the cue ball's rolling distance.

Your ideal speed of stroke is the one that will enable the object ball to barely reach the pocket. On my Spectrum of Speeds, most of these shots are played from a 2.0 (extremely soft) to about 3.5 (midway between very soft (3.0) and medium soft (4.0)).

Try to cue as low as you can without miscuing. For most players, this is about 1-1.25 tips below center as shown in the illustration. (Note: a tip is about 12.5mm +/-). The draw will apply follow spin to the object ball, helping it to reach the pocket. And this very low hit on the cue ball minimizes its speed when it makes contact, which lessens its travel distance. In addition, try to bridge as low as you can.

The shallow cut angles on these shots makes it easy to zero in on your line-of-aim. This enables you to place more of your energy on your speed of stroke. When playing these shots, use super smooth WUS and zone in on your feel for speed.

In *Play Your Best Eight Ball* I discussed Hold Shots with cut angles up to about 10 degrees, and using outside english on some of these shots. Now I am going to recommend that you try cuing on the vertical axis. This simplifies matters as it makes it possible to cue as low as possible, and it also makes it easier to cheat the pocket, especially on shorter range Hold Shots. These smaller cut angles in turn make



it a little easier to keep the cue ball's post-contact roll to a minimum.

Finally, like all finesse shots, there is a special emphasis on "feeling the shot," and this category is no exception. As part of your approach to playing these shots, while you are going to use a speed that's on the soft end of my Spectrum of Speeds, you still need to play them with authority – which may seem like a contradiction, though it's not! In other words, one of the keys is to use a soft yet authoritative stroke, which takes some practice to master as this goes against the grain for so many players.

PRACTICING HOLD SHOTS

When you are playing in competition you only get one repetition, so you must make it a good one. After playing each Hold Shot, take special notice of your results. Did the object ball enter the pocket on its dying gasp, or close to it? Did the cue ball stop short, at, or past where you thought it would? And what can you tuck away in your memory bank that will help you to play these kind of shots with great skill in the future?

When practicing Hold Shots such as the ones in this exercise, play about two to three reps at the most from each location. Your position may be somewhat off on the first attempt, but

this is ok as it will give you valuable feedback, which will help you on your next attempt.

If the cue ball stops past your target, that may be the best you can do, providing the object ball toppled into the pocket. If the ball went in with extra pace, then you can adjust to a slightly softer stroke, which will reduce the cue ball's rolling distance after contact. When the ball stops at you positional target, see if you can improve on it on a subsequent attempt.

THREE PRACTICE SHOTS

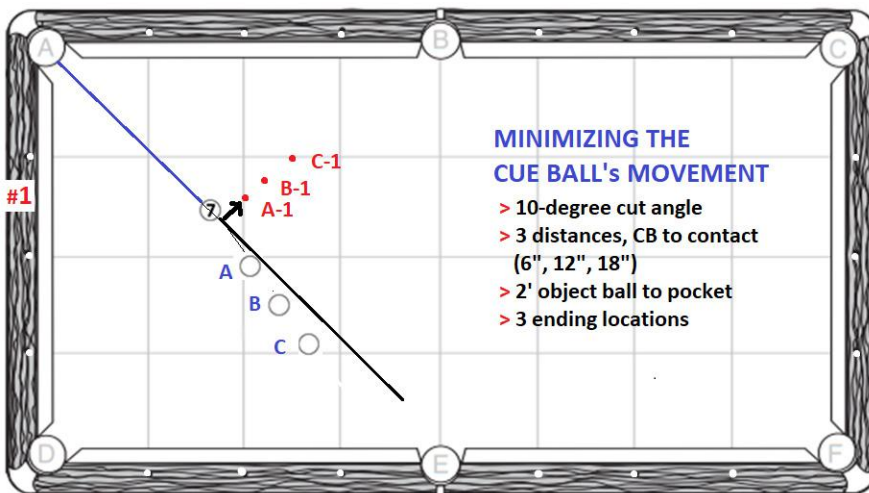
Begin by setting up a series of shots such as the ones shown in **Diagram #1**. Place a donut for the object ball and three more for cue ball locations A, B, and C. Then place three donuts at locations A-1, B-1, and C-1. These represent your estimates for the cue ball's minimum traveling distance after contact. The travel distance post contact should begin to noticeably lengthen out from long distances, as shown by my guesstimates.

Now, play the shot with a tip or more of draw and a soft stroke with the cue ball in Position A. Did it stop short, at, or beyond your predicted location at A-1? Did the object ball enter on its dying gasp or with inches of speed to spare? If this is the case, then reduce your speed on the next attempt and see

where the cue ball now comes to rest. Remember, the purpose of this exercise is to increase your knowledge of what is possible or not, and to increase your feel for these types of shots.

Next, play the shot from Position B. Again, did it stop short, at, or past your target, in this case at B-1? And, did the object ball enter the pocket with speed to spare? While you are in the learning phase, it is also possible that the object ball could stop short of the pocket. Now you need to obviously add a little speed. And don't feel too bad if the object ball stops a little short in competition as this kind of error has even happened to pros! Chalk it up to experience and to the learning process. Finally, play the shot with the cue ball in Position C and carefully observe your results.

I would wager that if you are like most players, you may not have practiced these soft stroke Hold Shots, so you may be uncertain as to your ability to minimize the cue ball's roll after contact. No worries, for now that you are "on to" these shots and you know their great value to your game, you will soon, like Kristina, have yet another secret weapon at your disposal.

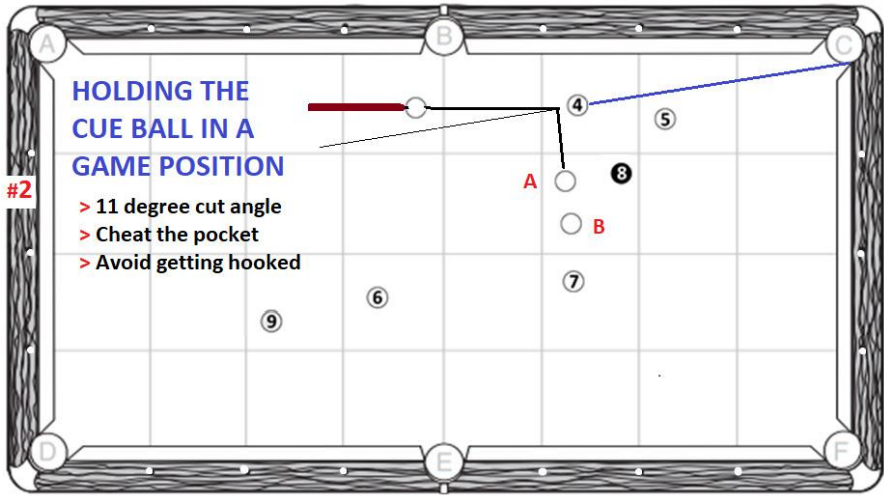


TIPS FOR CONTAINING THE CUE BALL

- Cue on the vertical axis 1+ tips below center
- Flatten out your bridge as much as possible
- Use a speed of about 2.0-3.5 on the Spectrum of Speeds
- Speed depends on the distance from object ball to pocket
- Speed depends on the distance from cue ball to object ball
- Master playing soft shots at pocket speed plus
- Know what shots can be contained, and which can't
- Consider the cut angle – it's usually about 1-15 degrees
- Use super smooth WUS to build feel
- Set a precise target for the cue ball
- The cue ball will travel close to or down the tangent line
- Cheat the pocket when practical

A TYPICAL HOLD SHOT

I have presented a few examples to practice, and I advise that you set up several more. These exercises and the concepts for holding the cue ball that we've talked about are designed to prepare you to be able to recognize, and be able to execute, the many situations that come up in a game. Earlier



from simple hold shot. The concepts we discussed will all be put to use – soft draw stroke, a tip of draw, and several WUS to get a feel for the shot, and cheating the pocket. If played to near perfection, the cue ball will stop at or very close to Position A. If this player is not, yet, well-schooled on these shots, the cue ball could roll to just short of Position B, to B, or beyond, leaving them behind the 8-ball.

Now we've all experienced these kind of disasters, including yours truly. But you can reduce or possibly eliminate these mistakes from your game once you have mastered the techniques presented in this lesson. Good luck!

I also advised that you watch the pros to see the kind of shots on which they use these techniques. Now let's take a look the kind of shot that might come up in a game of 9-Ball.

In **Diagram #2** the player has an overly steep cut of 11 degrees cut on the 4-ball. There are two ways to get position: The player could try to play a stun/follow shot and use the 8-ball to

stop the cue ball. However, this is triple tough, so I advise an easier, but far

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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I NEED FOR MY GAME”**

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GET YOURS AT



Backswing Brilliance: The Cinch Stroke

ANTHONY BEELER

If you watch today's elite players, you'll notice a subtle but powerful shift: the long, exaggerated strokes of the past are giving way to something tighter, more efficient. Most modern champions rely on what can best be described as a **cinch stroke**—a compact, no-nonsense stroke with only a four-to-six-inch backswing. Add to that a deliberate timing—roughly **two seconds total, with 1.5 seconds on the backswing and 0.5 seconds on the forward swing**—and you have a formula for consistency that may be the most important upgrade any player can make.

Why the Cinch Stroke Works

A cinch stroke reduces moving parts. The longer the backswing, the more potential there is for the cue to wander offline, pick-up unwanted spin,

or break rhythm. By “cinching” the stroke into four to six inches, you remove wasted motion and create a repeatable, mechanical advantage.

Think of it like a golfer tightening up their putting stroke. Big swings may look impressive, but small, repeatable motions win matches. A cinch stroke gives you that same sense of control in pool—every hit becomes more predictable, more precise.

Power Is Not Lost

Many players fear that a shorter stroke means weaker shots. The truth is that **power comes from acceleration, timing, and a smooth hit—not from length of backswing**. By driving through the cue ball with proper tempo, a cinch stroke feels *more* powerful because it eliminates the drag of unnecessary motion.



This is why players like Shane Van Boening and Fedor Gorst can move the cue ball all over the table with strokes that appear almost minimal. The hit is direct, the contact is pure, and the cue ball responds exactly as planned.

The Two-Second Timing

Stroke length is only half the story. The second pillar is rhythm. Most pros execute their stroke at a consistent tempo of about **two seconds in total**: a smooth **1.5 second backswing** followed by a crisp **0.5 second forward swing**.

Instead of simply “counting it out,” players can use a **metronome set to two-second cycles** to groove this rhythm. By training with sound, you create a timing pattern that becomes second nature. It's deliberate, not rushed, and it ensures the hit is smooth even under pressure.

This tempo prevents jerking or steering the cue. It also stabilizes the player mentally, creating a ritual that carries over to every shot—stop shots, draws, follows, and pressure-packed game balls alike.

A Mental Anchor

The cinch stroke is as much mental as it is mechanical. A long stroke tempts

MASTER THE TWO-SECOND STROKE

A smooth, deliberate stroke produces consistency and precision.

BILLIARDS STROKE METRONOME

60
—
—
20
—
410

— SET
— CENTER
— PAUSE
— FREEZE

The image shows a wooden metronome with a black face. The text 'MASTER THE TWO-SECOND STROKE' is written in large, bold, yellow letters at the top. Below it, in white, is the sentence 'A smooth, deliberate stroke produces consistency and precision.' The metronome itself has a vertical scale on the left with markings at 60, 20, and 410. On the right side of the scale, there are four labels: 'SET', 'CENTER', 'PAUSE', and 'FREEZE', each with a horizontal line pointing to a specific level on the scale. The metronome is set to the 'SET' position.



players to “force” the cue ball, while a jab isn’t smooth. The cinch stroke is a middle path: compact, calm, and disciplined. It’s a physical reminder to trust your fundamentals.

When the heat is on, you don’t need a complicated set of thoughts—just

one: **cinch it, and let the appropriate rhythm carry the cue.**

Training the Cinch Stroke

- 1. Use a Metronome** – Set it to a two-second cycle. Train for **1.5 seconds back, 0.5 seconds forward**, making the rhythm automatic.
- 2. Record Yourself** – Video your stroke and compare to top professionals. Look for economy of motion and tempo.
- 3. Start Small** – Drill stop shots and work up to follow and draw. Make the cinch stroke feel like second nature.

A New Standard

The days of flamboyant, long, sweeping strokes are fading. Modern pool rewards **efficiency and repeatability**, not dramatics. The cinch stroke—compact in size, precise in rhythm—

represents that evolution. For players who want to take their game to the next level, mastering a **four-to-six-inch stroke with a two-second rhythm (1.5 seconds back, 0.5 forward)** may be the single most important step toward consistent excellence.

In a game measured in fractions of an inch, sometimes the smallest stroke makes the biggest difference.

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.

“GOOD. I’VE NEVER BEEN TO LOS ANGELES. LET’S GO...”



On the way, Blackie told me about his friend, Jimmy, who owned a 24 hour bar in Gardena so that’s where we headed.

