

Billiards Buzz

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GOLDEN WINNERS

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FROM THE Head Rail

MIKE HOWERTON

Happy August everyone. Is it really August already? This year has felt like a rollercoaster that was going way too fast. We had major event after major event earlier in the year and July was that slow gradual rollercoaster climb to the top of the ride. Hold on though, because it is going to get crazy again and will stay that way for the rest of the year.

All of the major promoters have major events scheduled between now and the end of the year. Remember back when we could complain about there not being enough opportunities for top players to make a living? We have two World Championships, The International Open, The US Open 9-Ball, Three WPBA events, Two Predator Pro Series events, Turning Stone, the American 14.1 Championship and a handful of great challenge matches (how does Chohan/Pagulayan grab you?) all still happening in the next four months. Oh, and then there is that little 5 man USA/Europe event going on after all of that. The game suffered for a couple years during Covid, but maybe this is the reward for that suffering. It's entirely possible that we see eight players break \$100,000 in prize money this year. The last time that happened was in the days of the IPT.

As for me, I am going to brave the tournament scene again and will be out covering Turning Stone in September. Let's hope that event is kinder to me than the Trade Show. Covid was not what I had planned to bring home from the Trade Show.

Until next time.



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14 World Games Cue Sports Winners

Stories by World Confederation of Billiard Sports
Photos courtesy JP Parmentier / Vincent Rochefort - Predator Billiard Group



36 Junior Player of the Month - Payne McBride

Story by Skip Maloney - AzB Staff
Photos courtesy Chris Reinhold - Junior International Championship

06 Mastering Position Play

Dr. Chris Stankovich

08 Three Common Stroke Flaws

Anthony Beeler

10 Meet The Cuemaker - Chris Nitti

Michelle Hughes

12 Gospel Trick Shots

Steve Lillis

14 Fisher Golden in Women's Finals

18 Filler Lands Men's Pool Gold

22 Ouschan Over Fisher at WPBA Masters

26 Cheung Wins Snooker Gold

28 Jasper Dazzles On His Way to Gold

30 Hollingsworth Wins as BEF Crowns 2022 Champs

Article by Skip Maloney - AzB Staff
Photos courtesy Roy Pastor

42 Briana Miller Takes Over JPNEWT

44 Matchroom Launches SVB Junior Open

46 Predator Apex Official CSI Table

48 Matchroom Agreement With Iwan & Saluc

50 Asian 9-Ball Open Becomes Ranking Event

52 Tournament Results

56 Upcoming Events

57 AzBilliards Money List

59 Caption This



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The Sports Doc - Dr. CHRISTOPHER STANKOVICH
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Did you know that human perception, or the ways in which you view the world around you, has a direct and powerful effect on your mental and physical health?

For example, 2 people can look at the same life situation and one person will see nothing of value, while the other will see great opportunity. Same picture, but two entirely different impressions. Depending on how one views his or her surroundings will dictate future interest, confidence, focus, and behaviors – for better or for worse.

Pool players also rely on “seeing” the table in ways that are conducive to winning. What this means is where one player will see an awful table (and subsequently loses confidence), another player will approach the same table and “see” an opportunity to figure out how to run the table.

Train your brain what to “see”

Human perception is an individual experience, shaped largely by expectations. For example, if you approach

the pool table with the perception of there always being a way out of any situation, your mind will immediately begin to problem solve and “see” ways out of the current jam you face on the table. On the other hand, if you approach the table skeptical that you can get out, then you have already likely prevented yourself from running out the table.

When examining human perception, it is important to note other examples of what we see is truly up to what we want and expect to see. For example, the next time you look at a bed of roses, what do you see? The flowers? Or the thorns? Both are present, but where did your attention go? Here is a second example – how many times in your life have you driven past someone’s house where they were throwing out an item that you thought was still salvageable? We see this happen



all the time, and the old saying “one man’s garbage is another man’s treasure” drills home this point.

Final thoughts

If you want to be the best at pool, or anything in life for that matter, then you must train your brain to “see” opportunities where others see failure; to “see” ways to rebound from failure where others throw in the towel; and to “see” ways to persevere and keep going where others quit. Remember, we choose what we want to see and how we want to view and understand the world around us, and that our choices lead to very specific outcomes. In pool, if you want to play your best then you need to develop ways to perceive opportunity every time you approach the table.

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



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MASTERING POSITION PLAY WITH THE BRAINWASH DRILL

ANTHONY **BEELER**

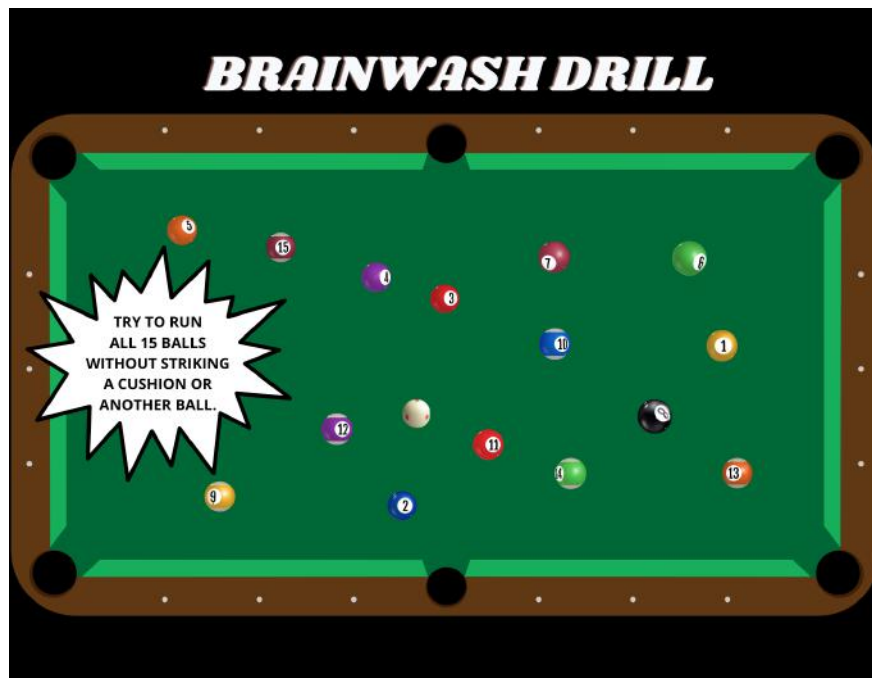
In my estimation, there are two aspects of position play that must be mastered to play at the highest levels.

The first of which is using the cushions to move the cue ball from one object ball to the next. The second method is simply sliding the cue ball from one area of the table to another without striking a rail.

6-INCH RADIUS

In this article, we are going to focus on the latter. Mike Sigel once said that the key to playing at the professional level is to master controlling your cue

ball within a 6-inch radius where the object ball sits on the table. To play top level position, you must develop the speed control needed to place your cue ball precisely where you want it within that 6-inch area. If you want your cue ball to move 3 inches to the right, then you should be able to move the cue ball precisely 3 inches to the right. If you want to go forward 5 inches, then you should be able to do that with both precision and accuracy.



Obviously, the angle of the shot will dictate exactly where you can place the cue ball within that radius, but ultimately mastering precise cue ball control should be something you spend a great deal of time focusing your efforts on. You must be able to control the cue ball within the limitations of the shot angle.

THE SETUP

To master this, I recommend practicing the brainwash drill. Spread 15 balls randomly and evenly onto the pool table. Make sure nothing is touching anything else. Make sure none of the balls are closer than half of a diamond's width to the cushion. The drill will teach you to look for "stop shot" patterns. However, the term "stop shot" should be taken loosely. What I am referring to is stopping your cue ball precisely within the 6-inch radius Sigel was referring to. To do this, you will want to play for "straight in" or "nearly straight in" shots. Most cut angles will range from zero to 22.5 degrees. Shots over 30 degrees tend to let the cue ball run too freely and will result in striking a cushion.

THE RULES

Take cue ball in hand and try to run as many balls as possible without strik-

ing a rail or letting the cue ball strike another ball. If you strike a rail or another ball, you should start the drill over. You should work on this drill exclusively for two weeks and continue with it as part of your normal practice routine after the initial two-week period is over.

GOAL SETTING

It's not important that you run all 15 balls during the first few times you attempt the drill. What's important is that you improve over time. After attempting the drill a few times, focus on where you are at statistically. Write down your high-score and work on improving that score during future attempts. Set both short and long-term goals. Write them down and work towards meeting your goals. Before you know it, you will have mastered running all 15 balls. If that becomes too easy just buy another ball set and throw out 21 balls. I once ran 39 balls

“ MASTERING THE BRAINWASH DRILL IS A CRITICAL PART OF MASTERING HIGH-LEVEL POSITION PLAY AND BEING ABLE TO VISUALIZE THE CORRECT PATTERNS. ”

without striking a cushion or another ball. The key is to assess where you are and focus on continuous improvement.

SUMMARY

Mastering the brainwash drill is a critical part of mastering high-level posi-

tion play and being able to visualize the correct patterns. Work on this drill exclusively for two weeks and the patterns will be much easier to identify. This is also a jam up drill for 8-ball. Make this drill a normal part of your practice routine and your runout percentage will improve significantly.

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

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Chris Nitti

By MICHELLE HUGHES
Social Media Specialist
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Like Theodore Roosevelt once said, “Speak softly but carry a big stick”. These cues may gleam with elegance, but don’t be fooled, they are loaded to the max with playability.

In this month’s “Meet the Cue Maker” we put the spot light on Chris Nitti of Nitti Cues.

Chris Nitti, 65, lives in Orlando, Florida with his wife Theresa and dog Heidi. Although he recalls playing pool as soon as he was eye level with the table, it was a gradual progression that led him to his career in cue building. He remembers a growing interest when he was about 12 years old and although he was playing in a bowling league, he would sneak downstairs and check out the venue’s Gold Crowns. At age 15 he purchased his first cue, a Viking R60 that cost \$60 back in 1971. He hung onto that cue until 1974, which is when he purchased his first “big” cue. People thought he was crazy for spending \$250 on a cue at that time but the one he purchased was from none other than legendary cue maker Bill Stroud (Josswest Cues). Quite the deal looking



back on it now. Chris continued to play with that cue until he became a cue maker himself. Contributing to his future career path, his senior year of high school he pursued vocational training in automotive repair. While this led to an initial career in auto mechanics, it developed several skills that would later easily translate to building cues. He even credits his many years of spraying finish on cars for his talent and eye for perfectionism when it comes to finishing cues. He’ll also laughingly tell you the realization he had that the same lathe he spent so many years turning armatures and alternators in his prior career, would be the exact same lathe he’d later use as a cue maker. Chris continued to play pool recreationally over the next couple of decades while working in auto repair. It wasn’t until 1992 that he developed the curiosity to build a cue. He began by purchasing cue components from Prather that he could put together on his own. In 1993, he attended the first Allen Hopkins Super Billiard’s Expo which also marked the beginning of the American Cue Maker’s Association (ACA). Although attending solely as a spectator, it was there he met future Hall of Fame cue maker Ron Haley. It was a fast friendship and Ron even invited Chris to come visit his shop in Arkansas, which Chris was quick to oblige. He spent a week out there, learning from one of the best and acknowledges Ron as playing a large part in his getting start-



ed in the business. Chris also credits Ron for teaching him the point groove set up that he still uses to this day. However, before completely switching careers, he also took a machining class which he highly recommends anyone take prior to becoming a cue maker. He then made a gradual change, spending half of his days fixing cars and the other half working on cues until 1997. Chris then made the jump to full-time cue maker and established Nitti Cues. He now works out of a 450 sq ft shop near his home in Orlando, Florida.



In 1999, Chris remembers participating in his first Super Billiards Expo as a full-time cue maker. He brought 36 cues, and laughs about going home, with 36 cues. Humble beginnings for someone who has since brought home the ACA award for “Cue Maker

Meet The Cuemaker

are done by hand using a pantograph. You'll often find his cues encircled with his well-known ebony and white, slotted check rings. Another aspect of the build process Chris particularly enjoys is installing a linen wrap. He uses his mother's vintage commercial sewing machine and every time he works on one, he states he's fondly "reminded of his mother". Lastly, just before putting on the finish, he signs his last name and the year which can mostly be found between the points. On top of their sound playability, Nitti Cues are notorious for their flawless finish which Chris credits to his extensive automotive background of spraying finish on cars. He states "the finish is everything on a cue after construction. The more time you can spend on it, the better." Hard to disagree when such elite skill is glistening in every cue he completes.

Nitti Cues' current production stands at less than 100 cues per year and Chris has no intention of increasing that number. His waitlist is steady at about a year and a half. Getting your hands on a Nitti cue will start at about \$1,200 and increase from there, depending on the build and design. The best way to get one of your own is to contact Chris directly by phone (407) 380-6121 or reach out on his website at Nitticues.com. You can also view currently stocked cues by going online to one of his brokers such as Recollection Cues or J&J America. If you'd like to catch him in person, he attends the Super Billiards Expo every year and 2023 will be no different. Next year, he'll likely have another award contender in the works, so make sure you stop by for a look and say hello.

of the Year" in 2018. Not his only ACA award, as a year later he split 1st place with none other than Hall of Fame cue maker Pete Tonkin for "Cuemakers Cue Choice Award". Chris says at first, he was hesitant at making themed cues to submit for the shows but later came to love the challenge. One of his favorites was the cue he submitted for the 2015 International Cue Collectors Show (ICCS). The theme was "Great Cities of the World", and Chris's entry was a scene of the infamous hot air balloons in Albuquerque, New Mexico. The highly detailed components of balloons along with the mountain landscape on the butt sleeve of the cue required over 100 pieces of wood. It's clear only a builder with an elite level of craftsmanship and expertise would be able to master such small detail. Being viewed as a top tier cue maker is what Chris names as his career highlight. Yet the best part about being a cue maker is when he delivers a cue and sees the "joy in their eyes and the feedback of how much they love their cues". He's adamant that he loves what he does, and it makes him feel blessed every day. He's even passed down his

knowledge to his son David Elliott who has since branched out on his own and makes cues as well (Elliott Cues).

