

# Billiard Buzz

an  publication

Vol. 5, Issue October 2020



# EMILY

## Eyes The Future

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# Billiards Buzz

Volume 5, Issue #48

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**COVER PHOTO:**

Courtesy Erwin Dionisio

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# FROM THE Head Rail

MIKE HOWERTON

In the pages of this month's Billiard Buzz, loyal readers will find what is becoming the norm these days, more tournament cancellations. The 2020 International Open, 2020 Super Billiard Expo and 2020 Atlantic Challenge Cup have all been cancelled. For a breath of fresh air though, there is also the announcement that January's Turning Stone Classic XXXIV is still on schedule to happen. Let's hope that stays the case and that 2021 can start off on a positive note.



In other positive news, check out this month's feature story on our recent interview with Emily Frazer. Emily has a great outlook on where the game can go and how she hopes to get it there. Our article touches on highlights from that interview, but for readers who are intrigued with what she has to say, you can check out the entire interview online at <https://www.poolpodcasts.com/>.

We also now have complete teams for Mosconi Cup, as all ten players have been named. With just over two months before that event, start the debating on which team you think has the edge.

We are also very proud to have gotten the new (version 5) of Az-Billiards online last month. If you haven't checked it out, fire up your favorite browser and head on over. For the first time, we can also proudly suggest for you to check it out with your mobile device. It took us long enough, but we now have a truly responsive site for mobile use.

Until next time,  
Mike

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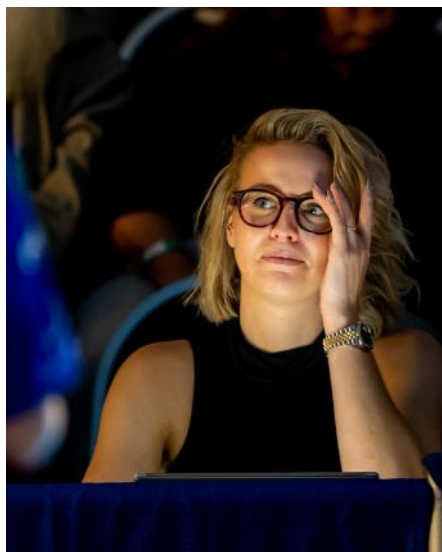
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12 COVER FEATURE:

## Emily Frazer Describes Her Vision

Article by AzB Staff  
Photos courtesy Erwin Dionisio



## 26 Hewitt Wins Quebec Tour Opener

Article by Skip Maloney  
Photos courtesy of Predator Quebec Tour



## 30 Mosconi Cup Teams Complete

Press Releases and photos courtesy Matchroom Multisport

## 06 The Shot After The Shot

Jerry Briesath

## 07 Strengthen Mental Muscle Memory

Dr. Chris Stankovich

## 08 Who Is Your Pool Alter Ego

Anthony Beeler

## 11 Gospel Trick Shots

Steve Lillis

## 20 Kelly Fisher Wins WPBA Tournament of Champions

Article by Skip Maloney

Photo courtesy Erwin Dionisio

## 24 Childress Goes Undefeated

Article by Skip Maloney

Photos courtesy of Erwin Dionisio

## 28 Scorpion Wins Old School Showdown

## 38 Black Widow Joins Cameo

## 40 Sharivari Joins Supr Charged Agency

## 42 2020 International Open Cancelled

## 43 Super Billiards Expo Cancelled

## 44 Turning Stone Classic Still Planned

## 45 Atlantic Challenge Cup Cancelled



**JERRY BRIESATH**

# ***A TIP TO HELP YOU WIN, OR KEEP YOU FROM LOSING***

**Some pool playing tips are designed to help you play better and win, while others are designed to keep you from losing — is there a difference?**

**T**here is a shot that most pros refer to as the most difficult shot on the table and when they think about the shot, their eyes roll back in their head as they remember the times when the shot cost them a crucial game or match, and it's not the tough shot you might think it is.

Remember the times when you stepped up to the table and made a totally fabulous shot that you never thought you could make, you turned around with a mile wide smile and your teammates all gave you the high five. You felt 10 feet tall, good looking and bulletproof, and then stepped up to the next easy shot and blew it. That's the shot I am talking about — the toughest shot on the table is the one after the great shot. Your elation over the previous great shot causes your concentration to drop to a dangerous level, causing you to miss the next shot. But don't feel bad, it happens to every player many times in his or her lifetime.

Better players recognize when it happens and make sure they bear down with 100% concentration on that next

easy shot. Remember the next time you make that great shot, to take a few seconds and compose yourself and get your head back on straight before approaching the next shot. It will keep you from losing a few matches every season.

Good Luck — Jerry



# STRENGTHEN “MENTAL” MUSCLE MEMORY

The Sports Doc - Dr. CHRISTOPHER STANKOVICH  
www.drstankovich.com

**Sport psychologists often teach athletes how to use imagery to improve skill acquisition and proficiency, but did you know imagery involves more than simply seeing things using only your vision.**

**Y**es, “seeing” balls go into pockets is a *part* of imagery, but only when we include all of our senses (touch, feel, and even smell) does the experience become real in our minds, and imprinted on our brain hard-drive. Imagery helps with automatic movements, also known as muscle-memory, and this is a terrific skill for pool players to acquire. Why is this important? Just ask yourself the next time you get down on that last ball to win a game: Would you rather shake nervously and hope the ball goes in, or instead bear down, follow through, and confidently drain the ball?



One big, but often overlooked, aspect of imagery is what we call kinesthetic imagery – also known as *imagery of position and movement of the parts of the body*. Put another way, kinesthetic imagery (KI) is the *overall body feeling* of playing pool, including from the moment you grab your cue to the finish of your stroke. KI can be experienced by how you feel on your feet, getting into your stance, and following through with the appropriate English on your shot. I bet if you closed your eyes right now and concentrated on going through a few shots that you can “feel” what I am talking about.

Below are additional examples of how KI can be used to improve muscle memory, and over time, allow you to comfortably make balls without worrying about missing:

When getting into your stance notice how you position your body. Are you more upright, or crouched? Do you stand firm, or loose? Do you take



your time seeing your shot, or follow through quickly?

When you address the ball, how many practice strokes do you take? Can you replicate this pre-shot routine in your mind, and feel your body getting ready to the shot?

Another great place to “feel” your shots is the English that you put on the cue ball. Can you feel a stop shot? Draw? Follow through? Think about how you stroke each of these shots and practice them over and over until they feel automatic.

While imagery is not a substitute for practicing and putting in the work, imagery can enhance the experience and allow you to more quickly improve your game. Try and use imagery at night when you are going to sleep, and during your pre-game routine while warming up. In fact, you can use imagery any time you can direct your thoughts to pool! Be patient, make the experience real, and before you know it your shots will begin to feel more comfortable and, hopefully, more balls will be pocketed.

*Dr. Christopher Stankovich is a nationally acclaimed expert in Sport & Performance Psychology and the Founder of Advanced Human Performance Systems. For more information on performance-enhancement products, including the popular “Mind of Steel for Pool Success” DVD please visit [www.drstankovich.com](http://www.drstankovich.com)*

# WHO IS YOUR POOL ALTER EGO?

ANTHONY **BEELER**

**Who are you when you play your best pool? Do you imagine that you are Efren Reyes or Shane Van Boening? What traits or attributes do you have? Do you possess a big break?**

I'm 99% sure one trait is self-confidence. But what if there was a way to capture your alter ego and play like you want, whenever you want?

## **WHAT IS AN ALTER EGO?**

We all play different roles in our lives, which require us to access different sides of ourselves. You might be one way with your friends and a different way when you're playing at a tournament. With your family, you might be fun, happy and easy going, and at the pool hall, you might be intense, focused, and serious.

Your "Alter Ego", can be used as a vehicle to bring out your best qualities.

For example, if you were to give a speech, would you want to be confident, well spoken, and have good posture? Or would you rather be bashful and afraid, with your shoulders hunched? Clearly you would want to be in the role of the person I described first.

## **WHAT PLAYER DO YOU WANT TO SHOW UP?**

When you think about your next pool match, what player do you visualize



showing up? Instead of visualizing those outcomes that you don't want to happen (which will trigger fear and negativity), let's create an image of the player you would want to be. Most likely you would want to be viewed as a focused, tough, good decision maker who is also both positive, optimistic. Thinking of yourself in this way in the future will help your subconscious create a different reality and trigger feelings conducive to a high-quality performance.

## **"ACTING AS IF" CAN MAKE YOU FEEL LIKE YOU ARE**

Another way to think about the Alter Ego, would be a younger player imagining themselves as one of their idols while playing. If you played junior pool, I'm sure you did this. Did it change the way you feel? It did for me. But let's not be naive, pretending you are Efren Reyes isn't going to give you his skills. The Alter Ego effect is not about "faking it till you make it". Pretending to be a master level player when really you're a beginner isn't the answer to all of your troubles. This isn't about pretending to have skills that you don't, it's about tapping into qualities that already exist within you. By doing so, you gain

more consistent access to the skills you already have.

### DETACHING YOU AS A PLAYER FROM YOU AS A PERSON

Having an Alter Ego to maximize performance is not a new concept, especially in pool. Johnny Archer “becomes” a Scorpion. Efren Reyes becomes a magician. I believe that having a separate pool persona explains why the top players such as Niels Feijen (The Terminator) and many others, have had such long and successful careers. Whatever is going on in their personal lives, they are able to flip a switch to become their Alter Ego and play that role consistently.

### FINDING YOUR ALTER EGO

Spend some time thinking about the player you want to be, when you are playing your best and write these qualities down. Next, find an Alter Ego

that embodies those qualities. Some examples are:

- A player that you create in your mind, give that player a name
- An animal that embodies the strengths you would like to have on the pool table i.e. a lion, snake, bulldog, hawk, etc.

### ACTIVATING THE ALTER EGO EFFECT

Now you have defined your Alter Ego you can also think of this as “putting your game face on”. Mental rehears-

al is a great way to prime your mind to become that player you want to be before an important match. How do you want to play today? Visualization of yourself in a match/tournament, can “program” your subconscious to give you those behaviors during play. Create that vision of success and mental toughness.

By making it part of your pre-match ritual to activate your Alter Ego and choose to be the player you want to be, you’ll allow the best qualities you possess to come through and the effect will be more poise, confidence, and match wins!

Anthony Beeler is the 2017 Pool Instructor of the Year and is a former BCAPL National 9-Ball Champion. He has numerous top 25 national finishes and is one of only 8 ACS Master Instructors in the world. He is the primary author of the *National Billiards Instructors Manual* and has also authored the book *Unstoppable! Positive Thinking for Pool Players*. Anthony currently has the highest established Fargo Rating of any Master Instructor. He has won over 300 tournaments and has defeated numerous professional players in tournament competition.