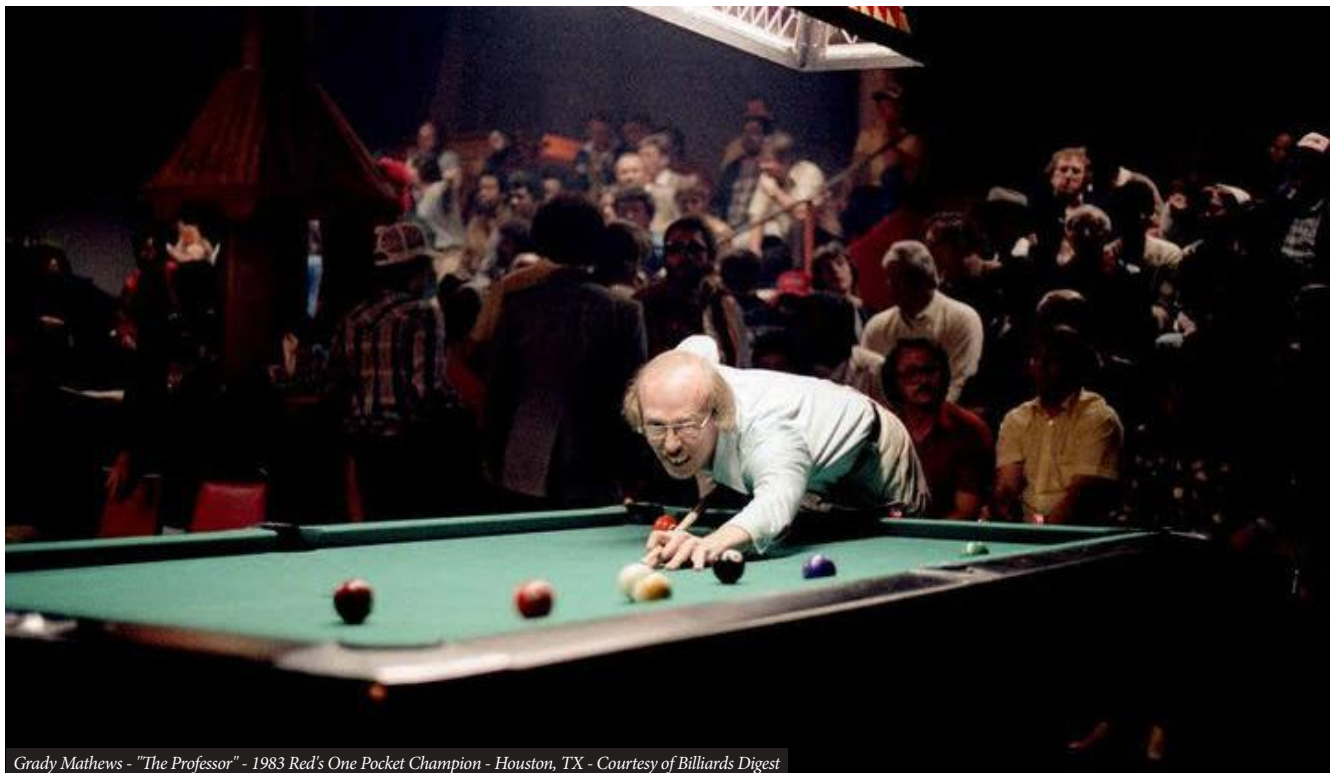
We got there about 6 am and before we got out of the car, I did what we always did – split our bankroll. I handed Blackie \$450 and kept the rest. We walked in the door and the place was empty – just the bartender. He told us that Jimmy would be in soon – he always came in to do the books before heading to the bank and then breakfast.

As we waited at the bar, the door opened. We turned to see if it was Jimmy and Blackie said, “Calvin Williams! How you doing, man?!!!”

Well, it was like old home week with the two of them catching up on the years since Blackie had lived in LA. After a while, the conversation turned to me and the next thing you know,

Blackie had talked Calvin into giving me the seven on the bar box for a hundred. He didn’t like it much but in typical Calvin style, he just laughed it off when he realized that Blackie had trapped him – again.

By this time, I was mentally drained and physically exhausted – I just wanted to find a bed. I’d been up since the



Grady Mathews - "The Professor" - 1983 Red's One Pocket Champion - Houston, TX - Courtesy of Billiards Digest

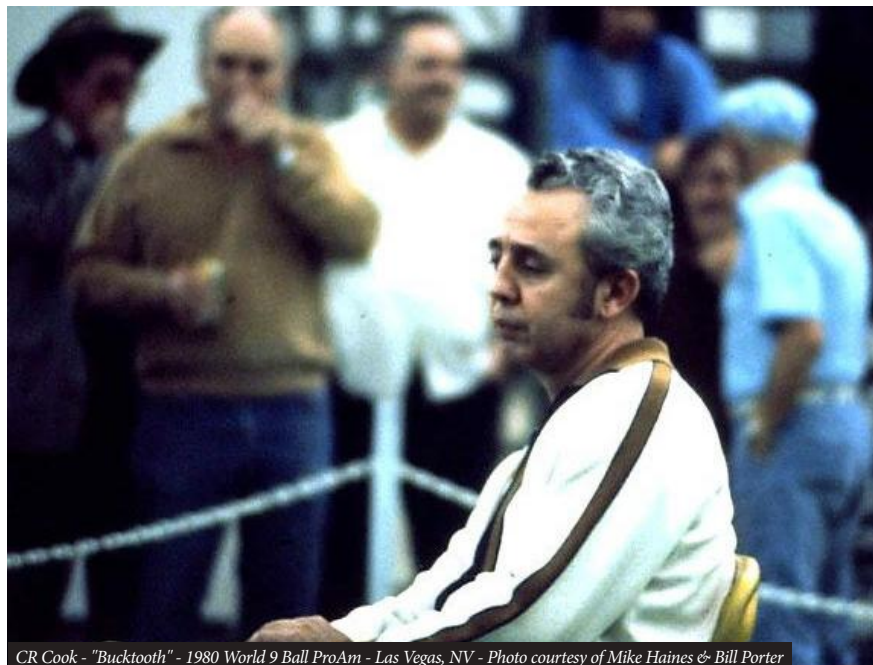
day before, won a tournament, driven all night, played Calvin and Jimmy still hadn't shown up. I told Blackie that I was going to find us a room and I'd call to tell him when I got squared away. I got in the car, found a decent studio for a week, filled up the tank, went to the store to stock up on food and dropped off our laundry – pre-paid, of course. I called Blackie and gave him the address of the motel. He said he'd see me later - Jimmy had just walked in the door. By the time, I'd settled into bed, I had about \$90 left. The early morning sun was shining brightly through the cracks in the curtains but I fell asleep as soon as my head hit the pillow.

I awoke to the sound of a knock on the door. It was pitch black in the room and I groggily reached over to turn on the bedside light. I opened the door and in walked Blackie – with that same dejected face I'd seen all week in Vegas.

“How much do you have left, Blackie?”

His silence told me he'd lost it all. He hadn't told me they had card rooms in Los Angeles.

Furious, I couldn't fall back asleep. Not caring that Blackie was trying to sleep, I started unpacking my suitcase. At the bottom were a dozen or



CR Cook - "Bucktooth" - 1980 World 9 Ball ProAm - Las Vegas, NV - Photo courtesy of Mike Haines & Bill Porter

so business cards that I had been given while in Colorado Springs and Las Vegas. One of them was bright yellow so I picked it up and saw it was from a place in Bellflower, CA.

I asked Blackie if he knew where that was and he told me it was a few miles up the road from Gardena.

“Fine. That's where I'm going. Get dressed if you want to come with me.”

Within about 45 minutes, we pulled up in front of the Stagger Inn. Even though it was Sunday night, the park-

ing lot was full. We found a spot and headed for the door.

We walked in and stood by the door to check the place out. It wasn't too big – a bar was on the right and three bar tables to the left. The place was packed.

All of a sudden I hear, “Hey, folks! For those of you who weren't in Vegas for the last few days, the new women's nine ball world champion just walked in the door! Who wants to try her some? I'll back her – minimum bet five bucks!”

How's that for a knock! We'd thought we could sneak in there and make a few dollars, but no...

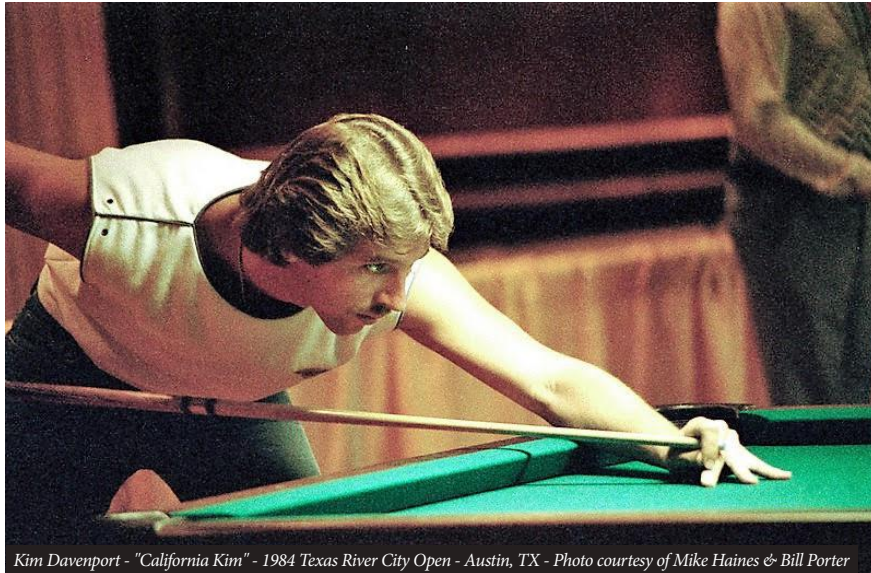
As I glared at the big guy behind the bar, Blackie nudged me in the side. I turned to look at him and he pointed his chin toward the tables.

Astonished, I witnessed a stampede of people putting their quarters up to play me!

We walked over to the bar and Ray introduced himself as the owner. He told me again that he'd stake me and



Keith McCready - "Earthquake" or "El Diablo" - mid '80s - Photo courtesy of the Pool & Billiard Magazine Collection



Kim Davenport - "California Kim" - 1984 Texas River City Open - Austin, TX - Photo courtesy of Mike Haines & Bill Porter

suggested that I take turns playing on each table. He and Blackie would take care of the money.

Since everyone in the place already knew who I was, I had Blackie go out to the car and bring in my cue.

I started playing on the first table on the left and when the game was over, I moved on to the next table, determined the bet and so on. Everyone in the place got involved – either cheering for me or their friends. I won most of the games and finally it ended a few hours later at closing time with everyone clamoring for me to come back the next night!

Since Ray had staked me, I offered him him half of what I won but he refused. He told me he hadn't had that much fun in a long time and neither did his customers. He put all my winnings in a paper bag – we thanked him and left.

As we headed back to the room, Blackie counted the money. Grand total - \$645!

Not bad for a night's work – or play!

So, we went back six nights in a row until no one wanted to play me anymore. Now they wanted to play Blackie!

They played Blackie for the next three nights until that petered out also. However, in that time, we'd put together a \$3,000 bankroll! We'd also gotten to know Ray and most of his clientele and felt quite at home there. As we started hitting some of the many other bars, very often we'd stop by the Stagger Inn on the way home to hang out for a bit, play a little pool or make a little money playing the pin-ball machine.

Within a few months, we'd pretty much exhausted the local bars, so it was time to hit the pool rooms. We'd always avoided the pool rooms in the past until the bar action fizzed out. Why? Because that's where the pool players were!

By now, it was the spring of 1981, late in the afternoon of another gorgeous day in southern California. We were in the hunt for action so we hit Bellflower Billiards.

The place was empty. No houseman – nobody. We turned around to leave and then heard the click of balls.

Following the sound, we found a separate room. We stuck our heads in the door & heard, "NOBODY'S BARRED!!!"

Startled, I saw a man grinning at Blackie & me as he stretched out on Big Bertha – the 6x12 snooker table.

"How've you been, Blackie? C'mon! Get in here! Liability – five a point! Who's your friend? She can play too!" he laughed. "Nobody's barred!"

The room was bare except for a long wooden bench running the length of the table. There were five or so guys in the room playing a game called "Liability."

The game fascinated me – they were playing a ring game except it was three red ball snooker.

For those aren't familiar with the game, the lineup was determined by a draw and the rotation was then changed at a predetermined number of games – usually after five games. Each point was worth so much and the player was only liable for the points that are made by the person following you. Point value had ranged in the past between \$1 and \$100 per point.

Blackie jumped in at the following draw for position joining John Henderson, owner Jim Morgan, Jimmy Van, Tweedy and "Little Al" Romero in the \$5 a point game. This was the lineup for most days unless someone else came through.

Since they were playing \$5 a point, if the player made a red and the five, he collected \$5 and \$25 for a total of \$30. It could get expensive! No telling how many hours I spent sweating that game!

While we were there, Blackie had introduced me to his old friend, "Little Al," so we spent a few afternoons a week at his home in Norwalk. Al had a Gold Crown in his garage and I'd play him three or four races to nine. I learned so much from him and after several months of playing even nine ball, I was getting closer to winning a

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set but still hadn't. Then one day, I finally beat Al a set! I was so excited because he had never cut me any slack – we both played hard. You'd think he'd be a little upset but he wasn't – he was proud of me because it just showed how much I had learned and improved.

And so it went, playing at Al's, Blackie playing in the liability game and on the weekends, there was always at least one tournament somewhere in Los Angeles or Orange County. Players would come from miles around and in addition to the tournament, there was plenty of action. They were good days...

In the summer of the following year, word had spread that Richie Florence was having his Caesars Tahoe Billiards Classic again. Action for us had slowed down so we decided to leave LA and work our way up the tournament.

We finally got to Caesars while they were still setting up the tables. I saw Richie from across the room so I walked over to him and said hello. While we were talking, players I knew came and went and then Bucktooth came over. Although I didn't know him, I remembered seeing him a few years back at another one of Richie's tournament - the 1979 World ProAm in Las Vegas.

Richie introduced us and the three of us continued to talk. After a while, I said my goodbyes and roamed the room talking to others as the room started filling up.

Later that evening, Tooth came up to me and asked me if I'd like to have dinner with him. At first, I turned him down but he was insistent saying he simply hated eating alone. I finally gave in figuring at least it would be a good meal.

I found him to be quite engaging one on one – far from my impression of him a few years previously when he

was loudly woofing at all the players and making side bets while playing Allen Hopkins.

Over the course of the next few evenings, he sought me out for dinner and I got to know him quite well – he had led an interesting life, knew everyone in the pool world and had plenty of pool stories. By Saturday night, the tournament was over and I saw him approaching me from across the room. He had come to say goodbye, told me he had enjoyed our dinners and handed me a business card.