When it comes to the build, each cue starts with the half splice technique. All components are built in-house except for the pins and bumpers. Chris keeps several pre-built components in his shop to streamline the build process enabling him to more accurately predict his timelines. He can typically complete a cue in less than 6 months due to his efficiency and time management. The challenge, and what Chris states is the hardest aspect of cue building, is having a "would / want that in my cue attitude". With such integrity to the art, it drives him to a level of perfectionism which often lengthens the process. Chris doesn't have a favorite build or wood to work with but tends to like traditional designs. His inlays

Michelle Hughes is a long-time pool enthusiast from the Pacific Northwest. During Covid, on a furlough from her full-time career as a flight attendant, Michelle opted to hang out with the Biggelbachs helping with social media, streaming, and cues. She quickly fell in love with the craftsmanship and artisanship of custom cues. Join her in this monthly column on her quest to learn more about cue makers and their respective craft.

Gospel Trick Shot #30

Rainbow Jump Shot

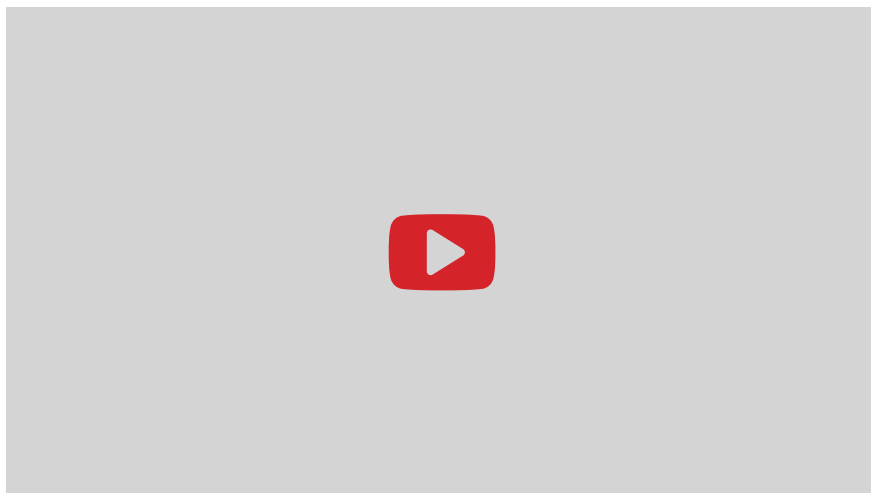
History of the Trick Shot: Once again we are back in the 2020 WPA Artistic Pool program currently still in use converting them into Gospel Trick Shots. We are using a jump shot from Discipline 7 Shot 5b worth 10 points on the first attempt. You get three attempts in competition and the point value decreases by one point after each unsuccessful attempt. This shot is difficult even by professional Artistic Pool standards and that is why it is worth 10 points out of 10 maximum points. Brian “Superman” Pauley is a world ranked Artistic Pool player and demonstrates this shot in the video. He decided to call it the “The Rainbow Jump Shot” when converting it into a Gospel Trick Shot. This is yet another example of using an Artistic Pool shot or any other trick shot for that matter to relay a spiritual principle or life lesson message that will not only entertain the crowd but will leave them with perhaps a life changing message.

GTS Name and Why: As Brian explains in the video the colored balls represent the rainbow and in this case six of the actual seven colors of the rainbow are used in this particular shot. Yours truly Steve “Leap-in” Lillis did another simpler version of a rainbow shot using all seven colors of the rainbow back in November 2020 for the “Buzz” which is on file in the AZBilliards Buzz archives. The rainbow represents not only the promise of God not to flood the world again because of the wickedness of humans, but also many other wonderful promises like the one Brian mentions in the video from John 14: 3 that Jesus will come back for all those who put their trust in him!

Scripture References in NIV Translation: Genesis chapters 6 – 9 has the entire story of The Great Flood! John 14:1-3 reminds us not to be troubled but to trust that Jesus will come back for his own to be with him for all of eternity!

Cue Ball Placement: None

Object Ball(s) Placement: 6 object balls are in hand within a rack. A rack is placed on the table as shown in the diagram. The point of the rack may not pass the long center line of the table.



Objective: Make all six balls using a 1-handed jacked up stroke, jump all object balls out of the rack, one at a time, into the opposite side pocket.

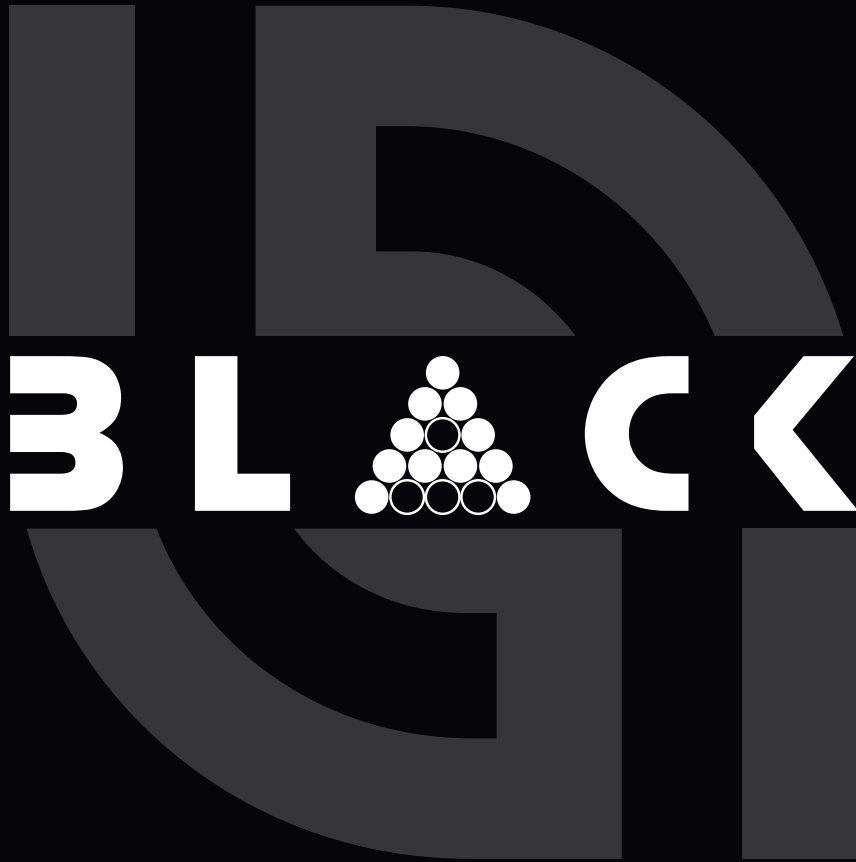
Special Notes: In competition the rack may not be contacted by any means. When jumping a ball, no other ball may be disturbed.

Crowd Reactions Through the Years: This is a difficult shot and it is disappointing when the shot is missed in competition as most Artistic Pool players and fans want to see the shots go in as much as possible. In Gospel Trick Shot shows with yours truly Steve “Leapin” Lillis and my frequent show

partner Tom “Dr. Cue” Rossman, this shot is used many times by Dr. Cue in his Gospel Trick Shot routine with Steve following up in his routine with some significant points made about what Dr. Cue had just shared. Audiences around the world have seen our Gospel Trick Shot routines and always admire the successful execution of this shot by Dr. Cue as he is a well-known World Artistic Pool Champion. I am the President and Founder of Gospel Trick Shot Ministries, Inc and take the lead in arranging most of our Gospel Trick Shot tours around the world. The promises of God that are explained and demonstrated in this shot help us to share the love of Jesus to a lost and dying world.



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FISHER GOLDEN IN WOMEN'S POOL FINALS

Story courtesy World Confederation of Billiard Sports

Photos courtesy JP **PARMENTIER** / VINCENT **ROCHFORT** - Predator Billiard Group

Great Britain's Kelly Fisher arrived at this week's World Games in Birmingham wanting to feel the event's full experience – staying in the athlete's village with competitors from other countries and rubbing elbows with those athletes all week.

Saturday night, Fisher achieved the ultimate World Games experience: winning a gold medal. The Billiard Congress of America Hall of Famer battled back from an early deficit against Chinese Taipei's Chieh-Yu Chou with some stout safety play paired with some fortune to win her first-ever gold medal in the women's 9-ball competition. 9-5. The medal is

the second she's won at the Games. Having earned bronze when the competition was in Colombia in 2013.

"I don't know how to describe how I feel," she said after the match. "It meant so much to me. It was the title that I never won. I never had a gold medal. It's a dream come true, honestly."

The early stage of the match belonged to Chou, who used two breaks and runs along with an unforced error by Fisher to win three straight racks to open the set. After the two competitors traded breaks and runs and Chou maintained a 4-1 lead, Fisher started to realize that her dreams of gold might soon fade if she didn't start winning racks soon.



Kelly Fisher





Kelly Fisher

“At one point I’m falling down thinking I just need to get going,” she said. “I’ve not really had much of a have a go yet and it might be too late.”

It wasn’t, as the Brit whittled away at the lead and tied the match when she broke and ran twice and took advantage of a missed shot by her opponent on her way to three consecutive wins.

Fisher claimed the next two racks thanks to fortunate rolls more than effective play. After winning a safety exchange on the 2 ball, she appeared to be on her way to another win until she pushed the 4 ball left of the corner pocket. The object ball rolled to a spot where it was blocked by the 7 ball, which forced Chou to execute a kick shot which resulted in a scratch, allowing Fisher to clear the table. She had similar circumstances in the next game when she missed a shot at the 1 ball but watched as it too rolled to a safe position on the table. After a lengthy safety exchange, the Brit again found an opening and cleared the table to grab a 6-4 advantage.

After winning a safety exchange on the 1 ball after her break, Chou ap-

peared to be in position to close out the 11th rack and close the gap until she pushed the winning 9 ball to the side of the pocket, allowing Fisher to come to the table and take a 7-4 lead with one stroke.

“I think that it is easy to underestimate that shot and I think that’s what I did,” said Chou through a translator after the match.

The young woman from Chinese Taipei would recover by winning another safety exchange in the following game and running out this time, cutting the lead to 7-5. She was unable to continue the momentum in the next rack as she committed two unforced errors, failing to touch a rail on an attempted safety during one trip to the table and miscuing on another, as Fisher cleared the table again to build an 8-5 lead.

With the medal now within reach, Fisher broke and pocketed a ball but did not have a clear shot at the 1 ball. After a safety exchange on both the 1 and 2 balls, the Brit found a clear path to the winning runout when Chou left her an opening, raising her cue over her head in triumph after she pocketed the match-clinching 9-ball.

“I think I had a very like good start and, overall, a good game, but Kelly



Chieh-Yu Chou

is a very good player and she works hard,” said Chou. “She had a good situation today too.”

GOLD MEDAL MATCH

Kelly Fisher	9-5	Chieh-Yu Chou
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BRONZE MEDAL MATCH

Yuki Hiraguchi	9-7	Veronika Ivanovskaia
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SEMI-FINALS

Kelly Fisher	9-5	Yuki Hiraguchi
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Chieh-Yu Chou	9-3	Veronika Ivanovskaia
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Fisher reached the final having overcome a handful of errors down the stretch to hold off a comeback by Japan’s Yuki Hiraguchi, 9-5 in the semi-finals Saturday morning. Fisher will now face Chinese Taipei’s Chieh-Yu Chou in the championship match later tonight.

It was the tale of two matches for Fisher, who used two breaks and runs coupled with a scratch on the break and a dry break by her opponent to build a quick 4-0 lead, then adding three more victories after Hiraguchi climbed onto the scoreboard with a win in the fifth rack. The Brit began to sputter in the match’s late stages, leaving her opponent makeable shots while attempting

to play defense, as the young girl from Japan rattled off four straight wins to trim the deficit to 7-5.

“It was my safety play. My safety play was just off,” said Fisher. “I was either over-hitting it or under-hitting it.”

Fisher was able to use a combination shot on the 9 ball in the 13th rack and a tricky break-and-run where she left herself multiple shots with involved sharp cuts to close out the match and prevail.

“Overall, I’m happy with my performance,” said Fisher. “There’s a lot of pressure out there. If you lose that, there’s no guarantee that you’re going home with a medal.”

Regardless of her performance tonight, Fisher has already secured her best performance in World Games competition, having earned bronze in Colombia at the 2013 games and failing to earn one in Poland five years ago.

While Fisher stumbled her way across the finish line in her semifinal match, her opponent Chou seemed to get better. After splitting the first six games with Germany’s Veronika Ivanovskaia, Chou capitalized on a handful of opportunities down the stretch to win six straight racks and cruise to a 9-3 decision.

Prior to the gold medal match, the German and Hiraguchi met to determine the winner of the bronze medal, with the young girl from Japan coming from behind to earn a bronze medal with a 9-7 win.