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# Gospel Trick Shot #10

## Parting of the Red Sea

**History of the Trick Shot:** This shot has been used by many of the legends of pool. There are many variations to this shot and they can be found in many other published trick shot manuals. Mike Massey's "World of Trick Shots" is the best in my opinion. My attempt to explain and diagram the shot is below.

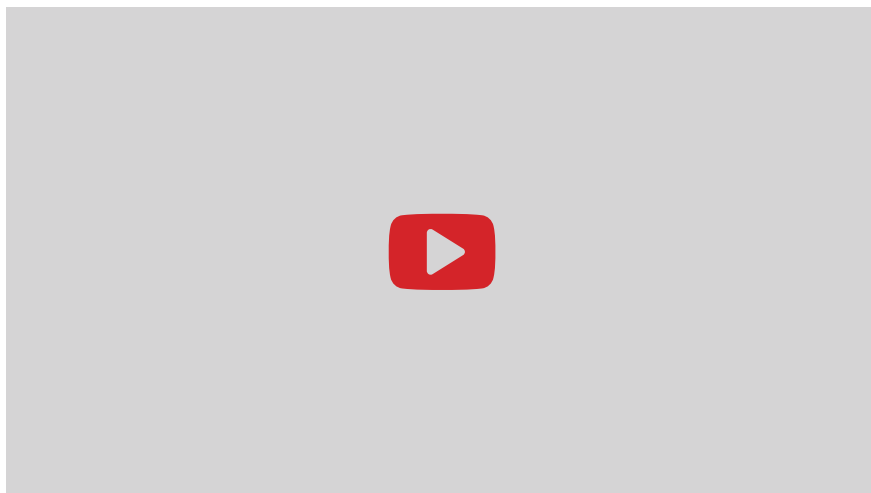
**GTS Name and Why:** Naming the shot "Parting of the Red Sea" idea was suggested to me by Mike Massey. When you read the objective below, it should be obvious why the name was given. However, the message is the most important thing in this shot. I added a bag to the shot and added the name "Free Gift."

**Scripture References in NIV Translation:** Exodus 14 and Ephesians 2:8-9.

**Cue Ball Placement:** Place the cue ball approximately one ball width from the side rail diamond as shown. If needed move cue ball back from frozen two balls on rail another 1/2 diamond.

**Object Ball(s) Placement:** Place the two balls frozen to each other on the side rail one inch to the right of pocket E. Use the eight ball to be the ball frozen on the rail. Measure two balls width from outer frozen ball and place a third object ball 1/2 ball to the left. Now freeze another object ball 1/2 ball up from that third object ball. Repeat the process three more times with a two-inch gap between the pairs of balls.

**Objective:** Hit cue ball firm catching about 1/2 of the outer ball in the two frozen balls on the side rail by side pocket E. Make sure you have a good follow through to catch about half of that third ball. The four pairs of balls will

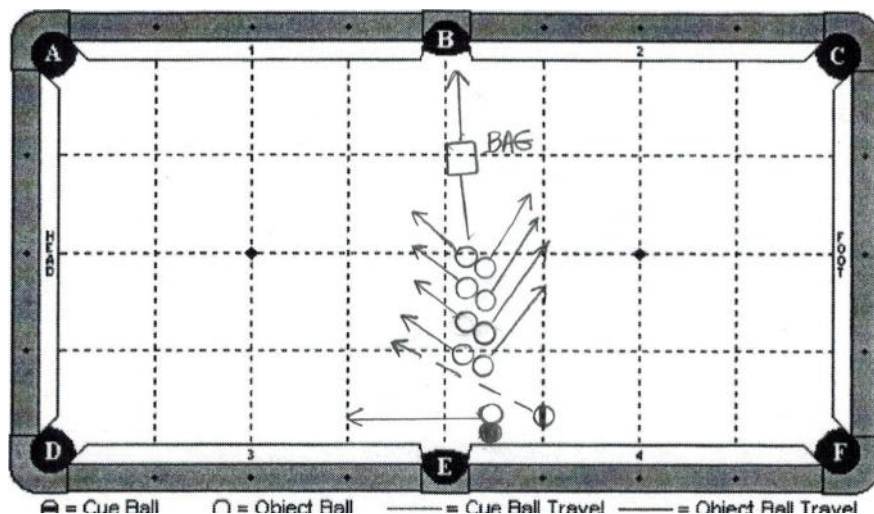


separate as the black eight ball slides across the table into side pocket B.

**Special Notes:** Place a small "gift" bag from side pocket B with the opening of the bag facing the path of the oncoming eight ball. It will enter the bag on its way to the side pocket and flip over and be deposited in side pocket B.

**Crowd Reactions Through the Years:**

There is much movement on this shot and with the gift bag people are amazed that the eight ball goes in. The parting of the Red Sea was for the salvation of the Jews from the advancing Egyptian army who was chasing them. The gift bag represents our salvation which is a free gift from God because of what Jesus did for us on the cross! We cannot earn salvation but simply receive it!





# A Conversation With *Emily Frazer*

**Emily Frazer has been the Managing Director for Matchroom Multi Sport for a short time (compared to other members of the Matchroom Team), but in that short period of time, she has shaken up the world of Professional Pool with her enthusiasm and “big picture” plans for the game.**

**A**s part of the American Billiard Radio podcast, we had a chance to sit down for an extended interview with Emily in September, where she had a chance to explain her big picture for the game of professional pool. She also spoke about in detail about The Mosconi Cup, it's future and when she knew that things had to change with the event.

The interview kicked off with Emily talking about the Championship League Snooker event that she was producing. That seemed to be the perfect chance to compare the sport of Snooker and Professional Pool. She made it clear that she has big goals in mind for pro pool.

**EMILY:** Obviously a huge passion of mine is pool, so I want to see it progress. I want to see it develop and I want to see it evolve. The only way we can do that is to actually develop a tour for pool, especially over in the United States, so that is always in the back of my mind and I probably will not stop until I have achieved it.

What we are trying to do is, we are trying to first of all professionalize the athletes. At the moment pool players, especially to the big worldwide sponsors, are portrayed as gamblers and perhaps a little bit on the crooked side when it comes to gambling in matches for instance, and it took snooker a real long time to straighten all of that out when it comes to betting. We are trying to professionalize the athletes in our pool events and certainly our five Matchroom pool events. (...) How they dress, how they act or how they promote themselves on social media, that is what we are trying to do.

But there is only so much we can do obviously. (...) There is only a small team of us, but like I said it is a real strong passion of mine to develop and evolve this sport. And I say it is a sport because it is a sport. We do have these

world-class athletes but they are just unfortunately not portrayed like these professional athletes, in comparison to snooker. It can be so frustrating but all we need to keep doing is just to keep working hard, working relentlessly to remind the players and to be creative on our events.

(...) Unless we grow the nine ball audience, we will not grow the sport. We need to make these events appeal to the casual sports fan. We need to make sure that they stay tuned in. So we have to just always be keeping on our toes. We cannot be complacent.

Professional Pool in the United States has been doing what they do, the way they do it, for a long time. While the players want a better game, some of them also want to be able to continue doing things the way they do them and are not always open to the idea of doing things differently. Emily was asked about any pushback from players.

**EMILY:** I do not think we get too much of a push back from the players as such. (...) it is going to sound terrible, but I do not think people and players and fans actually realize how important this image is. All everyone keeps

saying is, "now up the prize money, get more people in there". But at the end of the day we cannot sell these events to big time sponsors, big time brands unless we professionalize these athletes. (...) I only think that a few players actually understand this. We are meant to be sparking and inspiring the younger generation. We are meant to be professionalizing the image of the players and we are trying to do everything we can. (...) The onus comes on to the players and okay yeah, there is probably a bit of a pushback. Not out of laziness or anything like that. I just think it is just a lack of understanding how important these things are.

We are trying to generate more social media and more content, more talk throughout our events by having the hashtags. But I do not think the players understand the importance of everyone talking about events. And people jumping on the bandwagon and tuning in because they have heard through the grapevine about this Mosconi cup event, where one of the players is jumped on top of the table or something like that because a social clip has gone viral. These clips are so important and the players' profiles are so important.



Johan Ruijsink and Emily

That is why we are trying to professionalize their image and trying to teach and guide them on what they should be posting and how they should be inspiring the younger generation for them to turn around and go, “I want to be a poor player”. (...) We want to spark this in the younger generation. Them saying “I can actually earn a career here.”, but we do not have that in pool right now (...) We cannot just keep adding zeros to our prize funds for each event, because the thing is, we are not generating any income in order to do that. We cannot add prize money unless we pull in big brands. Fortunately enough, because we are a big main promoter, we have the boxing, we have the darts, we have the snooker, we are quite a well-established brand here and we can pull in big sponsors, but we need a great product at the end of the day which we have, but we also need these social media profiles and images of these players.

And you talk about say, Shane Van Boening, who is one of the greatest players in America right now. He does not have a twitter account. And I have said this before, on social media, and I think I got a little bit of hate for it. But we are trying to sell these athletes and we are trying to sell these events, but there is no following of them. All they have maybe is few Facebook friends. But they have no official Instagram account so... and like it or not, (...) the current year and the current day that we are in, these events revolve around social media and this is what we really need to be working on.

(...) We are only going to be able to do that if we all just really relentlessly work hard together and build this brand. There are only so many Facebook friends that the players all have and it is the same group of people. (...) We need to expand, and we need to evolve. Even things like the US Open. (...) The key conversations that we are having now as the promoter is



to say, “Okay well, how do we evolve and how do we expand this event”. (...) We just need to keep being creative and we have so many goals and so many aims but we also need everyone to kind of believe and trust in us, but to work with us as well, and that includes the players.

Emily went on to elaborate on some of those plans to evolve and expand the sport.

**EMILY:** We have a very strong team here that is committed to evolving Pool but only because we see the potential, the potential that this sport has and so we are not going to stop working hard and because we want to be the ones that want to take it on, we want to be the ones to change it. Yeah, the Mosconi Cup has always been in the forefront of being the best event on the pool calendar. It has always had this fun, exciting atmosphere. And it has obviously evolved even more so over the last couple of years. I think one of my main aims for the Mosconi Cup is that we never ever do the same seating, drawing twice.

So, no matter whether we are in London or the UK, we always have to increase our seating. (...) So I think my first event was Tropicana in Vegas, or Blackpool. That was my first ever Mosconi Cup. And each year, I’ve always said to myself, “right, go back, add another couple of hundred.” You have got to keep adding on and we got to keep building the atmosphere. And obviously the last few years, we have acquired The US Open, and that was part of the plan to evolve the Matchroom Pool portfolio. We cannot do that with just Mosconi Cup, the World Pool Masters and the World Cup of Pool. We cannot do it with just those three events, we need more. So that is why eyes are set on the US Open. We acquired that. World Pool Championship. It is the biggest event in the sport, (...) and we are the drivers for the sport. So it should be in our portfolio.