He told me that when I got tired of the road, to come by and he'd teach me the jewelry business.

Well, it didn't take me long and a couple days later, I showed up at his door in Alameda – a town in the Bay Area of California. Since it was Christmas season and his busiest time of the year, he said he'd have no time to start teaching me the business. However, he also told me he had a pool room in a neighboring town that needed a manager and if I'd run it for him until after the holidays and he could find another manager, he'd bring me back

to the store to learn the business. In addition, the pool room had a small apartment over the pool room so that solved my immediate problem of finding somewhere to live.

So, a few hours later after he closed up the store, he took us to Carousel Billiards in Castro Valley. It was a beautiful town and the pool room was nice. It had an elevated area overlooking the tables where you could get the balls and some snacks.

He showed us around the place and then took us upstairs to the apartment, handed me a set of keys, a stack of business cards for the place and left.

We had the whole place to ourselves and since it was late, we decided to open the next day and 11 am. We hadn't hit any balls for a few days so we wore ourselves out practicing until two or three in the morning.

The next day was a long one with no customers until later that evening a few teenagers came in and left after seeing there was no one in there except us. This went on for a couple



Rommie Allen - "Fast Eddie" - early '80s publicity photo



Cole Dickson - 1980 Carson City, NV - Photo courtesy of Keith Thompson

put it in nonstop action picking everyone up at the airport.

Action had been created out of thin air! You couldn't turn around in there! I couldn't believe it!

There was payball on the snooker table – Kim, Cole and Ronnie firing them in like it was a bar box. Nine ball on this table, last pocket eight ball on that one, banks on the one over there, one pocket over here and the war stories were flying!

There was action on every table - everyone else was sweating, making side bets or woofing and trying to make a game.

Meeting all the players I'd heard a million stories about, holding the stakes, watching the incredible play, sweating the action, laughing constantly - it was a young player's heaven!

This continued around the clock for about a few weeks or so with players coming and going until Grady and Flyboy were the last two standing – playing a little one-hole. The last barrel Flyboy fired was a cash register with all the bells and whistles that he had in his trunk and Grady finally busted him. Grady sold it to Tooth and, for those who know Tooth - well, I'm betting he still has it!

Finally, everyone had left and the pool room was quiet again. The holidays were over, Carousel Billiards was shut down again and it was now time for me to learn the jewelry business. And I couldn't wait!

days – young people would come in then turn around and leave. Bored to death, I called Tooth to tell him what was happening and it was then that he confessed that his nephew had been running the place and he'd fired him for selling drugs out of there. He told me to stick it out until Sunday and we'd figure something out.

And so it went each night with a few kids coming in and leaving until finally on Friday night, no one.

As promised, Bucktooth came in and after talking for a while, he asked me if I had a "road book." For those who don't know, a road book is a notebook with all the action places (spots) written down, who plays, how they play, how much they bet, what they look like, etc. Whenever you'd run into another road player, you'd trade information on action spots and put them in your book. I told Tooth I had one and went to get it. Now, in those days, there were no cell phones. It could be tough getting hold of someone on the road! You had a guy's home number (if he had one) or the numbers of their stakehorse, girlfriend or home pool room.

So, Tooth grabs my book, thumbs thought it and starts calling all the

action guys. Here's how the conversation went...

Tooth: "Man, you've got to get up here! There's so much action - you wouldn't believe it!"

Other guy: "Wow! Who's there?"

Tooth: "Man, everyone! Grady (Mathews), Ronnie (Allen), Jack Cooney, Kim (Davenport), Hawaiian Brian (Hashimoto), Keith (McCready), Dave (Piona), Flyboy (Jimmy Spears), Cole (Dickson)," etc., etc.

Other guy: "I'm on my way."

I'm looking at him like he's crazy! There's not a soul in the joint! Laughing, he dialed another number.

Grady, Ronnie's here, Jack Cooney," etc.

Grady: "I'm coming."

Tooth continued making calls with the same line. Meanwhile, it was all BS!

Within two days, the place was packed! The word had spread like wildfire with players, backers and sweaters coming in from all over the country. Tooth had dusted off his vintage Rolls Royce and

Known in the pool world as "Nightmare," Mary is a former world & national champion, a WPBA Hall of Famer & owned Cue-Topia in Las Vegas, NV. She has thousands of billiard-related photos in her Facebook Wall of Fame.

Gospel Trick Shot #68

Teamwork makes the Dream Work!

History of the Trick Shot: This remarkable trick shot, executed by Wayne Parker, is set up on a Chinese-style 9-foot pool table fitted with snooker-style pockets, which makes the difficulty level significantly higher than on a standard American pool table. Wayne has featured this particular shot on numerous occasions during his professional trick shot exhibitions across South Africa, where it has consistently captivated audiences with its precision and creativity. In this presentation, however, he has given the shot a deeper meaning by adapting it into a Gospel Trick Shot. By doing so, Wayne transforms a moment of skill and entertainment into a powerful word of encouragement for the body of Christ, using the art of billiards as a unique platform to share faith and inspiration.

GTS Name and Meaning: This shot is titled “**Teamwork Makes the Dream Work!**” In this Gospel Trick Shot demonstration, Wayne illustrates the power of unity and the importance of recognizing that every person in the Kingdom of God has a vital role to play.

The setup involves five object balls, each carefully balanced on a block of chalk, with a supporting ball positioned alongside each one. The sequence begins when the cue ball is struck to pocket the 15-ball into the side pocket. From there, the cue ball travels around the table, rebounding off four rails before striking the 8-ball. This contact triggers a chain reaction that ultimately sends the 5-ball into the side pocket.

Just as every ball in this shot must work together in perfect sequence for the outcome to be successful, so too does every believer in the Kingdom of God contribute to the greater good. Each person has a unique purpose and a God-given role that is essential, no matter how big or small it may seem. Therefore, never underestimate your value, and never compare your role to someone else’s. God has designed a special plan and purpose for you within His Kingdom, and your contribution matters.

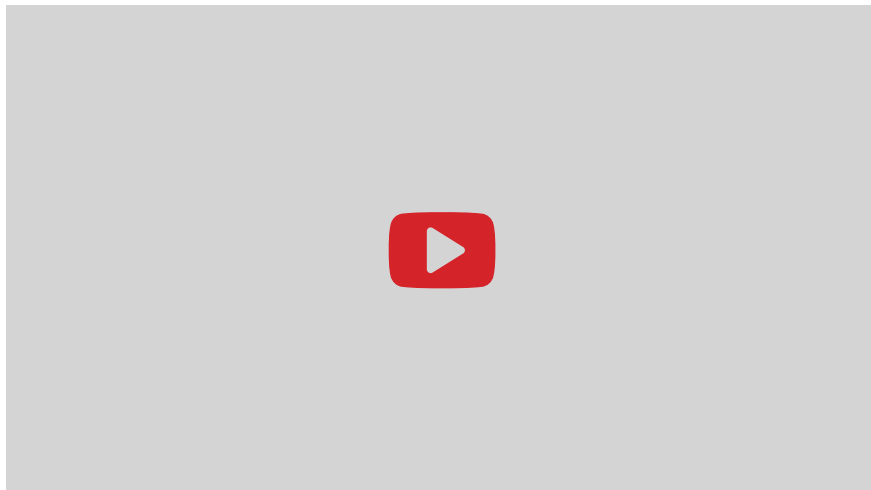
Scripture Reference: 1 Corinthians 3:6-9 (NIV): “I planted the seed, Apollos watered it, but God has been making it grow. So, neither the one who plants nor the one who waters is anything, but only God, who makes things grow. The one who plants and the one who waters have one purpose, and they will each be rewarded according to their own labor. For we are **co-workers** in God’s service; you are God’s field, God’s building.”

Ball Placement: Cue Ball: Place the cue ball on the table as shown in the diagram.

Cue Ball: Place the cue ball on the table in the position shown in the diagram.

Object Balls:

- Balls 1, 2, 3, 4, and 5 are each placed on top of a block of chalk.
- Balls 8, 9, 10, 11, and 12 are placed touching (frozen to) each of the balls above, as shown in the diagram.
- The 13-ball is positioned so the 5-ball will strike it at about half-ball contact.



- The 15-ball is set close to the side pocket, as shown in the diagram.

Objective:

Strike the cue ball firmly with a touch of low-right English (hit slightly below and to the right of center). Aim at the right edge of the 15-ball.

Here’s what will happen:

- The cue ball pockets the 15-ball into the side pocket.
- It then travels around the table, bouncing off four rails as shown in the diagram.
- The cue ball hits the 8-ball, starting a chain reaction that knocks the balls off their chalk blocks.
- Finally, the 5-ball is dislodged, makes contact with the 13-ball, and is pocketed in the side.

Special Notes: If the cue ball goes around four rails but comes up short—either going straight into the corner pocket or hitting directly into the 8-ball—try hitting the 15-ball a little fuller (thicker) with more low-right English. This will open the angles and send the cue ball into the short rail first before it caroms into the 8-ball. If the cue ball instead goes too long and hits too far down the last short rail, adjust by hitting the 15-ball a little thinner.

Crowd Reactions: This is a spectacular shot for the audience, as the domino effect builds suspense until the 5-ball is finally pocketed off the 13-ball. When it drops, the crowd will erupt with applause and cheers. After the shot, be sure to point out that each pair of balls has come together by color—for example, the yellow solid and stripe, as well as the blue, red, and pink pairs. This creates a powerful visual that highlights the beauty of unity in diversity.





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MIKA IMMONEN

12/17/72 - 9/28/25

By Mary Kenniston

The billiard world was terribly saddened to hear of the passing of BCA Hall of Famer Mika Immonen. Diagnosed in December of 2023 with Stage 4 colo-rectal cancer, he fought until the end.

Upbate and tenacious, he battled the cancer with the same toughness with which he played the game he loved. He was 52.

Born in London of Finnish descent, he moved to Helsinki, Finland with his family as a young child. His first introduction to cue sports was as a teenager when a billiard room opened near his home. He became known for his superb mechanics and a stroke that many envied.

A multiple time Finnish, European Pool and Euro Tour champion, Mika moved to New York City in the late

'90s where he was hosted by former WPBA player Nesli O'Hare for his first year in this country. They grew close as they traveled to tournaments, practiced and enjoyed their time together. He made a helluva splash - one of the best of that next generation making its mark.

In the 2000's, he was unstoppable. He exploded upon the international scene winning the 2001 WPA World Nine Ball Championship and followed up with major wins at the 2002 Derby City Nine Ball Championships, the 2003 Philippine Open, the 2004 UPA

Pro Tour Championship and then wins at the 2008 and 2009 US Open Nine Ball Championships. Mika won the 2009 US Open after losing his second match and went on to win fourteen matches in a row to claim the title. His back to back wins broke Nick Varner's record for being the only player to own consecutive US Open titles after winning in 1989 and 1990.

He captured titles at the 2008 All Japan Championship, the 2009 WPA World Ten Ball Championship and won two International Challenge of Champions events. These and many



2019 Bogies Nine Ball Classic - Houston, TX - Photo courtesy of Bogies Billiards

other titles lead to his being named Billiards Digest Player of the Year in both 2008 and 2009 and in 2010, was named the Billiards Digest Player of the Decade for the 2000s.

Continuing in the 2010s, he won many more titles including the 2010 Masters Ten Ball Championship and partnered with Petri Makkonen to take the 2012 World Cup of Pool. He was named to the 2015 Kings Cup 10 Ball Team – East vs. West and won 2022’s Super Billiards Expo Senior Players Championship.

As if all this was not enough, he represented Team Europe fifteen times in the Mosconi Cup and in both 2003 and 2008, was crowned MVP.

Lest anyone think Mika was just a rotation player, he also won the 2007 American Straight Pool Championship, the 2016 World Tournament of 14.1 and the 2019 Derby City Classic 14.1 Championship.



2013 World Tournament of 14.1 - Astoria, NY - Photo courtesy of Brian Leong Photography

The capstone to his career was in 2014 when he was inducted into the BCA Hall of Fame.

As knowledgeable as he was, it was no surprise that Mika had been tapped as

a commentator over the last several years.

On the table, he was “The Iceman” – laser focused. Off the table, a good human - approachable, kind, generous, friendly, funny, a mentor and a gentleman.

Through his rise to becoming an elite player, Mika became a friend to players all over the world - both amateurs and pros - as well as to many in his adopted home in the New York City area.

On the day after his passing, I scrolled through Facebook to see the many tributes, postings and comments from players all over the billiard world telling of their sadness, relating of Mika’s fierce and stellar play and his many accomplishments in the game.

LoreJon Ogonowski-Brown’s post made me laugh out loud when she told of being shown a video of Mika running through the deep snow from the hot tub – naked.

Wayne Catledge wrote about the time he was playing Mika on a tight table at the Corner Pockets in Orlando and got upset about getting way out of line for his next shot. Mika smiled and said, “If



2022 Derby City Classic - Elizabeth, IN - Photo courtesy of Vincent Rochefort

I'd left you that shot, you would be ecstatic." A simple, but profound lesson.

Ewa Laurance said, "A longtime friend, I watched him rise from a young kid from Finland with big dreams and hopes of making it on the pro tour, not only accomplishing those dreams, but becoming one of the best ever."

John Morra posted about the times they shared eating good food, partying and having a blast. He said Mika was like the big brother he never had.

Donny Mills wrote about the time he invited Mika over to his home to play, "And of course Mika beats me. That's right. Comes to my home table while on chemo with stage 4 cancer and just robs me. Wow, what a tough guy he was."

Danny Barouty said, "If there was a Mount Olympus for pool players, I'm sure Mika would have the highest throne."

Joanne Ashton summed him up the best - "A guy with a larger than life personality who lived in the moment."

The comment that most stood out to me was Alison Fisher relating about



1994 Camel Pro Billiards Series - Photo courtesy of Kirstin Pires

the time Mika showed up to sweat her match at the Super Billiards Expo Women's Amateur Open when no one else was there for her.