Ivanovskaia jumped out to an early 4-2 advantage until a missed 3 ball in the seventh game gave her opponent life, as Hiraguchi won five of the next six to surge ahead 7-5. The German wasn’t finished, taking advantage of a victorious safety exchange to tie the match at 7-7, but Hiraguchi used stellar shot making down the stretch to pull off the win.



Yuki Hiraguchi

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Filler Lands Men's Pool Gold At The World Games

Story courtesy World Confederation of Billiard Sports

Photos courtesy JP PARMENTIER / VINCENT ROCHEFORT - Predator Billiard Group

Joshua Filler achieved a career dream, beating Sanjin Pehlivanovic 11-8 to win the Men's Pool Gold medal at The World Games in Birmingham, Alabama.

His win is Germany's 23rd gold of the Games and extends his nation's lead at the top of the medal table. The title means there is little Filler hasn't won in the game; his gold medal will sit alongside his World Championship, US Open and Mosconi Cup MVP trophies.

The 24-year-old was behind for much of the match but remained in touch before moving ahead in the closing stages.

For Pehlivanovic, his silver medal is the first won by a player from Bosnia and Herzegovina in billiards at The World Games and makes him the only athlete from his country to medal in any sport at this year's Games.

In a high-quality match, Pehlivanovic dealt an immediate blow to his opponent, taking the opening game on Filler's break. That meant the German was 2-0 down before he returned to the table, but a runout halved his defi-

cit. The 2018 World Champion was soon level and in good spirits, interacting with the crowd as a couple of excellent shots in succession left him with difficult positions.

Pehlivanovic's safety game was at its very best as he regained the lead at 3-2 and it wasn't long until he was 6-3 ahead. Filler won a crucial 10th game after the Bosnian missed a thin cut on the 5, and Filler quickly won two more to level the match. A brilliant 2 and



Joshua Filler



Joshua Filler

so long, but the 20-year-old knows his career is young and that a silver medal could prove to be a landmark achievement for his country.

“It was a tough match, and at 6-3 I had one shot where I was a bit unlucky and it was a game-changer. He made some incredible shots; he is an incredible player. I am happy with second place but of course not as happy as if I won it.

“I am always proud of a result like this, it means a lot to me and to my country, to be able to put it on the map because we are a small country.

“I am doing well this year and it is a matter of time, I have been knocking on doors for so long, I have been to so many finals, and in the near future I think I am going to be on top.”

more good safety play had Pehlivanovic ahead again but the pair were going blow-for-blow and Filler struck back immediately, as he did again to take the match to 8-8.

It had been five games since either player won one on the other's break when Filler did that to lead for the first time in the match and he doubled his advantage to reach the hill 10-8 ahead and breaking for gold.

With the highest honor in sight, Filler produced a break and run and the perfect time to land his first World Games gold medal, despite leaving himself a testy 9 ball with the cue closer to the rail than he had planned for.

“Honestly, I just can't really describe it,” said Filler. “I said that I've just come here to win the gold and the winning it, in the end, it's just amazing, it's a dream come true.

“It's one of the most special events we have in pool. I've won it now and I'm so delighted. Obviously the final wasn't really going in my favor all of the time. My break was good, but I could never see a ball, I always had to play push-out safety. His break was working well in the beginning and to win that final, it shows me that I'm probably the best player. I don't want to be arrogant, I'm just saying it right now and I'm just feeling so over the moon and having a gold medal. It's just amazing.

“When you have qualified for the World Games, you don't want to give up because it's just one event every four years. I always keep saying that, but it's true and shows how big the event is. So when you are in the final, you don't know if you will ever be in the final again.

“I just kept saying to myself, just fight, wait for the opportunity. If you get it, take it. If not, then you probably lose. But he played good, so if he would have won it, he would be a deserved winner as well.

“I'm just super happy to have won and [to be top of the Medal Table] just shows how great Germany is at every sport actually.”

Naturally, Pehlivanovic was disappointed to lose a final he had led for

GOLD MEDAL MATCH

Joshua Filler	11-8	Sanjin Pehlivanovic
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BRONZE MEDAL MATCH

Carlo Biado	8-11	Aloysius Yapp
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SEMI-FINALS

Carlo Biado	8-11	Joshua Filler
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Sanjin Pehlivanovic	11-7	Aloysius Yapp
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Aloysius Yapp

World Games

Aloysius Yapp took the bronze medal with an 8-11 win over Carlo Biado. A banked 9 helped Yapp on his way to a 3-0 lead before a crowd featuring a sizeable contingent from the Birmingham Filipino community had something to cheer as Biado pulled back to 3-2. As to be expected between two high-class players, neither gave much away and the score remained close until Yapp pulled ahead at the death to win 11-8 and collect bronze.

“I feel amazing,” said Yapp of his medal. “I felt I played pretty good at this tournament but I feel really fortunate to come out with the bronze medal. I had some luck also when I really needed it the most and overall it was a really tough match for both of us. Coming out with a medal, it’s really amazing for me and my country.”

Pehlivanovic defeated Yapp in their semi-final. The first six games went to the breaker until Yapp, who had earlier benefited from a golden break,



Sanjin Pehlivanovic

took the seventh. Though the runouts weren’t as regular, the scoreline remained close with neither player opening up a lead of more than one game until the match was nearing its end and Pehlivanovic opened up a 9-7 advantage.

He ran-out the subsequent rack to reach the hill three ahead and then took out a 3/9 combo to win 11-7.

Filler reached the final with an 11-8 win over Biado. The first half of the match was a close affair, with Biado pulling from 4-2 down to be 6-5 up after 11. However, Filler then produced a timely six-pack to arrive at the hill 10-6 ahead. Biado halved that gap by winning the next two games but Filler took his opportunity in the 19th to complete the win.

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Jasmin Ouschan

Ends Fisher's Run, Wins WPBA Soaring Eagle Masters

Photos courtesy of JAY CHIU

When Jasmin Ouschan returned to compete in events on the Women's Professional Billiard Association (WPBA), no fan of the game expected that it would take long for her to reach her stride and return to the top of the results. They would have been right.

Jasmin Ouschan

Ouschan's return to the WPBA was in mid March where she turned in an uncharacteristic 17th place finish at the WPBA Northern Lights Classic. Ouschan then travelled to Las Vegas in late March where she finished third in the WPBA Predator event, losing in the semi-finals to Kelly Fisher. The Predator Germany Women's Open last month was Ouschan's next major event, and she again lost to Fisher, finishing in 5th place.

That brings us to the WPBA Soaring Eagle Masters that took place July 22nd - 24th at the Soaring Eagle Casino in Mount Pleasant, Michigan. Ouschan kicked things off with comfortable wins over Susan Williams and June Maiers before drawing Fisher in the winners side final eight. To say that Fisher had been a nemesis to Ouschan this year would be a huge understatement. Fisher has been a nemesis to every player on the tour, as she has won five straight women's

events and not only dominates the Women's Money List, but is also in the top 10 on the overall Money List for 2022.

None of those accolades helped her on the table though, as Ouschan toughed out a close 8-6 win to send Fisher to the one loss side. Next up for Ouschan was Florida's Kaylee McIntosh. Ouschan had eliminated McIntosh from the Vegas event with a lopsided 4-0/4-1 scoreline, but McIntosh's game has

been rising by leaps and bounds all year. “Playing her (Jasmin) in Vegas was my first match against a very well known top rank player and I let the nerves get to me and didn’t play my best game.” said McIntosh. Although McIntosh dropped their rematch 8-4, she says she will learn from it. “This past weekend I again, didn’t play my best against her and it showed. I had many opportunities where I should have gotten out but didn’t. I’m taking my matches against Jasmin as learning experiences. I’m just trying to get over whatever mental hurdle I have when playing her because I have yet to bring my best game against her. I respect her game a lot and look forward to playing her again in the future.”

The hot-seat came down to Ouschan vs WPBA newcomer Margareta Fefilova. Fefilova has recently relocated from Belarus to America and had been patiently waiting for the WPBA to allow her to play on tour. With the recent World Confederation of Billiards Sports decision to lift the ban on Russian and Belarusian players, Fefilova was able to play. While American fans are quickly learning about Fefilova, she is no stranger to the winners circle as she has many top finishes over in Europe. Ouschan took that match 8-5



Kelly Fisher

to sit in the hot-seat and await an opponent.

On the one loss side, Fisher was on a tear. In back to back matches, she eliminated Caroline Pao, Angeline Ticoalu, Jennifer Barretta, McIntosh and Fefilova to earn her place in the finals against Ouschan. “It was a grueling schedule, playing five matches back to back on the one loss side” said Fisher. The match against McIntosh stuck out for Fisher. “We’ve never played before and she impressed me. She really has got a great game and etiquette! One to watch for the future.” said Fisher.

er. For McIntosh, it was yet another learning experience. “After losing my match to Jasmin I really went into a mindset of ‘I have nothing to lose’. I was getting the opportunity to play the #1 ranked player in the world and not many get to experience that. I played with confidence and I felt as though I could win. Even though I lost, I was extremely happy with my play during the match.” said McIntosh after the match.

The finals was a repeat of the first clash between Ouschan and Fisher, as the match was decided by small mistakes. “When Jasmin beat me on the winners side, we both played very well. She was playing great and I couldn’t shake her off. That’s pretty much the exact same thing that happened in the final match. There were just a couple little kisses that didn’t work out for me. We both played great and I thought I was playing well enough to win. She was just more consistent and won. It was a well deserved win for her and I guess I will just try to start a new roll in the next one” said Fisher.

Next up for the ladies on the WPBA, is the CSI / Predator US Pro Billiard Series event on August 17th – 21st and the Cambridge Red Deer Hotel in Alberta Canada.

Margareta Fefilova



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Cheung Is Snooker Gold Medalist

Story courtesy World Confederation of Billiard Sports

Photos courtesy JP **PARMENTIER** / VINCENT **ROCHFORT** - Predator Billiard Group

Cheung Ka Wai won Hong Kong's only Gold medal of The World Games Birmingham 2022 when he defeated Egypt's Abdelrahman Shahin 3-1 in the snooker final.

The 23-year-old had played consistently all week, dropping only two frames in the tournament to take gold in his first World Games.

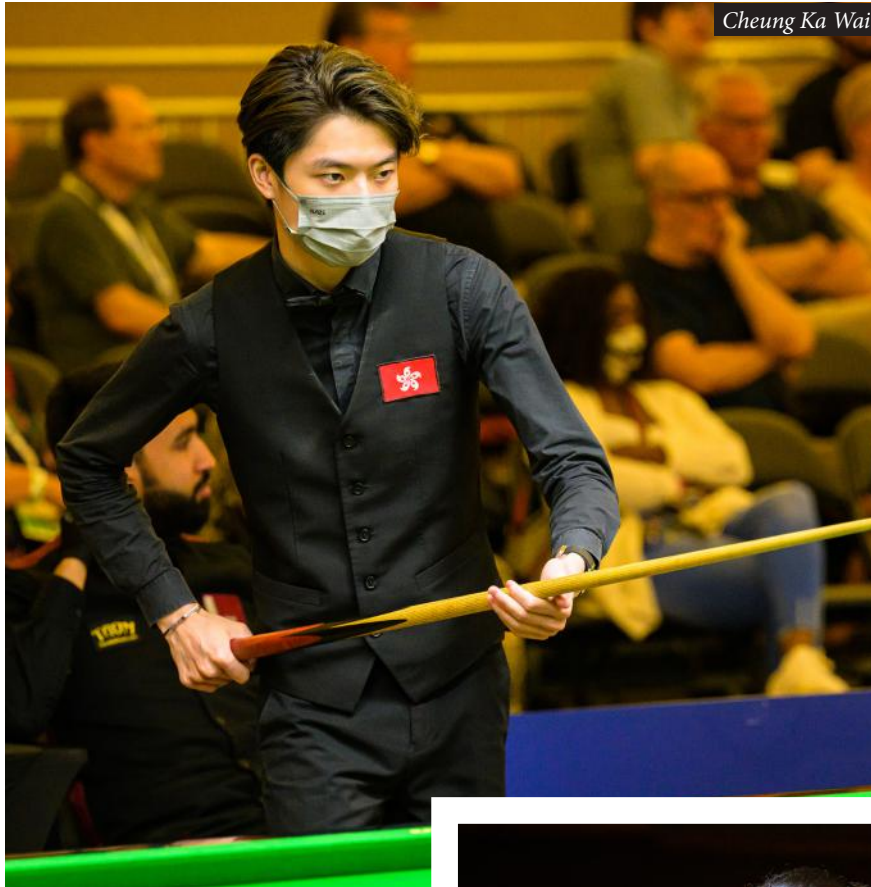
Shahin had a promising opening at the start of the final but that came to an abrupt end at just 15 when the Egyptian missed a black off the spot. That allowed Cheung to take advantage and the man from Hong Kong made 68 to win the opening frame, his highest break of the week coming at the perfect time.

Shahin levelled when he doubled a red to the side to leave Cheung requiring snookers. He conceded after failing to make a color after making the final red.

Cheung responded with a 23 to open the third frame and further contributions of 30 and 16 saw Cheung's lead restored. Shahin would need to take the fourth to stay in the match but, trailing by 23, broke down on a break of 28. Cheung was 16 ahead when the frame got down



Cheung Ka Wai



Cheung Ka Wai

very happy with the performance out there.

“I think the final performance was quite nice and I held my nerves and tied to not given any chance to my opponent. I’m happy for my performance in that atmosphere.

“I didn’t play at my best during the week. I was really nervous in every match and this is a short match at best of five. I did quite well to win every scrappy frame.

