

Billiards Buzz

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WINNING WAYS

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FROM THE Head Rail

MIKE HOWERTON

With the current rise in interest in professional pool, a lot of credit is rightfully given to Matchroom Multi Sport and what they have done to promote the game.

The Predator Pro Billiard Series is also a big part of what is happening out there, with their investment in the game.

Those two companies are far from the only ones who deserve praise though. As we put the finishing touches on this issue, the WPBA is holding their Oneida WPA Women's 8-Ball World Championship.

It can't be overstated how far the WPBA has advanced from where things were a few years ago. This event is the first WPA Women's World 8-Ball Championship in history and the first World Championship on American soil in over fifteen years. The ladies are fighting it out for \$150,000 in prize money in addition to the world title.

The WPBA will be celebrating it's 50th Anniversary next year and I understand they have even bigger things on the horizon.

Until next time.

Mike



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AIMING FROM THE COCKPIT

INTRODUCTION

Pool is an eye>brain>hand coordination sport. This implies that you first see the shot (including its Shot Picture), that you relay what you see to your brain, and then to your motor cortex, which issues commands to your hand and arm to move in a certain way, one that will hopefully produce a successful shot.

In essence, you shoot what you see, so it pays to make wise choices about the various “looks” that you make as you go about putting the various elements together when preparing to play each shot.

You have, no doubt, heard that performing many of the operations that go into so many pool shots are done on automatic, that is, you don't need to think about them. This includes your all-important final stroke. In addition, there are so many other tasks while you are in the execution phase of The Shot Cycle that you do with scarcely a conscious thought as to how you are seeing and/or doing them.

These various tasks include looking at the balls, the table, and your shaft as you go through the process of putting together a visual of each shot in your mind. As part of these efforts, you will be looking at one element and then another as your gaze shifts between the balls and the table and, along with it, your evolving perception of the shot.

Again, most of these movements are done on automatic most of the time. This means that you likely have not, while working on your game over the years, taken the time to closely consider what exactly you are looking at as you stand, prepare to land, land, adjust (as needed), and go through your WUS routine prior to making your final stroke.

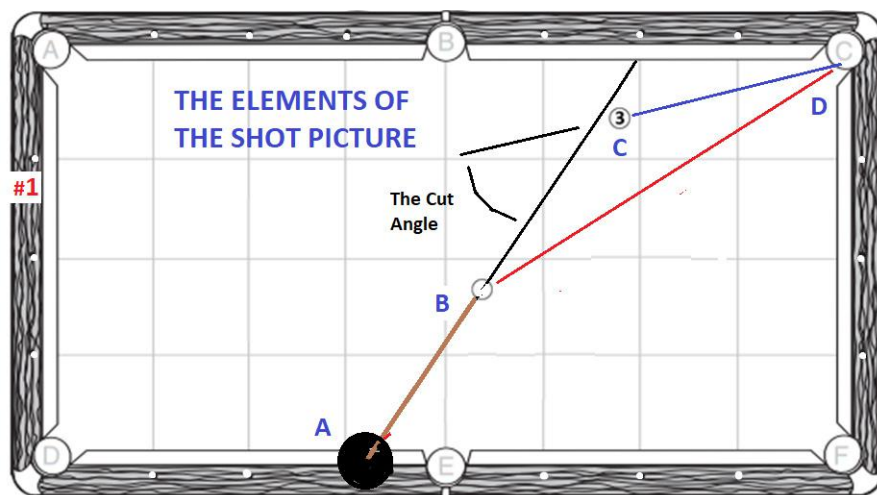
In this feature, I am going to present different ways of seeing your shots that you may have never considered before. So, if you take a step back for a moment to ponder the various possible views of a shot, you may discover how you can incorporate a more natural approach to aiming. (For more on Natural Aiming, see my section on it in *Capelle's Practicing Pool*.)

IN THE COCKPIT

Imagine that you are about to set up for a shot, and that your head is a

cockpit of a small plane. From your pilot's seat you can look out over the table and take in the many views that go into making up a shot. In this article am going to present examples that show the various elements that you are taking in from moment-to-moment as you prepare to play the shot. (Note: for more on the Aiming Cycle, see the December 2024 issue of *BilliardsBuzz*.)

Let's assume that you have just finished playing a shot and are moving to the shot on the 3-ball, as shown in **Diagram 1**. You may first take in the shot from where you are going to land for your stance as shown by Position A. Your head is well above the table as you look out at the Shot Picture, which is comprised of the cue ball (B), the object ball (C), and the pocket (D). It may also include the rail when it's close to the object ball.



The black line that runs to the left past the 3-ball and the line from Position B to Position C are used to measure the cut angle of the shot, which in this case is 40 degrees. While sizing up a shot, you almost certainly don't measure its cut angle to the exact degree. Instead, you likely use your vast knowledge of previously played shots (your library of Shot Pictures stored in your long term memory), to gain a feel for the magnitude of the cut. In this case it is moderately thin.

So, while the cut angle is useful for gaining an idea of the magnitude of the cut, the third line of the triangle, which runs from Position B to Position D, is the one that makes up the third side of the Shot Triangle.

If you aim by using the Feel Method (see *Play Your Best Pool*), this triangle makes up a big part of your aiming process, though you likely don't think about. Instead, you look out at the Shot Picture from your cockpit while you take your WUS as part of your preparations for making your final stroke.

After your initial assessment of the shot, you may then walk around the table to gain additional perspectives. These might include the possible position routes and the obstacles the

cue ball must avoid on its way to the position zone. At some point decisions have been made, and you now have a plan for playing the shot. Let's now pick up the action with you back in the standing in position as you prepare to take your shooting position.

You are standing in the pre-landing position. And, as is the custom for so many pros and fine players these days, you may take a few moments to perform about 3-5 Air WUS to loosen up your shooting arm.

While standing you are also looking out at the shot. Up until now in your career, you may have never visualized the shot using the triangles I am presenting. But, if you did, you may begin to improve your visualizations and, as a consequence, your overall level of shotmaking accuracy.

YOU SHOOT WHAT YOU SEE

In **Diagram #2** your head is in an elevated position at Position A. You could be looking at several things as you prepare to land on the table. From this panoramic view you can solidify your plans. Your fine tuning could include your position route and speed of stroke. The player's view of the Shot Picture runs from your head (Position A) through the cue ball, and

to the place where the cue ball will be at contact at Position C. A second line runs from the object ball to the pocket at Position D.

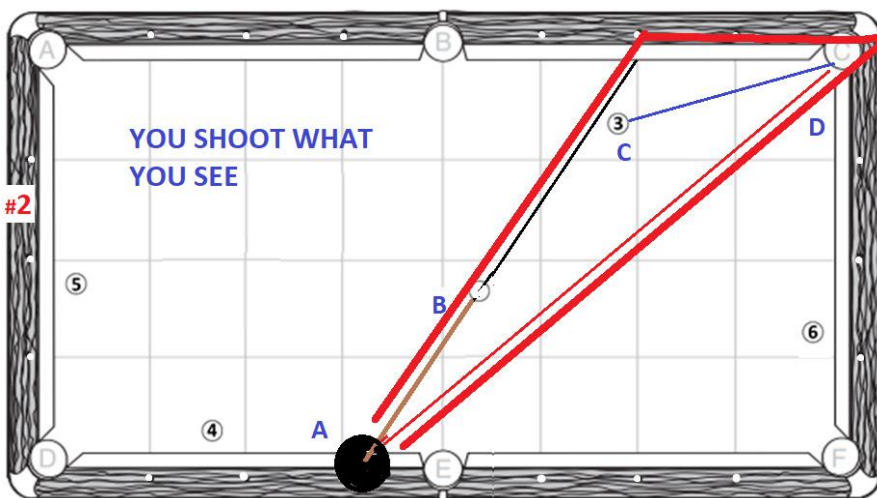
Now, here is a big key to using Shot Pictures and the method I call Natural Aiming: While you are in the cockpit your view of the shot changes as you shift your gaze. One of the items included is the third line of this triangle, which runs from your head to the pocket. You may look at the pocket directly, but over time as your library of Shot Pictures grows and grows, you might pick up a good part of this segment of the triangle in your peripheral vision. And you may see it even though you are not aware that you are. This happens when aiming is increasingly done on automatic.