A legend, upbeat and tenacious, Mika fought to the end and was taken when he should be enjoying his fame and many accomplishments as well as spending time with the many friends



Mika Immonen - 2025 Amsterdam Billiards - NY, NY - PC of John Leyman



His first of fifteen Mosconi Cup appearances - 2002 Las Vegas, NV - Photo courtesy of Diana Hoppe

and fans he made from his travels all over the world.

And, finally, his friend and practice partner, Steve Lipsky, said it best in his post.

"This is all so tragic. He showed us how to fight with strength and grace. Cancer is horrible. It's just an unbelievably sad loss, far too early, of an icon and a friend."



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Cuetec Cues, a global leader in performance-driven cue technology, is proud to announce the addition of Venezuela's rising pool star Jesus Atencio to its roster of professional players and brand ambassadors.

Known for his raw talent, relentless work ethic, and creative instincts, Atencio has quickly emerged as one of the sport's most exciting young stars. His dynamic style and dedication to improvement have led to standout performances on the international stage. Recent strong finishes at the U.S. Open and Florida Open have cemented his status as a true contender among the world's best.

"We are thrilled to welcome Jesus to the Cuetec team," said Cuetec Brand

Manager Brett Garson. "He represents everything we value in a player: passion, character, and a constant drive to get better every day. With our equipment and his talent paired together, we believe his best is still ahead."

From humble beginnings in Venezuela to competing under the game's brightest lights, Atencio's rise is a true testament to discipline and self-belief. His journey aligns perfectly with Cuetec's mission: unlocking player potential through innovation, precision en-

gineering, and performance-focused design.

"I've always believed in working hard and focusing on the fundamentals," said Atencio. "Joining a brand like Cuetec that shares that mindset—and backs it up with the best technology—is truly an honor. I'm excited to keep growing and represent Cuetec to the fullest every time I unpack my cues."

With Atencio on board, Cuetec reaffirms its dedication to empowering the next generation of players through innovation, passion, and purpose. The journey continues, and Cuetec is proud to be a part of Jesus's next chapter.



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HISTORY FOR JANUARTA AS INDONESIA'S TEENAGE SENSATION LANDS MAIDEN WNT RANKING TITLE IN CHINA

Article by Ben Hudd (www.absolute-pool.com)

Indonesian teenage sensation Albert Januarta defeated Bernie Regalario 13-8 to seal the Zen & Yuan 8 Open glory in Shanghai, China, becoming the youngest ever winner on the World Nineball Tour.

Januarta landed his maiden WNT ranking accolade at the tender age of 17 and scooped the \$20,000 champion's cheque, also becoming Indonesia's first ever success story on the tour.

A two-time junior champion on the circuit, Januarta established a 9-4 advantage in the final and that proved unassailable, despite Regalario managing to win four of the next five racks.

Januarta had notably battled through a hill-hill affair against Kuo Hsuan-Wei to qualify for the

single elimination phase, before then beating Vietnam's Nguyen Van Huynh and **Harry Vergara** of the Philippines to reach the quarter-finals.

There, he beat **Ruslan Chinakhov** 10-8 in a closely-contested match, prior to an 11-8 victory over fellow teenage phenom **Felix Vogel**, who had beaten the likes of Chang Yu-Lung

and Kuo Po-Cheng on his way to the semi-finals.

Regalario, meanwhile, was beaten in the double elimination phase by Hsieh Chia-Chen but he exacted revenge on that loss in the last 32, before beating the Taiwanese trio of Lu Hui-Chan, **Lin Ta-Li** and defending champion Ko Pin-Yi to reach a second ranking final.

Elsewhere, newly-crowned US Open champion **Aloysius Yapp** and UK Open runner-up **Jonas Souto Comino** both endured 10-9 defeats in the last 32 at the hands of Kuo Po-Cheng and Harry Vergara respectively.

The World Nineball Tour now takes a month-long break before heading to Vietnam for the Peri Open and the Hanoi Open, while players remain in Asia for the upcoming China Open and World 10-Ball Championship.



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JASTRZAB TAKES DUTCH OPEN IN A THRILLER

Luke Riches - EPBF / Photos courtesy EPBF

THERE'S ANOTHER POLISH champion on the block as 20-year-old Dominic Jastrzab defeated Germany's Tobias Bongers 11-9 to lift the PREDATOR DUTCH OPEN title in a nerve-wracking final that could have gone either way.

Taking place at the De Bonte Weever Hotel in Assen, Netherlands, the final was broadcast on Viaplay throughout the Netherlands as well as globally on the Predator Pro Billiard Series YouTube platform.

Played in front of an enthusiastic crowd, Bongers opened up a 4-0 lead to leave his opponent floundering. Jastrzab found his feet though, in the middle stages and started to come back. The Polish player squared the match at 8-8, having trailed 8-5 and it was the first time he had been on level terms. He then edged into the lead with some determined play and a solid break.

Bongers, who'd seen his momentum slip away, levelled it again but Jastrzab held himself together to close out the match for the championship.

The Pole, who showed early promise in winning the 10-ball gold at the 2023 European Youth Championship, was understandably thrilled at his achievement.

He said, "It feels great. I think this is the best trophy that I've lifted in my career so I'm so happy. At the beginning I played not so well and I made a couple of mistakes and it was 5-1 for him. He played great all match but I think my break was the key to success in that match.

"I had that feeling that I could play freely because I'm in the final and I'm happy with that and I'm just going to try and be myself and it worked. The crucial moment was 9-8 as it was the first time I was up in the match and I knew that even if he was going to break and run his rack, I had my two own breaks so I took a couple of deep breaths and that was it. I hope you enjoyed it!

"We have so many great players in Poland that even if we play a Polish tournament, you're always playing against a World Champion or European Champion so you can improve pretty fast if you want to," he added.

For Bongers it was a second final defeat in 16 months, and not surprisingly, he was frustrated with the result.

He said, "Really disappointed and angry too. In important situations he had good rolls and luck too. He breaks really well; I think he made six or seven runouts and came back but I think maybe I was the better player and deserved to win but in important situations he had the rolls now he's the champion and he played really well. I played a good tournament so I feel good and hope in the next tournaments I play this stuff."

The two semi-finalist were **Wiktor Fortunski** of Poland who lost at the hands of Jastrzab and **Marc Bijsterbosch** (Netherlands) who fell to Bongers.

With the Open event now concluded, play now focuses on the Predator Dutch Women's Open which continues on Sunday morning at 9.30 at the last 16 stage. The semi-finals are at 14.00 with the final scheduled for 16.30. Streaming of Tables 1 and 2 for all Euro Tour and European Championships events can be found on YouTube, via the Pro Billiard TV channel – <https://www.youtube.com/@Pro-BilliardTV>

For all results, live scoring and draw, visit <https://www.epbf.com/tournaments/eurotour/information/>



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IT'S KAPLAN

ONCE AGAIN AT DUTCH OPEN

Luke Riches - EPBF / Photos courtesy EPBF

INA KAPLAN'S RELENTLESS winning streak continued at the De Bonte Weever Hotel in Assen as she claimed the PREDATOR DUTCH WOMEN'S OPEN title, defeating Austria's Sandra Baumgartner 9-6.

The German player has now won five of her last seven Predator Euro Tour starts, and claimed a runner-up and the ninth placed finish in the other two, and is firmly cemented at the top of the rankings.

She said, "It's really nice and I'm feeling pretty awesome. I know the final wasn't the best; I was a little bit lucky at the end when Sandra didn't shoot the 9-ball and it always feels a little bit strange to win like that but I'm really happy and my performance was good over the weekend."

The opening racks of the final were a little scrappy and Kaplan found her-

self in a 3-0 lead. It wasn't the best start for Baumgartner and she never really recovered from it. She battled on though, and tried to stay with Kaplan. She got back to 4-3, then 5-4 but the German had too much to relinquish her lead.

When she moved ahead 7-4, it looked as if the writing was on the wall but to her credit, the Austrian player fought back to get to 7-6. At 8-6 she had a 9-ball to get one back but overran her positional shot and subsequently left the 9 hanging to present Kaplan with the golden chance to seal the deal.

Kaplan continued, "Sandra was a little bit shaky in the beginning and wasn't stroking that good and I took advantage of it and kind of got going and got to the end. I think part of my success is that I really enjoy playing here as it's my only opportunity to play against the best in Europe so I'm always looking forward to playing the Euro Tour and I hope it stays that way.

"I have to make time for training with the kids and working but I have a pool table at home so I take every minute to train and practice," she concluded.

Whilst it wasn't her best showing in the final, Baumgartner was happy with her performances throughout the year, "It was not my best performance in the final but overall, I'm very happy. It's my first full season since 2016 and I've had three podiums so

I'm pretty proud of that.

"Of course, it would have been much better to have been on top but still very happy. Especially at the beginning, I made some very bad mistakes, I was just very nervous and then I was just behind all the time and at the end I got nervous again but she deserved to win."

The two semi-finalist were Bojana Sarac (Serbia) who was defeated by Baumgartner and Tamara Rademakers (NED) who lost to Kaplan.

With the Predator Euro Tour Series events now concluded, the focus now moves to the Predator European Seniors Championships which get underway on Tuesday 30th September and runs until Wednesday 8th October. Streaming of Tables 1 and 2 for all Euro Tour and European Championships events can be found on YouTube, via the Pro Billiard TV channel - <https://www.youtube.com/@ProBilliardTV>

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VAN BOENING GOES UNDEFEATED

TO CLAIM \$20K-ADDED, 52ND ANNUAL TEXAS OPEN AT SKINNY BOB'S

Skip Maloney - AzB Staff / Photos courtesy Event staff

Kibaroglu goes undefeated to win \$2,500-added Ladies event

If professional pool here in the United States ever gets organized under a central 'umbrella' and is looking for a marketing phrase to 'tease' any of its upcoming events, pool might do well to inform potential audiences to "Expect the unexpected." Pool tournaments that draw a mixture of skilled and not-as-skilled competi-

tors have a way of proving that point as the roster of relative 'unknowns' at any given event can often yield a lower-rated competitor winning his/her first 'major' event. Pool appears to produce this kind of result more often than other two-player sports like tennis, table tennis, fencing, (real) wrestling, or boxing. Professional team

sports all have their 'any given Sunday' rule, indicating that the overall strength of teams in a given league, by definition, means that any team can beat any other team. However, these professional teams, along with their two-player counterparts, are not subject to challenges from skilled high-school/college-level athletes or



Shane Van Boening



Eylul Kibaroglu

coming into the Texas Open, had given Polanco an ‘established’ FargoRate of 755, with a ‘506’ Robustness, which has a way of knocking the ‘surprise’ of his victory over Patsura (790) down a notch or two. Rosenstock has competed against Polanco and validates his skill level.

“If the USA Mosconi Cup team extended its potential list of competitors to include Latin America (and thus, Guatemala),” he said, “Polanco would probably be on the team.”

Another unexpected event, which will later fly across the screen as we detail SVB’s path to the win was a highly-anticipated matchup between SVB and **Fedor Gorst**. Normally, one beating the other wouldn’t raise a single eyebrow, let alone two. But in what proved to be their only meetup at this Texas Open, SVB shut “The Ghost” out. The word “shocker” comes to mind, though not because of who won (someone had to). The ‘shut out’ was the surprise and would have been the same if the result had been the opposite. The surprise was tempered, though not by much, by awareness of the fact that a start-to-finish runout is one of the ‘down’ sides to the winner-breaks format employed at the Texas Open.

The Labor Day weekend Texas Open also featured a \$2,500-added Ladies 9-Ball event that drew 32 entrants. Won by Turkey’s Eylul Kibaroglu, who went undefeated to claim the Ladies title, we will take some extended time a little later to detail that event, so stay tuned. Finally, a series of concurrently-run events which added \$3,500 to the total money-added; a \$1,500-added Scotch Doubles event, which was won by the team of Sky Woodward and **Savannah Easton**, which lost the hot seat match, double hill, to **Ming Ng** and Miguel Salvi, but returned from a semifinal victory over Eylul Kibaroglu and **Ernesto Bayaua** to shut Ng/Salvi out in the final. There

teams on their schedule. Or competitors whose skills have generally flown ‘below the radar.

The undefeated winner of the \$20,000-added, 52nd Annual Texas Open 9-Ball tournament, which drew 128 entrants to its traditional home, Skinny Bob’s Billiards in Round Rock, TX this past weekend (Aug. 27-Sept. 1) was not entirely unexpected.

Shane Van Boening went undefeated to claim his third Texas Open title, spread out over 17 years – ‘08, ‘21 and ‘25.

There were a few unexpected occurrences of note. First among them, being a competitor from Guatemala, by the name of **Miguel Polanco**, who, to our knowledge, has only recorded a single, previous cash payout, finishing 5th in last year’s Texas Open. Polanco went undefeated to the hot seat match this past weekend, lost to SVB and then, put a stop to any back-

to-back title hopes of this year’s defending champion, Ukraine’s **Vitaliy Patsura**. Like Van Boening, Patsura was looking for his third Texas Open title, following last year’s win and one in 2022. Not only did Polanco win the match, but with Patsura on the hill at 8-2, Polanco fought back to knot the score at 8-8 and then win the double-hill match.

According to **Jude Rosenstock**, the league director at Skinny Bob’s, commentator on the live stream for this year’s Open and occasional referee, Polanco is a recent, past year or so addition to the Texas pool scene and flies in from Guatemala to compete. Basically, playing head-to-head against local competition, Polanco has recently become involved with weekly tournaments at both Skinny Bob’s (in, for example, their Skinny Bob’s Classic event) and Betsy’s Billiards, both in the Metro Austin area. These events report to FargoRate, which,

was also a \$750-added Open Ring Game won by **Michael Schneider**, a \$500-added Banks Ring Game (split prizes to Sky Woodward and **Devin Poteet**), a \$250-added Ladies Ring game, with Kibaroglu recording her second event victory, and a \$500-added 9-Ball Mini, won by Gorst.