“I didn’t know that it is the first gold medal for Hong Kong so I’m very happy to get the gold medal.”

Shahin said; “I feel very good, but I also wanted to win the gold medal. This is my first time to play the World Games so it is a good result.”

The match schedule and results are at esnooker.pl

to the colours and doubled the yellow only to miss the green leaving him 21 ahead with 22 remaining.

However, Shahin could only manage the green before Cheung was back at the table and he made no mistake taking the brown from its spot. The blue to the middle took him to the pink which was on the baulk line, and a straight shot took him to World Games gold.

GOLD MEDAL MATCH

Cheung Ka Wai	3-1	Abdelrahman Shahin
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“I didn’t know that it is the first gold medal for Hong Kong so I’m very happy to get the gold medal,” said Cheung. “I’m very proud to represent Hong Kong at The World Games.

“It’s my first time to play and the atmosphere was really exciting. I’m



Abdelrahman Shahin

Jaspers Dazzles

On His Way To World Games Gold

Story courtesy World Confederation of Billiard Sports

Photos courtesy JP **PARMENTIER** / VINCENT **ROCHFORT** - Predator Billiard Group

Dick Jaspers of the Netherlands has had a long and storied career in the billiards discipline of carom three-cushion, having won the World and European Three-cushion Championships as well as the Three-Cushion World Cup five times.

The only event where the 56-year-old had not secured as much hardware was at the World Games, having earned two silvers and a gold in six attempts but having not earned anything since the 2009 games in Taiwan.

The Dutchman ended his drought in spectacular fashion Sunday morning at this year's iteration of the World Games in Birmingham, overcoming an early deficit against Colombia's Jose Juan Garcia with multiple long scoring breaks and putting away his opponent, 40-19 in front of an enthusiastic crowd.

"This is maybe the highest medal you can win because these are the Olympics for us," said Jaspers after the match. "So, I think it makes my career perfect. I had won a lot in my life and this makes it really extra special."

Jasper faced an opponent in Garcia who was playing with nothing to lose, having already guaranteed that Colombia – a country more known for its coffee than its carom – would be taking home a medal by reaching the championship. Garcia was one of two Colombian players who exhibited inspiring play throughout the week, with fellow countryman Pedro Gon-

zalez also reaching the semifinals and losing to Garcia yesterday.

The Colombian came out firing to open the match, connecting on seven straight points to build an early lead.

"I'm facing the number one in the world," said Garcia. "I know he's the best so before my match, I knew I had to try my best."

"He's a rising star and he started well with seven so he was immediately he was in the game," said Jaspers "So, I have to play my own style, my own game, and I think my concentration is



Dick Jaspers

points,” said Garcia. “He was too good to do something against.”

When Jaspers struck his final three-rail shot and saw that the cue ball was about to connect for the game-winner, he raised his hands in triumph before the balls even touched each other. The celebration was in relief as well as celebration.

“I’m also happy it’s over,” he said tongue-in-cheek. “I need a break. I need a holiday now because we play so many events. But it’s fantastic to go back to my country with a gold medal and it’s my second medal.”

The Dutchman was stellar all week, opening competition Tuesday morning with a high break of 16 as he defeated Pedro Piedrabuena of the United States 40-11 in the opening round-of-16, then eliminating Sweden’s Torbjorn Blomdahl 40-20 to advance to the semifinals. Jaspers then used an 11-point break to take a commanding leading against Belgium’s Eddy Merckx to advance to the finals.



Dick Jaspers

also strong side of me. Maybe it could help.”

Jaspers picked away at the deficit early, using a three and two-point break to narrow the lead to 7-6, then overtook his opponent with a five-point break to build a 12-7 advantage. After Garcia put up a four-pointer of his own to draw within 12-11, the Dutchman closed out the first half of play with a nine-point break to increase his lead to 21-11. After Garcia opened the second half with a point to cut the lead to nine, Jaspers went on an eight-point break then tacked on three more points in the next inning to push his lead to 32-13. He all-but clinched the match in the ninth inning when he tacked on a six-point break to push the lead to a nearly insurmountable 39-14.

Meanwhile, Garcia struggled to put up points after his opening inning barrage, accumulating just three in the four three innings after the intermission compared to Jasper’s 18.

“I tried my best in the middle and the end of the match but the ball didn’t hold me for the second or third



Jose Juan Garcia

Hollingsworth Takes Two Titles For The Second Time At BEF Junior Nationals In Vegas

Nine events, drawn from 22 national qualifiers across 17 states, yields 110 unique competitors

For the second year in a row, since the Billiards Education Foundation initiated a new rule allowing players to compete in more than one division of their Junior National Championships, Greenville, SC's Landon Hollingsworth has taken advantage of an opportunity to claim two separate titles at the annual event. He claimed two 2021 Junior National titles in both the 18 & Under and 16 & Under divisions and last week, though he'd aged out of eligibility for the 16 & Under

division of the 2022 Junior Nationals, he won his second 18 & Under division title and added a win in the event's 10-Ball Championships. Nine divisions drew 110 unique entrants to the 2022 Junior National Championships, which were hosted by the South Point Hotel & Convention Center in Las Vegas, NV from June 21-25.

Three of the nine events were designated as qualifiers for the World Junior 9-Ball Championships, scheduled

for the week of November 14-20 at the Puerto Rico Convention Center in San Juan, Puerto Rico. In addition to the 18U Boys division event, won by Hollingsworth, the 18U Girls division, won by Skylar Hess and the 16U Boys division, won by Adrian Prasad will yield eligible entrants to the World Juniors event. The BEF will make an announcement sometime in the future regarding which players among those who participated will be eligible, taking into account finish positions in



each of the qualifying events and the ability of individual players to attend.

The influence of the ongoing Junior International Championship (JIC) series of tournaments, now midway through its second year, was very evident in the results of this year's Junior Nationals. Of the 27 medals awarded to competitors (gold, silver, bronze; three in each division), 25 of them went to active competitors in the JIC series.

“Proud is an understatement,” wrote On the Wire Creative Media’s Ra Hanna, who organized and runs the series, in the JIC Facebook page. “We’re a family; that’s it, pure and simple. We work hard and we play hard.”

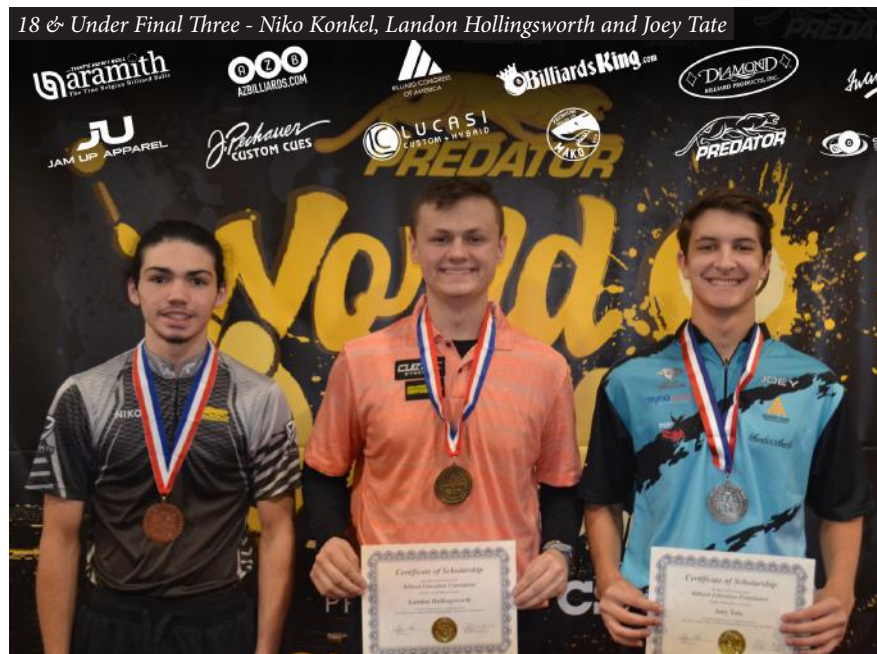
Hollingsworth’s two Gold medals at the BEF Junior Nationals were not without their challenges. Though he’d go undefeated in the second-largest event in terms of entrants, the 18U Boys 9-Ball World Qualifier, which drew 35 entrants, he had to play one loss-side match in his 10-Ball Championship run, which drew 32.

None of his five opponents in his 9-Ball event run chalked up less than four



racks against him and one of them, Garrett Vaughan, forced him to win the final game of a double hill struggle. He downed Niko Konkel 9-6 to claim the hot seat, before he had to face one of his regular opponents on the JIC circuit, Joey Tate, in the finals. Tate had been sent to the loss side, where he

defeated Nicholas Fiore, Trent White in the quarterfinals and Konkel, who picked up the event’s Bronze medal, in the semifinals. Hollingsworth grabbed the Gold medal with a 10-7 final victory over Tate, who went home with the Silver medal.



In the 10-Ball Championships, Hollingsworth began his run to the hot seat match by defeating his younger brother Cameron and then defeated three more opponents to reach and challenge Nathan Nunes for the hot seat. Nunes handed him his first, and as it turned out, only loss of the week 7-3 and claimed the hot seat. Hollingsworth was challenged to his second double hill match by Adrian Prasad in the semifinals and prevailed for a second chance against Nunes. In the very early morning hour or so of Saturday, June 25, he collected his second Gold medal with a 7-5 victory over Nunes in the finals of the 10-Ball event.

In the 18U Girls world qualifier, which drew 17 entrants, Skylar Hess won three on the loss side to down Kennedy Meyman in the finals. Hess had



been sent to the loss side by Meyman, who'd advanced to claim the hot seat in a double hill win over Courtney Hairfield. On the loss side, Hess defeated Bethany Tate in the quarterfinals and Hairfield in the semifinals, both 7-5. She won her rematch versus Meyman 10-3 to claim the event's Gold medal. The top four finishers in this event were among the JIC's top-ranked competitors in its 18UG division, midway through the JIC season. The winner of the BEF 18UG event, Hess, is 4th on the JIC list, while the runner-up, Meyman, is 2nd. Precilia Kinsley, who finished in the tie for 5th/6th at this event is 3rd on the JIC list, while the 4th place finisher is currently the JIC's top-ranked young female competitor, Bethany Tate.

In the remaining world-qualifying event, the 16U Boys 9-Ball, which drew one entrant less than the 18U Boys event (34), the 10-Ball Championship's Bronze medalist, Adrian Prasad came from the loss side to down Harrison Leinen in the finals. Prasad had been defeated by Leinen

9-7 in the battle for the hot seat, and then eliminated the 9-Ball event's Bronze medalist Niko Konkel in the

semifinals 7-2. Prasad completed his run with a 10-8 victory over Leinen in the finals.

The 16U Girls had, by far, the shortest field in the Junior Nationals with only 7 entrants and the above-noted Precilia Kinsley and Bethany Tate finished as winner and runner-up. Those two battled first in a winners' side semifinal that went double hill before Tate advanced to the hot seat match against Hayleigh Marion. In her second straight double hill match, Tate defeated Marion to claim the hot seat. On the loss side, Kinsley won two matches, including a double hill win over Marion in the semifinals, before coming back to down Tate in the finals 7-2.

8-Ball Championships draw larger field (44), than 14U Girls and Boys combined (40)

The popularity of 8-Ball was as evident at the BEF Junior Nationals as it is in the general amateur fields of competition, like various leagues and



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independent-venue, weekend tournaments from coast to coast. The 44-entrant size of the field featured a lot of competitors not included in the JIC rosters of regular competitors. The JIC series, in general, features 9-ball competition, though later this year, there are plans to include a 14:1 tournament. Though they don't play 8-ball, all three of the event's medals went to regular JIC competitors.

Trent White, who competes in the JIC 18U Boys division, went undefeated through the field to claim the BEF's 18U 8-Ball Championships. White faced separate opponents in the hot seat match and finals, downing Brent Worth, double hill, in the former and Jacob Kohl 5-2 in the latter.