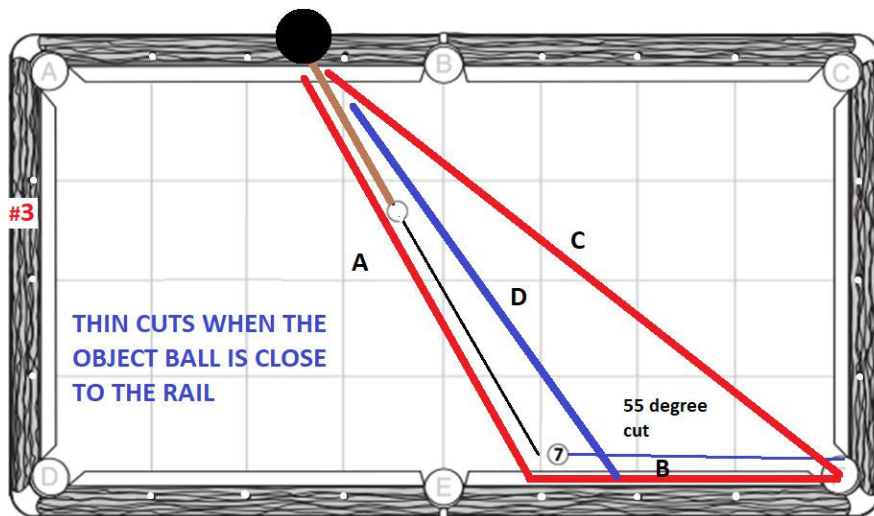
One of your ultimate goals is to get in the position at the table that enables you to see, and thus aim, the shot as well as possible. Your view includes the standing position before you lower your head to the position where you can see the shot as well as you can, all things considered.

THIN CUTS DOWN THE RAIL

One of the most commonly played shots are thin cuts down the long rail with the object ball nearly frozen to a within about a couple of inches of the cushion. The shot in **Diagram #3** is a 55 degree cut. Thin slices like this may look difficult, but they are not nearly as hard as they look. Let's see why.

When you are sizing up a shot prior to landing from the cockpit you can look out at the entire Shot Picture as part of your pre-shot routine. The three sides of the triangle are shown by the dark red lines (A, B, C). When the object ball is close to the rail, as in this example, the travel line from this ball to the pocket is almost the same as the dark red line (Line B) in the diagram.





You know that the pocket is at the end of Line B, so you need only look at a much smaller triangle when sizing up the shot. This is shown by the Line A from your head to near the cue ball's position at impact, by Line D, and by the thinner blue line that runs from the object ball to a short distance down the rail.

This smaller view is all you need to line up the shot, and looking out at a smaller Shot Triangle reduces the effort spent shifting your gaze, at times, to the pocket. And it enables you to focus more on other ingredients, such as your feel for the speed you need.

I suggest that you set up thin cuts down the rail like this and try to play the shot once you are down in your shooting stance. In time the fear factor will be replaced by confidence in your newly developed skill on thin cuts down the rail.

TAKE THE TRIANGLES TEST

I continue to reinforce the notion that pool is a sport that requires exquisite eye/brain/hand coordination. As such, it pays to provide your mind with the best visuals possible so that you can best arrive at a nearly perfect line-of-aim prior to making your final stroke.

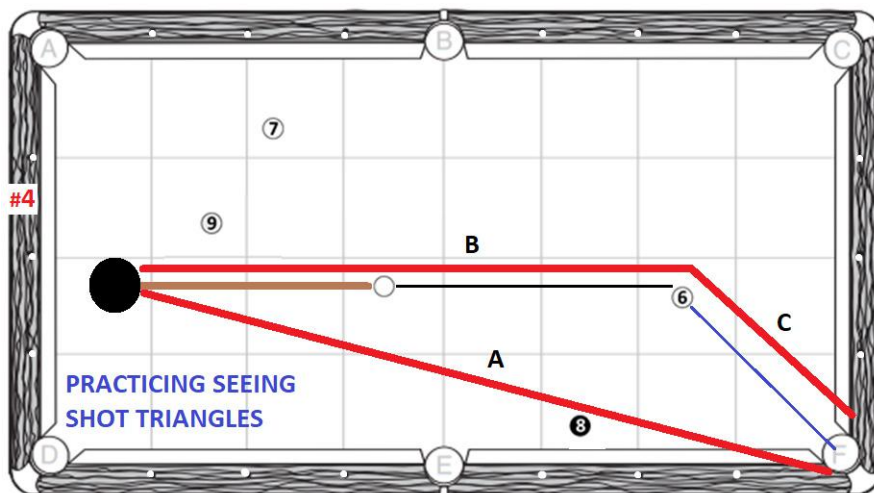
I am now going to invite you to participate in a grand experiment – one that involves seeing visuals like the Shot Pictures and Shot Triangles we've discussed above. What I would like you to do is set up a variety of shots, such as the one shown in **Diagram #4**.

Go through your normal routine up to the point where you are standing in preparation to landing in your shooting stance. While standing, take some Air WUS while looking out at the shot. As you do so, try to see the triangles and pictures that we've discussed. The goal is to form the strongest visualizations as you can of the shot you are about to play. After this brief 5-10 second long process, take your stance and play the shot. After going through this new routine, ask yourself if these new views are helping your accuracy.

If you do this routine and it becomes automatic, it could be a method for seeing and playing cut shots that helps to take your game to a whole new level.

NOTE: You can send your results to me at capellepublishing@gmail.com

In the subject line put
CAPELLE TT (TRIANGLE TEST)



ABOUT PHIL CAPELLE

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

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Mastering the Break: The Art of Controlled Mechanics

ANTHONY BEELER

In the game of pool, few moments command as much attention and anticipation as the break shot. It's sets the stage for everything that follows. Many players—especially beginners and intermediates—focus heavily on generating raw power when they break, thinking that the harder they smash into the rack, the better their chances of spreading the balls and sinking something on the break. But here's the truth: power without preci-

sion is wasted energy. The true secret of an effective break lies not in brute force, but in refined mechanics, timing, and control.

Forget Muscling the Break: Aim for Precision

One of the most common mistakes players make is trying to muscle the break, believing that maximum force will produce maximum results. The reality is that when players try to hit



as hard as possible, they often lose both control and accuracy. The cue ball may jump off the table, scratch, or fail to deliver the clean, square hit that makes a break truly effective.

Instead, shift your focus to hitting the rack squarely. A square hit on the lead ball ensures energy is transferred cleanly through the rack, producing a consistent and effective spread of the balls. Even if you don't break at lightning speed, a solid, centered hit will usually yield better results than a wild, uncontrolled smash.

One tip to help improve control is to choke up slightly on your grip. Many players instinctively grip at 90 degrees to generate maximum leverage. But by sliding your grip forward just a bit, you gain better balance and control, making it easier to deliver a smooth, accurate stroke. In fact, most pros hold their break cue at about 80-degrees. This slight adjustment promotes a cleaner, more controlled hit.

Key Mechanics: The Set and the Slow Backswing

When it comes to break mechanics, two fundamental components stand out: The Set and The Slow Backswing.

The Set

Once you've taken your stance and lined up your break, resist the urge to fidget or make last-minute adjust-



On the break shot, notice that the grip hand is positioned forward of the traditional 90-degree mark. I'm standing slightly taller than usual and using a modified boxer stance, which allows me to push off my back foot to generate additional power. My left arm is slightly bent, giving me the flexibility to move naturally with the shot.

In the lower photo, take note that the forearm is not perpendicular to the floor. Some players angle their forearm outward to help clear the rail of the table as they drive through the cue ball. The more angled the elbow, the less you need to "jump" to avoid the rail if your elbow drops—something that often happens during high-powered breaks.

On power breaks, the elbow almost always drops, so proper timing becomes essential. Also keep in mind: the farther you extend your cue tip toward the one ball, the more power you'll generate. That extension is directly proportional to the force delivered in your break.



ments. Take a few practice strokes then stop with your tip about ¼ of an inch away from the cue ball. The key is to stop, get centered, lock in your aim, and keep the cue perfectly still. Any unnecessary motion at this stage increases the chances of delivering the cue off center. Think of this as your moment of focus—everything should feel stable and deliberate.