So, on to the Open 9-Ball event and SVB's win. He and Gorst met early in the proceedings, right after SVB had sent **Raed Shabib** 9-2 and **Ruben Silva** 9-6 to the loss side and Gorst had defeated **Clint Palaci** 9-1 and **Nick Chirco** 9-2.

The match was not all 'break and runs' for SVB, although Gorst didn't get to the table until Rack #4, when SVB 'pushed' off the break. Gorst looked at the table and lined up a shot, but eventually returned the table to SVB, who, a short time later, made a 6-9 combo to go up 4-0. Three racks later, Gorst got to the table again and opted for a 'safe' shot at the 2-ball. SVB came back, dropped the 2-ball and made a 3-9 combo, which put him up 7-0.

In rack #8, SVB broke but had limited options shooting at the 2-ball. He played safe, allowing Gorst to get back to the table for only the third time. Gorst's options weren't a lot better, as he looked at a two-rail, bank-first shot at it. And made it, getting the spectators' best reaction to any shot in the match to that point. Gorst's shot at the 3-ball, however, rattled in a hole. SVB cleared the table and reached the hill. The break of rack #9 again left SVB with virtually no shot and he 'pushed' again, sinking the 5-ball in the process. Gorst stepped to the table for the fourth time and with the cue ball on a short rail, took aim at the 2-ball, up-table, looking to drop it into a corner pocket a long way off. The 2-ball kissed off the edge of the corner pocket.

SVB came to the table and cleared it for the shutout win, which drew the

2nd most appreciative reaction from the crowd. You can watch the entire match on YouTube at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=na93cnKm-0tE>. SVB advanced to defeat Devin Poteet 9-3 and then, sent Patsura to the loss side 9-4 to draw **Jesus Atencio** in one of the winners' side semifinals.

Meanwhile, Miguel Polanco was working on his trip to the hot seat match, which began with victories over John Askew and **John Eagle**, both 9-1, a 9-7 win over Michael Schneider, a 9-5 victory over **Adam Sisneros** and a winners' side quarterfinal win over **Josh Roberts**, also 9-5. Polanco drew **Tommy Tokoph** in the other winners' side semifinal.

Van Boening and Atencio locked up in a double-hill battle that did eventually send Van Boening to the hot seat match. Polanco joined him after sending Tokoph to the loss side 9-4. SVB claimed the hot seat 9-3 in his first of two against Polanco.

Over on the loss side, Gorst lasted four rounds, eventually falling 9-6 to Patsura, who picked up Tokoph, coming over from the winners' side semifinal. Atencio came over and picked up **Lazaro Martinez III**, who'd lost his opening match and won nine straight, including the elimination of Josh Roberts 9-2 and **Shahram Changezi** 9-1.

Atencio stopped Martinez' run 9-1, as Patsura sent Tokoph home 9-7. Patsura made short work of Atencio, downing him 9-1 in the quarterfinals. Polanco checked in with the remarkable comeback from 2-8 down to win the semifinal against Patsura. Van Boening completed his undefeated run with a 9-4, second victory over Polanco in the finals; also available to watch on YouTube (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gZJWR6ITrU>).

*Kibaroglu defeats **Sue Orr** twice to go undefeated and claim Texas Open Ladies title*

They met twice in the 32-entrant Ladies 9-Ball event of the 52nd Texas Open. First, in a winners' side quarterfinal and again, in the finals. Turkey's Eylul Kibaroglu started out in the right direction, racing to 7 and giving up three racks to **Hopey Lawrence**, before giving up only two in the second round to **Teresa Garland**. Racks against her started moving in the opposite direction when she first came up against Sue Orr, who'd been reducing her racks-against through **Michelle Cortez** (4) and Jaiden Barbour (3). Kibaroglu defeated her the first time 7-4 and drew Ming Ng in one of the winners' side semifinals.

Meanwhile, from the other end of the bracket, Tina Malm, bound for the hot seat match, got by **Tracie Hamman** (3), **Jillian Nickerson** (5), and then, shut out **Jacky Halper** to draw **Chris Fields** in the other winners' side semifinal.

Kibaroglu advanced to the hot seat match 7-5 over Ng. She was joined by Malm, who'd sent Fields to the loss side 7-3. Kibaroglu grabbed the hot seat 7-2.

On the loss side, it was Fields who ran into Orr, who'd followed her loss to Kibaroglu with victories over **Tam Trinh** (double hill) and **Courtney Peters** (5). Ng drew **April Gonzales**, who'd lost her opening round match to Courtney Peters 7-4 and set out on a five-match, loss-side winning streak that would take her as far as the quarterfinals.

Both matches for advancement to the quarterfinals were 7-5 battles; Gonzales eliminating Ng, Orr downing Fields. Malm forfeited the semifinal match, allowing Orr to leapfrog into a second match against Kibaroglu in the finals. Kibaroglu punctuated her undefeated run with a shutout over Orr in those finals.

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SKY SOARS AT HOUSTON OPEN

Mary Kenniston / Photos courtesy Pool Action TV

Bogies Billiards West's owner, Cody Parrish, hosted players and fans this past weekend for Denis Strickland's \$10,000 added Houston Nineball Open.

Founded by Strickland in 1999, this year's event was presented by **PoolActionTV.com** with **Jerry Olivier Custom Cues** as the title sponsor. Local sponsors included **Hanshew Custom Cues, Aramith – Billiard Balls, Iwan Simonis, Lomax Custom Cues, Durbin Custom Cues, Savage Billiard Apparel, DIAMOND BILLIARD PRODUCTS Inc.**, and the **Fort Worth Billiards Superstore of Fort Worth, TX.**

Bogies House Pro **Roberto Gomez** welcomed fellow players including

reigning Space City Open XII 9-Ball champ, Alex Calderon, two-time Mosconi Cup MVP Sky Woodward, former 2023 Midwest Open 9 Ball champ and Mosconi Cup XXX team member **Shane Wolford** and England's **Joe Prince** – Ultimate Pool USA's current Arizona Open champion.

Coming off her successful Texas Open Women's 9 Ball title defense, Eylul Kibaroglu, was spotted as well as **Sylvester Ochoa, Ernesto Bayaua, Tommy Tokoph, Justin Espinosa, Raed Shabib** and **Devin Poteet**.

Kicking off the event on Thursday evening was the \$1,000 added mini 9 ball tournament. Thirty seven players competed in this race to seven, winner breaks single elimination event played on oversized Brunswick Gold Crown eight foot tables.

Facing off in the finals was Shane Wolford and **Thomas Haas** with Haas taking it down.

The \$9,000 added main event began the following evening with the players auction, meeting and draw. With 101 players vying for the title, the format was double elimination, winner breaks and races to 9/7.

Racing through the field to the winners side final eight were Alex Calderon, Justin Espinosa, Sky Woodward, **Gabriel Martinez, Derek Fontenot, Devin Poteet, Thomas Haas** and **Richey Orem**.

Moving onto the final four on the winners side was Espinosa, Woodward, Fontenot and Haas. Woodward then defeated Espinosa 9-7 while Haas blistered Fontenot 9-1.

Woodward and Haas then faced off for the hot seat match. Haas was defeated 9-4 and moved to the one loss side to await an opponent while Woodward locked up his seat in the finals.

West side action saw Calderon eliminate Fontenot 7-3 and Poteet took out Espinosa 7-4. Poteet then beat Calderon 7-3 to fight Haas for the other slot in the finals. Calderon had to settle for fourth.

It was a battle but Haas finally claimed victory 7-5 and returned for a rematch with Woodward. Poteet finished in third place.

Looking to sweep both the mini and the main event, Haas saw his hope dashed. He put up a valiant defense but Woodward led throughout the match and took the title 9-5.

Congratulations to both Sky and Thomas for becoming this year's Houston Open champs!

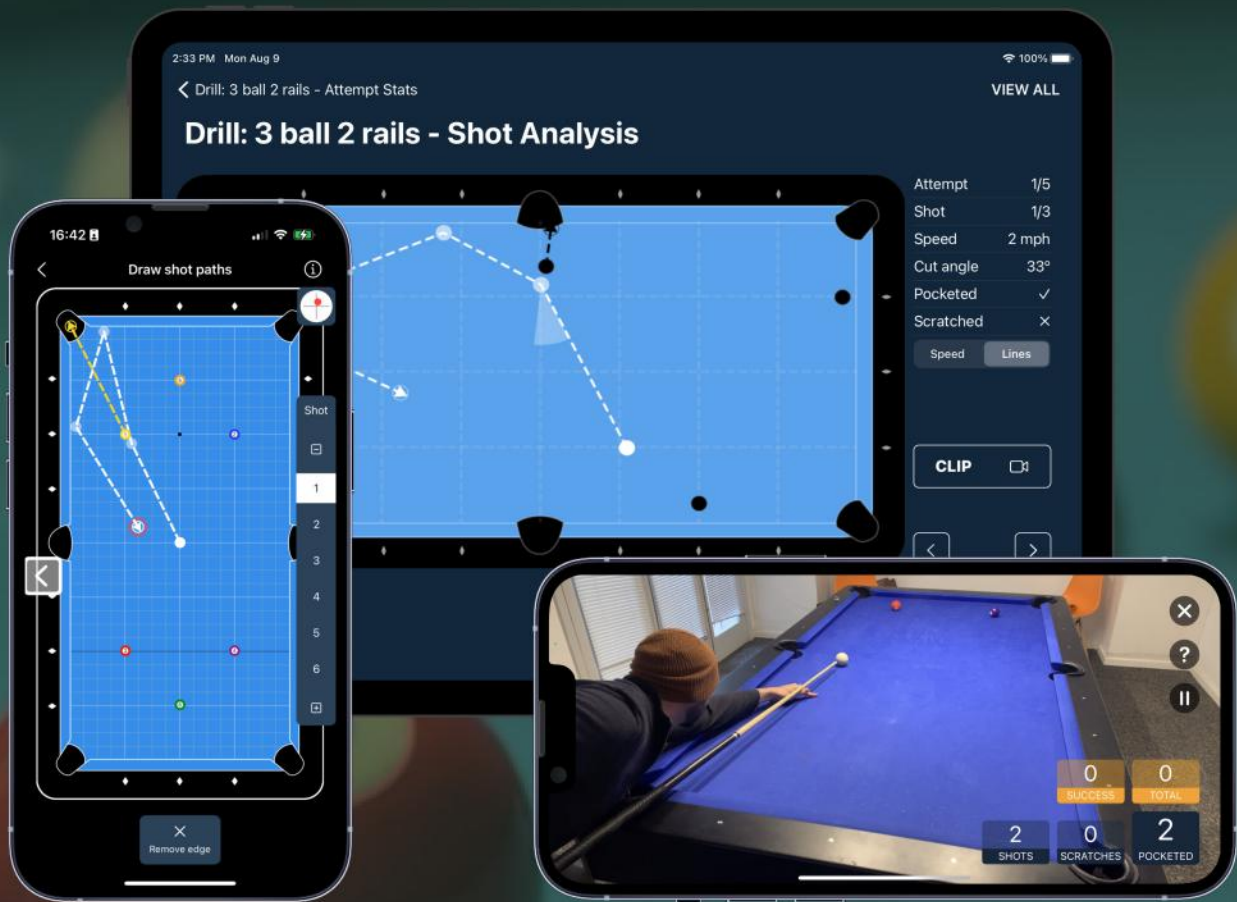


Skyler Woodward



Mini tournament winner Thomas Haas

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CAYER TAKES TWO

OUT OF THREE OVER FRANCIS TO CLAIM MAINE EVENT XVII ON JOSS NE 9-BALL TOUR

Story by Skip Maloney - AzB Staff / Photos courtesy Joss NE 9-Ball Tour

They almost certainly knew he was 'in the house.' One doesn't win three, back-to-back, annual major events on a regional tour without registrants of the fourth year checking the bracket to see if the name is on it.

This past weekend (Sept. 27-28), at the Joss NE 9-Ball Tour's 17th Annual Maine Event, hosted by T.J.'s Classic Billiards in Waterville, ME, the name they were looking for was David Hall, who'd won his first Joss NE 9-Ball Tour title when he won the first of three straight Maine Events. And he was 'in the house,' looking for his fourth straight title. None of the previous three runners-up were on hand;

Alex Osipov ('22), **Beau Powers** ('23) or **Kyle Pepin** ('24).

Who was on hand was Tom Cayer, who'd finished 4th in '23 and 3rd last year. This year, Cayer went undefeated to the hot seat, lost the opening set of a true double-elimination final to **Cody Francis** and won the second set to stop Hall's run as the event's champion at three. The \$2,000-added event drew 48 entrants to T.J.'s this year.

After an opening-round 9-6 win over **Samoth Sam**, Cayer went on to win three straight 9-3 wins over **Tyler Hallowell**, **Greg Murray** and Vince Beau-rivage. He advanced to Sunday morning competition and picked up **Dennis Patenaude** in one of the winners' side semifinals.

From the other end of the bracket, Cody Francis' trip to the hot seat match almost got sidetracked in the



Howard Fogg General Manager, Tom Cayer, Cody Francis and room owner Steve Reynolds



TJ's Classic Billiards

race to 7 in the final against Cayer. Francis' chances were at 26% in the opening set and 29% in the second set. Both sets came within a game of double hill, with Francis winning the first 9-7. Cayer won the second 7-5 to claim the Maine Event XVII title.

Alex McHale went undefeated in a \$500-added Second Chance event that drew 13 entrants. McHale faced and defeated **Doug Masiero** 3-1 to claim the hot seat. Masiero moved west to the semifinals for a rematch against **Robert Lee**, whom he'd defeated in a winners' side semifinal. Lee had come over to the loss side, defeated **John Dennis** 3-1 and survived a double-hill matchup versus Mike Perry to earn the rematch. Lee won it 3-1. The final went double-hill, with McHale claiming the Second Chance title.