So the aim is to work on the events we have because we cannot neglect them. We must stay creative, and we must build and develop the events we have. But we also need to build our

“There is a way to do it better. Find it.”

-Thomas Edison

Thanks for the advice, Tom. We did.

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Emily celebrates with Team USA

portfolio. We need more events on the calendar. We need to find that healthy balance of being able to stay on track with what we have got, but but also looking at new opportunities, new avenues. And with the current situation of the global pandemic, it's opened up a few potential ideas for new events that we could be looking at next year. I just think with every bad cloud, there is always silver lining. So, again, I think there is a lot of passion within our team. (...) The last five years have been sort of like an uphill battle as such. But I think we are strong, we know what direction we want to go in. And do not set ourselves silly targets, or empty promises. We are going to deliver on what we say, we are going to deliver on.

While Emily is rightly proud of her team at Matchroom, she made it clear that she understands they can't accomplish that they want to accomplish for the game by themselves. It will require a group effort.

**EMILY:** The thing is that we obviously preach that we are the best promoters and all of that, that is just the way that we are and probably the way that I am, but also I love working with other people and other organizations because at the end of the day, (...) I know that we cannot just do this on our own, so we connect with the BCA to try and work on this Junior US open. I know that a few people, there was a lot of negative comments as to how we picked the juniors but again, we launched something that was positive for the industry, for the juniors.

We are more than happy to open the door and speak to others in the industry and work together with them. We also need to be the top of our game, we need to ensure that we are delivering the best package, we need to ensure that we are always driving and we are working hard so we obviously, like to pick and choose who we work with but we are not all (...) just doing this on our own. (...) I am more than

happy to sit down with anyone, brainstorm, let us talk, how do we evolve? So, it is not about just us and us on our own. Let us work together with other companies. We work very closely with Predator and with CSI who obviously are staging other events as well but let us work with them, let us all work together. (...) There was a time where all of the major events on the pool calendar were all clashing with one another and I will hold my hands up. Last year's US Open, it is a little bit difficult because our calendar, we cannot clash with our fishing event, our netball event because we are only one team. (...) We have to think of our TV schedule, our own Matchroom schedule, then we also have to think about Snooker because we should not clash with other big sports, you know that would be silly of us.

(...) There were times when we were clashing with our own big sporting events and I took that on the chin last year, we suffered big time by clashing

with Super Billiards Expo, that was not on purpose, that was just, you know, the luck of the draw and also we were not in communication, none of us were in communication but now I have started up a thread on email. All of the main promoters all have our schedules and our calendars and we all share our dates together, there is no secret about it and we are all trying to work together. We understand that at this time of the year and the current situation, things are unavoidable, the thing is that we are communicating, we are all talking because the end goal is again more pool events on the calendar. Do not clash with other major sports, other events because that is not going to help the players. We want them to be going back to back traveling from event to event.

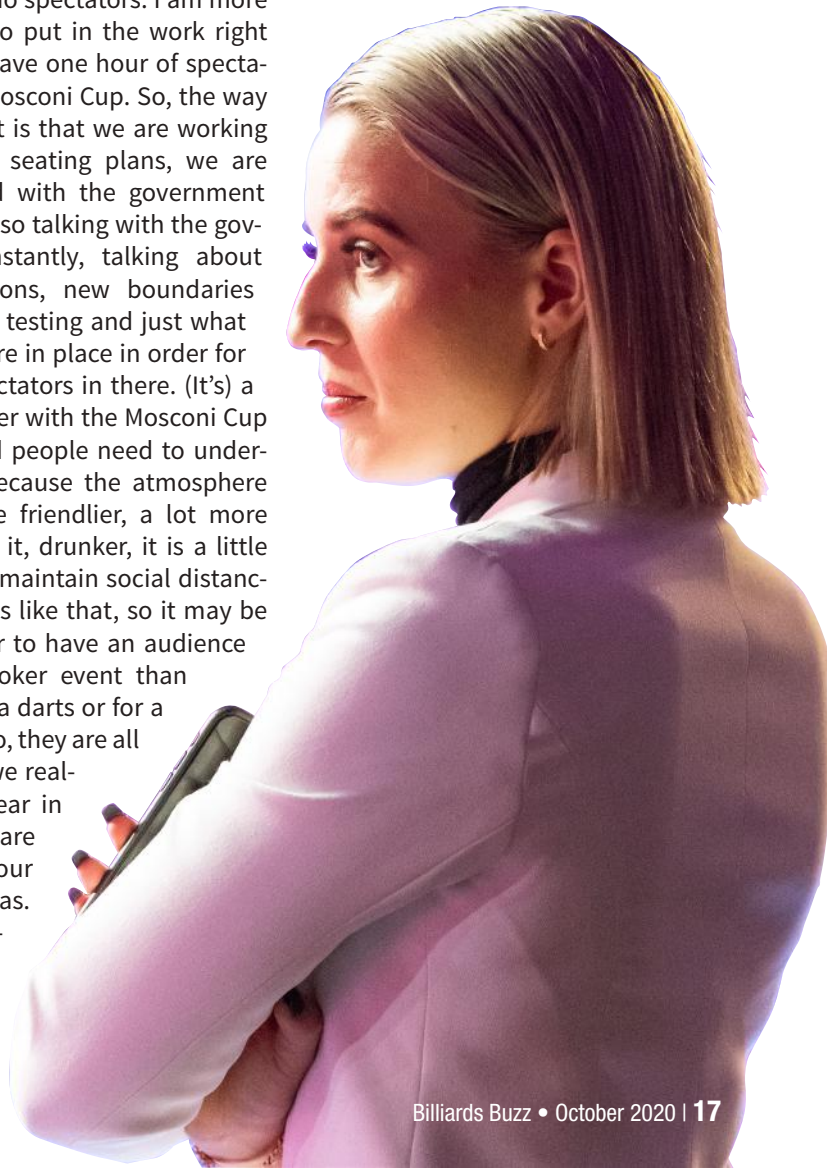
I have mentioned to you (...) an amateur event alongside with Diamond, that was a great idea that has come from Chad and that is something that I would really like to push forward if we can obviously try and do that for the US Open, if we cannot do it next year because of the current climate then it is in place, (...) We are not going anywhere, we have taken and we have acquired these new events because we have a passion and we love this sport so we do not have to all rush, you know, let us make each decision smartly and wisely and again we had to cancel some events this year but that was because we would have just rushed it. We would not have had the most competitive matches, we would not have had the best players and we would have wasted an event and I cannot do that to the sport, I cannot waste an event. If we deliver something, we have to deliver it 12 out of 10 every time and that is the direction we want to go in and that is what we are trying to do and so for anyone that is listening that I have not communicated with before, any promoters, organizers, sponsors, let us all work together.

With the talk of events being cancelled, the conversation turned to this year's Mosconi Cup and what Matchroom's plans were for the event. Emily explained her thoughts about this event.

**EMILY:** I think no matter what happens the event like I said, we will always deliver it 12 out of 10. If we cannot have a crowd then we will still deliver it 12 out of 10 because we will be creative and we will think of ways that the crowd can engage and the event will have its atmosphere despite not being able to have a crowd (...) We have witnessed it for the World Snooker championship, you can put in relentless hours and then all of a sudden, day one, you can be told there is no spectators. I am more than happy to put in the work right now to just have one hour of spectators for the Mosconi Cup. So, the way that we see it is that we are working hard at new seating plans, we are working hard with the government and we are also talking with the government constantly, talking about new regulations, new boundaries we can push, testing and just what regulations are in place in order for us to get spectators in there. (It's) a little bit harder with the Mosconi Cup audience and people need to understand that because the atmosphere is a lot more friendlier, a lot more how do I say it, drunker, it is a little bit harder to maintain social distancing and things like that, so it may be slightly easier to have an audience in for a Snooker event than what it is for a darts or for a pool event. So, they are all factors that we really need to bear in mind but we are not stepping our foot off the gas. I want spectators in there and I am going to

do everything I possibly can unless I am genuinely told by the government that we cannot. We are aiming for spectators.

I appreciate that a lot of people have traveled and booked accommodation and we have kind of been obviously very quiet about the situation but it is genuinely because we do not have a yes or no answer right now. What we are trying to do is trying to have a seating plan approved by the government and to actually work with that because we have to maintain social distancing but also December is still quite a while away. Things could have developed, things could have got worse, and things could have got better, so yeah. We have a plan A all



the way through to Z, and whatever happens we are going to give it our all and the outcome will be how we want it to be because we are not going to give up. So, I know it is kind of not the answer that everyone wants. Everyone just wants to know whether we can have fans or not but to tell you the real hard hitting truth, I do not know right now and that is purely because of this current situation. We have got two events coming up where we hope to have spectators, our Champion of Champions snooker event in November and our Mosconi Cup in December, so what we need to do is put measures into place in order to make sure that if the situation worsens and we have to go behind closed doors (...) let us make sure that there is a plan (...) in place, so we can do that. So, we are thinking of everything, we want the event to go ahead. (...) I could make an announcement tomorrow and say, "Right, Mosconi cup is behind closed doors. There you go everyone; there is your answer." and that would be the easy route out. Because there is still hope for us to have spectators, let us plan for that avenue. Let us see if we can do it and let us try and deliver it. If not, then we go to plan F, but that is the overall view on it. The whole aim, from the beginning of lockdown, is to try and be as transparent as possible to all the players, to all the fans. Right now, it is just still so uncertain for us and things can change in the matter of hours (...) So, we just should not make any rush decisions. Let us take each step at a time and just try to deliver the event.

I have watched darts behind closed doors; they have got the live crowd going in through the TV, I have seen it happen. And you know what? We are bloody good at what we do and if we cannot have fans in there, we will be able to deliver a very good product. Unless we physically cannot get the players into the country, which is something that we have worked on.



*Emily and Karim Belhaj*

We have an International exemption here, for elite sports persons; that is something that we are going through the process of all the players. So we are quite comfortable in that again because we are in detailed and ongoing discussions with the government, with all the events that we have got going on. So, if we have fans then let us find a way around it. But again, our hope is spectators in there; that is what we want.

While Mosconi Cup is at the top of the priority list for Matchroom Pool, Emily was still focused on what happens beyond Mosconi Cup.

**EMILY:** We have got a lot of plans in motion and we do have a lot of setbacks this year, I am not going to hide that, it is no secret. But again, it has not scared us off and it is going to take a real long time before things get back into, you know, back to normality, and I do not think things ever will be. I think we have all experienced something that has changed our sort of generation and the way that events, live sporting events move forward. It is going to change, but I said it to you earlier, I like these situations where you have a silver lining because there is new ways of production that we have learned; there is ways that

we cannot spend as much money on production and put it into other areas that are needed right now. And we only learned that because of this situation and because of going into lockdown. And so, that is what I am positive about; I am positive that we are going to come out of this with new ideas, innovative events. (...) We have kind of gone two years back now, as to where I was hoping it was going to be in 2020 and 2021. That is okay, I had a little cry about it, a few months back and I have kind of gotten over it. You know, you sort of, get upset about it, you know, you are not where you want to be at, but that is okay. You take it on the chin and all you can do is, just look forward and see how we can develop and work for the future. So, I am excited, and I am glad you are too.