The Slow Backswing

One hallmark of great break players is a smooth, deliberate backswing. Don't rush it. A slow backswing helps you maintain timing, stay relaxed, and set up a fluid forward stroke. When players jerk the cue back too quickly, they often introduce tension into their arm and lose the rhythm necessary for a clean strike.

The Forward Swing and Follow-Through

As you drive the cue forward, focus on delivering the stroke with intention and balance. Your follow-through is

a key indicator of how much power you've generated. Quite simply: the harder you break, the longer your follow-through should be. A weak follow-through usually means you've decelerated or tensed up during the stroke, which robs the break of energy and consistency.

I remember watching legends like Earl Strickland break. His follow-through was so committed that his cue tip would stop just inches from the one ball—an impressive display of both power and precision. That long, powerful extension ensured that the energy from his stroke was fully delivered into the rack.

Consistent Practice Yields Results

Breaking well isn't just about knowing these mechanics—it's about practicing them until they become second nature. Take time during practice sessions to focus solely on your break. Experiment with your grip position, backswing tempo, and fol-

low-through. Make minor adjustments and pay attention to how the balls react. The goal is to develop a break that is both powerful and repeatable.

Remember, even the best players in the world continually refine their break. By mastering these mechanics—precision over power, smooth backswing, solid follow-through—you'll gain a critical edge that sets the tone for success right from the start of every game.

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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CHALKIN' UP THE MEMORIES



Dancing with Fatty

It was early 1979 and I was living in New Jersey. I had a great job selling Yellow Pages, had a company car and had just moved into my first apartment. I'd been playing pool for a few years, had played in and placed high in a few WPBA events and had just discovered the action world. Life was good!

One day, I received an invitation to play in the 1979 World Pro-Am. There were to be two events - eight ball and nine ball - single elimination with a men's and women's division in . The entry fee was high - \$600 - a lot of

money for those days. However, the entry fee also included a room at the Tropicana Hotel in Las Vegas. LAS VEGAS!!!

Well, since I was the best female nine ball player in New Jersey, I figured I'd be stealing! I desperately wanted to go and it took me several months of five, ten and twenty dollar nine ball to get my entry fee, plane fare and other expenses together.

The day arrived and I was on my way to Vegas. I couldn't wait to get there!

Finally, the plane landed and I hopped onto the shuttle. Tropicana Hotel - here I come! I checked into my room, grabbed my cue and headed on down to the tournament room.

The tournament was being held in the Tennis Pavilion - a huge room filled with these little tiny pool tables and bleachers to the ceiling. I had never seen such small tables before! Stunned, I spotted Allen Hopkins across the room and made my way over to him.

"Allen," I said, pointing to the tables, "What the hell are these?"

"Bar tables. Haven't you ever seen a bar table before?"

"No," I answered, "What kind of phony tournament is this? How come we're not playing on real pool tables?"

Allen explained that in most other parts of the country, bar tables were very popular and there was plenty of action on them. He told me not to worry - he said I'd play a ball or two better on them because since they were smaller, they were much easier. Well, that sounded good to me!



Minnesota Fats - '75 Jack & Jill Cue Club - Arlington, VA - Courtesy of the Bill Staton ("Weenie Beenie") Collection

I was having a ball. I had hooked up with one of my best friends from home, Tommy Halliday (“Staten Island” or “Doc”). He was introducing me to all the West Coast players I had heard so much about - the promoter of the event, Richie Florence, Ronnie Allen, Bucktooth, Keith McCready and then, we heard a shout...

“Hey, Doc!!!”

We turned around and I saw a short round man making his way through the crowd.

Tommy started grinning and said to me, “Oh, mannnnnnn! Here comes Minnesota Fats! You’re going to LOVE this guy!”

Before Tommy could introduce me, Fats said, “So, who’s the tomato?”

I looked around - who was he talking about? Tomato?

Well, it turned out to be me!

Glancing at my name tag which read “Mary Kenniston – New Jersey,” he slowly looked me up and down and drawled, “Jersey Slimmmmmmmmmmm.”

Well, I was tongue-tied! Minnesota Fats had just called me a TOMATO!!! I wasn’t sure whether I should be insulted or flattered. Embarrassed, I made an excuse and fled.

Finally, it was time for the players meeting and the draw. I saw a few women that I knew but didn’t know most of them. I drew Sherri Sewell from Oklahoma City. We’d play the next day.

Match time came - it was the last round before the dinner break. Sherri and I started to play and if she didn’t have an open shot, she’d ride the nine! If she had a shot, she’d just run out or combo the nine! Boom, boom, boom...game, set and match. I was out of the tournament.



Sherri Sewell Raffail - Early '80s publicity photo - Courtesy of the Pool & Billiard Magazine Collection

Well, to say I was stunned was an understatement! I couldn’t believe it! I had built up my bankroll for months to get to Vegas and BAM! I was out of the tournament! I had hardly had a turn at the table and I WAS OUT OF THE TOURNAMENT!

On the verge of tears, I climbed up to the top of the empty bleachers. Sitting with my Fellini case between my legs, I rested my head on it and closed my eyes. A short while later, I felt the vibrations from someone climbing up the bleachers. It wasn’t until I realized that someone was nearby that I looked up. It was Minnesota Fats.

“Hey, Slim! Whatcha doin’ up here? Why so sad?”

As I started to tell him what had happened in my match, I burst into tears. How I’d saved my winnings for months, how Sherri got lucky, how I.....

Fatty just looked at me and after a long silence, he said, “Hey, Slim! Can you dance?”

Dance?!!! I looked at him like he was crazy! DANCE?!!!

He held out his hand, “C’mon, Slim. Let’s dance.”

He kept asking and I’d say no. It soon became obvious that he wasn’t going to take no for an answer. Reluctantly, I took his hand, grabbed my cue with the other and let him lead me down the bleachers to the tournament floor.

They were playing music on the loudspeakers and Fatty danced me all around the empty tournament room between and around the pool tables. He was a very good dancer and I had to really pay attention to keep up and not make a fool of myself.

As we danced, he asked me how old I was - I told him.

Married? No.

First time in Vegas? Yes.

Did I like shows? Yes.

Did I like great restaurants? Yes.

Mary Kenniston

"Slim, all I can say is that I sure wish I was your age again! And single! Single in VEGAS!!!

As he talked, his voice got louder, "YOU LOST YOUR MATCH?!!!! IN A POOL TOURNAMENT!!!"

By now, he was howling!

"YOU LOST YOUR MATCH?!!!! BWAHA-HAHAHAHAHAHAHAHAHA!!!"

I'm speechless.

"FUHGEDDABOUDIT!!! Is this the last match you're ever gonna play?!!!! Is this the last pool tournament you're ever gonna play in?!!!! There'll be other tournaments!!! YOU'RE IN VEGAS!!! You're a young, single, good lookin' tomato and YOU'RE IN VEGAS!!! Find yourself a guy and have some fun!!! Geez...YOU'RE IN VEGAS!!!"

Well, by this time, he had me laughing too. And while we were dancing, the room had started to fill up for the evening matches - now every-



Mary Kenniston - '80 Finals - World 9 Ball Pro-Am - Las Vegas, NV

one was clapping and cheering us on. The crowd was chanting, "Yeah, Mare - YOU'RE IN VEGAS!!! YOU'RE IN VEGAS!!!"

So, I did as the Fat Man told me - I found a guy and we tore up Vegas.

Oh, and by the way - Sherri Sewell went on to win the tournament and we both ended up living in Las Vegas where we ended up being good friends!

And, the next year, I won the tournament!

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



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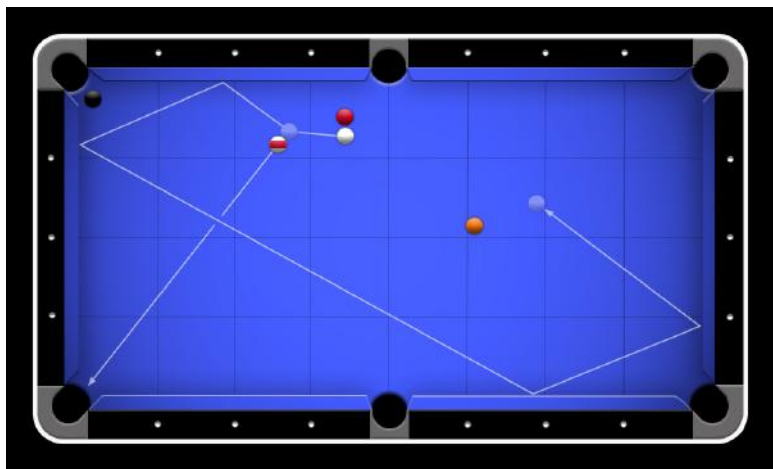


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F R O M



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

This month, we go back to the Derby City Classic, earlier this year, with Fedor Gorst at the table against Alex Pagulayan.