Tour director **Mike Zuglan** congratulated Howard McGreehan as the winner of the \$1,800 Joss Cue Raffle and thanked Steve Reynolds, his General Manager Howard Fogg and their T.J. Billiards staff for their hospitality, along with thanks for the tour being "proudly sponsored by"

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The next stop (#4) on the Joss NE 9-Ball Tour, scheduled for this coming weekend (Oct. 4-5) will be a \$1,500-added (\$500-added Second Chance) event, hosted by Winnepesaukee Bar & Billiards in Laconia, NH.

"Winni, as the locals call it," noted Zuglan in a release about the event. "Our thanks go out to Shawn and Eric for inviting us to their new room once again. So let's show them a big Joss Tour welcome by coming to play or watch some great pool action."

opening round. He'd been awarded a bye before matching up with Cristian Fernandez, who battled him to double hill, before giving way, allowing Francis to advance. Francis went on to defeat Gavin Bergeron (2) and **Matt Jarrell** (4), ahead of matching up with the event's three-time defending champion, Hall. Hall had arrived on the heels of two, opening-round 9-4 wins over **Eric Hamel** and Jozy Vienneau, defeated **Nick Coppola** 9-3 and **Chad Bazinet** 9-7 to draw Francis for Sunday morning's other winners' side semifinal.

Cayer got into the hot seat match with 9-5 win over Patenaude and was joined by Francis, who'd booted Hall to the loss side 9-6. Cayer claimed the seat 9-6.

Hall arrived on the loss-side scene and ran into Beurivage, who'd followed his winners' side quarterfinal loss to Cayer with a shutout over **Dan Sharlow** and a 7-4 win over Hamel. Patenaude drew a rematch versus **Bill Longmore**, whom he'd sent to the loss side 9-4 in the third, winners' side round. Longmore won four in a row to reach him, surviving two straight double-hill challenges from Samoth Sam and Matt Jarrell, ahead of eliminating **Steve Reynolds** 7-2 to join the rematch.

The Longmore/Patenaude rematch went double hill before sending Patenaude to the quarterfinals. He was

joined by Hall, who'd eliminated Beurivage 7-2.

"Fasten your seatbelts," Bette Davis was famous for saying in the film All About Eve (1950), "it's going to be a bumpy night." The quarterfinal (Sunday morning) match between Patenaude and Hall didn't shape up to be any kind of epic battle; it was a meeting between a competitor looking to win his fourth straight Maine event title and a competitor looking for his first regional tour win with only three years of recorded history with us here at AZBilliards.

FargoRate 'odds' calculations gave Hall (711) the edge over Patenaude (614), giving Patenaude only an 11% chance of winning their quarterfinal race to 7; such odds are not a calculation regarding a single match, but an assessment of how the matchup would play out if it happened a hundred times. Patenaude would hypothetically win 11 of 100 matches.

It came within a game of double hill, as Patenaude edged out in front near the end to beat the odds and advance to the semifinals, 7-5 over Hall. His (Patenaude's) chances improved as he faced Francis in the semifinals; from 11% against Hall to just over 23% against Francis. Patenaude failed to beat the odds this time, as he finished third after Francis eliminated him 7-2.

If it went that far, Francis had a better 'odds' shot at winning the second-set

INTERNATIONAL CUE COLLECTORS SHOW (ICCS) EXHIBITS IN CHATTANOOGA

The International Cue Collector Show (ICCS) recently held its 16th meeting and exhibition in Chattanooga TN on September 4th-6th at the historic Read House Hotel. This show brings together the biggest pool cue collections in the world, as well as many of the top cuemakers.



This event brought to Chattanooga many of the finest collections of unique cue art and historic cues by the top artists in the field. Top collectors, cuemakers, and invited guests attended and partook in the festivities, including viewing the amazing collections and the invited cuemakers' latest works. Show attendees travelled from Japan, Germany, and every corner of the USA. Works such as the cues exhibited have been displayed in museums around the world, as well as part of the Smithsonian collections.

Chattanooga, a progressive southern city with rich civil war and industrial revolution history, also has a deep-rooted history in pool and a

vibrant pool scene today. Local pool room proprietor Phil Windham, Chattanooga Billiards Club, gave everyone at the show some history on his 45 years in the business and well as how he got into collecting.

Cuemaker Jerry McWorter of Ventura, CA also made an excellent presentation on the history of the ICCS show and its roots with the predecessor shows, Showcase of American Cue Art and Gallery of American Cue Art, which date back to 1995. This is the 30th anniversary of the first major custom cue show that was ever held in the USA.

This show in Chattanooga was the biggest ever, with 24 of the finest per-



Ken Kerner, cuemaker Ernie Gutierrez and his wife, and Sean Brown



Casemaker Clyde Netzley - Jill Hawk Cue Cases

sonal collections from all across the USA, as well as new cue builds and specially commissioned works by 13 of the most famous custom cuemakers from the USA and Japan.

The ICCS is the world's premier cue collecting event and is invitation-only for the collectors and cuemakers. But Saturday, September 6th from 12:30-6:00pm the event was open to the public for a small admission fee. Door prizes for the public included a custom Gilbert cue and two custom JB rugged cases.

"People from the Chattanooga metropolitan area had a unique opportunity to view some of the most outstanding pool cues ever made," said Sean Brown, Partner of the organization which sponsors the ICCS event. Brown is a longtime collector, dealer, and broker from Chattanooga. "This show is the largest and most prestigious event when it comes to high-end, custom made pool cues and cases, and I am thrilled to bring this to my hometown. We are also humbled to be chosen to take over the production of this show from Will Prout and Tom Watters. This can be a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity for show guests and people in the areas we choose to hold these events. The feedback on our first show here in Chattanooga has been nothing short of incredible."

One of the highlights of the show each year is the introduction of the ICCS "Special Collection", a series of cues made by the cuemakers, all conforming to a particular theme. This year's theme was "Elegance in Silver and White" with inspiration taken from the Read House's Silver Ballroom where the event was held. Each cue was to include, but not be limited to, silver



Sean Brown, Matt Conerly, and cuemaker Shelby Williams, winner of the Collectors Choice award

and white and try to capture the art deco "roaring 20's" feel of the hotel's grand ballroom.

These Special Collection cues were then auctioned off individually to the highest bidders. The cues fetched anywhere from \$5,000 to an astonishing \$101,101 for the unbelievably beautiful new build by Exceed Cues from Japan. There were even two cases built for this special collection by Phil Eastwood/ Quiverz Sport Cases and Jill Hawk Cue Cases. Both were auctioned off as well and found new homes with happy collectors.

Jason McCracken, ICCS Partner, of Wichita, KS added, "Hosting the ICCS is a great privilege and we were fortunate to be able to gather the best of the best in Chattanooga. I'm proud to be part of this team and we will passionately carry on this tradition. We intend to take the show to even greater heights and get more people interested in our hobby, growing collecting into the future."

Congratulations to Shelby Williams of Sherman, TX, for his special collection



Nick Varner and cuemaker Bill McDaniel

entry winning the prestigious Collector's Choice Award, which is voted on during Saturday morning's collector meeting. This award is presented for the most outstanding new cue as judged by the collectors. Another ICCS show tradition, the Grand Collection, is a large group of cues that are assembled on Saturday afternoon in which every show participant can choose to enter their favorite cue, and then everyone at the show including the public can vote on which one of these is their favorite. Phil Windham's "Twisted Pair" by Pete Tonkin edged out a few other notable high end cues to win this award.



Richard Black

"It was great seeing cuemaker John Bender, a first-time exhibiting maker from Kinnelon, NJ, really step out of the box and design a masterpiece special collection entry" added Matt Conerly, ICCS Partner. "John's cue really captures the essence of art deco style and was one of the hits of the show. One of the things that makes this show special is how closely the collectors and the makers collaborate, and out of this many new designs and ideas for cues are born. You could say this show directly helps to drive cue design and it has always been this way. We are happy to be a part of this synergy."



Also, congratulations to cuemakers Thomas Wayne and Jerry McWorter on winning Trailblazer Awards, which are given for enduring contributions to the art of the cue.

The International Cue Collector Show (ICCS) is typically held in different regions of the country every few years. It brings together the top cuemakers and collectors from all over the world.



Follow the ICCS for future announcements and show venues on their facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/share/1GgkiwWeG/?mibextid=wwXlfr>

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BIADO AND GORST SET FOR BLOCKBUSTER REYES CUP SHOWDOWN

A new rivalry is born – The World unites to battle on Team Asia in Manila, October 16-19 2025

World Number One **Fedor Gorst** and reigning World Champion **Carlo Biado** are the first confirmed players for the second edition of the Reyes Cup, set to face off once again following their thrilling clash in this year's World Pool Championship final.

In partnership with Puyat Sports, the 2025 Reyes Cup will once again set to

electrify the Ninoy Aquino Stadium in Manila. Fans can catch all the action live on Sky Sports, One Sports, and WNT TV, with further broadcast information to be announced soon.

Fresh off his World Pool Championship victory, Carlo Biado rises to second on the rankings and will once again carry the flag for Team Asia. Unlike in 2024, when he was a wildcard,

Biado now secures his spot through the rankings, setting him up to defend the Reyes Cup title on home soil.

Biado commented: "I'm so proud to be back for the Reyes Cup, this time as a top-ranked qualifier. Winning the World Championship gave me so much confidence, and to now represent Team Asia again, in front of our home fans in Manila, is very special. Facing Fedor again will be exciting – I'm ready for another big battle."

Fedor Gorst has secured his place as the top-ranked player heading into the Reyes Cup. Making his debut in the transcontinental spectacle, Gorst will spearhead the new Team Rest of the World as they prepare to take down title defenders Team Asia.

Gorst said: "It feels incredible to qualify as World Number One and to make my Reyes Cup debut. This is such a huge event for our sport, and I can't wait to lead Team Rest of the World into battle. We know Team Asia will be strong, but I believe we have what it takes to make history in Manila."

“

WINNING THE WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP GAVE ME SO MUCH CONFIDENCE, AND TO NOW REPRESENT TEAM ASIA AGAIN, IN FRONT OF OUR HOME FANS IN MANILA, IS VERY SPECIAL.

– Carlo Biado

”



Carlo Biado



With both Biado and Gorst confirmed, fans can look forward to a repeat clash of this year's World Pool Championship final, where Biado defeated Gorst to claim the world title. Will Gorst seize redemption, or can Biado and Team Asia defend their crown?

There remain two more qualification spots for each team, which will be confirmed at the conclusion of the Hanoi Open Pool Championship (7-12 October 2025), alongside the final wildcard selections.

The 2025 Reyes Cup takes place 16-19 October at Manila's Ninoy Aquino Stadium, with live coverage on Sky Sports, One Sports, and WNT TV. Further event information, including broadcast details and sessions times will be announced soon.

For all the latest news and updates, follow Matchroom Pool on Facebook, Instagram and X, TikTok and YouTube.

Fedor Gorst



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EVERYTHING YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT THE PHILIPPINES OPEN POOL CHAMPIONSHIP 2025

The countdown is on! The World Nineball Tour, in partnership with Puyat Sports, is bringing a brand-new Matchroom Major to Manila this October, as the Philippines Open Pool Championship takes centre stage 21–26 October at Gateway Mall, Quezon City, live on One Sport and WNT TV.

Hot on the heels of the **Reyes Cup (16–19 October)**, the Philippines Open cements Manila's status as the world's pool capital, showcasing the very best players on the planet in a week of unmissable action.

Top Players To Watch

The Philippines Open will welcome a world-class lineup of stars ready to battle it out for the inaugural title, featuring top names such as:

- **Carlo Biado** – reigning World Champion
- **Johann Chua** – reigning Hanoi Open champion
- **Francisco Sánchez Ruiz** – former World Champion
- **Jayson Shaw** – seven-time Mosconi Cup winner
- **Anton Raga**
- **David Alcaide**
- **Duong Quoc Hoang**
- **Bernie Regalario**
- **Mickey Krause**
- **James Aranas**

And with many more top players set to join, the elite field promises fans the very best of both established champions and hungry young challengers under one roof.

Format & Field

The Philippines Open will feature a 128-player field, bringing together

the very best from across the globe. The highest ranked 64 WNT Pros who enter will be seeded, while the remaining 64 spots will be filled on a



first-come, first-serve basis, giving unseeded challengers the chance to take on the sport's biggest names. Round 1 will see seeded stars drawn directly against unseeded challengers, ensuring drama from the opening break. This is a single elimination event — one loss and you're out, making every match a high-pressure battle.

Where to Watch

Fans in the Philippines and around the world will be able to follow every moment, with the action broadcast live on One Sport, WNT TV, and through the World Nineball Tour's international partners. Further broadcast details will be announced in the coming weeks.

The Prize Fund

With a prize fund of \$125,000, including \$30,000 for the champion, Puyat

Sports and Matchroom are making a major investment into the growth of nineball in the Philippines.

- 1st: \$30,000
- 2nd: \$12,000
- 3rd/4th: \$7,000
- 5th–8th: \$4,250
- 9th–16th: \$2,500
- 17th–32nd: \$1,000
- 33rd–64th: \$500
- **Total Prize Pot: \$125,000**

Reigning World Champion Carlo Bido shared his excitement: “Having a major World Nineball Tour event in Manila is a dream come true. Playing in front of the home crowd always gives me extra motivation, and with the world's best coming here, I know the competition will be fierce. This is a huge moment for Philippine pool, and I can't wait to be part of it.”

Mr Aristeo “Putch” Puyat, commented: “Bringing the Philippines Open Pool Championship to Manila is a milestone moment for our country and for the sport. The Philippines has produced some of the greatest cue artists in history, and now we have the stage to showcase them against the world's best in front of the most passionate fans anywhere. Together with the World Nineball Tour, we are proud to strengthen our nation's legacy as the true heart of pool.”