Eddie Vonderau, who sits atop the current JIC ranking roster in the 13UB division, went undefeated through the BEF's 14U Boys event, which drew 28 entrants. Like White in the 8-Ball event, Vonderau faced different opponents in the hot seat and finals. He



14 & Under Final Two - Eddie Vonderau and Jayce Little

gave up only a single rack to Jordan Witkin in the hot seat match and faced Jayce Little in the finals. Little won

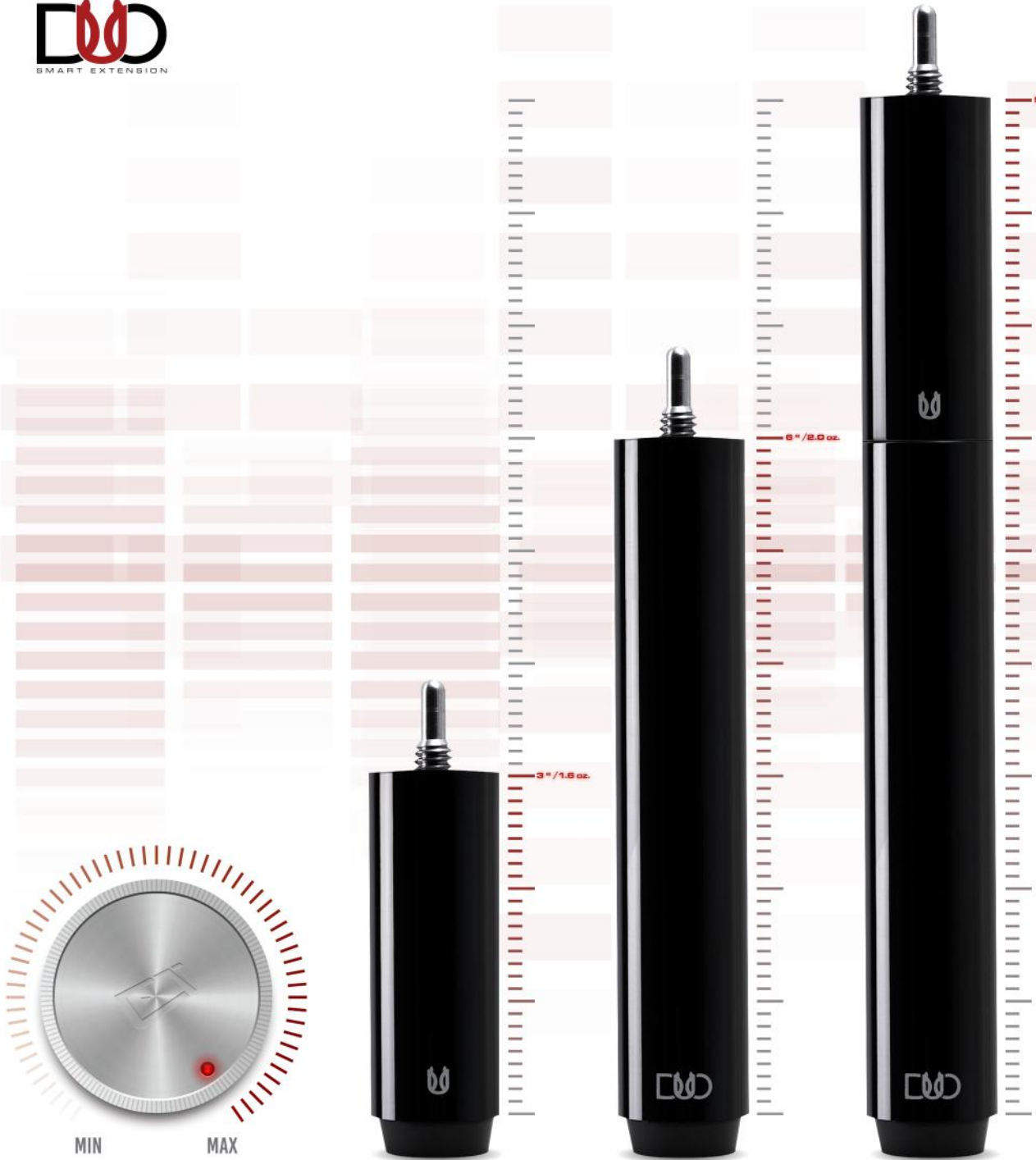
three on the loss side, including two double hill matches, against Grayson Vaughan and in the semifinals, Witkin, for a shot against Vonderau. Witkin chalked up four racks in the finals, but Vonderau got his 8 to claim the Gold medal.

The 12-entrant 14U Girls event was won by Savannah Easton, who went undefeated through the field, downing Sofia Mast twice; hot seat and finals. Easton had defeated the youngest of the three-member Tate clan, Noelle, in a winners' side semifinal and in the hot seat match, drew Mast, who'd defeated her 'storied' arch-rival in the JIC series, Skylar Hess (winner of the 18UG world qualifier), in a winners' side quarterfinal before defeating Jordan Helfery in the other winners' side semifinal.

Easton grabbed the hot seat 7-5 over Mast. When Mast returned after defeating Noelle Tate a second time, 5-1, Easton defeated *her* a second time, 7-3 in the finals to grab the 14U Girls Gold medal.



14 & Under Girls Final Three - Sofia Mast, Savannah Easton and Noelle Tate



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Payne McBride

Story by SKIP MALONEY - AzB Staff / Photos courtesy CHRIS REINHOLD / Junior International Championship

If you think of a pool career as something of a story arc that climbs from relative obscurity to a pinnacle before it begins to decline, you'll find that the curve of that arc will vary in overall length and rates of ascent and decline.

Tracing its path, you're likely to find common turning points; places and times where a career took a significant turn. One of the lessons learned, common to all in competitive sports, though occurring at widely varied points in time along the arc of their careers, is the acceptance of losses. More specifically, it has to do with a player's ability to put his or her past in their rearview mirror, to approach each game, match and tournament with the utmost confidence that winning is possible. It's a much more significant event than the number of games, matches and events a given player has won along the way, because until that experience bridge is crossed, the player's upward mobility on that arc will always be in jeopardy.



Payne McBride of Middletown, IN turned 16 on July 11. The arc of his early career is eight or so years long and began competitively at about the age of 9 in a junior league out of Brickyard Billiards in Indianapolis. It's advanced to higher levels in the past few years, since he began competing at the annual Billiards Education Foundation's Junior National Championships in 2019. Cancelled in 2020, he returned to the BEF Junior Nationals in '21 and '22, finishing 4th both times and last year, travelling to Austria, representing the US at the 2021 World Junior Championships.

He also joined the crew of competitors in the Junior International Championships' inaugural year ('21), finishing 9th in the overall rankings of the series' ProAm division and tied for 9th (with Brent Worth) in the 18U Boys division. This year, midway through the JIC's second season, he sits in 4th place among the 18U boys and 6th in the ProAm Rankings.

So, moving in the right direction and although he has won individual matches against many of the competitors currently above him in the JIC rankings, he is looking for the elusive event win. Unlike many competitors much older than him though, Payne McBride appears to have learned the 'rearview mirror' lesson and remains laser-focused on the road ahead.

"I'm trying to get as much practice in, every day that I can," he said. "I do drills with 16 different shots to work on. You know, the great players will know what they did wrong on a shot; the mechanical error and they just fix it."

There were a couple of issues which came to light in McBride's first JIC season. Though he'd experienced higher-level junior competition with the BEF Junior Nationals, repeated exposure to such competition, offered by the JIC season of eight tournaments was new to him. At the first stop in the inaugural season, he was unaware that there were more to come.

"I thought that first (JIC) stop was just a single tournament," he said, "so when I found out there was a second tournament (and more), I was pleasantly surprised."

"That first year?" he added. "That's when I got as serious as I am now."

The equipment at the tournaments, the tables in particular, were new to him, as well. Competing in local leagues as he entered the sport had a way of exposing him to more bar box competition, whereas JIC tournaments played out on 9 ft. tables. It wasn't just *his* adjustment to them that informed the change, but the fact that his opponents had already

'crossed that bridge,' adjusting to 9 ft. tables, that factored in to his first year with the JIC.

"Joey (Tate), Landon (Hollingsworth) and Laz (Lazaro Martinez) have played three times as much 9 ft. 9-ball as I have," he said, noting that in addition to the skill drills he works at in practice, he is also increasing his familiarity with the larger tables where he practices.

Payne's Dad, Leigh, was the parental unit with pool experience, having played for a number of years in a Valley National Eight-Ball Association (VNEA) league team. Payne's Mom, Melissa, though not adept at the tables, in due time would become Payne's "chauffeur, calendar maker, secretary, laundry, cook and personal assistant," making sure, among other things, that he had his chalk with him.

"Payne, though," she is quick to note, "does tuck in his own shirt."

Thanks to Leigh, the home had a pool table (another of those indicators that make regular appearances on the early arc of a pool career) and while Payne's older brother, Noah (now 24), went into BMX bike racing and didn't really get into pool at a younger age, Payne did. There are photos of them both sitting on pool tables when they were the same age.

"Payne had always kind of poked at the balls on the table," said Leigh, "but at 8, he started showing more interest and promise."

"He had a natural bridge and we really didn't have to show him too much," he added. "He joined the APA junior league at Brickyard Billiards when he was 9 and for a while (the late) Tammy Jones, who played on the pro circuit back in the 90s, and her husband worked with him."

As it happened, emulating his older brother, Payne did race in a few BMX



aces, but, according to Leigh, “it didn’t really catch on like the pool.” The official competition races were diminishing nation-wide at the time.

“A lot of the tracks around here were in limbo and a lot of them on the East coast and in the Midwest went under,” said Leigh. “If it wasn’t for that, Payne might be racing today.”

Instead, Payne “latched on to pool.” Leigh saw evidence of some natural talent and moved his son in the direction of junior league play and area tournaments.

“He had a real natural bridge, held the cue real well and didn’t try to ‘scoop’ the ball like you see (new players) do sometimes,” he said. “And right from the beginning, he wasn’t trying to hit the balls too hard, had a real good rhythm.”

In 2017, Leigh was playing on a team at the American Cue Sports Alliance’s Indiana State Tournament and signed Payne on to compete at a concurrently-run junior tournament. Though Payne went two and out, he was spotted by Dee Adkins, whose son, Riley would eventually join Payne, competing in the inaugural (and current) JIC season.

“Dee noticed Payne, introduced himself and said he wanted to work with him,” said Leigh. “He lived about two hours away and wanted to start training with him. Payne’s been working with Dee ever since.”

Training with Dee Adkins initially took place in a private home with the room for it and was known as Pods (owner of home) US Junior Training Center, which went on to occupy its own building with its own name – Dee’s US Junior Training Center in West Jefferson, OH.

“Most of the JIC (players) have been there,” said Adkins.



It was a turning point for all concerned, Adkins included. What began as a casual conversation between Adkins and Payne McBride about the young man’s displayed emotions after an event became something else entirely.

“He calmed down,” said Adkins of his initial conversation with McBride, “and it really wasn’t meant to be anything more than that.”

They stayed in touch, Adkins started training Payne and as it happened, there were others seeking the same kind of training and Adkins became the focal point. Tatum Cutting signed on and as Adkins put it, “It all started happening. I knew I could help these kids and they started having success.”

He brought them all to Sandusky, OH in 2018 to compete in one of a series of OH-based tournaments, operating under the banner of ‘Sleepless’ events; Sleepless Knights, Sleepless 8-Ball Shootout, and the one that Adkins brought his junior crew to compete in – Sleepless in Sandusky. The group, which included Adkins’ son, Riley, Tatum Cutting, Payne McBride, Jacob Hallett and Vaiden Leary – according to Adkins, the first group of kids to play in the event - won the whole tournament.

It was the beginning of a ‘leap’ forward and upwards on Payne’s career

arc, which coincided with the onset of increased height, relatively stable emotions, a relationship with 2021 Mosconi Cup Team USA player, Tyler Styer, and, as it turned out, Payne’s last bowl of Reese’s Puff’s cereal.

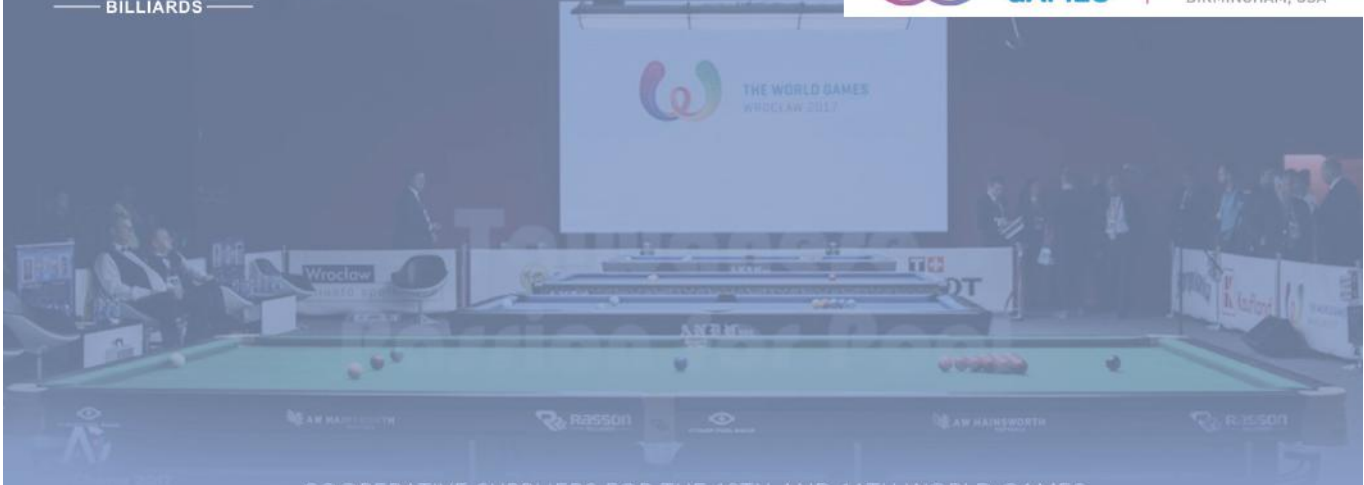
“Payne jumped into all of that,” said Adkins. “Age-wise, the increased level of competition. And he grew, like a foot, so that’s been something we’ve had to work on; the angle at which he holds his cue.

The strength of his game, Adkins noted, is that “mentally, he doesn’t show any emotion. You can’t tell whether he’s up or down. He’s a workhorse, too. Super intelligent, works his butt off and puts in a ton of time.”

About midway through the JIC’s first season, Payne and his Dad, Leigh were listening to a Joey Ryan podcast that featured an interview with Tyler Styer. Leigh had a sense that there were similarities between Tyler and his son, so they reached out to Tyler through e-mail and a weekend with him was arranged.

“They’ve been friends ever since,” said Leigh. “Together that week, on the second day, Tyler helped Payne get sponsored by Predator.”

“He worked a lot on my stroke,” said Payne, “gave me a lot of little tips, like



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Junior Player of the Month

showing me a way to hold my cue, breaking it down and how to set the cue ball down; a certain place to put it.”