If we took any one thing from our conversation with Emily, it was how excited she is about the future of the game. She seems to understand where she wants the game to go, and how she intends to get there. We are looking forward to seeing where she is able to take the professional pool and it has been quite a while since pro pool really had something like this to get excited about.

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## ***Fisher goes undefeated to win the WPBA's 9-Ball Ghost Challenge Tournament of Champions***

**She knew, going into the final day of competition, that she'd already won the WPBA's 9-Ball Ghost Challenge Tournament of Champions. Kelly Fisher knew this because no one in the lineup of two matches to be played that last day could catch her when it came to points.**

**F**or its Tournament of Champions, held from September 1-5, the WPBA employed a new format, changing from the double elimination format of the four previous 9-Ball Ghost Challenge events (three of them won by Fisher) to a Round Robin format. This format assigned points, 4 to 7 of them, to each player upon completion of a series of head-to-head ghost challenge matches of 10 games each.

Though originally planned for eight competitors, work-related circumstances brought that number down to 6 by the time the tournament started and just prior to the start, Line Kjorsvik had to back out for undisclosed reasons. On each of the five days, one of the five remaining competitors was scheduled to compete against Kjorsvik and in her absence, drew a bye. It was Wei Tzu-Chien on Tuesday, Dawn Hopkins on Wednesday, Monica Webb

on Thursday, Jeannie Seaver on Friday and Kelly Fisher on Saturday. By that time, Fisher was sporting 23 points to Hopkins' and Seaver's 13, Webb's 14, and Tzu-Chien's 15. Even with 7 points for defeating an opponent by 40 points or more, none of them could catch Fisher. There was, though, at the end of the day (tournament), a ferocious final battle between Wei Tzu-Chien and Monica Webb upon which hinged three out of the four remain-



ing payout spots (Fisher had already won).

As with the other four preliminary ghost challenge events, a player could score a maximum of 10 or 15 points per rack; 10 points if they ran out after choosing to take ball-in-hand after the break, or 15 points, if they chose to play from wherever the cue ball lay after the break. A miss in any rack would award the player the number of balls they successfully potted in that rack. The highest score of the five-day event was chalked up by Fisher on Friday, when she defeated Monica Webb 107-75. It was one of only four scores over 100. Wei Tzu-Chien tallied the second highest score on the same day, downing Dawn Hopkins 106-59. It was the only victory in the entire event that awarded its winner (Tzu-Chien) the maximum 7 points for a larger-than-40-ball differential in the final score. Fisher had the third and fourth highest score; 105-77 over Hopkins on Thursday and 104-91 over Wei Tzu-Chien the day before.

The lowest score in a victory – 89 – happened twice. On Wednesday, Hopkins downed Seaver 89-57. On the following day, Thursday, Seaver scored 89 to Wei Tzu-Chien's 84.

At the end of Day 1 on Tuesday, Fisher, having defeated Seaver by her lowest score of the entire event, 91-59, was in the lead with 6 points. Hopkins, who'd defeated Webb in the tightest match of the event, 94-90, had 5, while Seaver and Webb had four points each. Tzu-Chien had not played. Fisher's single-point lead was never relinquished and by the end of day two, it remained a single-point lead. Webb had added six points with an 89-57 win over Seaver, while Kelly added five points with her 104-91 victory over Tzu-Chien.

On Day Three, Fisher added six more points with a 105-77 victory over Hopkins, as Seaver and Tzu-Chien locked

**“ WE'RE ALL VERY COMPETITIVE, TRYING TO PLAY THE PERFECT GAME AND BE AS CONSISTENT AS WE CAN. THAT'S WHAT WE PRACTICE FOR AND ALL TRY TO DO. ”**

up in another of the event's tight battles; an 89-84 win for Seaver. Tzu-Chien had been the only other player to win one of the four preliminary events. Her second loss in this Tournament of Champions, against Seaver, sealed her fate, making an opportunity to catch Fisher a low probability. At the end of Day Three (with one less match), Tzu-Chien was behind by nine points (17-8).

Day Four began at noon on Friday with a match between Fisher and Webb, which Wei Tzu-Chien was likely to have been watching very closely. If Webb pulled off a win, it would stop Fisher's scoring at 21 points. Fisher, scheduled to play Kjorsvik on Saturday, would receive a bye on that day and if Tzu-Chien could add seven points to her score on Day Four, she'd go into the final day only six points behind (21-15), giving her a chance at tying or possibly winning (with a 40-point differential in her match versus Webb). The first 'fly in that ointment' was Fisher, who played her best match of the tournament on Friday, chalking up 107 points to Webb's 75 and adding six points to finish her efforts with 23 points. Though an hour later, Tzu-Chien would bring *her* best game of the tournament to the table against Hopkins – a 106-59 win that would add the seven points she was looking to score – it fell short of Fisher's lead by eight points.

Hopkins and Seaver played the opening match of the final day. Seaver defeated Hopkins 94-66 to add six points to her score, for a (significant) total of 19. Hopkins finished with a total of 17 points. This lent an air of possibility to the tournament's final match between Tzu-Chien (with 15 points)

and Monica Webb (with 14). If Webb won the match by less than 20 points, she'd end up with 19 points, overall, and so would Tzu-Chien, who would receive four points in such a loss. This would have created a three-way tie between Tzu-Chien, Webb and Seaver.

There was, in other words, something at stake in the final match. The three-way tie would have triggered tie-breaking rules, governed by total ball count. If Webb won the final match, Tzu-Chien would finish in 2<sup>nd</sup> place (376 balls), Webb would be 3<sup>rd</sup> (341) and Seaver would finish in 4<sup>th</sup> (299). But if Tzu-Chien won the match, finishing with 20 points for 2<sup>nd</sup> place, Seaver would be 3<sup>rd</sup> with 19 and Webb would finish 4<sup>th</sup> with 18 points. Financially, the win for Webb wouldn't have changed anything for Tzu-Chien, who would have finished 2<sup>nd</sup> in any case, but for Webb, it was a \$200 difference between a 3<sup>rd</sup> or 4<sup>th</sup> place finish.

The match was correspondingly tight. Midway through the 10-rack match, Tzu-Chien was in the lead over Webb, but only by seven balls (49-42). As Tzu-Chien was organizing her 6<sup>th</sup> rack, Webb took aim at the 2-ball in her 6<sup>th</sup> rack. She'd pocketed one on the break and then, opting for ball in hand, she dropped the 1-ball. Looking at a high-percentage shot at the 2-ball (side to side in corner pocket), Webb applied some serious draw to the cue ball, which, on contact, came flying back, fast, for position on the 3-ball. The 2-ball, though, rattled hard in its designated pocket and Webb had to settle for only two balls in that 6<sup>th</sup> rack. Tzu-Chien broke and, with ball in hand, cleared her 6<sup>th</sup> rack and suddenly the score was 59-44.

In her 7<sup>th</sup> rack, Webb opted out of the ball-in-hand option in the hopes of closing in on Tzu-Chien's lead with 15 points. She dropped two balls on the break and made a long, corner-to-corner shot to make her third ball. She completed that rack to chalk up those 15 points and for a moment, they were tied at 59-59. Tzu-Chien would re-capture the lead when she completed her 7<sup>th</sup> rack with 10 points to make it 69-59.

Tzu-Chien checked Webb's score on her monitor after breaking the 8<sup>th</sup> rack. She'd dropped four balls on the break and decided not to take ball in hand, looking for an 'answering' 15 points. All well and good, but she missed her first shot. At the end of the 8<sup>th</sup> rack, Tzu-Chien's lead was down to four balls at 73-69.

Tzu-Chien opted out of ball in hand again in approaching her 9<sup>th</sup> rack. Webb took ball in hand for her 9<sup>th</sup> rack. Kelly Fisher joined commentators Cheryl Baglin and Loree Jon Hasson in the virtual broadcast booth to watch the nail-biting finish to the tournament's final match. They both ran their racks, but Tzu-Chien was awarded 15 for not taking ball in hand, while Webb added only 10 because she did. The score was now 88-79.

Assuming a runout for both of them in the final rack, Tzu-Chien could not be caught, even if Webb opted to not take ball in hand for 15 points. It made Tzu-Chien's decision not to take ball in hand for the final rack an easy one. Webb, having dropped the 1-ball on the break was looking at a straight, side-to-side shot at the 2-ball and decided to go for the 15 points anyway. The table was clearing nicely for her until she put a little too much follow

**“ I REALLY ENJOY PLAYING THE ‘GHOST,’ SHE ADDED. “IT’S BEEN A PART OF MY PRACTICE ROUTINE FOR YEARS. IT SUITS MY GAME BECAUSE I’M NOT VERY GOOD AT SAFETY PLAY. ”**

on her shot at the 8-ball and the cue ball followed it right in, finishing her match at 87 points.

Tzu-Chien, with two balls left on the table, stepped to her monitor and noted that Webb had scratched. Already ahead in points by one – 88-87 – she stepped to the table to sink the 8-ball, attempting a sharp cut, and missed the shot, finishing things at 95-87.

“Well done, Wei-Wei,” said Fisher from her ‘virtual’ booth at home when Tzu-Chien and Webb stepped up close to their respective monitors. “It was tight. Close match, exciting.”

Event coordinator Angela Janic joined the remote broadcast ‘party’ and made the results official. Kelly Fisher won the event title with 23 points and a 407 ball total. Wei Tzu-Chien was 2<sup>nd</sup> with 20 points and a 376 ball total. Jeannie Sever was 3<sup>rd</sup> with 19 and 299. Monica's loss in the final match dropped her into 4<sup>th</sup> place with 18 points and 341 total balls. Dawn Hopkins closed out the field with 17 points and 296 total balls.

“I’m really, really pleased,” said Fisher of her victory. “Very happy.”

She spoke then of what might have been; how she would have liked to “not miss as much” as she had and how, ideally, she and her competitors are always looking to chalk up the “perfect score.”

“We’re all very competitive,” she said, “trying to play the perfect game and be as consistent as we can. That’s what we practice for and all try to do”

“I really enjoy playing the ‘ghost,” she added. “It’s been a part of my practice routine for years. It suits my game because I’m not very good at safety play.”

Fisher thanked the WPBA for a “great event, as always.” She also expressed her enjoyment of the new format.

“I liked the Round Robin format,” she said. “It’s a good way to make it an open, competitive game.”

The WPBA thanked tournament director Angela Janic, as well as livestream technician Jennifer Hamilton. They also thanked all of the event’s players, sponsors and commentators, to include Janic, WPBA’s President Dean Roeseler, Loree Jon Hasson and Cheryl Baglin. “Stay tuned,” noted the WPBA on its Facebook page for information about future virtual tournaments.