Pagulayan had jawed a ball and Gorst was doing his best to punish Pagulayan for the mistake. This thin cut on the eleven ball, with perfect four rail shape brought this rack to an end and Gorst went on to win the match.

The position wasn't a surprise to either of the commentators, but the execution of the shot was what made it our shot of the month.



VANQUISH

NEW

MACH 1

CARBON FIBER BREAK CUE



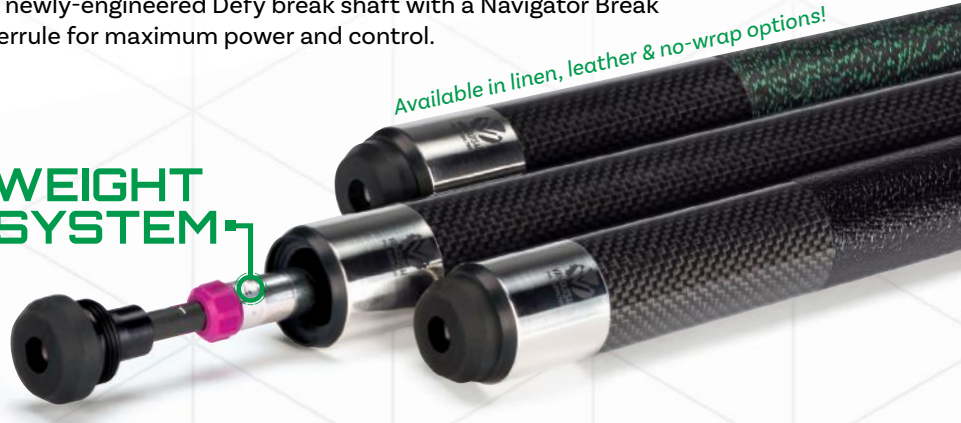
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Gospel Trick Shot #65

The 5 Loaves and 2 Fish

History of the Trick Shot: This shot is performed by Sonja Pretorius, a GTS RACK team member from South Africa. She also happens to be the website designer of our new GTS Website. This shot is done on an English style 7-foot Blackball pool table which has snooker type pockets. This shot is also featured in the 2024 Artistic Blackball shot program, which was developed from the American Artistic Pool shot program. This shot is part of the “Bank and Kick” discipline, and has a degree of difficulty of 9 out of 10.

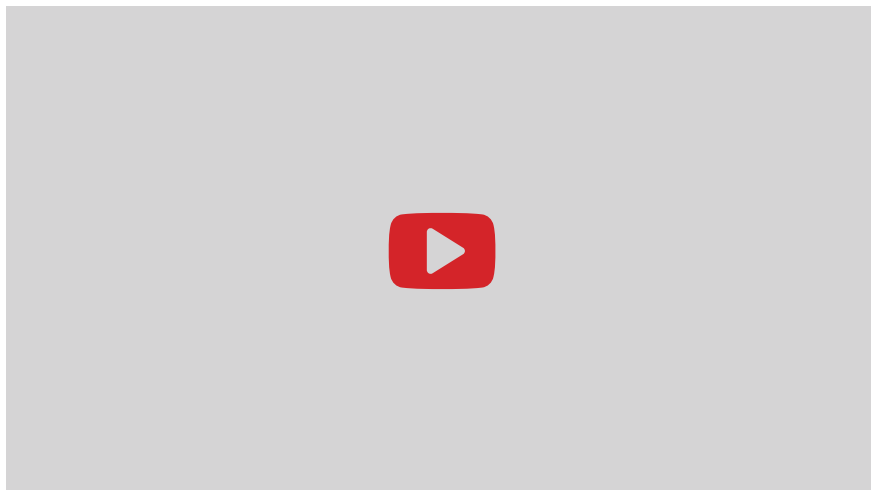
GTS Name and Why: The name of the shot is called “The 5 loaves and 2 fish” and demonstrates the cue ball running around 5 rails and eventually make a 2-ball combination into the corner pocket. Oftentimes we do not value even the little we have received from God, such as the simple things in life or even a testimony of what God has done for us. It took faith for the disciples to take the little bit of bread and fish they received from Jesus, and feed the first person they were sent to. So also, will it require faith on our part to give to others the little we think we have received from the Lord, whether it be a gift, talent, time, finance or just a word of encouragement. One thing is for sure, is that when we are obedient in reaching out to others with what we have received from the Lord, is that God will multiply whatever it is that we give. God will supply, multiply and satisfy those we reach out to for Him. To him who has, more shall be given!

Scripture Reference: Matthew 13:12 (NIV) “Whoever has will be given more, and they will have an abundance...”

Matthew 14:19 (NIV) “And he directed the people to sit down on the grass. Taking the five loaves and the two fish and looking up to heaven, he gave thanks and broke the loaves. Then he gave them to the disciples, and the disciples gave them to the people.”

Cue Ball Placement: place within the 1 x 1 diamond area as indicated in the diagram.

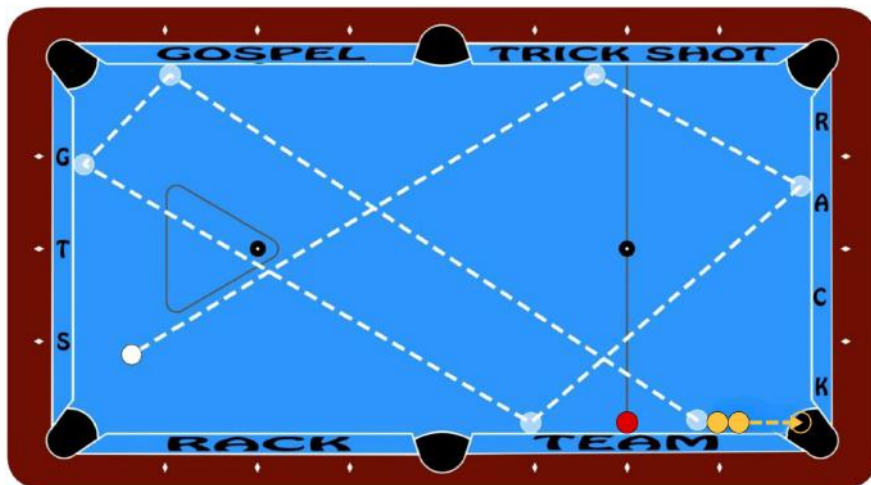
Object Ball(s) Placement: A two-ball combination setup, frozen to the rail and to each other, with the ball on the right on the 1st diamond from the corner pocket as indicated in the diagram. One blocker ball frozen to the rail on the 2nd diamond.



Objective: Hit the cue ball hard straight into the long rail as diagrammed with high right-hand English causing the cue ball to run off 5 rails and eventually making the two-ball combination and making the end ball into the corner pocket as shown in the diagram.

Special Notes: This shot takes some practice and depending on the speed of the table cloth one would have to compensate with how hard you would strike the ball. One can play around with hitting the cue ball at different speeds or hitting a little higher or lower down the first rail depending on where the cue ball ends up when reaching the two-ball combination.

Crowd Reactions: This shot will take some practice as every table differs depending on if the rails are playing long or short. But once you’ve mastered the right amount of speed and english to make the combo, expect the crowd to erupt with applause. Many times, the cue ball just reaches the two-ball combination and the end ball barely makes it to the pocket which builds up the suspense and eventual celebration of success. If one does not make it in the first few tries, that’s fine. Just say that God will always give us multiple attempts to get up and try again. Once you’ve made the shot and everyone is applauding, point your finger heavenward and say that God will supply, multiply and satisfy!



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'WEI-WEI'

GOES UNDEFEATED TO CLAIM THE \$40K-ADDED, WPBA SOARING EAGLE MASTERS

Article by Skip Maloney - AzB Staff / Photos courtesy Corby Dayhoff - Servitude Photography

Sometimes you hear it, when breath is expelled with a sound. Sometimes you don't, when it's a quick inhalation. At last night's (Sun., June 8) final in the WPBA's 2025 Soaring Eagle Masters tournament in Mount Pleasant, MI, it was a little bit of both.