“The big thing I learned was treating my body right,” he added. “I changed my diet and started exercising.”

In some ways, this was harder for Payne than the skills he was developing at the tables. He was skeptical at first, unclear as to how this was going to help him in his next tournament. And exceptionally unsure that he wanted to begin with a substitution for his favorite breakfast cereal, Reese’s Puffs. He agreed to try, ‘to give it a shot,’ as he put it.

“The first day we were together, we went to Walmart and picked out some food,” he said. “He let me start eating the Reese’s Puffs and then told me, ‘This is your last bowl of Reese’s Puffs.’”

The cereal was replaced by, among other things, eggs, fruit and carrots. Though he admits to hating it at first, he admitted, as well, that he felt great after doing it. He noticed the difference quickly.

“Not long,” he said. “Two days? It was crazy.”

Payne’s first year with the JIC was a learning experience, embracing a lot of different subjects, many of which had nothing to do with playing pool. It’s a well-known ‘coming of age’ story that long-time players like Dee Adkins have seen time and again. According to Adkins, he and Corey Deuel grew up together and early on, Deuel just wasn’t doing all that well. The next thing he knew, Deuel had won a few tournaments here and there and things turned around for him in a big way.

“I see the same thing happening with Payne,” Adkins said. “The mental crossover is a big deal and Payne’s going to do it. I’ve seen some of them that *aren’t* going to make it and if I can help him do it, I want to. I watched it happen with Corey.”

“Payne almost beat Mika Immonen in a match and I watched him go toe-to-toe with Tyler Styer, too,” he added. “I know that he’s that good and other people know it, too.”

Adkins is mindful, as well, that at this point in Payne’s career arc, there’s a bit of a struggle to find an identity within the pool community. For now, a junior identity, but later, one that will inform his continuing path toward

whatever success he is willing and able to pursue. Payne, of course, is not alone in this ‘identity’ search.

“These kids need to create their own space, not copy attitudes or particular styles,” said Adkins. “Payne is an amazing kid. I point him out to my own kids, all the time, him and Joey Tate; to remind them to make sure that they respect their opponents at all times.”

Well into the JIC’s second season, Payne has figured out (more or less) where his strengths lie. He’s working on perceived weaknesses.

“My strength right now is probably my safety game, or ball-pocketing,” he said. “Gotta work on my ‘shape’ though. A lot of times, I know the right safety shot, but I’m not able to execute it to perfection.”

“I’m consistently trying to improve that,” he added. “Getting the cue ball to come back exactly; a little ‘left,’ a little ‘right.’ Stunning over to a place.”

He’s also realistic about the career arc in front of him and trying to determine if there’ll be an alternative to pool. He likes science in school, “seeing how things operate,” but for now, his focus, specific and general, is on the sport.

“Beyond pool?” he asks himself. “I’m working my way through all that, but for now, I’m looking at making pool work. Trying my best to (like diet and exercise) give it a shot.”

He perceives the part of the career arc that’s behind him now, mindful, but not defined, by the losses. He’s also got a clear-eyed glimpse of the road ahead, with role models like Tyler Styer and some of the juniors in the same position as he is, demonstrating the potential reality of his own future. He knows one thing for sure.

“It’s not going to be easy.”



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The JPNEWT And A Peaceful Transfer Of Power, As Miller Prepares To Take Charge

Story by SKIP MALONEY

The July 15th weekend, at the 6th stop on the 2022 J. Pechauer Northeast Women's Tour, the beginning of a slow, but steady process to peacefully transfer tour power from its current director, Maryland's Linda Shea to Pennsylvania's Briana Miller will begin.

Shea is retiring from the oldest, continuously-operating women's tour on the East Coast that she has been running and competing in for 14 years.

Though it's difficult to trace the tour's origins precisely, according to Dawn Hopkins it began as a women's tour she founded in the early 90s, an adjunct to her All About Pool Magazine and its All About Pool Men's Tour in Massachusetts. The All About Pool Ladies Tour (and Hopkins) shifted from a New England base to New Jersey, where it would become the Northeast Women's Tour, operating at first, under the leadership of Colleen Shoop and Candy Rego, and later, Barbara Stock and Micaela Games. It was under their leadership that the tour began its association with and eventual name change to the J. Pechauer Northeast Women's Tour at the end of 2001 season.

Shea will be handing the reins of the tour over to a woman who's been a key competitor on that tour since Shea took over from Barbara Stock in 2008. Miller, who was 13 years old and in the midst of a seven-year run as a BEF Junior National Champion when Shea took over, will be 'learning the ropes' in the course of the tour's next seven stops, commencing with this weekend's event at Champion Billiards Sports Bar in Frederick, MD, through the season finale (Stop #12) on the weekend of Dec. 3-4 at



Triple Nines in Elkridge, MD. Miller will assume tour director duties full-time with the commencement of the 2023 season.

“My husband retired,” Shea explained of the decision. “It was time for me to spend time with him.”

“I saw it coming beforehand,” she added, “that it was what I was going to do.”

Shea ‘landed’ on the idea of Briana Miller as her successor, shortly after Miller returned to the area from a three-year hiatus from the sport, while she attended Lindenwood University on a pool scholarship that earned her a finance degree. She graduated from Lindenwood and got a job in the St. Charles, MO area. As the pandemic played out, more or less at its height, she obtained permission to keep her job and to do it remotely from her hometown in Allentown, PA. She returned home and to competition on the JPNEWT.

“Briana came back from college, all settled down to stay in the game,” Shea said. “She was very excited. She grew up on this tour like I did.”

And very much in stroke, as it turned out. Miller won the JPNEWT season opener, her first on the tour in five years. The last time she and Shea had met in an event before that, Miller had shut Shea out in both the hot seat and finals. They did not meet in this year’s season opener. Miller went on to win two more of this season’s stops on the tour, including the last one in June at Triple Nines in Elkridge, MD, where the season had begun, as well. Shea commented on her return after the opener.

“It (was) great to see her out and playing again,” she said at the time. “I loved it. She’s all grown up now; nice



I LOVE THIS GAME AND I HOPE I DID MY PART. I’M HOPING THAT I’M LEAVING THE TOUR WHEN IT’S BETTER THAN I FOUND IT.

– Linda Shea 

and settled and doing well. Her game showed it.”

The measured transition to her position as the tour’s director will likely start out slowly, as Miller starts doing some of the things she’s been watching people do since she was a teenager. She had actually started to do a few things to help out during the last stop at Triple Nines.

“This week, I’ll just start helping out with the tour,” she said. “(Things like) assigning tables, calling matches, updating brackets, things like that. I’ve been around these things my entire life, so it’s not anything new to me.”

As the weeks and months progress toward 2023, she’ll also be looking into who, among people with whom she has been competing and interacting for years on the tour, will be likely candidates to help her in the multitude of tasks she’ll be confronting in the New Year. There are more than a few among the JPNEWT’s membership who could do so.

“I’ll be trying to keep things in-house,” she said, “working with people I trust.”

There are a few things that are causing her some minor anxiety about the transition. Aspects of running a tour that she wisely has identified as things she knows she doesn’t know. Yet.

“Relationships with room owners, for example,” she said. “Establishing new relationships and maintaining existing ones.”

Shea, in the meantime, will be looking forward to time with her husband, John, which prompted the decision to give up her role as JPNEWT’s tour director in the first place. Without his support, she said, her time on the tour would have been a lot harder. She is also quick to point out that while she might be retiring the tools of the tour director trade, she’s not going to be hanging up her pool cue just yet.

“I still hope to play,” she said, “only it will be without having to load up 300 pounds of equipment before I go.”

“I don’t think I have regrets,” she added. “I love this game and I hope I did my part. I’m hoping that I’m leaving the tour when it’s better than I found it.”

Plans for the immediate future with her husband are indeterminate as yet, although they have reportedly discussed the idea of attaining a small travel trailer and taking trips around the country, where Shea can compete in tournaments other than the JPNEWT. It’s not the first thing on her retirement list, however.

“The first thing I’m going to do is show up for one of our events an hour before it starts, not three hours earlier to set up,” she said. “Briana and I will be working together until the end of the year, so I’ll be lending her some assistance.”

“I have no doubt that she’ll blend right in.”

Matchroom And Shane Van Boening Launch Game-Changing Junior Open

Matchroom Pool and World Champion Shane Van Boening are delighted to announce the inaugural SVB Junior Open, a new open Junior event co-promoted by Van Boening and Matchroom with a prize fund of \$10,000 set to take place at Harrah's Resort, Atlantic City during the US Open Pool Championship from October 13-14.

The SVB Junior Open will be available to budding pool players aged 17 and under with the field limited to only 32 participants and zero entry fee. Entries open Friday, 29 July. The tournament will be played on Diamond 9ft Tables, with Simonis Shark Grey 860 cloth and Aramith Tournament Black balls and will be held in the same Diamond Arena as the US Open Pool Championship which takes place from October 10-15.

The prize fund of \$10,000 sees Van Boening's official cue partner, Cuetec put up \$5,000 alongside \$5,000 from Matchroom to offer one of the most exciting prize pots in Junior Pool as well as automatic and free entry to the 2023 US Open Pool Championship set to take place at Harrah's Resort, Atlantic City September 25-30, 2023.

Emily Frazer, Matchroom Multi Sport Managing Director said: "We're elated to launch the first-ever SVB Junior Open in partnership with Shane. Shane Van-Boening is an incredible role model for up-and-coming players, his attitude, his practice regime, his relentlessness, and his pure drive is unlike any other and I feel honoured to both watch and be a part of building the SVB name and legacy."

"We have been focused on producing a platform for Junior players for quite some time but unsure of the direction: with the combined motivation of Shane, the Matchroom team, Cuetec, and Diamond Billiards this will provide a fantastic platform and op-

portunity for young players to follow in their footsteps of the sports World Number 1."

"I'd like to take the opportunity to thank Cuetec, Diamond Billiards, Aramith, Iwan Simonis, and Caesars En-

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tainment for making this cheeky addition possible and we're excited to see how it evolves and where it will head."

Van Boening is excited to see the tournament have lift off: "It's an honour to be in the position to launch my own tournament especially alongside Matchroom and the US Open, an event that's so close to my heart having won it five times."

"We need to give juniors the best opportunities possible to feel inspired and feel they can go on the journey that I have been on. I'm excited to see how the SVB Junior Open progresses and where we can take it and most importantly be their motivator whilst they're in action.

"I know Matchroom will provide a great platform for this event, it will be at one of the sport's biggest tournaments with the biggest names in the game."

“ I KNOW MATCHROOM WILL PROVIDE A GREAT PLATFORM FOR THIS EVENT, IT WILL BE AT ONE OF THE SPORT'S BIGGEST TOURNAMENTS WITH THE BIGGEST NAMES IN THE GAME.

– Shane Van Boening ”

Zach Dimotta, the president of Imperial International, official US distributor for Cuetec, said: "When Shane and Matchroom presented Cuetec with their idea for the SVB Junior Open, we were beyond excited. It really felt like the perfect fit for us."

"On one side we had family, we had the reigning World Champion, and more importantly one of the game's best role models in Shane Van Boening. And on the other side, we had the game's best event producer and promoter in Matchroom... And these two juggernauts wanted to work with Cuetec to create the next generation

of champions and fans. Sold. If only making the world's most advanced composite cues was this easy. "

Chad Scharlow, VP of DIAMOND BILLIARD PRODUCTS INC. said: "All of the excitement that Matchroom has generated with Nineball, is now transmitting to the Juniors! The juniors will get to compete in the most dynamic tournament arena they have ever witnessed. I am extremely proud to work with Matchroom on the SVB Junior Open."

The SVB Junior Open will be sanctioned by the World Pool-Billiard Association.



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Predator Apex

Becomes The Official Pool Table Of Cuesports International, BCA Pool League And USA Pool League

CueSports International (CSI), parent company of the BCA Pool League and USA Pool League, is excited to announce a truly groundbreaking partnership that makes Predator Apex the official pool table of CSI, the BCA Pool League and the USA Pool League.

Predator Apex Premier League Edition tables will now be used in all CSI, BCA Pool League and USA Pool League events beginning with the CSI Western Canadian Championships, August 16-20, in Red Deer, Alberta, Canada.

Predator has long been the world's most innovative and trusted billiard product manufacturer and has revolutionized the sport with industry-changing products. Low-deflection shafts, the Uni-Loc joint, the BK series of break cues and of course, the carbon fiber Revo shaft, are just a few examples of how Predator has pushed the sport into new and improved directions. They are now poised to do the same with pool tables.

CSI league events will use the 7-foot Predator Apex Premier League Edition table that has been meticulously designed as a collaboration between CSI and Predator for maximum performance, reliability, and fun. With its 25mm one-piece pure Brazilian slate, overbuilt frame and composite legs, each capable of supporting the entire weight of the table, it boasts strength and stability. With its 4.5 inch perfectly flush pockets, ultra-black matte fingerprint resistant finish, pocket sound dampening, tracks that prevent chalk from getting stuck in the table, and a ball return system designed to be quiet and keep the balls clean, every detail has been carefully considered to provide the ultimate league playing experience.

Additionally, all aspects of the playing equipment have been designed to work together perfectly. Rather than having the tables, cloth and balls all be different brands designed and manufactured by different companies, Predator Arcadia cloth, Predator Arcos balls and Predator Apex tables have been specifically designed to work together to provide the best playing experience. Like it has done with its other product lines, Predator is leading the way with the next generation of tables while keeping the entire experience in mind.