Saturday matches – Jeannie 94-66 Dawn (6-4)

Wei 96-87 Monica (5-4)

Monica – Very exciting – Hello, ladies. Well done, Wei, says Kelly. Very exciting! It was exciting.

Angela – Loree Jon, Dean commenting Ada Lio – Jennifer, grats to all players

How do you feel?

**“ I LIKED THE ROUND ROBIN FORMAT. IT’S A GOOD WAY TO MAKE IT AN OPEN, COMPETITIVE GAME. ”**

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# Childress Goes Undefeated

## To Win On The Hill Production's 9-Ball Fall Shootout

In an event that drew a few refugees from the dormant Tri-State New York area pool scene, as well as a few from the VA-based Action Pool Tour, two-time Billiards Education Foundation Junior National Champion Nathan Childress (2015 Rick Scarlato Jr/2016; 14 & under), himself a competitor on the Action Pool Tour, went undefeated to win On the Hill Production's 9-Ball Fall Shootout this past weekend (Sept. 12-13).

It was, according to our records, the young man's first major win, following a 2nd place finish on the Action Pool Tour's season opener in January and a 7th place finish in the VA State 10-Ball Championships in February. The event drew 71 entrants to Brews and Cues on the Boulevard in Glen Burnie, MD.

Childress went through eight opponents to include meeting and defeating one of those Tri-State New York

players, Raphael DaBreo in the finals. DaBreo had won five on the loss side for the right to meet him. Childress opened with a victory over Robert Vannatta and went on to defeat Jeff Ball and John Hergett, all by an aggregate score of 21-3. Then, he ran into Brandon Shuff who battled him to double hill before giving way. Childress moved on to down Eric Heiland and face Jimmy Varias in a winners' side semifinal.

Shaun Wilkie, who'd gotten by Johnny Blume, Dwayne Laub, Dylan Spohr and Justin Mast, ran into a double hill challenge from Thomas Haas in a winners' side quarterfinal match. He survived that challenge to face Joseph Wright in his winners' side semifinal.

Childress shut Varias out and in the hot seat match, faced an 'out of the frying pan into the fire' opponent in Wilkie, who'd sent Wright to the loss side 7-4. Childress sent Wilkie to the

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ON THE HILL PRODUCTIONS

Nathan Childress





*Raphael DaBreo*

loss side 7-2 and waited in the hot seat for what turned out to be the return of Raphael DaBreo.

On the loss side, DaBreo, who'd been sent west by Joseph Wright in the

5th round had defeated Rick Scarlato, Jr. 7-2, and Thomas Haas 7-5 to draw Varias. Wright picked up Tommy Zippler who was working on a modest three-match, loss-side winning streak that had included victo-

ries over Eric Heiland 7-4 and Bryan Jones 7-3.

DaBreo advanced to the quarterfinals with a 7-1 victory over Varias. Zippler extended his loss-side winning streak by one with a 7-2 win over Wright that advanced him to the quarterfinals, as well. DaBreo ended Zippler's streak with a 7-5 victory in those quarterfinals and then got a shot at Childress in the hot seat with a 7-4 victory over Wilkie in the semifinals.

Childress completed his undefeated run with a 7-3 victory over DaBreo to claim his first major event title.

Tour directors Loye Bolyard and Rick Scarlato Jr thanked the ownership and staff at Brews & Cues, as well as sponsors Aramith Balls, Lucid Ballsports (Predator Arena Light), Mezz Cues, Turtle Racks, Simonis Cloth, TAP Chesapeake Bay Region and AZ-Billiards.



*Loye Bolyard, Nathan Childress, Raphael DaBreo and Rick Scarlato*

# Hewitt Goes Undefeated In Debut Stop On 2020 Predator Quebec Pro Am Tour

**Like everybody else, Canada's Danny Hewitt's been on a bit of a hiatus from the pool tables. Last 'seen' on the roster of Turning Stone XXXIII back in January, when he finished in the eight-way tie for 17th place, Hewitt returned to the tables on Sunday, September 20 at the debut stop on the 2020 Predator Quebec Pro Am Tour.**

**H**ewitt went undefeated through a field of 16 entrants at the \$1,300-added event which was hosted by Billard-Lounge L'Abasie in Trois-Rivieres, Quebec, Canada. The field of 16 was populated by eight of the top-ranked Canadian players, combined with four players each from two qualifying tournaments held the day before at separate locations.

Hewitt opened his undefeated campaign with a 7-1 victory over Rene Brind'Amour and followed it with a 7-5 win over Vincent Beaurivage. This set Hewitt up in a winners' side semifinal match against Martin Daigle. In the meantime, Sylvain Gringas got by Harold Rousseau 7-2 and Tommy Cayer, double hill, to arrive at his winners' side semifinal match against Tom Thériault.

Hewitt sent Daigle to the loss side 7-3 and in the hot seat match, faced Gringas, who'd defeated Thériault 7-5. Hewitt and Gringas battled to double hill before Hewitt prevailed to wait in the hot seat for what turned out to be the return of Francis Crevier.

Crevier, who'd won his opening match 7-5 over Jonathan Gavreau, was sent to the loss side by Thériault in a winners' side quarterfinal. On the loss side, he downed Brind'Amour and Cayer, both 7-4 to draw Daigle. Thériault picked up Alain Martel, who'd lost his opening match to Cayer and was in the midst of a three-match, loss-side winning streak that was about to

come to an end. He'd recently eliminated Sebastien Laramée 7-3 and Beaurivage 7-5.

Thériault and Crevier earned their rematch. Thériault survived a double hill match versus Martel. Crevier came within a game of double hill against Daigle, but prevailed 7-5. Crevier had a successful rematch against Thériault, eliminating him 7-5 in the quarterfinals.

Crevier completed his five-match, loss-side winning streak with a 7-4

victory over Gringas in the semifinals. Hewitt, though, apparently unaffected by his wait in the hot seat, completed his five-match, winners' side streak with a 7-5 win over Crevier that earned him the debut event title.

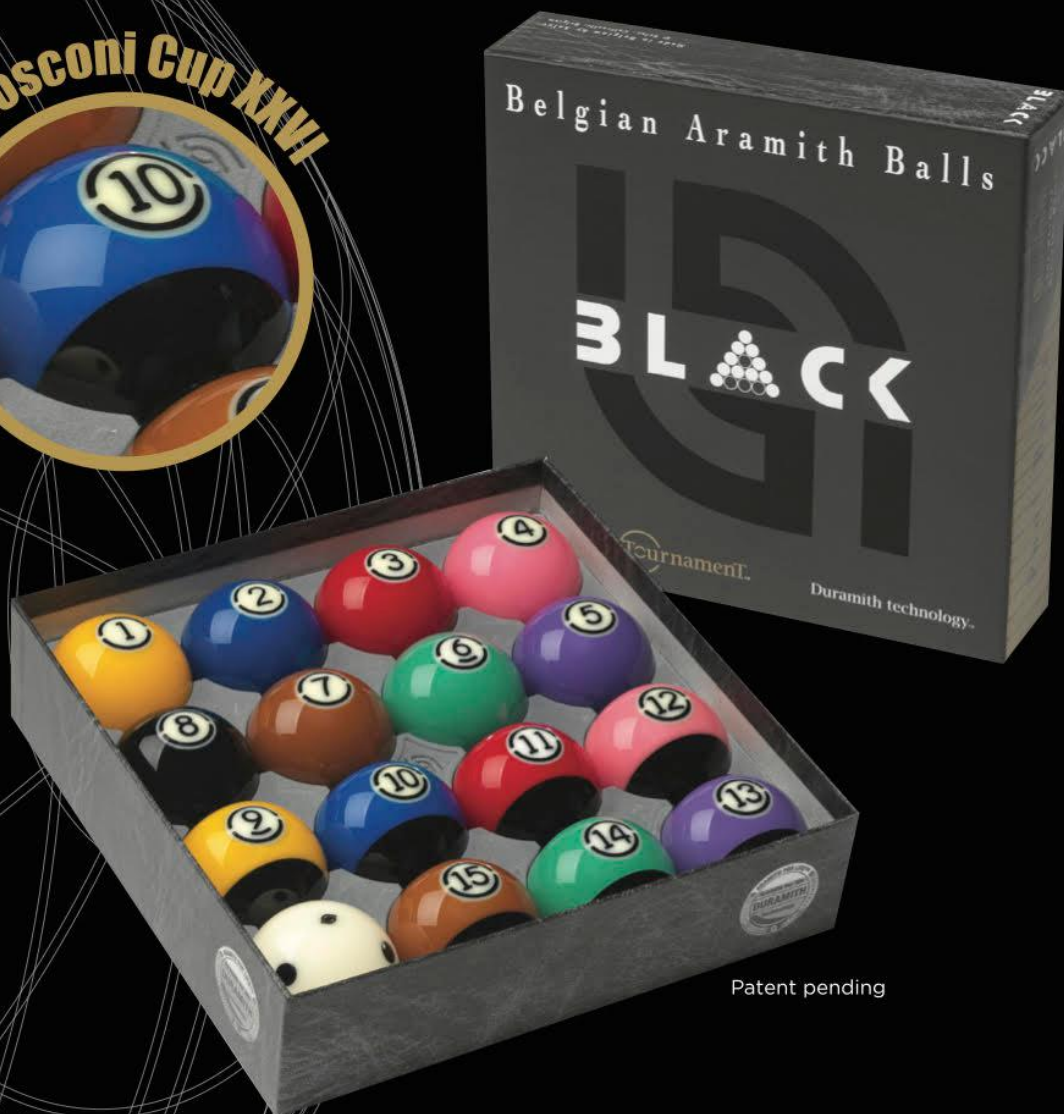
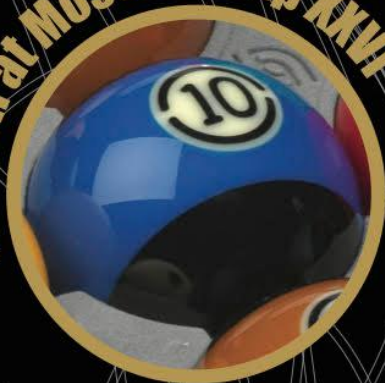
Tour owners and directors David Blanchett, David Deschenes and Yan Ialande thanked the ownership and staff at Billard-Lounge L'Abasie for their hospitality, as well as title sponsor Predator Cues, Arcos II Billiard Balls and Poison Cues.



*David Deschenes (TD), Danny Hewitt and Yan Ialande (TD)*

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# The Scorpion Wins Tight, Entertaining Race To 30 Over The Pearl In Benefit For Tommy Kennedy

Two of pool's certified legends – Johnny “The Scorpion” Archer and Earl “The Pearl” Strickland – squared off against each other in a 9-ball race to 30 at Smokin’ Cues in Charlotte, NC on Sunday, September 13.