The combatants were Taipei's Tzu-Chien Wei (known as "Wei-Wei" to many of the women on the tour) and Germany's Pia ("Killer") Filler. A matter of minutes away from the end, "Killer" had won two games in a row, to come back from a three-rack deficit that had Wei-Wei on the hill at 9-6, now cut to 9-8.

Wei-Wei broke the next rack and dropped two balls. An interfering 6-ball blocked the straight path of the 3-ball into the corner pocket. She banked it, successfully, but left herself with a deep-cut shot at the 4-ball, which rattled in the corner pocket. Filler was on her feet before the cue ball stopped moving, as commentator Lonnie Fox-Raymond in the 'stream' booth, excited about the possibility of a double-hill game that would finish the tournament, mirrored the expectations of everyone in the room and those following the event on the live stream.

"It's not over. Let's go!!" she said, admitting that because of the intensity level involved, double-hill games are her "favorite." She wasn't alone in that thought.

Filler stepped to the table with an up-and-down, but very do-able pattern that'd set her up for the final two, with the 9-ball still on the spot and the

8-ball inches away. Up for the 4, back down for the 5, up for the 6, down for the 7 and the cue ball came to rest at the tip of a thin triangle with the 8-ball and 9-ball as its base, both aimed at a corner pocket.

Filler came to the table, calm as you please on the outside, though certainly cognizant of the stakes, she stepped

to the opposite side of the table for a moment to glance at a projected path for the 9-ball and then took her time lining up the 8-ball. And missed, the ball hitting just down-table of the pocket. The 8-ball came to rest just inches away from the side pocket, as the cue ball rolled to a stop where the 8-ball had been, right next to the 9-ball.



Pia Filler and Tzu-Chien Wei (Photo courtesy WPBA)

Fox-Raymond's response was a breath-intake gasp, audible only because a microphone picked it up and followed with "Oh, no!" Stream commentators checked in with ouch, Dang, Uhoh, Momma! No way and yikes.

Wei-Wei stepped to the table and claimed the 2025 Soaring Eagle Masters title.

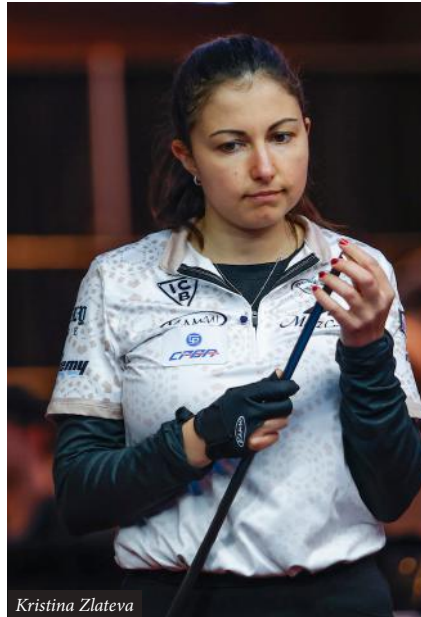
According to the event report posted on the WPBA Web site, the "talent level" at this year's Soaring Eagle tournament, which drew its 64-entrant field to the Soaring Eagle Resort and Casino, was extraordinary.

"If the 49-year-old WPBA has taught us anything," noted the post, "it's that the talent curve keeps bending upward."

"WPBA analysts reviewed every professional women's event from the past five seasons, and confirmed what the fans inside the Soaring Eagle Casino & Resort already knew: This 64-entrant player lineup carried the highest talent ever recorded for a women's tournament."

No argument from this end of the 'peanut gallery' on that. There were a total of 19, double-hill matches, including, but not limited to Sofia Mast's opening-round, double-hill win over Japan's Miina Tani, Kristina Tkach's (runner-up in the 2024 event) over veteran Monica Webb, Kristina Zlateva's win over Filler, which sent her to the loss side, and Filler's rematch win against her in the semifinals.

A quick note on the 16-year-old Mast's finish in the tie for 9th. She followed the opening-round, double-hill win over Tani with another double-hill win over Serbia's Bojana Sarac. An 8-4 win over Taipei's Wang Wan-Ling put her into a winners' side quarterfinal against Filler, who sent her to the loss side 8-2. Things did not get easier for Mast as she came out of the 'frying



pan' of Filler and jumped right into the "Kwikfire" of Kelly Fisher, who eliminated her 8-5. Fisher, who was initially engaged with snooker at the age of 16, had, by the time she was 22, won three consecutive Ladies World Snooker Championships. In 2003, she won the first International Billiards and Snooker Federation's first World Ladies Championship. Mast, who has yet to graduate from high school, shows many of the signs that indicate strong potential for a similar career track at the tables.

And lest we forget, Savannah Easton, younger than Mast, was in attendance as well, finishing one payout-slot lower (13th).

Wei and Zlateva set out on track to the hot seat match

An opening round, 8-2 win over Debbie Teichert started Wei's 'train' rolling toward the hot seat match. A pair of arguably more challenging 8-6 wins, against Eylul Kibaroglu and Yuki Hariguchi followed, with an 8-4 win over "The Grinder," April Larson, in the middle. This put Wei into a winners' side semifinal against Korea's Seo Seo. Kristina Zlateva, in the meantime, opened with an 8-3 win over

WPBA, long-time veteran Billie Billing and an 8-2 victory over Argentina's Ayala Soledad. Two 8-6 wins later, over Japan's Chihiro Kawahara and Sakura Murumatsu, she advanced to face Filler in the other winners' side semifinal.

Wei sent Seo to the loss side 8-5, as Filler and Zlateva were busy battling to double hill. Zlateva won that battle, joining Wei in the hot seat match. She was sent to an immediate rematch against Filler when Wei claimed the seat 8-6.

The battle for the hot seat and the quarterfinal were held simultaneously at noon on Sunday. Seo and Filler had arrived on the loss side the night before to draw Silviana Lu and Filler, respectively. Lu, who'd lost her opening match to April Larson, remained in contention through seven loss-side matches, which included three, impressive double-hill wins over Briana Miller, Bojana Sarac and, just prior to picking up Seo, Kelly Fisher. Filler drew Tkach, who'd lost her fourth-round match, double hill, to Seo ahead of eliminating the defending champion of the Soaring Eagle title, Chieh-Yu 8-4 and Yuki Hiraguchi 8-3.

Seo won a double-hill battle versus Lu, as Filler was eliminating Tkach 8-5. Filler downed Seo in their quarterfinal noon-match on Sunday. A little over 15 minutes after the conclusion of that quarterfinal, Zlateva dropped by to engage in a 'who wants it more' semifinal battle for a 'seat' at the finals table. Not surprisingly, it went double hill. Filler advanced.

After trading racks through the opening two in the final, Pia chalked up three in a row to take a 4-1 lead. Wei-Wei 'woke up,' so to speak, and answered with five in a row to take a slim two-rack lead, which Filler promptly closed to one. Tzu ran it back up to two and Filler reduced it back down to one at 7-6.

WPBA Soaring Eagle Masters

Battling for the win in rack #14, Wei-Wei found herself in an endgame situation that was exactly like the one that Filler would face in what would prove to be the final rack; 8-ball and 9-ball (on the 'spot') at the base of a skinny pyramid outline with the cue ball at the top. She made the shot that Filler would fail to make later and was on the hill at 9-6.

In rack #16, it was Filler who found herself in the exact same, skinny pyramid, endgame situation and without any trouble, drew within two. She went on to win the next game to pull within one. The rest, as noted at the outset, is history.

The WPBA rankings underwent a little shift, although 1 through 3 at the top remained the same; Tkach, Margarita Fefilova, and Zlateva. Allison Fisher, who did not compete, dropped from 4th down to 8th, as Filler moved up from 5th to take her place in 4th. Tzu-



Chien Wei jumped up four spots to settle into 5th place. Chieh-Yu Chou, who finished in the tie for 9th, moved up a notch to 6th, Kelly Fisher went from 8th to 7th. Brittany Bryant fell to 9th, while Savannah Easton moved up a spot to join the Top 10.