Ozzy Reynolds, CueSports International CEO, said "This is an exciting time for our industry. We have been working closely with Predator since 2019 in producing the best professional events on U.S. soil and last year, we cofounded and launched the US Pro Billiard Series. Our teams have become like family and, together, we will grow and push the sport to new heights. Buckle up."

"Growing our sport requires inspiring more players and for



7-FT PREMIER LEAGUE EDITION

that to happen, players need to enjoy playing the game, again and again,” said Karim Belhaj, CEO of Predator Group. “The new Predator Apex 7-foot table, Arcadia cloth and Arcos balls have been designed to deliver performance that you can count on. Joining forces with CSI’s fair and fun league system allows us to offer a great playing experience for league players to have more fun. Together we are setting a new standard for the next generation!”

Below are just a few of the upcoming events that will feature the new 7-foot Predator Apex Premier League Edition table. Visit www.playcspool.com/events for a full list of all upcoming CSI and CSI-affiliated events.

- **Aug 16-20:** CSI Western Canadian Championships
- **Sep 20-25:** CSI Michigan State Championships
- **Oct 19-23:** CSI Ohio State Championships

- **Nov 8-13:** CSI Oklahoma State Championships
- **Nov 15-22:** Caribbean CueSports International Expo
- **Feb 22-Mar 4:** CueSports International Expo

- **Feb 22-Mar 4:** BCA Pool League World Championships
- **Feb 22-Mar 4:** USA Pool League National Championships
- and many more to come!

CueSports International (CSI) is an international pool league and event leader and is comprised of three divisions: CSI Leagues, CSI Events and CSI Media. CSI Leagues manages the BCA Pool League and USA Pool League; CSI Events produces numerous league and professional events around the globe and CSI Media creates live streaming and digital content. Through its vision and strategic alliances, CSI is “shaping the future of pool.” For more information about CSI or any of its divisions, visit www.playcspool.com or find CueSports International on Facebook, Instagram or Twitter.

Predator Group’s mission is to inspire billiard fans by providing innovative experiences and products that deliver high-performance, with unsurpassed class and style. Predator, Poison and Uni-Loc are Predator Group brands that focus on performance pool tables, cues, billiard accessories and precision components to deliver the ultimate playing experience. For more information, visit www.predatorcues.com, www.poisoncues.com and www.uni-loc.com.

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Matchroom Agrees To Ground-Breaking New Agreement With Iwan And Saluc

Matchroom is delighted to announce a new ground-breaking four-year deal with Iwan Simonis Cloth and Saluc which will see the brands remain as Nineball's official Table Cloth and Ball supplier, an extension on a partnership first agreed in the 1990s.

Iwan Simonis cloth and Aramith balls have become synonymous with Matchroom's world-leading Nineball tournaments including the Mosconi Cup, World Pool Championship, World Pool Masters, World Cup of Pool, US Open Pool Championship, UK Open Pool Championship, European Open Pool Championship, and Premier League Pool.

Fans have already been treated to a brand new Iwan Simonis Shark Grey 860 cloth which debuted at the 2021 Mosconi Cup for the first time with the cloth exclusive for Nineball tournaments ran by Matchroom as well as now being available for fans to buy for their tables at home. The Tournament

BLACK set was specially developed by Matchroom and Aramith in 2020 and has since become a hit with the balls easier to decipher thanks to the ground-breaking black design.

Iwan Simonis and Aramith will benefit from Matchroom's extensive TV broadcast coverage and ever-growing social media channels as the world's best players battle it out in the Nineball arena on the Iwan Simonis Shark Grey 860 cloth using Aramith Tournament BLACK balls for glory and the top spots on the Nineball World Rankings.

Matchroom Multi Sport Managing Director Emily Frazer said: "Our relationship with Iwan Simonis and Aramith is special, and we're delighted to be able to expand on it over the coming years with the addition of more events and even more exposure for what we truly believe are the best products on the market in their field. The partnership gives us a fantastic opportunity to both enhance the player and fan

experience across our portfolio of events. We're excited to see where this partnership can go as we continue to make Nineball the primary discipline of pool globally."

Iwan Simonis Group Commercial Director Bernard Bollette said: "Looking in the rear-view mirror Iwan Simonis and Saluc are so proud to have such a close and constructive relationship with Matchroom for three decades. This new four-year deal confirms the quality and solidity of our partnership."

"At the level of excellence to which Matchroom has brought their events and TV broadcast coverage, only the best and most advanced materials can apport the ideal technical and visual conditions to the players. As the industry leaders Iwan Simonis and Saluc are delighted to have the Simonis 860 Shark Grey cloth and the Aramith Tournament TV Pro-Cup Black set equipping all Matchroom events."

Simonis Cloth and Aramith Balls

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you really have to ask yourself

would you rather play against your

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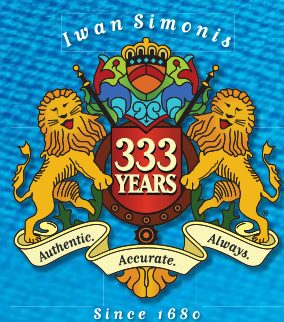
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APF Asian 9-Ball Open Becomes Nineball World Ranking Event

Matchroom Pool is delighted to confirm that The APF Asian 9-Ball Open 2022 this August 24-28 in Singapore will become the first ranking event in Asia on the Nineball World Rankings with the tournament organised by the Asian Pool Federation set to welcome some of the world's biggest names led by US Open runner-up and Singaporean Aloysius Yapp.

The addition of the tournament marks a major moment in the inaugural year of the Nineball World Rankings with the eventual winner of the APF 9-Ball Asian Open set to take home \$10,000 in a maximum field of 96 and an entry fee of only \$200. Fans will be treated to seeing some of the biggest names alongside Yapp including Ko Pin Yi, Ko Ping Chung, and Naoyuki Oi.

Matchroom Multi Sport Managing Director Emily Frazer said: "We're delighted to welcome the APF 9-Ball Asian Open to our Nineball World Ranking schedule. The tournament offers a fantastic opportunity for players in the Southern Hemisphere the opportunity to earn vital Nineball World Ranking events which shape the backbone of Matchroom Events and will be the future of Nineball and Pool. Whilst filling the calendar with European events is great, we have been concerned about the travel constraint for players based in Asia and potentially non-eligible for Nineball ranking points, we hope it's the first of many ranking events in Asia for us. These rankings points will prove vital for players looking to play at the highest level and playing for the biggest prizes. It's becoming more and more lucrative to play Nineball."

Other participants include:

- Robbie Capito (Hong Kong, China)
- Johann Chua (Philippines)
- Jeff De Luna (Philippines)
- Duong Quoc Hoang (Vietnam)
- Nguyen Anh Tuan (Vietnam)
- Luong Duc Thien (Vietnam)
- Chang Yu Lung (Chinese Taipei)

"Asian Pool Federation Limited(APF) is thrilled by this exciting collaboration with Matchroom Pool which will undoubtedly enhance and reinvigorate #asianpoolwith the introduction of the Nine-ball World Ranking points for the APF Asian 9-Ball 2022 tournament " – Christopher Chuah, President and Founding Member of APF.

From 96 to 32, the tournament will be double-elimination with each match a Race to 9. From the Last 32 to the semi-finals it will be single-elimination and Races to 11. The semi-final and final will be a Race to 13.

The tournament joins the PRP Nineball Open that was added to the Nineball World Ranking schedule last week. PRP Billiards will promote the 128-player tournament in Zaragoza, Spain from September September, 14 to 19.

How the Live 2023 Nineball Rankings Impact the 2022 Mosconi Cup Selection Process

The top player from each team from the Live Nineball World Rankings will be selected after the conclusion of the 2022 European Open Pool Championship at Hotel Esperanto Fulda, August 9-14 2022.

A further two players for each team will then be taken off the Live Nineball World Rankings after the conclusion of the 2022 US Open Pool Championship at Harrah's Resort, Atlantic City from October 10-15 2022.

Both Team Europe and the USA will then have two wild card picks each as selected by the two respective captains Alex Lely and Jeremy Jones.



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Tourney Results

Jul 02 - Jul 03

2022 Carolina Pool Tour Stop 8

Break Time Billiards

Winston-Salem, NC

- 1 Joey Tate \$1,295
- 2 Mike Davis \$650
- 3 Corey Morphew \$375
- 4 BJ Ussery \$225
- 5 Chuck Ritchie \$150
- 5 Josh Heeter \$150
- 7 Clint Clark \$100
- 7 Kelly Farrar \$100

Jul 02 - Jul 03

Capone's Firecracker Open Amateur 9-Ball

Capone's Billiard Lounge

Spring Hill, FL

- 1 Gary Hale \$1,000
- 2 Ken Black \$680
- 3 Aay Kay \$400
- 4 Charles Marable \$280
- 5 Adam Fear \$170
- 5 Casey Grove \$170
- 7 Anthony Fisher \$120
- 7 Joe Vetrano \$120
- 9 Joe Gnapp \$80
- 9 Rodel Morados \$80
- 9 Ryan Kuhlman \$80
- 9 Tim Brown \$80
- 13 Bobby Jones \$60
- 13 Mike Lear \$60
- 13 Roger Hebert \$60
- 13 Zak Weil \$60

Jul 02 - Jul 03

BWPPA 2022 Simonis Grand Prix

Riley's

Leicester, Leicestershire

- 1 Roy Kimberley \$299
- 2 Dave Beaumont \$179
- 3 Fred Dinsmore \$119
- 3 Tony Southern \$119

Jul 02 - Jul 03

Capone's Firecracker Open 10-Ball

Capone's Billiard Lounge

Spring Hill, FL

- 1 Anthony Meglino \$750
- 2 Donny Mills \$575
- 3 Lee Heuwagen \$450
- 4 Ken Black \$350
- 5 Pedro Botta \$200
- 5 Travis Croft \$200
- 7 Frankie Bourgeois \$125
- 7 Raymond Linares \$125

Jul 08 - Jul 10

Scott Frost vs Fedor Gorst One Pocket Challenge Match

Railyard Billiards

Louisville, KY

- 1 Fedor Gorst \$20,000

Jul 09 - Jul 10

NWPA Tour 2022 Stop 1

Legends Billiard Room

Beaverton, Oregon

- 1 Molina Ortiz \$740
- 2 Stephanie Hefner \$530
- 3 Kathie MacDonald \$330
- 4 Suzanne Smith \$205
- 5 Cindy Sliva \$130
- 5 Melissa Rushton \$130
- 7 Jeanne Christiansen \$110
- 7 Kat Guest \$110
- 9 Angele Silveira \$90
- 9 Donna Kingsbury \$90
- 9 Regene Lane \$90
- 9 Sue Frisbie \$90

Jul 09 - Jul 09

Q City 9-Ball Tour Event

OverTime Bar & Grill

Columbia, SC

- 1 Junior Gabriel \$700
- 2 PJ Stabler \$500
- 3 Thomas Sansone \$300
- 4 Michael Thompson \$200

5 Calvin Le \$110

5 Larry McGee \$110

Jul 09 - Jul 09

Garden State Pool Tour Amateur Stop

Side Pocket Billiards

Howell Township, New Jersey

- 1 Dinko Busanich \$550
- 2 Alex Vangelov \$325
- 3 Jay Pass \$195
- 4 Melvin Ivery \$140
- 5 Roger Hanos \$60
- 5 Steve Persaud \$60

Jul 09 - Jul 10

Arizona Women's Billiards Tour 2022 Stop 4

Pockets Billiards

Tucson, AZ

- 1 Heather Cortez \$650
- 2 Justine Bishop \$350
- 3 Rebecca Wagner \$250
- 4 Kim Kauffman \$175
- 5 Priscilla Hernandez \$100
- 5 Susan Williams \$100
- 7 Amanda Pulley \$50
- 7 Tammy Holden \$50

Jul 09 - Jul 09

2022 DFW Ladies 9-Ball Tour Stop 4

Rusty's Billiards

Arlington, TX

- 1 Tara Williams \$500
- 2 April Gonzales \$320
- 3 Jessica Demello \$220
- 4 Rachel Dytko \$140
- 5 Jennifer Hooten \$80
- 5 Krystle Suarez \$80

Jul 13 - Jul 17

2023 Midwest Billiards and Cue Expo Open One Pocket

Big Dog Billiards

Des Moines, IA

- 1 Tony Chohan \$5,200

- 2 Skyler Woodward \$3,200
- 3 Fedor Gorst \$2,100

Jul 13 - Jul 17

2023 Midwest Billiards and Cue Expo Big Dog 9-Ball

Big Dog Billiards

Des Moines, IA

- 1 Fedor Gorst \$6,300
- 2 Skyler Woodward \$4,700
- 3 Josh Roberts \$3,200
- 4 Corey Deuel \$1,500

Jul 16 - Jul 16

Tiger Florida Tour 2022 Stop 4

Shooters Billiards

Port St. Lucie, Florida

- 1 Jeannie Seaver \$600
- 2 Sofia Mast \$400
- 3 Jessica Barnes \$200
- 3 Stephanie Mitchell \$200
- 5 Jessica Karacia-Human \$100
- 5 Kaylee McIntosh \$100
- 5 Tracey Mullen \$100
- 5 Vanessa Seaver \$100

Jul 16 - Jul 16

Q City 9-Ball Tour Event

Sonny's Billiards and Bistro

Princeton, West Virginia

- 1 Corey Morphew \$400
- 2 Adam Pendley \$200
- 3 Jonathan Ailstock \$100
- 4 Keith Young \$50