Archer and Strickland played 58 of the possible 59 games that could be played in a race to 30. In the end, literally, Archer won it, 30-28, in an entertaining, mostly drama-free four-plus hours of terrific pool that towards that end was drawing about 2,000 viewers to UpState AL’s Facebook page to watch the live stream.

“It was a well-played match,” said Archer a few hours later. “It had everything in it. We each had our momentum swings, went through spells where things didn’t go so well. There were some tactical games and some great shots.”

“As a fan of pool,” he added, “I’d watch that match on video.”

Both players were mic-ed for the game, and while Archer was typically quiet and Strickland was typically talkative, the resultant ‘sound track’ was never distracting. Unlike other times, when even without a microphone, Strickland can get a little vocally boisterous, he stayed within himself and restricted commentary to the occasional gripe about his inability to get any luck or help from the actual table. Most importantly, Strickland didn’t distract himself by elevating any given moment into unnecessary drama that often, in his storied past, had led to contentious battles and distracted play that over the years had cost him a game and even a match or two.

Though he couldn’t pinpoint when he’d last played against Strickland, Archer guessed that it might have been at a Turning Stone event four or five years ago. He also couldn’t remember exactly when or where he’d first played against

Strickland, but figured that he (Archer) was a teenager at the time. He recalled, over the years, being on the wrong side of a few verbal incidents with Strickland.

“I used to take it personally,” he said. “I don’t take it personally anymore.”

The two-day event began on Saturday with a narrated, trick shot exhibition

by Strickland, in which he dedicated a number of shots that he set up to historic players like Steve Mizerak and Willie Mosconi. It was Strickland at his best. Joking with the small crowd of about 30-40 people seated in chairs that ringed the two tables designated for Strickland’s ‘show’ and then, he and Archer played in one-on-one, best-of-three matches against spectators, who

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\* contact Ronny Park at (203) 770-4663 for info on ticket purchases, and to donate.

Editing by Elias Ghali

donated money for the cause that led to the organization of the whole event by Ronny Park, a lifelong friend of Tommy Kennedy. Many commentators in the stream's chat room were unaware of the benefit aspect of the two-day event, asking repeatedly how much money was at stake in Sunday's race to 30 challenge match.

The basic story was that on March 14, after participating in a Tony Crosby pool tournament in Tallahassee, FL, Kennedy slipped and fell in a hotel bathroom and hit his head. He was hospitalized and learned that he'd suffered a concussion that led to, among other things, an inability to eat. As neurologists attempted to learn the extent of his injuries, which proved to be severe and potentially, of long-lasting duration, Kennedy began losing weight. He was down to 87 pounds before there was a reversal and little by little, he began to gain that weight back. It took nearly four months. He still figures it'll be a while before he can get back to any pool tables outside of his home.

"At least a month or two," he said from his home on Sunday. "When I bend over, I still feel a little off-balance."

"The impact was to my head, my neck and my upper spine," he explained, noting further that a difference of couple of inches could have killed him on the spot.

All the while, the medical bills for this unexpected and traumatic injury were putting a severe dent in the Kennedy household's finances. It was clear, almost from the start, that he was going to need some help to weather this personal storm. Enter Roger Long, another long-time friend of the family, who set up a GoFundMe page (on behalf of Tommy's wife, Denise Kennedy. To date, that page has received just over \$28,000 in donations, with a goal of \$75,000.

Ronny Park joined the cause of helping Tommy out and enlisted Archer and Strickland's help in the organization of this past weekend's event. According to Park, between on-line donations (Lo-ree Jon Hasson donated a cue, which

was the prize in an on-line raffle at \$20 per ticket) and in-person donations at Smokin' Cues, the event raised almost \$5,000.

"I am so grateful for all of the support," said Kennedy, his voice echoing the sentiment. "It's just unbelievable."

Mid-way, a slow start turns into a tight race

In the early going, the race to 30 did not look as though it was going to be memorable. The two of them had to get to the 6th rack, before either of them sunk a ball on the break. Oddly enough, ahead by one at 3-2, Strickland was the first to make a ball on the break, but when he was forced to 'push,' Archer made a tricky combo and ran out to tie the score.

Archer returned the favor by breaking dry on the 7th rack, allowing Strickland to run and go ahead by one. The first signs of the 'talkative' Pearl showed up in the eighth rack when he sunk three balls on the break and did not have a shot on the 1-ball. He complained about bad luck, loudly. After a few safeties, Strickland was awarded ball in hand and sunk the remaining six balls that he probably would have dropped if he'd been able to see the 1-ball after the break. It was 5-3.

A series of dry breaks and a few unforced errors later, Strickland was ahead by four at 7-3. Archer checked in with one and Strickland ran two more to make it 9-4. Back and forth they went, with Strickland having the longer runs, until he got out in front by six at 13-7; as it turned out, his largest lead of the match. And then, as they say, the tide turned.

The plan was for a break when either player reached 15. At that 13-7 mark, Archer went on a run that saw him win eight of the next nine racks and take his first lead – 15-14 – at the break.

Upon their return, Strickland let everyone know that the match was far from over because Archer had taken a lead. Strickland won the 30th rack to tie things up at 15. They went back and forth to ties, including, but no limited to

20-20, 25-25 and 28-28; 56 down, potentially only three to go in a race to 2.

There some 'nerves' involved at this point. In rack 57, Strickland sunk a ball on the break but scratched. Archer ran to the 7-ball, but attempted a long rail-runner that rattled in its intended corner pocket. Strickland dropped it for him but got 'a little close to his work' positioning for the 8-ball. He missed and Archer finished to be on the hill.

At this point, with nearly 2,000 people watching on the stream, Archer sunk a ball on the break, but didn't have a clean look at the 1-ball. He played safe, Strickland safed back, and Archer played safe a second time. Strickland's second shot missed the 1-ball completely and before Archer could pick up the cue ball, Strickland used his stick to sweep the balls across the table and conceded.

"I started out missing a couple of shots and my speed was off in the first few games," said Archer, "but overall, it felt pretty good."

"I played well to come back on him in that first half," he added.

Ronny Park and Upstate Al thanked the ownership and staff at Smokin' Cues for their hospitality, as well as sponsors Lite Systems, JB Cases, Aramith Balls, Kamui Tips, HI Impact Tips, Simonis Cloth, Billiard Engineering, Thomas Grimaldi Pool Tables, and Byrd, Byrd, McMahan and Denton, Attorneys at Law. Upstate Al gave a shout out to his commentators for the event – Joe Torres, Chris Miller and Ronnie Park and thanked everyone who watched the stream and contributed to the cause of helping Tommy Kennedy.

"That's what this (was) all about," said Al, who assured that people watching the stream were made aware of why the match was being held by putting the varied means of contributing to the cause on-screen between every game of the 58-game match.

Kennedy has a lot of friends in and out of the pool community and they continue to come to his assistance when now, he needs it most.

# Van Boening Confirmed For Team USA At Partypoker Mosconi Cup

Shane van Boening will play his 14th consecutive partypoker Mosconi Cup this December 1-4 after being chosen as one of captain Jeremy Jones' wildcard selections.

**V**an Boening joins Justin Bergman and Skyler Woodward on the team, with captain Jeremy Jones commenting, "he might be our third selection but we all know he is number one."

The South Dakota kid has been ever-present for Team USA since 2007 and has enjoyed his most fruitful partypoker Mosconi Cups in the last two years; first making the winning 1/9 combo to win the Cup in London in 2018, and then helping to lead America to a famous repeat in Las Vegas last thanksgiving.

"The last two years, we did pretty well, so I am very proud of the team and I am looking forward to number three," said Van Boening.

"Defending the partypoker Mosconi Cup in Las Vegas last year was probably the best Mosconi Cup I have ever played. We had a great team chemistry, the coaches did a good job and it worked out pretty good.

"If we can do the same things we did in the last two years, there won't be any problems. They are going to have

a hard time competing with us for sure.

"Jeremy is a good coach, he knows everything about the Mosconi Cup and has been with us the last couple of years. I think he is going to be a very good captain for us."

"He has been the greatest player on the planet for the last 15+ years," said captain Jones. "He is a guy who I think is going to continue on that road; he stays in great shape, is probably the most mentally strong player I have witnessed in my life and he trains hard and plays hard.

"He keeps everybody accountable without having to say much. He has a great connection with the guys, there is a huge respect factor there, and the thing about Shane is, he doesn't really have a B game – if the A+ game is there we know what is going to happen, if the A game is there we most likely know what is going to happen, and if the A- game is there it is going to take a damn good Joshua Filler to beat him. The whole package is what it is with Shane."

USA will take on a European team led by captain Alex Lely and vice-captain Karl Boyes. World Champion Fedor Gorst, Jayson Shaw and US Open champion Joshua Filler have already been named on Team Europe, with two more players to be announced this month for both teams.

The 2020 partypoker Mosconi Cup is set to take place at Alexandra Palace, London from December 1-4, live on Sky Sports and DAZN.

Matchroom Pool are still hopeful and determined that the partypoker Mosconi Cup will take place this year and are in constant detailed discussions with the relevant organisations and personnel to stay up to date. Our highest priority is the safety of everyone connected with the event however we are working hard to explore every avenue to making this work and will continue to do so, if it is possible.

Follow Matchroom Pool on Facebook, Twitter, YouTube and Instagram. For all the latest event news please visit [www.mosconicup.com](http://www.mosconicup.com).



# Thorpe Is Fourth For Team USA

**Billy Thorpe will make his fourth consecutive appearance on Team USA having been selected as the penultimate player to join Jeremy Jones' team at this year's partypoker Mosconi Cup.**

**T**he Ohio man, famed for this excellent banking ability, made his Mosconi bow in 2017 and has been a key member of the team as USA first regained and then retained the Cup over the last two years.

He joins Justin Bergman, Skyler Woodward and Shane van Boening on the team to travel to London in December, with Captain Jones and Vice Captain Joey Gray to name their fifth and final team member next week.

"It sucks the way everything went down this year, but at least we have the biggest tournament, the one we all drive for all year," said Thorpe. "I am super stoked and excited to be able to come back out there and compete again; I can't wait.

"With us four on the team so far, we all click together pretty well, I know we will prepare well and we are going to

three-peat for sure. It doesn't matter if you have World champions on your team or not, it matters how you guys feed off each other and help each other to get out there and bring the best out of each other.

"The more World champions they have, the better for us - it's just going to make us play even better. I feel like we are going to come out there strong."

Captain Jones added: "Billy, I was hoping would have a good performance with the training along with the 2020 he started the year with, which was some big victories and looking like it was probably going to be his best year, just like every year has been better than the one before.

"He brings a lot of personality and is probably the one guy who is always ready. Even if he comes off a tough

loss, he is ready to get back out there. He has a huge heart and is one hell of a player."