WPBA representatives thanked the ownership and staff at the Soaring Eagle Resort and Casino, along with Presenting Sponsors, Olhausen, Taom, Jacoby Custom Cues, Brunswick, and Diamond Billiard Products.

The tour will now head to Green Bay, WI for the Inaugural 2025 Oneida WPA Women's 8-Ball World Championship, July 2-6, at the Oneida Casino & Hotel, with an opening ceremony inside Lambeau Field. The next regular stop on the tour, scheduled for August 21-24, will be the \$25,000-added Felt Colorado Classic at Felt Billiards in Englewood, CO.

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ULTIMATE POOL USA'S BOSTON OPEN COMES TO A CLOSE

Article by **Mary Kenniston** / Photos courtesy **Ultimate Pool USA**

Ultimate Pool USA just wrapped up their Boston Open. Hosted by the Courtside Bar & Grill in Pembroke, MA, the event had five divisions playing on seven foot tables with International 8 Ball Rules.

They included the Boston Shootout, Boston Mixed Pairs, the Boston Open, the Women's Open and the Junior Open.

The event kicked off on Thursday evening with the Boston Shootout. Featuring 24 players, big names included BCA Hall of Famers Shane Van Boening and Johnny Archer, the Iowa Open's defending champ Tom Cousins, local favorites Mike Dechaine, Kevin Guimond and Lukas Fracasso-Verner, Justin Bergman, Skyler Woodward and the legendary David Matlock.

Over the next two days, the field was whittled down to the final four –

Shane Van Boening, Johnny Archer, Justin Bergman and Craig Waddingham. The Iceberg and the Silver Sniper faced off in the finals and it was all Waddingham as he roared to a 6-1 victory over Bergman and lifted the trophy for the Boston Shootout in front of a packed house!

The next event was the Boston Mixed Pairs Championship. It had eight teams competing for the title including the Iowa Open's runners-up Tarah Connor and Tom Cousins.

Saturday night saw new champs crowned in the star-studded field. Shane Van Boening and Ashley Ben-

Tom Cousins - Open Event Winner



Craig Waddingham - Shootout Winner



oit cruised past Johnny Archer and Nicole Obarowski 6-1 to claim their berth in the finals. The team of Sky Woodward and Skylar Hess was eliminated by Justin Bergman and Tina Larsen – also 6-1.

The final match was a blowout as Van Boening and Benoit claimed the title over Bergman and Larsen with a 6-0 score!

The Women's Open had a full field of 32 players including Emily Duddy,

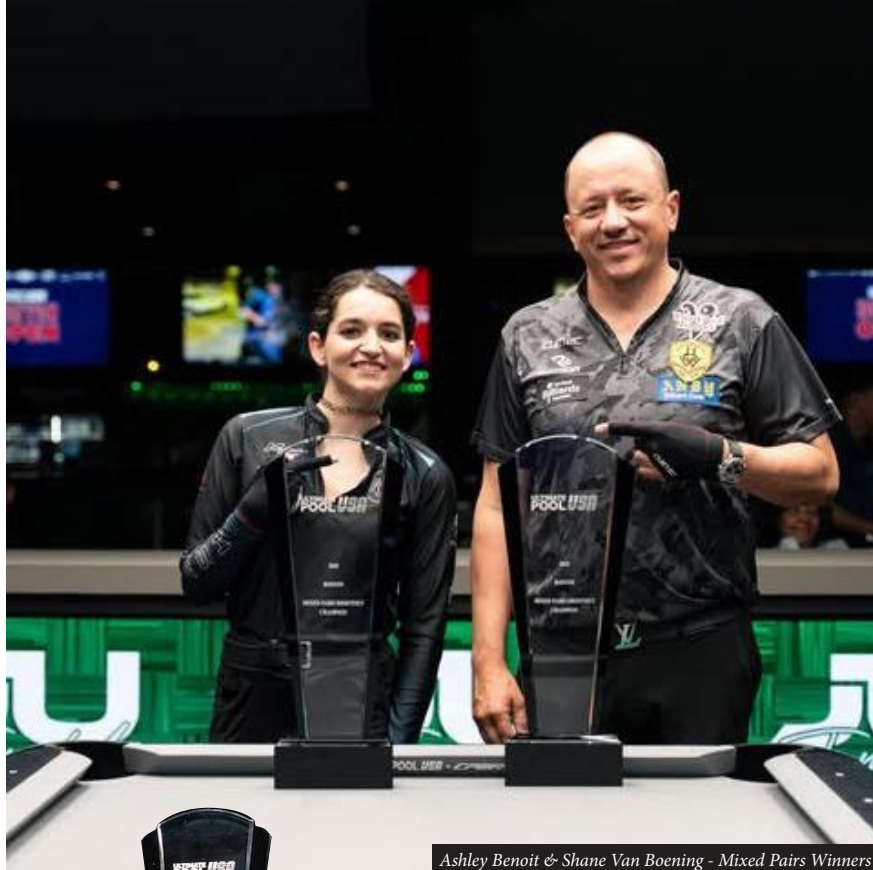
ed with a break and run to make it 7-3, but to no avail. Cousins broke and ran out the next game to take the match, the title and his third Ultimate Pool USA win!

The Boston Open Second Chance trophy went to Amy Beauchamp and Ashley Benoit as they chose to share the win.

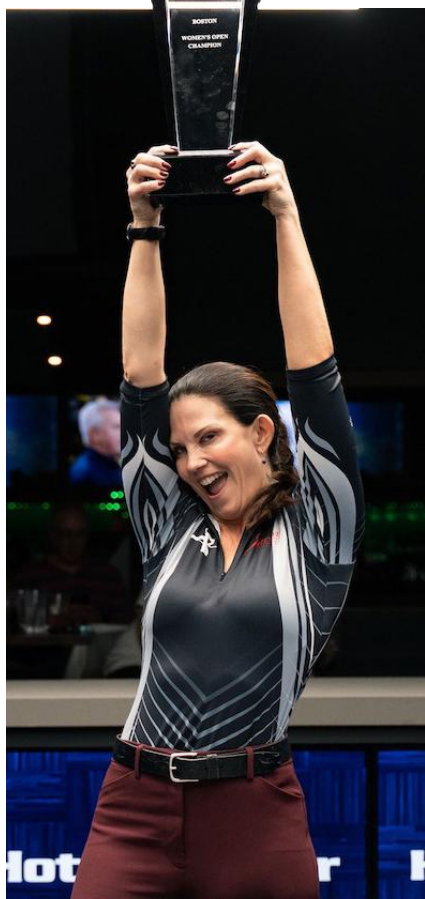
Congratulations to all the newly minted champs!

Ultimate Pool USA would like to thank their sponsors. They include Brunswick Billiards, Viking Cues, Valhalla, Smart Rack, Hero Tips, CPBA, Ozone Billiards, Jam Up, Hotel Planner and the Fort Worth Billiards Superstore of Fort Worth, TX.

Ultimate Pool USA's next event will be the Kansas City Open held at Side Pockets Blue Springs in Kansas City, KS. Dates are July 18th-20th – hope to see you there!



Ashley Benoit & Shane Van Boening - Mixed Pairs Winners



Emily Duddy - Women's Division Winner

Ashley Benoit, Tina Larsen, Ada Lio and Lisa Blanchette.

The WPBA was well represented as Emily Duddy and Ashley Benoit battled it out for the title. Duddy claimed the title with a 7-3 victory.

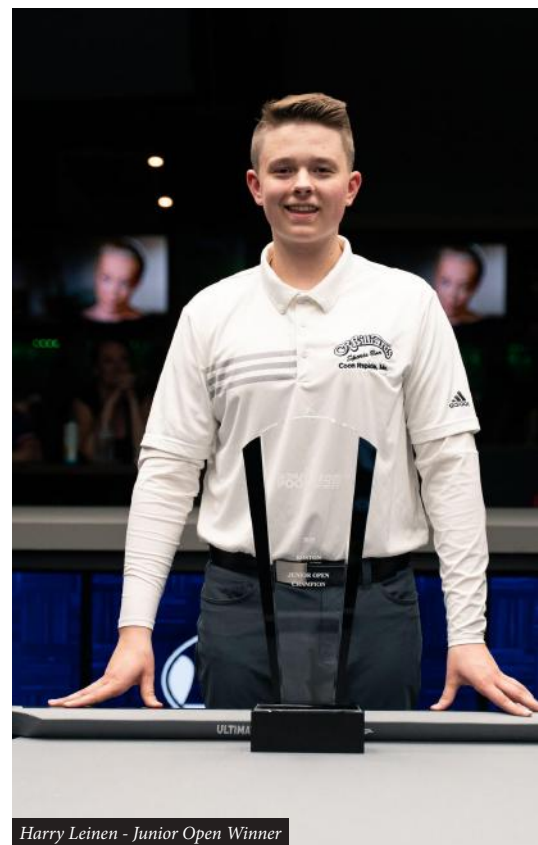
Ada Lio defeated April Gonzales 4-1 in the second chance competition.