Jul 16 - Jul 16

2023 Midwest Billiards and Cue Expo Banks Ring Game

Big Dog Billiards

Des Moines, IA

- 1 Fedor Gorst \$3,000

Jul 16 - Jul 17

JPNEWT Tour 2022 Stop #6

Champion Billiards & Sports Café

Frederick, MD

- 1 Briana Miller \$650
- 2 Linda Haywood Shea \$450
- 3 Shanna Lewis \$325
- 4 Kelly Wyatt \$225

Jul 17 - Jul 17

Garden State Pool Tour Amateur Stop

Black Diamond Billiards

Union, New Jersey

- 1 Timothy Clark \$300
- 2 Giancarlo Delgado \$160
- 3 Alex Vangelov \$100
- 4 Sang Hun Lee \$80

Jul 20 - Jul 24

2022 Racks on the Rocks Open 9-Ball

Racks on the Rocks

Peoria, IL

- 1 Skyler Woodward \$5,230
- 2 Abrin Schaad \$3,330
- 3 Shane Van Boening \$2,170
- 4 Alejandro Calderon \$1,410
- 5 John Morra \$920
- 5 Josh Roberts \$920
- 7 Jeremy Seaman \$600
- 7 Nick De Leon \$600
- 9 Gene Albrecht \$390
- 9 Sam Henderson \$390
- 9 Tony Chohan \$390
- 9 Vitaliy Patsura \$390
- 13 Fedor Gorst \$255
- 13 Kenny Nguyen \$255
- 13 Mika Immonen \$255
- 13 Roberto Gomez \$255
- 17 Brady Behrman \$165
- 17 Chuck Raulston \$165
- 17 Cory Smith \$165
- 17 John Clayton \$165
- 17 Ricky Evans \$165
- 17 Shane Wolford \$165
- 17 Tyrel Blowers \$165
- 17 Warren Kiamco \$165
- 25 Billy Martin \$110
- 25 Eric Naretto \$110
- 25 Isaiah Arellano \$110
- 25 Justin Hall \$110
- 25 Kristina Tkach \$110
- 25 Louis Demarco \$110
- 25 Matt Carman \$110
- 25 Rick Gyarmati \$110

Jul 20 - Jul 24

2022 Racks on the Rocks One Pocket

Racks on the Rocks

Peoria, IL

- 1 Fedor Gorst \$7,400
- 2 Tony Chohan \$3,960
- 3 Josh Roberts \$2,408
- 4 Chip Compton \$1,634

- 5 Jeremy Seaman \$900
- 5 Skyler Woodward \$900

Jul 20 - Jul 24

2022 Racks on the Rocks 10-Ball

Racks on the Rocks

Peoria, IL

- 1 Fedor Gorst \$6,400
- 2 John Morra \$3,360
- 3 Shane Van Boening \$2,000
- 3 Warren Kiamco \$2,000
- 5 Jesus Atencio \$840
- 5 Matt Carman \$840
- 5 Mika Immonen \$840
- 5 Roberto Gomez \$840

Jul 20 - Jul 24

WPBA Masters 2022

Soaring Eagle Casino & Resort

Mt. Pleasant, MI

- 1 Jasmin Ouschan \$12,000
- 2 Kelly Fisher \$8,000
- 3 Marharyta Fefilava \$5,000
- 4 Kaylee McIntosh \$4,000
- 5 Jennifer Barretta \$3,000
- 5 Loree Jon Hasson \$3,000
- 7 Angeline Ticoalu \$2,400
- 7 Ashley Burrows \$2,400
- 9 Brittany Bryant \$1,800
- 9 Caroline Pao \$1,800
- 9 Janet Atwell \$1,800
- 9 Joanne Ashton \$1,800
- 13 Emily Duddy \$1,300
- 13 JoAnn Mason Parker \$1,300
- 13 June Maiers \$1,300
- 13 Sarah Rousey \$1,300
- 17 Ashley Rice \$875
- 17 Billie Billing \$875
- 17 Cathy Metzinger \$875
- 17 Jessica Barnes \$875
- 17 Kim Nguyen \$875
- 17 Lonnie Fox-Raymond \$875
- 17 Maria Juana \$875
- 17 Naomi Williams \$875

Jul 23 - Jul 23

Sunshine State Pro Am Tour 2022 Stop 4

Livingston's Billiards

Bradenton, FL

- 1 Raymond Linares \$1,000
- 2 Lee Heuwagen \$725
- 3 David Singleton \$475
- 4 Donny Mills \$360
- 5 Desi DeRado \$275

- 5 Errick Tamoria \$275
- 7 Konnor McFayden \$175
- 7 Tommy Kennedy \$175
- 9 Brian Elzinga \$125
- 9 Jason Richko \$125
- 9 Randall McLuckie \$125
- 9 Will Smith \$125

Jul 23 - Jul 24

2022 Virginia State 9-Ball Championship

Diamond Billiards

- Midlothian, VA
- 1 Chris Bruner \$1,600
- 2 Brandon Shuff \$1,000
- 3 Corey Sykes \$700
- 4 Larry Kressel \$500
- 5 Matt Krah \$350
- 5 Nathan Childress \$350
- 7 Eric Moore \$250
- 7 Justin Squires \$250
- 9 Hunter Frazier \$150
- 9 John Newton \$150
- 9 Paul Oh \$150
- 9 William Burns \$150

Jul 23 - Jul 23

Garden State Pool Tour Amateur Ladies Stop

Shooters Family Billiards

- Wayne, New Jersey
- 1 Rachel Lang \$330
- 2 Jay Pass \$330
- 3 Ginny Lewis \$70

Jul 23 - Jul 24

2022 On the Ball Ladies Tour Stop 4

Betsy's Billiards

- Austin, Texas
- 1 Ming Ng \$800
- 2 Kim Sanders \$640
- 3 Michelle Cortez \$465
- 4 Chris Fields \$345
- 5 Angie Payne \$165
- 5 Kim Pierce \$165
- 7 Carmel Luttrell \$85
- 7 Jennifer Kraber \$85

Jul 23 - Jul 23

Sunshine State Pro Am Tour 2023 Stop 4 Ladies Event

Livingston's Billiards

- Bradenton, FL
- 1 Jeannie Seaver \$480

- 1 Vanessa Seaver \$480
- 3 Kim Housman \$240
- 4 Barbara Phillips \$170
- 5 Gianna Fiore \$125
- 5 Jamie Zinkhan \$125

Jul 23 - Jul 24

2022 DFW 9-Ball Tour Stop 7

Stixx And Stones Billiards

- Lewisville, Texas
- 1 Jonathan Rawlins \$1,280
- 2 Albert Duran \$890
- 3 Fahad Alrawi \$665
- 4 Tony Loeper \$460
- 5 Jamie Welch \$350
- 5 William Lovos \$350
- 7 Aaron Fleming \$260
- 7 Toby Brown \$260
- 9 Hector Guerrero \$180
- 9 Miguel Hernandez \$180
- 9 Pasini Taloa \$180
- 9 Rachel Dytko \$180
- 13 Alberto Garcia \$100
- 13 Doug Winner \$100
- 13 Isaac Ruiz \$100
- 13 Rafeen Rahman \$100

Jul 28 - Jul 30

One Pocket Champions Challenge - Lunda vs Roberts

Buffalo's Billiards

- Jefferson, La
- Winner Evan Lunda

Jul 30 - Jul 31

4th Annual Brendan Crockett Memorial

Hard Times Billiards - Sacramento

- Sacramento, CA
- 1 Fedor Gorst \$5,500
- 2 John Morra \$3,500
- 3 Oscar Dominguez \$2,000
- 4 Nick De Leon \$1,250
- 5 Marharyta Fefilava \$750
- 5 Max Eberle \$750
- 7 Skip Nikakis \$500
- 7 Spencer Ladin \$500
- 9 Carl Wilson \$350
- 9 Chris Gentile \$350
- 9 Daniel Sardonicillo \$350
- 9 Jeremy Sossei \$350
- 13 Amar Kang \$250

- 13 Dave Hemmah \$250
- 13 Miguel Movfin \$250
- 13 Sargon Isaac \$250
- 17 Avinash Panday \$175
- 17 Chris Romanotto \$175
- 17 Chris Wedekind \$175
- 17 Ernesto Dominguez \$175
- 17 Francis Ritarita \$175
- 17 Jewels Astudillo \$175
- 17 Paul Riddle \$175
- 17 Sean Tue \$175
- 25 Blake Baker \$125
- 25 CJ Robinson \$125
- 25 Jacob Lewis \$125
- 25 Joey Tate \$125
- 25 Joshua Palmer \$125
- 25 Phillip Prentice \$125
- 25 Tom Smith \$125
- 25 Tyler Styer \$125

Jul 30 - Jul 30

Weir Memorial 9-Ball Tournament

Twisted Rose

- Algonquin, IL
- 1 Ken Lee
- 2 Eddie Balderas
- 3 Andrew Mackey
- 4 Luis Rodriguez
- 5 Dan Stenberg
- 5 Daniel Gajardo
- 7 Ike Runnels
- 7 Mike Lullo

Jul 30 - Jul 31

Q City 9-Ball Tour Event

Breaktime Billiards

- Wilmington, NC
- 1 Thomas Sansone \$800
- 2 Chris Turner \$600
- 3 Jason Blackwell \$350
- 4 Don Lilly \$200
- 5 Eric Stanton \$110
- 5 Orlando Marcus \$110

Jul 30 - Jul 31

JPNEWT Tour 2022 Stop #7

Shooter's Family Billiards

- Wayne, NJ
- 1 Caroline Pao \$585
- 2 Briana Miller \$325
- 3 Kia Burwell \$225
- 4 Ada Lio \$190
- 5 Kathy Croom \$135
- 5 Kris Consalvo-Kemp \$135

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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.

AUGUST

Chip Compton vs Fedor Gorst One Pocket Challenge

Aug 04 - Aug 06

Broad Street Billiards
Wichita Falls, Texas

2022 Midwest Junior Championship

Aug 05 - Aug 07

Twisted Rose
Algonquin, IL

One Pocket Champions Challenge - Deuel vs Gomez

Aug 05 - Aug 07

Buffalo's Billiards
Jefferson, La

8th Annual Junior Norris Memorial Shoot Out

Aug 07 - Aug 14

Sikes Senter Mall
Wichita Falls, Texas

European Open 2022

Aug 09 - Aug 14

Hotel Esperanto
Fulda Germany

New England 9-Ball Tour 2022 Stop #7

Aug 13 - Aug 14

Snookers Pool Lounge
Providence, RI

West Coast Women's Tour 2022 Stop 3

Aug 13 - Aug 13

Buffalo Billiards
Petaluma, California

Mezz Pro Am Tour 2022 Stop 14

Aug 13 - Aug 13

Q-Ball Billiards
Vineland, NJ

JPNEWT Tour 2022 Stop #8

Aug 13 - Aug 14

Triple 9 Bar & Billiards
Elkridge, MD

WPBA Predator Event

Aug 17 - Aug 21

Calgary, Alberta

Hex.com Pro Am

Aug 17 - Aug 21

CR's Sports Bar
Coon River, Minnesota

2022 Junior International 9-Ball Championship Stop 7

Aug 19 - Aug 21

Big Dog Billiards
Des Moines, IA

2022 DFW 9-Ball Tour Stop 8

Aug 20 - Aug 21

Snookered Billiards
Frisco, TX

Stroker's Master's Open Championship

Aug 20 - Aug 21

Stroker's Billiards
Palm Harbor, FL

Mezz Pro Am Tour 2022 Stop 15

Aug 21 - Aug 21

Sandcastle Billiards
Edison, NJ

Asian Pool Federation 9-Ball Open

Aug 24 - Aug 28

Singapore

US Women's Snooker Open

Aug 26 - Aug 28

The Ox
Seattle, Washington

NWPA Tour 2022 Stop 2

Aug 27 - Aug 28

Players Sports Bar
Kennewick, Washington


Mezz Pro Am Tour 2022 Stop 16

Aug 27 - Aug 27

South Jersey Billiards
Somedale, NJ

AZBILLIARDS MONEY LIST

NAME	COUNTRY	\$ AMOUNT	
 Fedor Gorst	 RUS	178.547,00 US\$	
 Joshua Filler	 GER	123.434,00 US\$	
 Franciso Sanchez-Ruiz	 ESP	98.750,00 US\$	↑
 Shane Van Boening	 USA	97.797,00 US\$	↓
 Tony Chohan	 USA	80.975,00 US\$	↑
 Wojciech Szewczyk	 POL	80.412,00 US\$	↓
 Jayson Shaw	 SCO	78.167,00 US\$	
 Kelly Fisher	 GBR	75.820,00 US\$	
 Alex Kazakis	 GRE	69.264,00 US\$	
 Albin Ouschan	 AUT	60.112,00 US\$	



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- Jeanette “The Black Widow” Lee



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RIGHT HERE IN THE PAGE OF THE **BILLIARDS BUZZ.**

WE ARE POSTING

ONE PHOTO EACH MONTH

on our Facebook account and in the AzBilliards forums.

It is up to you readers to send us your **best caption** for the photo and we will
PRINT THE BEST ONE HERE EVERY MONTH.

Thanks go out to Karl Kantrowitz again, for this month's photo. There were a ton of great suggestions, but our favorite is from Justin Calta on Facebook.



*"In Sir Richard Attenborough's Voice"
"A startled pool player will often assume a threatening pose to ward off competitors."*

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