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# ***Rookie Robinson Completes Team USA For Partypoker Mosconi Cup***

**Chris Robinson will make his Team USA debut at this year's partypoker Mosconi Cup after being selected by Jeremy Jones as his fifth and final player to travel to London to defend the title against Team Europe this December 1-4, live on Sky Sports and DAZN.**

**T**he 22-year-old from California enjoyed a fifth-place finish at the Diamond Las Vegas Open before the Covid-19 pandemic put a halt to professional tournaments in March. Robinson has since impressed Captain Jones and Vice-Captain Joey Gray in training camps ahead of this year's partypoker Mosconi Cup.

Robinson will join Shane van Boening, Skyler Woodward, Justin Bergman and Billy Thorpe on the team, with America looking to make it a partypoker Mosconi Cup three-peat having first regained the title after an eight-year drought in London in 2018 before successfully defending it in Las Vegas last Thanksgiving.

"I am so happy," said Robinson. "I will be working my tail off from now un-

til December. I felt like I left my best game on the table when I was training with JJ and that is the best you can do. I think I have evolved as a player and probably improved more over the last few months than I have in quite a while.

"When I got the call I was driving from a pool hall to where I was staying. I was kind of expecting it to be one of those calls the same as the two calls I've had in the past two years, where I still have stuff to work on and next year would be the year I'm shooting at. When Jeremy said I'd made it, I didn't really know how to react. I don't think it has 100 percent hit me yet.

"My career goal was to win a Mosconi Cup. This is setting into reality but just because I made it, we haven't won yet, so I need to do my part, keep getting better, and it's all part of the process."

Captain Jones added: "There are many positives with Chris. He is a guy I have seen heading in the right direction, he is a grinder,

plays hard, practises hard, trains hard and has a great frame of mind for this type of setting. He is also a player who I think is going to reap the rewards of being around the rest of the team.

"I think he will relish in the Mosconi Cup and really perform well in December. It felt that he was going to make a Mosconi Cup team at one time or another; I wasn't so sure it was going to be this year but got to spend a little more time with him and love his attitude, love his goals and I think he is a player who will reap the rewards of being around those other four champions."

The final player to join Team Europe will be announced on Thursday.

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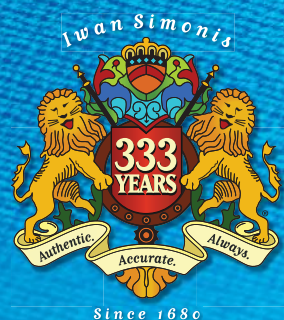
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# Filler Selected For Team Europe

**Joshua Filler will make his third appearance for Team Europe at the 2020 partypoker Mosconi Cup, having been selected as captain Alex Lely's second wildcard.**

**F**iller became the youngest ever partypoker Mosconi Cup winner aged 19 in 2017 and took home the MVP title in his rookie appearance that year. He returned to the team in Las Vegas last year but, despite an impressive individual showing, was on the losing team as USA defended their title.

However, the 2018 World Champion and reigning US Open Champion is determined to help Europe bring home the Cup this year. He joins Fedor Gorst and Jayson Shaw on the team, with two further captain's wildcard picks to be announced next month

"It is amazing, just from thinking about it I have goosebumps everywhere," said Filler of his selection. "I am so glad that Alex picked me and I am back on the team.

"When I reflect on last year, I think in the singles we did pretty well but in the doubles we messed up. I think we have to practice on the doubles and if we can fix that, we will be the favourites again.

"When I played Shane van Boening, it was amazing. He missed easy balls and I took my chances and I beat him twice; 5-0 and 5-1. They were big moments for me and that was the big highlight from last year's Cup.

"When I lost to Skyler, he played amazing and didn't make any mistakes. I was crying in the arena, because I was so disappointed to lose. But I am so happy to be back and helping the team out and I hope we can get the Cup back.

"We have lost the last two years now. It is a dream for a European player to be on the team and winning with all of the people there."

Captain Lely added: "He has energy, confidence, charisma and a no-miss attitude. As far as I am concerned, it would be very difficult to imagine a Mosconi Cup team without this guy.

"Joshua wears his heart on his sleeve. He is a bundle of energy and he brings the game to his opponent and in this case, to Team USA. He is 22-years-young, he is so smart and has already gained so much knowledge from his previous two Mosconi Cups, and we are more than happy to have him on board."

The 2020 partypoker Mosconi Cup is set to take place at Alexandra Palace, London from December 1-4, live on Sky Sports and DAZN.

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# Ouschan Returns To Partypoker Mosconi Cup For Team Europe

**Albin Ouschan has joined Team Europe for this December's partypoker Mosconi Cup after being selected by captain Alex Lely as the fourth player to join the line-up.**

**T**he 30-year-old Austrian will be making his fourth appearance at the event and holds an individual record bettered only by Vice Captain Karl Boyes for matches won by players with more than one appearance.

Ouschan, a former World Champion and two-time World Cup of Pool winner. Was exceptional for Europe in their 2018 defeat to USA but missed out on selection last year. However, he returns this time around alongside Fedor Gorst, Jayson Shaw and Joshua Filler with one player still to be selected.

"It is an incredible feeling to be back on the team," said Ouschan. "It is one of the nicest things when you get a call from the captain to say that you are in. This year has been tough, but I knew I probably had a better chance if there were four or five wildcards.

"It will for sure be one of the youngest European teams we have had, but if you look at the names, I think it is the strongest we have had. We have very big shooters. With Jayson and Joshua we have two incredible left-handed players and Joshua for me is the most talented player we have right now. Fedor is probably as calm as me at the table, so it is fire, fire and twice ice."

Captain Lely added: "He looked so good two years ago and it was just for

one jump shot from Skyler Woodward that he would have become MVP and would have played a decisive role for Team Europe.

"For me, he, maybe more than any other, has looked very comfortable, calm and collected in the Matchroom arena, tournament after tournament, especially in doubles play. He brings a lot of calmness to the table and we have a couple of players with Filler and Shaw who bring a lot of fire, so this allows us to combine fire with ice.

"This choice was an easy one; it is difficult to leave Albin out of the team. But the last choice is going to be hard, because that means that I am going to be leaving out one player who I would like to be in."

Lely will name his fifth and final player in two weeks' time. USA Captain Jeremy Jones will announce his fourth player next week.

The 2020 partypoker Mosconi Cup is set to take place at Alexandra Palace, London from December 1-4, live on Sky Sports and DAZN.

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# KACI COMPLETES TEAM EUROPE FOR PARTYPOKER MOSCONI CUP

**Albania's Eklent Kaci is the fifth and final player to be selected to represent Team Europe at the partypoker Mosconi Cup, which will take place at Alexandra Palace, London, this December 1-4, live on Sky Sports and DAZN.**

**K**aci has played in each of the last two Cups, impressing particularly in singles play last year, despite being on the losing team. The 21-year-old became the youngest player to ever play at the partypoker Mosconi Cup when he debuted in London two years ago.

He joins Fedor Gorst, Jayson Shaw, Joshua Filler and Albin Ouschan on Alex Lely's team as Europe aim to strike back at a USA side who have won the last two partypoker Mosconi Cups.

"The Mosconi Cup is the biggest goal of the year, for myself and I think all of the players," said Kaci. "It is a great event and if you have played in it, you know it. I am very happy that the captain picked me. We are a really strong team and we are ready to take the trophy back.

"London in 2018 was my first time and it was new for me to have 3,000 people there. Last year, I played well, was comfortable at the table, but there were a few small things which made us lose in the end but we know what we did wrong and we are ready to do it in the right way.

"I am more of a singles player because in Albania we don't play partner or team tournaments like in Germany where they have Bundesliga. I have been practicing a lot, for many years by myself, I have never had a coach before, so I am trying to get into this stuff with Alex and playing in a team and doubles."

Captain Lely said: "Our dilemma was between Niels Feijen and Kaci. Kaci has played the previous two editions, he hasn't tasted the success yet. Niels is a very experienced player, a four-time MVP. So it was a choice between the seniority of Niels and the sheer talent of Eklent Kaci.

"What was key for Karl and myself was to be able to see Eklent grow as a team player and to be accustomed to being a team member. He doesn't miss a ball; it wasn't about that.

"Skill-wise, he is in the top three players I have seen and I have worked with in terms of delivery of the cue. There aren't many people who shoot straighter than Eklent does. He has a big billiard brain on his shoulders, especially for his age. He has delivered, he has performed in the singles

matches, so it is just about working on the team play. At the table it is about having communication and a protocol beforehand, knowing who plays what shot, who is making a decision. Away from the table it is about being able to discuss and give feedback and receive feedback."

USA Captain Jeremy Jones announced his final player earlier this week, selecting rookie Chris Robinson to join Shane van Boening, Skyler Woodward, Justin Bergman and Billy Thorpe.

Matchroom Pool are hopeful and determined that the partypoker Mosconi Cup will take place this year and are in constant detailed discussions with the relevant organisations and personnel to stay up to date. Our highest priority is the safety of everyone connected with the event however we are working hard to explore every avenue to making this work and will continue to do so, if it is possible.

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# **Black Widow Joins Cameo**

**Cameo, the first service enabling consumers to book personalized video messages from their favorite pop culture icons, has announced the acquisition of their first billiards celebrity available on the talent marketplace.**

**J**eanette Lee, “The Black Widow,” is now available on demand for personalized video messages through her booking page.

Jeanette Lee rose meteorically to the World’s number one ranking in only a year on tour. The combination of her very warm and approachable personality and her competitive fire and desire instantly made her a fan favorite. She has won dozens of pro titles none more important than winning the gold medal for the United States in the World Games in Tokyo in 2001. The Black Widow quickly became the billiards icon of her generation be-

coming the first billiards personality to crossover into pop icon status. This resulted in Jeanette being featured in a variety of media including appearances on Jimmy Kimmel, Arli\$\$, Korea’s “Dancing with the Stars and ESPN The Magazine’s “Body Issue”! She also became the first billiards star to reach generate meaningful corporate advertising relationships outside of the sport including commercials

for ESPN, Canadian Club and Bass Pro Shops. Jeanette has been able to generate more income in billiards than anyone is history.

Cameo, In just over three years, has built a talent portfolio of 40,000 VIPs and fulfilled over 1 million requests ranging from birthday and good luck messages to prom invitations, marriage proposals, baby gender reveals and beyond.

For more information, visit [www.cameo.com](http://www.cameo.com).

For more information on Jeanette Lee, please contact her representative, Tom George at [tom.george218@gmail.com](mailto:tom.george218@gmail.com)



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# SUPR CHARGED WELCOMES SHARIVARI ON BOARD

Supr Charged Agency is proud to announce that they will now represent Andre “Sharivari” Schickling.

“Sharivari” is one of the very best pool coaches in the world, and his coaching videos on YouTube have more than 11 million views over the past few years. He does both in-person and online coaching at affordable rates.