The Junior Open had 19 players competing for the title. When it was all over, it was Harrison Leinen who defeated challenger Shane Petrick by way of a 6 Ball Shootout to claim the title.

Skylar Hess defeated April Gonzales 4-2 to take the Second Chance win.

And finally, Iowa Open's defending champ Tom Cousins eliminated Shane Van Boening to lock up his berth in the Boston Open finals where he was joined by Declan Brennan.

At 7-2, Cousins reached the hill first in a lopsided match. Brennan respond-



Harry Leinen - Junior Open Winner

BREAKTHROUGH WINS FOR LABUTIS AND KACI

Article by Jack Mitchell - Matchroom Multi Sport / Photos courtesy Matchroom Multi Sport

Pijus Labutis and Kledio Kaçi have both etched their names onto the 2025 World Nineball Tour winners' list, each capturing their maiden WNT Ranking titles in consecutive events across Europe.

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Labutis struck first in Tallinn, Estonia, with a composed performance at the Mezz Hill-Hill Estonia Open—defeating home favourite Casper Matikainen 11-7 in the final. The Lithuanian has long looked poised for a breakthrough, following semi-final runs at the 2024 UK Open and the 2025 European Open in March.

Now up to No.13 in the WNT Rankings, he's eyeing a place in the top 10 for the first time in his career. His first title comes as no surprise and could well

be the first of many for the 27-year-old.

Hot on his heels, 19-year-old Kledio Kaçi delivered his own breakthrough moment at the Bucharest Mezz Open, edging past reigning European Open champion Joshua Filler in a nail-biting hill-hill thriller.

The Albanian's win marks a defining moment in a rapidly rising career, having already impressed with an eighth-place finish on his Premier League Pool debut earlier this year and a solid Last 32 finish at the UK Open in May.

With both Labutis and Kaçi now officially among the tour's title-winners, attention shifts to Asia for the next leg of the World Nineball Tour. The **Universal x CPBA 99 Open** at 99 Billiards Club in Hanoi kicks off the July slate of events, before the **Crown Jewel of Nineball**, the **World Pool Championship**, takes centre stage from **July 21-26**.

View the full World Nineball Tour schedule at <https://matchroom-pool.com/schedule/>

Watch every match live and uninterrupted on WNT TV – the official home of the World Nineball Tour



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LAZARO MARTINEZ III

IS OVERALL CHAMPION AT 2025 JUNIOR WORLD ALL AROUND IN LOUISVILLE, KY

Article by Skip Maloney - AzB Staff / Photos courtesy event staff

Wins 9-Ball/One Pocket with Hayden Ernst runner-up in both, Kashton Keeton wins Banks

The \$3,000-added, 2025 Junior World All-Around, held last weekend (June 18-22) at Railyard Billiards in Louisville, KY is modeled on the Derby City Classic to the extent that a 'junior competitor' is anyone under the age of 21. This accounts for the presence of such known, and for the most part, previously junior competitors, like Joey Tate and Landon Hollingsworth,

who've been ineligible lately to compete in most events bearing a 'junior' label. The three events – 9-Ball, Banks and One Pocket – drew 108 competitors, with some crossovers; only two females signed on to compete – Skylynn Elliott and Jeanna Gregg. The three events were won by two teenagers who, temporarily at least, are legitimately qualified to compete in 18 & under tournaments.

Lazaro Martinez (18), from Texas, went undefeated to win the 32-entrant One Pocket division. He came back from a hot seat loss in the 40-entrant 9-Ball division to win it and finished 4th in the 36-entrant Banks division. For Kentucky's Kashton Keeton (18), who



Hayden Ernst and Lazaro Martinez III

lives a little less than three hours east of Louisville, the event was, in effect, a homestand. The defending champion in the Banks division, Keeton lost the hot seat match this year, but came back to defeat Landon Hollingsworth in the final to retain his title. Also defending their titles this year were Niko Konkell, who finished 7th/8th in this year's Banks division and Hollingsworth, who finished 7th/8th in One Pocket.

A 'point system,' which was applied to his two wins and 4th place finish, awarded Martinez an extra \$600 and title as the 2025 Junior World All-Around's Overall Winner. It was his second time as Overall Winner, having won it in 2023. Kashton Keeton was last year's Overall Winner.

Given the history of this event, it's clear that these 'junior' competitors know each other quite well. Each narrative of the three, individual events shows familiar matchups, with a number of matches continuing what could easily be envisioned as the beginnings of long-time rivalries.

Martinez' undefeated run through six matches (five opponents) in the (races to 3) One Pocket division is an example. Following a shutout over Garrett Summers, Martinez defeated the event's defending champion (Hollingsworth) in a double-hill match. He advanced to shut out Payne McBride and then face his own brother, Gabriel Martinez, in one of the winners' side semifinals. Hayden Ernst, in the meantime, headed out on his trip to the hot seat match with victories over Dylan Walker (0), Eddie Vonderau (1) and Kashton Keeton (1) to draw Brent Worth in the other winners' side semifinal.

Lazaro defeated his brother, Gabriel 3-1 and advanced to the hot seat match. Ernst joined him after shutting out Worth. In a double-hill battle, Martinez claimed the hot seat over Ernst.

On the loss side, Worth picked up Joey Tate, who'd been defeated by Gabriel Martinez on the winners' side and then, eliminated Eddie Vonderau (0) and Payne McBride (1) on the loss side. Gabriel Martinez drew Keeton, who'd followed his loss to Ernst with a victory over Blake Johnson (0) and then, eliminated the defending champion, Hollingsworth (1). Worth and Tate battled to double hill before Worth advanced to the quarterfinals. Gabriel Martinez eliminated Keeton 3-1 to join him. Gabriel and Worth locked up in a double-hill battle that eventually sent Gabriel against Ernst in the semifinals.

Another double-hill fight, won by Ernst, sent him back for a second shot at Lazaro, waiting for him in the hot seat. Their earlier double-hill match was not repeated. Martinez allowed him only a single rack and claimed the One Pocket title.

Keeton splits two versus Hollingsworth, winning the second battle in Banks final

You will no doubt recognize the prominent names in the Banks division of the event; Keeton who won it, Hollingsworth (runner-up), Ernst (3rd), Lazaro Martinez III (4th) and Worth/McBride (5th/6th).

Keeton/Hollingsworth proved to be the marquee matchup in this division; meeting twice (hot seat and finals) with Keeton winning the final to claim the title. Keeton 'shutout' his way to the hot seat match, downing Joey Tate, Colston Harrelson, Gage Smith and Ernst to get there. Hollingsworth shut out only one of his four matches to get there with him; his opener against 14-year-old Gavin Matthew from Texas. He followed that with one-rack-against wins over Gabriel Martinez, Payne McBride and Brent Worth. He followed that with a fourth 3-1 win, over Keeton, to claim the hot seat.



Kash Keeton

Ernst moved over to the loss side and picked up McBride, who'd followed his loss to Hollingsworth with two, double-hill wins over Canada's Bryzen Ace Manipula and Jas Makhani. Worth came over and drew Lazaro Martinez III, who'd lost his first match on the winners' side, shut out by Hayden Ernst, and then won four straight to reach Worth. The first two of that loss-side streak went double hill vs. Austin Axe and Noel Montano before he advanced. Martinez tightened things up a bit after that by recording a 3-1 victory over Nick Smith and then, logging two straight shutouts over Gage Smith and Niko Konkell.

The Martinez/Worth match went double hill, with Martinez advancing to the quarterfinals. Ernst gave up a single rack to McBride and the re-match was on. Ernst won it, double hill, and then was eliminated, double hill, by Keeton in the semifinals. In a race-to-4 final, Keeton turned the tables

Junior All Around Championship

on Hollingsworth's previous hot seat win (3-1), claiming his second straight Banks title with a 4-1 victory over Hollingsworth.