This is set to be a landmark moment for Nineball pool, with Manila joining global host cities such as London, Orlando, and Hanoi. With the world's best competing in front of one of the sport's most passionate fanbases, the inaugural Philippines Open Pool Championship promises to be an unforgettable new chapter in the WNT calendar.

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 - 9 Chen Hsin Ting \$800
 - 9 Harry Vergara \$800
 - 9 Hui-chan Lu \$800
 - 9 Michael Feliciano \$800
 - 9 Ping Han Ko \$800
 - 9 Ri Teng Liu \$800
 - 9 Sun Yi Hsuan \$800
 - 9 Xu Xiao Cong \$800
 - 17 Alex Pagulayan \$400
 - 17 Aloysius Yapp \$400
 - 17 Alvin Anggito \$400
 - 17 Che-Wei Fu \$400
 - 17 Chen Wei \$400
 - 17 Chia-Chen Hsieh \$400
 - 17 Hsuan-Wei Kuo \$400
 - 17 Jonas Souto Comino \$400
 - 17 Jose Alberto Delgado \$400
 - 17 Kun Lin Wu \$400
 - 17 Marvin Asis \$400
 - 17 Pei-Wei Chang \$400
 - 17 Tobias Bongers \$400
 - 17 Toh Lian Han \$400
 - 17 Van Huynh Nguyen \$400
 - 17 Wang Hung Hsiang \$400
- Sep 04 - Sep 07
- 2025 Houston Open
- Bogies Billiards West
- Houston, Texas
- 1 Skyler Woodward \$6,500
 - 2 Thomas Haas \$5,000

- 3 Devin Poteet \$2,000
- 4 Alejandro Calderon \$1,500
- 5 Derek Fontenot \$1,000
- 5 Justin Espinosa \$1,000
- 7 Chase Stumfoll \$600
- 7 Joey Bourgeois Jr. \$600
- 9 Gabriel Martinez \$500
- 9 Joey Torres \$500
- 9 Richey Orem \$500
- 9 Roberto Gomez \$500
- 13 Eylul Kybaroglu \$325
- 13 Joe Prince \$325
- 13 Mark Garza \$325
- 13 Raed Shabib \$325

Sep 06 - Sep 14

2025 China Open

Shanghai China

- 1 Wojciech Szewczyk \$40,000
- 2 Jin-Hu Dang \$20,000
- 3 Daniel Maciol \$10,000
- 3 Fedor Gorst \$10,000
- 5 Jui An Hsu \$6,000
- 5 Kun Lin Wu \$6,000
- 5 Naoyuki Oi \$6,000
- 5 Stefan Kasper \$6,000
- 9 Alex Pagulayan \$3,000
- 9 Che-Wei Fu \$3,000
- 9 Hayato Hijikata \$3,000
- 9 Jeffrey De Luna \$3,000
- 9 Joshua Filler \$3,000
- 9 Maximilian Lechner \$3,000
- 9 Oliver Szolnoki \$3,000
- 9 Sun Yi Hsuan \$3,000
- 17 Albin Ouschan \$2,000
- 17 Alexandros Kazakis \$2,000
- 17 Aloysius Yapp \$2,000
- 17 Casper Matikainen \$2,000
- 17 Denis Grabe \$2,000
- 17 Gerson Martinez \$2,000
- 17 Henry Nguyen \$2,000

- 17 Jeffrey Ignacio \$2,000
- 17 Mario He \$2,000
- 17 Odsuren Baasandorj \$2,000
- 17 Ralf Souquet \$2,000
- 17 Robbie Capito \$2,000
- 17 Sanjin Pehlivanovic \$2,000
- 17 Szymon Kural \$2,000
- 17 Tobias Bongers \$2,000
- 17 Zhen Qi Xue \$2,000

Sep 06 - Sep 06

Village Cue Club International Qualifier

Village Cue Club

- North Palm Beach, Florida
- 1 Jesus Borjas \$250
 - 2 Sergio Del Puerto \$190
 - 3 Sam Kantar \$105
 - 3 Willie Rubin \$105

Sep 06 - Sep 06

Mezz Cues LA 9-Ball Series Stop

Good Timez Billiards

- Huntsville, Alabama
- 1 Shahdad Zand \$720
 - 2 Daniel Martinez \$720
 - 3 Keegan Badour \$320
 - 4 Jose Centeno \$200
 - 5 Chaokun Li \$140
 - 5 Mark Barba \$140
 - 7 David Nichols \$90
 - 7 James Cabal \$90

Sep 06 - Sep 07

Battle in the Basement Open 8-Ball

Forest City Billiards

- Portland, ME

- 1 Alex Bausch \$5,000
- 2 Tommy Cayer \$3,000
- 3 Chad Bazinet \$2,000
- 4 Lukas Fracasso-Verner \$1,150
- 5 Dave Hall \$800
- 5 Joe Dupuis \$800
- 7 Dillon Nickerson \$600
- 7 Ivaylo Petrov \$600
- 9 Jeremy Sossei \$300
- 9 Jose Mendez \$300
- 9 Kyle Pepin \$300
- 9 Samoth Sam \$300
- 13 Cody Porter \$200
- 13 Hunter Smutney \$200
- 13 Kevin Bauccio \$200
- 13 Scott Haskell \$200

Sep 06 - Sep 14

2025 China Open Ladies Division

Shanghai

- Shanghai,
- 1 Chihiro Kawahara \$36,000
 - 2 Sha Sha Liu \$18,000
 - 3 Jasmin Ouschan \$9,000
 - 3 Xiao-Fang Fu \$9,000
 - 5 Kristina Tkach \$5,400
 - 5 Ruo Lin Chen \$5,400
 - 5 Tzu-Chien Wei \$5,400
 - 5 Xiao Tong Wang \$5,400
 - 9 Chezka Centeno \$2,700
 - 9 Chia Hua Chen \$2,700
 - 9 Chieh-Yu Chou \$2,700
 - 9 Ge Bai \$2,700
 - 9 Kelly Fisher \$2,700
 - 9 Mu Yan Zhang \$2,700
 - 9 Seo Seo \$2,700
 - 9 Xin Yu Hong \$2,700

Sep 11 - Sep 14

3rd Annual Stevie Chan Memorial

Piazza's Sports Bar

- Aurora, Colorado
- 1 Joe Prince \$5,000
 - 2 Chase Stumfoll \$2,500
 - 3 Chris Reinhold \$1,500
 - 4 Gabe Owen \$1,100
 - 5 Joven Bustamante \$850

- 5 Tom D'Alfonso \$850
- 7 Benny Conway \$650
- 7 Spencer Ladin \$650
- 9 Greg Romero \$450
- 9 Kiko Ibarra \$450
- 9 Nick Tafoya \$450
- 9 Steven Wyatt \$450
- 13 Dino Devost \$300
- 13 Joao Sias \$300
- 13 Marc Vidal Claramunt \$300
- 13 Ruben Silva \$300
- 17 Andrew Pettenger \$150
- 17 Frank Urbaniak \$150
- 17 Jackie Yang \$150
- 17 Justin Stewart \$150
- 17 Larry Romero \$150
- 17 Mike Willeford \$150
- 17 Sharik Sayed \$150
- 17 Teddy Garrahan \$150
- 25 Adam Sisneros \$125
- 25 Billy Skinner \$125
- 25 Greg Kingsbury \$125
- 25 James Beckemeyer \$125
- 25 Jose Cruz \$125
- 25 Kevin Blackstock \$125
- 25 Ryan Henry \$125
- 25 Tony Piazza \$125

Sep 13 - Sep 14

Joss Tour 2025-2026 Stop 1

Billiard Breakdown

- Rochester, NY
- 1 Bucky Souvanthong \$1,200
 - 2 Bryzen Manipula \$850
 - 3 Brad Guthrie \$650
 - 4 Robert Czupryniak \$500
 - 5 Barry Hetherington \$350
 - 5 Ken Donald \$350
 - 7 Jake Jackson \$200
 - 7 Qais Kolee \$200
 - 9 Bob Mendenjian \$100
 - 9 Eric Hamel \$100
 - 9 Marco Kam \$100
 - 9 Ron Casanzio \$100

Sep 13 - Sep 13

Q City 9-Ball Tour Stop

Dot's Cue Club

- Rocky Mount, NC

- 1 Steven Page \$750
- 2 Jason Rogers \$480
- 3 Adam Davis \$280
- 4 Wendell Thompkins \$150
- 5 Chris McSorley \$125
- 5 Lazarus Green \$125

Sep 13 - Sep 13

Village Cue Club One Pocket Club Season Finale

Village Cue Club

- North Palm Beach, Florida
- 1 Chris Crum \$800
 - 2 Dennis Searing \$500
 - 3 Dave Tortorice \$300
 - 4 Sam Kantar \$200
 - 5 Felix Arriola \$100
 - 5 Greg Deaton \$100

Sep 13 - Sep 14

Joss Tour 2025-2026 # 2nd Chance

Billiard Breakdown

- Rochester, NY
- 1 Frank Wolak \$330
 - 2 Corey Payne \$220
 - 3 Nick Coppola \$150
 - 4 Dave Copperwheat \$150
 - 5 Dave Engst \$50
 - 5 Dave Mills \$50

Sep 17 - Sep 28

WPA World 10-Ball Championship 2025

Quan Khu 7 Stadium

- Ho Chi Minh
- 1 Ping-Chung Ko \$70,000
 - 2 Alexandros Kazakis \$40,000
 - 3 Carlo Biado \$17,500
 - 3 Shane Van Boening \$17,500
 - 5 Aloysius Yapp \$8,750
 - 5 Marco Teutscher \$8,750
 - 5 Mark Estiola \$8,750
 - 5 Oliver Szolnoki \$8,750
 - 9 Alex Montpellier \$4,375
 - 9 Daniel Maciol \$4,375
 - 9 Jonas Magpantay \$4,375
 - 9 Jonas Souto Comino \$4,375

9 Pin-Yi Ko \$4,375
9 Quoc Hoang Duong \$4,375
9 Tae Young Ko \$4,375
9 Wojciech Szewczyk \$4,375
17 AJ Manas \$2,188
17 Jeffrey De Luna \$2,188
17 Joshua Filler \$2,188
17 Kledio Kaci \$2,188
17 Konrad Juszczyszyn \$2,188
17 Kun Lin Wu \$2,188
17 Marco Spitzky \$2,188
17 Mark Magi \$2,188
17 Mateusz Sniegocki \$2,188
17 Moritz Neuhausen \$2,188
17 Naoyuki Oi \$2,188
17 Pin-Yi Ko \$2,188
17 Robbie Capito \$2,188
17 Ruslan Chinakhov \$2,188
17 Sun Yi Hsuan \$2,188
17 Szymon Kural \$2,188

Sep 17 - Sep 19

2025 Box Billiards Mixed Doubles Open

Vietnam

1 Joshua Filler \$20,000
1 Pia Filler \$20,000
2 Chieh-Yu Chou \$10,000
2 Ping-Chung Ko \$10,000
3 Maximilian Lechner \$5,000
3 Robbie Capito \$5,000
3 Seo Seoa \$5,000
3 Shui Ching Chiang \$5,000
5 Fedor Gorst \$2,500
5 Han Yu \$2,500
5 Kristina Tkach \$2,500
5 Kun Lin Wu \$2,500
5 Pin-Yi Ko \$2,500
5 Ping Han Ko \$2,500
5 Tzu-Chien Wei \$2,500
5 Yi-Yun Su \$2,500

Sep 19 - Sep 21

Rack & Grill Open 9-Ball

The Rack & Grill III

Aiken, SC
1 Brandon Shuff \$2,000

2 Hunter White \$1,120
3 Josh Roberts \$700
4 Richard Kilgore \$500
5 Francisco Diaz-Pizarro \$300
5 Jonathan Pinegar \$300
7 Jason Steman \$220
7 Kim Davenport \$220
9 Chris Worsham \$160
9 George Rothrock \$160
9 Robbie Shelley \$160
9 Tony Barrington \$160
13 Bill Eisenhard \$100
13 Brett Underwood \$100
13 Darryl Davis \$100
13 Tracy Prescott \$100

Sep 19 - Sep 21

Rack & Grill Open One Pocket

The Rack & Grill III

Aiken, SC
1 Francisco Diaz-Pizarro \$2,600
2 Paul Song \$1,300
3 Brandon Shuff \$820
4 Hunter White \$600
5 Josh Roberts \$360
5 Richard Kilgore \$360
7 Brett Underwood \$220
7 Jonathan Pinegar \$220
9 Aj mera \$180
9 David Cantrell \$180
9 Johnny Stone \$180
9 Tim Orange \$180

Sep 20 - Sep 21

Joss Tour 2025-2026 Stop 2

Yale Billiards

Wallingford, Connecticut
1 Jeremy Sossei \$1,150
2 Christoph Neumayer \$800
3 Dylan Spohr \$600
4 Bob Mendenjian \$450
5 Aiden Wagner \$300
5 Pete Genovese \$300
7 Ryan Cullen \$200
7 Yesid Garibello \$200
9 Alex Osipov \$100
9 Frankie Hernandez \$100

9 Mike Salerno \$100
9 Ron Piontkowski \$100

Sep 20 - Sep 21

Q City 9-Ball Tour Stop

Mickey Milligan's Sports Bar

New Bern, NC
1 Wilson Dorsey \$600
2 Jack Whitfield \$400
3 Adam Davis \$200
4 Tyrone Davis \$100
5 Dylan Whaley \$55
5 George Edinger \$55

Sep 20 - Sep 21

Joss Tour 2026-2026 Stop 2 Second Chance

Yale Billiards

Wallingford, Connecticut
1 Mark Nanashee \$300
2 Bruce Carroll \$200
3 Pascal Dufresne \$120
4 Christian Cabera \$80
5 Bob Ellis \$50
5 Sheikh Ahmed \$50