“Sharivari” utilizes modern video technology in his coaching procedures. His current students have nothing but praise for him.

**“You give the best pool lessons anyone could ever ask for. It makes pool lot easier when you explain it. I’ve learned a lot from you!”**

— Student review

“I am really happy about being represented by the agency. They come highly recommended and have done some great work in the pool industry. I am now ready to take the next step and feel I am in the best hands.”

**“As part of our quest to work with the most influential people in cue sports, we are thrilled that Andre chose us to be his representatives. People like Andre “Sharivari” are fantastic ambassadors for the sport, and we are excited to add him to the roster of talents we represent. We feel confident that sponsors will see the value of working with a great ambassador like Andre “Sharivari.”**

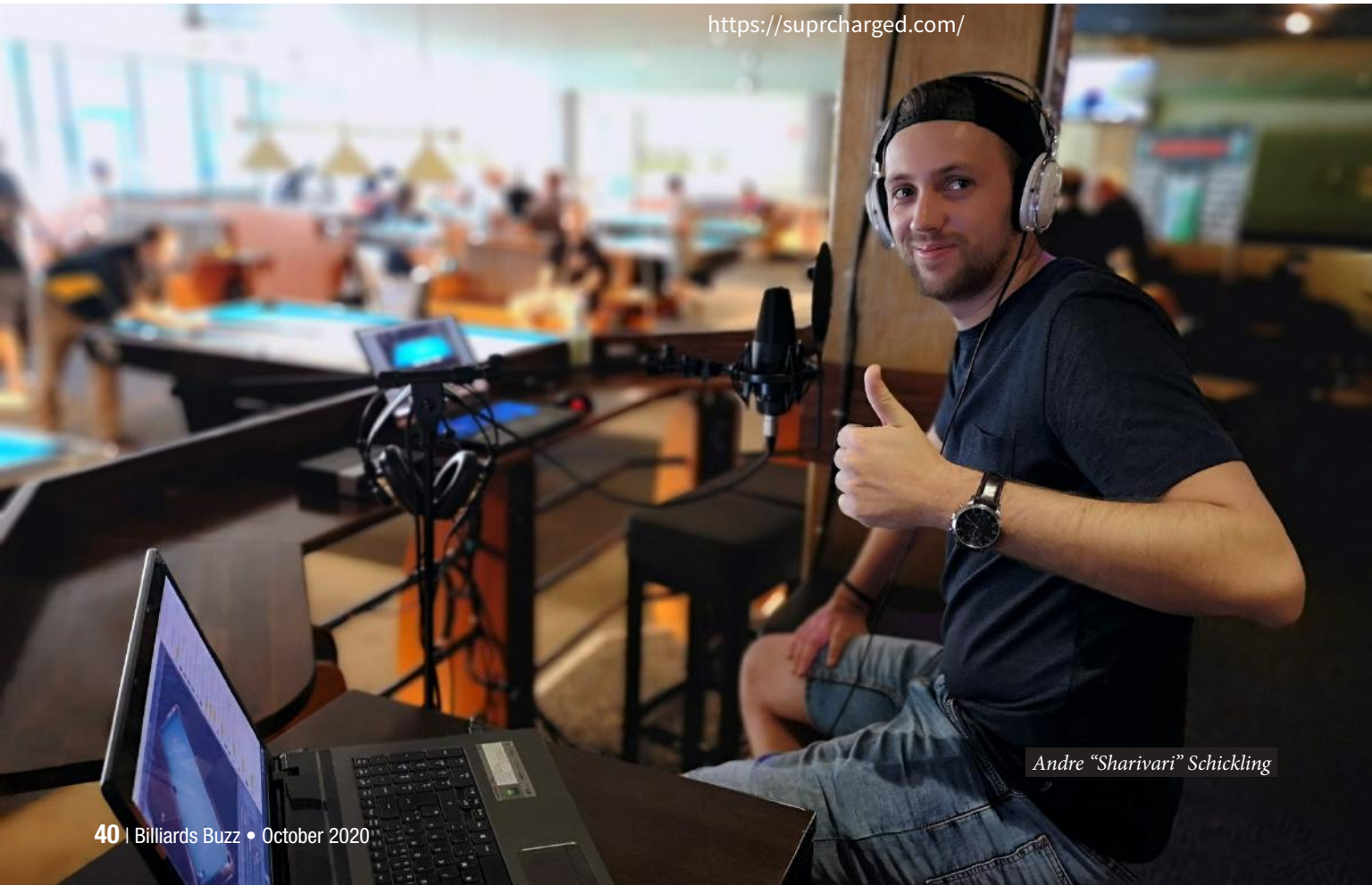
— Per Hagen, CEO of Supr Charged Agency

Andre “Sharivari” joins other influential people like Florian Kohler, Tyler Styer, and others represented by the agency.

For more information about coaching, check out Sharivari’s website at <https://sharivari.net/>

Contact the Supr Charged agency if you are interested in connecting your brand with Andre “Sharivari” Schickling

<https://suprcharged.com/>



Andre “Sharivari” Schickling

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# 2020 International Open is Officially Cancelled

## 2021 INT'L is Now Scheduled

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**It should be of no surprise to anyone that the 2020 International Open, like other major professional pool tournaments, is now officially cancelled.**

Considering the risk that still exists of contracting COVID-19, it is not known if professional players from all over the world, as well as vendors and spectators, will be able to attend and be safe. Also, because of the restrictions that may be in place by local governments through the end of this year, as well as the beginning of 2021, the 2020 event is unfortunately changed from “Postponed” to Cancelled”. Entry fee refunds are now being processed.

The good news is that the 2021 International Open is booked once again at the Sheraton Norfolk Waterside Hotel in Norfolk, Virginia for October 22-30, 2021. The Sheraton

which has always been an outstanding venue, is working with us and looking forward to our continued relationship.

We thank you for your immense support and understanding during these unprecedented times. Please continue to be safe and stay healthy. We will see you in 2021!

[www.international9ballopen.com](http://www.international9ballopen.com)

[www.facebook.com/theinternational9ballopen](https://www.facebook.com/theinternational9ballopen)

[www.Accu-Stats.com](http://www.Accu-Stats.com)

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# **\*\*THE TIME HAS COME - 2020 IS CANCELLED\*\***

**We've been waiting and watching the Covid-19 situation, but we regrettably cannot wait any longer ...**

## **To all of our Super Billiards Expo Family,**

As many of you may have expected, we are left with no choice but to cancel the 2020 Super Billiards Expo.

### **Surely you all know the reasons.**

We have waited as long as possible before making a final decision to see if the current Covid climate would improve. Sadly, it has not. We do not wish to jeopardize the health and safety of anyone within our community that may be at risk. Additionally, the rules and guidelines being enforced right now simply make it impossible to hold an event of this magnitude. In fact, the convention center has attempted to host smaller events, and the local government has descended upon them and shut the event down.

DETAILS ON REFUNDS &  
RE-ASSIGNMENTS

**The next Super Billiards Expo will be April 15-18, 2021.**

**We already have some exciting plans underway to compensate for the missed event this year. We are working on details now, so stay tuned.**

### **Players Championship competitors:**

Many of you have already requested refunds due to the change in dates. Some of you have already transferred your entry to 2021. Since the event is now formally cancelled - we will carry over all entries to the 2021 show, unless we hear otherwise. You are more than welcome to submit a request for a refund at any time, up to 24 hours before the Player's Meeting for your event. See website for details.

### **TAP League Rally in the Valley Players:**

Please contact your local League Operator for details on what this change means for you. You are also welcome to contact TAP Nationals at 800-984-7665 or visit their website at [www.tap-league.com](http://www.tap-league.com)

### **Exhibitors:**

We assume you plan to attend in 2021, so we will simply re-assign your booth reservation. You do not need to do anything. As always, if you have any questions or concerns, just let us know.

Thanks again to all for your patience in these trying times. We were hoping that things would improve so that we could host the show in October. But, we also need to provide enough time for you to make changes to your schedule.

DETAILS ON REFUNDS &  
RE-ASSIGNMENTS

**We hope you all remain safe and healthy through this pandemic, and we look forward to seeing you all in April!**

*Allen Hopkins*

# All Systems Go For Turning Stone Classic XXXIV

**With the continuing list of major tournament cancellations and postponements, fans could easily start to wonder when things might ever start getting back to normal in the US pool scene.**

**T**hat pool scene has a bit of good news today with Mike Zuglan's announcement that The Turning Stone Classic XXXIV, scheduled for January 7-10, 2021, is still happening as scheduled.

"I spoke to my contact at Turning Stone and all is ok for our event," said Zuglan. "There are some concerts and

entertainment that won't take place until February, but our event is happening" he added.

While the Turning Stone Classic XXXIV is completely full at this time, Zuglan is taking names for the usual waiting list if players who have already signed up aren't able to make it to the event. Players are urged to contact Zuglan at

518-356-7163 to get added to that list if they would still like to play in this \$25,000 added event.

The next Turning Stone event, the Turning Stone Classic XXXV is scheduled for August 19-22, 2021. Zuglan will not be accepting entries for the August event until the January event is complete





ATLANTIC CHALLENGE  
CUP

# 2020 Atlantic Challenge Cup Cancelled

**The Billiard Congress of America (BCA) and European Pocket Billiard Federation (EPBF) today announced the Atlantic Challenge Cup (ACC) will not be held in 2020 as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic.**



**“W**hile we are disappointed to announce the cancellation of the 2020 ACC, it is impossible for it to be held during this worldwide health crisis,” said Billiard Congress of America CEO Rob Johnson. “The event has been a tremendous opportunity to showcase top junior players from both the United States and Europe. Additionally, we have enjoyed working with the EPBF to make this a first-class event for all of our junior participants and fans. We look forward to having discussions about the future of the ACC as well as other partnership opportunities with the EPBF as

positive gains are made to eradicate COVID-19. I also want to thank all the wonderful sponsors who recognized the value of supporting junior play.”

“Although Europe has been on the winning side each year, you can sense the competition within the athletes to qualify to the team which shows how important of an event it has grown to be in quite of a short period of time,” said EPBF Board Member Tommi Laminaho. “The spirit of competition from both sides has been wonderful and the atmosphere supportive and there definitely is a demand for such events in the sports calendars. The

EPBF is looking at opportunities for cooperation with the BCA in the future and hope to keep the ACC in the sports calendar.”

Launched in 2015 by the European Pocket Billiard Federation and the Billiard Congress of America, the governing bodies of pool in their respective regions and two of the founding members of the World Pool-Billiard Federation, the ACC was held five times, with the Europeans winning all five events. Three events took place in Europe, while two events took place in the United States.



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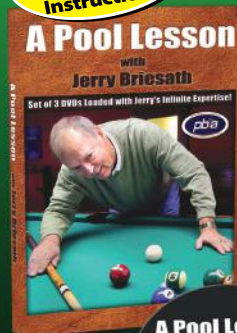
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