Sep 20 - Sep 21

2025 DFW 9-Ball Tour Stop #9

Jeffro's Billiards

Canton, Tx
1 Easton Rogers \$1,150
2 Gavin Mathew \$770
3 Luis Lopez Cruz \$490
4 Jesse Moore \$300
5 Gus Briseno \$220
5 Varoon Victor \$220
7 Juan Parra \$170
7 Robert Clark \$170

Sep 20 - Sep 21

2025 Battle on the Barbox

Hot Shots Billiards

Byram, MS
1 Ronald Holdness \$3,050
2 Brandon Rice \$1,600
3 Robb Saez \$1,020

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5 Billy Sanders \$440
7 John Adams \$260
7 Lon Williamson \$260
9 Jimmy Springfield \$160
9 Keith Morgan \$160
9 Mike Saleh \$160
9 Raymond Procell \$160

Sep 20 - Sep 26

Saigon Women's 9-Ball Open

Vietnam

1 Tzu-Chien Wei \$22,500
2 Rubilen Amit \$13,125
3 Carmille Buhat \$6,563
3 Han Yu \$6,563
5 Chieh-Yu Chou \$3,281
5 Jasmin Ouschan \$3,281
5 Mu Yan Zhang \$3,281
5 Xiao-Fang Fu \$3,281
9 Chia Chou \$1,641
9 Chia Hua Chen \$1,641
9 Chihiro Kawahara \$1,641
9 Pia Filler \$1,641
9 Savannah Easton \$1,641
9 Seo Seoa \$1,641
9 Wan-Ling Wang \$1,641
9 Xin Yu Hong \$1,641

Sep 25 - Sep 28

Predator Dutch Open Women

Bonte Wever Hotel

Assen Netherland
1 Ina Kaplan \$3,520
2 Sandra Baumgartner \$2,200
3 Bojana Sarac \$1,650
3 Tamara Rademakers \$1,650
5 Ana Gradisnik \$990
5 Darya Siranchuk \$990
5 Lena Primus \$990
5 Wendy Jans \$990
9 Chantal Stadler \$440
9 Christine Steinlage \$440
9 Kamila Khodjaeva \$440
9 Nina Torvund \$440
9 Riikka Vayrynen \$440
9 Sabrina Hammer \$440

9 Silvia Lopez Fibla \$440
9 Vivien Heine \$440

Sep 25 - Sep 28

Predator EuroTour Dutch Open 2025

Bonte Wever Hotel

Assen Netherlands
1 Dominik Jastrzab \$6,600
2 Tobias Bongers \$5,060
3 Marc Bijsterbosch \$3,300
3 Wiktor Fortunski \$3,300
5 Almin Salkic \$1,925
5 Dennis Laszkowski \$1,925
5 Ramazan Akdag \$1,925
5 Tim Jonkman \$1,925
9 Alvaro Canoniga \$1,375
9 Andre Wansner \$1,375
9 Fadil Ozdemir \$1,375
9 Ivica Putnik \$1,375
9 Juri Pisklov \$1,375
9 Karl Gnadeberg \$1,375
9 Konrad Piekarski \$1,375
9 Wiktor Zielinski \$1,375
17 Amil Andre Gangflot \$797
17 Fatjon Lamce \$797
17 Holger Gries \$797
17 Hubert Lopotko \$797
17 Ivo Aarts \$797
17 Jan Rempe \$797
17 Jan Van Lierop \$797
17 Jaroslav Polach \$797
17 Joel Kartowikromo \$797
17 Kestutis Zadeikis \$797
17 Marius Skoneczny \$797
17 Martin Steinlage \$797
17 Mika van Berkel \$797
17 Pelayo Cueli Hurtado \$797
17 Roger Lysholm \$797
17 Yannick Pongers \$797
33 Adrian Pollard \$330
33 Adrian Weiss \$330
33 Arkadiusz Brzekowski \$330
33 Christos Papageorgiou \$330
33 Iker Andoni Echeverria \$330
33 Iris Gashi \$330
33 Jere Virtaranta \$330
33 Kevin Silva \$330

33 Lars Kuckherm \$330
33 Lazar Kostic \$330
33 Maks Benko \$330
33 Matous Vlk \$330
33 Muhamet Ramadani \$330
33 Roman Hybler \$330
33 Rudy van der Veen \$330
33 Stefan Nölle \$330

Sep 27 - Sep 28

The Maine Event XVII

TJ's Classic Billiards

Waterville, Maine
1 Tommy Cayer \$1,000
2 Cody Francis \$750
3 Dennis Patenaude \$600
4 Dave Hall \$450
5 Bill Longmore \$300
5 Vincent Beaurivage \$300
7 Eric Hamel \$200
7 Steve Reynolds \$200
9 Chad Bazinet \$100
9 Dan Sharlow \$100
9 Jim Hayden \$100
9 Matt Jarrell \$100

Sep 27 - Sep 27

Village Cue Club International Semi Pro Qualifier

Village Cue Club

North Palm Beach, Florida
1 Chris Crum \$250
2 Dylan Bryant \$170
3 Christian Lopez \$120
3 Gary Gilsinan \$120

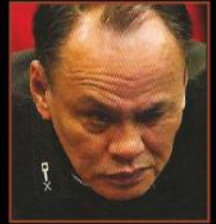
Sep 27 - Sep 27

Q City 9-Ball Tour Stop

Action Billiards

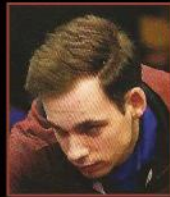
Inman, SC
1 Hunter Zayas \$800
2 Jon Jon Newman \$500
3 Brian Davis \$280
4 Dayne Miller \$140
5 Kirk Hixon \$110
5 Phil Stalls \$110

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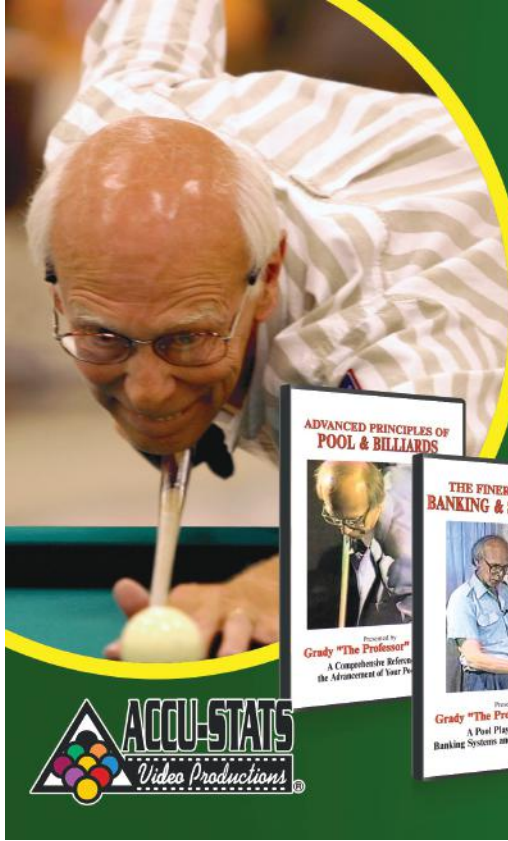
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The Darkside
Of the Moon



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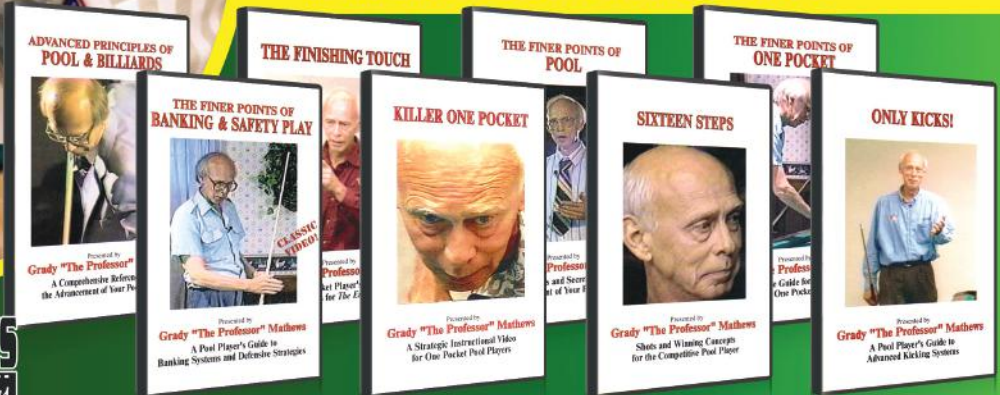
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- 2024 World 10-Ball Champion
- 2022 World Teams 10-Ball Champion
- 2017 World 9-Ball Champion
- 2017 World Games Gold Medal



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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.

OCTOBER/NOVEMBER

Tenth Annual Seniors One Pocket Classic

Oct 01 - Oct 05

Bogies Billiards & Games East
Houston, TX

Joss Tour 2025-2026 Stop 4

Oct 04 - Oct 05

Winnie Bar and Billiards
Laconia, NH

2025 Yalin WPA Women World 10-Ball Championship

Oct 07 - Oct 12

Indonesia

Hanoi Open Pool Championship 2025

Oct 07 - Oct 12

Vietnam

WPA Yalin World 8-Ball Championship 2025

Oct 09 - Oct 13

Indonesia

West Coast Women's Tour 2025 Stop 6

Oct 11 - Oct 11

Diamond Billiards
Modesto, California

JPNEWT Tour 2025 Stop #6

Oct 11 - Oct 12

Yale Billiards
Wallingford, Connecticut

2025 Reyes Cup

Oct 16 - Oct 19

Manila Philippines

3rd Annual Madison 3 Cushion International Open

Oct 16 - Oct 19

Madison, WI

Arizona Women's Billiards Tour 2025 Stop 7

Oct 18 - Oct 19

Metro Sports Bar & Billiards
Fayetteville, GA

17th Annual "Cues for the Cure" Breast Cancer Fundraiser

Oct 18 - Oct 18

Corner Pocket
Largo, FL

Philippines Open Pool Championship

Oct 21 - Oct 26

Manila Philippines

NWPA Tour 2025 Stop 6

Oct 25 - Oct 26

Ox Billiards
Seattle, Washington

2025 WPBA Aramith / Dr Pool Classic

Nov 12 - Nov 16

Central Wisconsin Convention
and Expo Center
Rothschild, Wisconsin

Ultimate Pool USA National Open

Nov 13 - Nov 15

Harrah's Cherokee Casino Resort
Cherokee, NC

2025 International 9-Ball Open

Nov 14 - Nov 23

World Golf Village Renaissance
St. Augustine, FL

West Coast Women's Tour 2025 Stop 7

Nov 15 - Nov 15

Hard Times Billiards -
Sacramento
Sacramento, CA

JPNEWT Tour 2025 Stop #7

Nov 15 - Nov 16

Racks Billiards & Bar
Vernon, Connecticut

Arizona Women's Billiards Tour 2025 Stop 8

Nov 22 - Nov 23

Bullshooters
Phoenix, AZ

AZBILLIARDS MONEY LIST

	NAME	COUNTRY	\$ AMOUNT	
	Carlo Biado	 PHI	282.250,00 US\$	
	Fedor Gorst	 USA	248.200,00 US\$	
	Aloysius Yapp	 SIN	225.950,00 US\$	
	Joshua Filler	 GER	172.740,00 US\$	
	Shane Van Boening	 ALB	149.900,00 US\$	
	Ko Ping Chung	 TPE	116.000,00 US\$	↑
	Kledio Kaci	 USA	83.038,00 US\$	↓
	Alex Kazakis	 GRE	82.871,00 US\$	↑
	Wojciech Szewczyk	 POL	75.623,00 US\$	↑
	Johann Chua	 PHI	75.000,00 US\$	↓

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Nov. 14-23 2025



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INTL 9-BALL
CHAMPION
'23 & '24



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RENAISSANCE RESORT AT WORLD OF GOLF VILLAGE
ST. AUGUSTINE, FL



BIG FOOT INVITATIONAL 10-BALL

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 14 THRU MONDAY, NOVEMBER 17

16 PLAYERS — \$500 ENTRY FEE — SINGLE ELIMINATION — SEMIS & FINALS ON MONDAY, 11/17 AT 2, 5, & 8

\$8,000 added

14

INTL STRAIGHT POOL OPEN

Formerly Peter Burrows' American 14.1 Straight Pool Championship

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 14 THRU TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 18

42 PLAYERS — \$400 ENTRY FEE — ROUND ROBIN — SEMIS & FINALS ON TUESDAY, 11/18 AT 12, 3, & 7:30

\$20,000 added

1

INTL 1-POCKET OPEN

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 14 THRU WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 19

150 PLAYERS — \$200 ENTRY FEE — SINGLE ELIMINATION — \$100 BUY-BACK — SEMIS & FINALS ON WED, 11/19 AT 12, 3, & 7:30

\$20,000 added

9

INTL 9-BALL SEMI-PRO OPEN

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 18 THRU SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 22

192 PLAYERS — \$125 ENTRY FEE, \$25 REGISTRATION, — SINGLE ELIMINATION. — \$50 BUY-BACK — 650 FARGO MAXIMUM FINALS ON SATURDAY, 11/22 AT 10AM

\$10,000 added

9

INTL 9-BALL OPEN

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 19 THRU SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 23

128 PLAYERS — \$750 ENTRY FEE — DOUBLE ELIMINATION — SEMIS & FINALS ON SUNDAY, 11/23 AT 2, 4:30 & 7:30

\$75,000 added

JR

JUNIOR TOURNAMENT

16 BOYS, 8 GIRLS FINALS ON SUNDAY 11/23 AT 10 AM AND NOON

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 21 THRU SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 23

BCA HALL OF FAMERS EXHIBITION MATCH, FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 21ST
WITH ANNUAL BCA HALL OF FAME BANQUET ON SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 22ND

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