Lazaro Martinez comes back from 9-ball division, hot seat loss to Ernst, claims second title

By the time Lazaro Martinez III stepped into the finals of the 9-Ball division tournament at this year's Junior World All-Around, he had the One Pocket title in his. . . well, pocket, so to speak. And he was facing the same opponent that he'd faced in One Pocket, Hayden Ernst.

As had happened in the One Pocket division, Martinez' path to the win went through Hollingsworth, in the opening round as it turned out (9-6). He then went through something of a rogue's gallery of familiar folk on his way to the hot seat match; Kashton Keeton 9-6, Niko Konkel, double hill, and in

a winners' side semifinal, Joey Tate. Ernst, in the meantime, was working his way to the hot seat match, as well, downing Cody Stumbo (1), Dillon Hammontree (1), Garret Summers (4), Blade Johnson (2) and in his winners' side semifinal, Brent Worth 9-7. Ernst claimed the hot seat 9-6.

On the loss side, Worth and Tate showed up and ran into Konkel and Jas Makhani, respectively. Konkel had followed his loss to Martinez by eliminating Landon Memberg 7-4 and in a double-hill match, Eddie Vondereau, to draw Worth. Makhani had lost an opening-round, double-hill match to Markus Furlani and set out on a six-match, loss-side streak that had most recently eliminated Brayden Cooper 7-3 and Braxton Westmoreland 7-2.

It was a quartet of 'old' friends, dating back to the days of Ra Hanna's Junior International Championships, who fought for advancement to the quar-

terfinals. The Tate/Makhani match went double hill with Makhani advancing. Konkel downed Worth 7-2. Konkel went on to defeat Makhani 7-4 in those quarterfinals and was then shut out by Martinez in the semifinals that followed.

In an extended race-to-11 final, prior to which Hayden Ernst had sat (more or less) idle for only about an hour and 20 minutes, Martinez came out gunnin' for his second title. He got out in front early and from the time Ernst recorded his third rack, he didn't look back. Martinez earned that second title and the Overall Winner title with an 11-3 victory in that final.

Event representatives thanked the ownership and staff at Railyard Billiards for their hospitality along with sponsors Hanshew Forward Extensions, Wolf's Den, Action Palace and Michelle Griffin Realty.

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The advertisement features a black background. At the top, the words "SEARCH. FIND. PLAY." are written in a large, bold, yellow font. Below this, the "PlayPool.com" logo is displayed in a green, stylized font. The logo includes a white circular icon with a green "P" shape inside. In the center, a smartphone is shown displaying a map with several location pins. One pin is red and prominent, while others are blue. To the right of the smartphone is a white globe showing the Americas. In the bottom left corner, there are two logos: the Apple App Store logo and the Google Play logo. On the right side, the text "Locations Amenities Discounts Flyers & more" is listed in a white, sans-serif font.



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"CUE QUEENS"

GATHER IN NY TO RAISE FUNDS

Article by **AzB Staff** / Photos courtesy **Larry Busacca**

The ladies behind the Cue Queens project gathered at the famous Amsterdam Billiards, in downtown New York on June 13th, for a fundraiser to help raise money to fund their upcoming documentary series.

Fans in attendance were able to mix and mingle with such notables as Allison Fisher, Loree Jon Brown, Kristina Zlateva, Emily Duddy, Caroline Pao and Jennifer Barretta for three hours of fun to help raise funds to cover production costs for this project.

Helping to keep everything fun for the night was event MC John Lehman and event Producer Emily Duddy. Lehman and Duddy donated their time, as well as renowned photographer Larry Busacca, who was there to commemorate the event with red carpet and candid photos.

Fans were then given the opportunity to face their favorite player in challenge matches and were later matched up with a pro for a short Pro-Am doubles tournament.

Cue Queens Director Ashley Tindale was at the event, along with producers Kim Shaw and Julie Edwards, and they treated everyone to a production clip featuring Allison Fisher, joined by her family at her home in Charlotte, and Rising Star Savannah Easton at the Brunswick Billiard Factory.

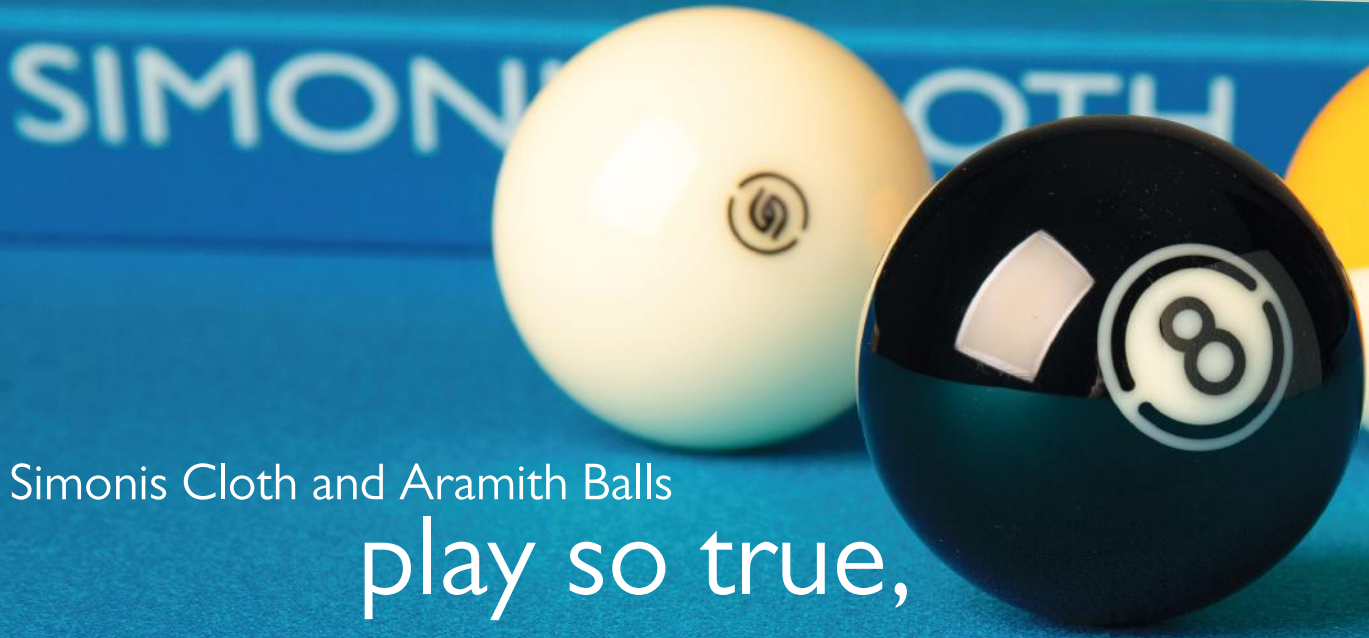
Joining the featured Cue Queen players at Amsterdam Billiards were WPBA stars Eylul Kibaroglu, Ada Lio and Ashley Benoit. Although not able to make it to Amsterdam, WPBA veteran Billie Billing was one of the players who were interviewed by the production team earlier in the day, for inclusion in the project.

All attendees at the event were given raffle tickets with great prizes donated by Olhausen Billiards, Brunswick Billiards, Balabushka Cues, Jacoby Cues, Delta 13 Racks, Cue Pocket, Game On Gear, Taom Billiards and Sterling Gaming. Duddy also passed along her thanks the staff and ownership at Amsterdam Billiards for their donation of space and table time to hold the event.

The fundraiser was successful in raising \$11,000 towards the Cue Queens goal of \$50,000 in crowdfunding for the project. With the crowdfunding campaign due to end on June 26th, there are still a couple of days for fans to get involved in this great project. For more information on how to get involved, check out the Seed&Spark website at <https://seedandspark.com/fund/cue-queens#story>.



Loree Jon Brown, Caroline Pao, Emily Duddy, Allison Fisher, Kristina Zlateva and Jennifer Barretta



Simonis Cloth and Aramith Balls

play so true,

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

...or against your

equipment?



Allison Fisher and Jennifer Barretta



Kim Shaw and Emily Duddy



Shoshana

Jay Miller



Congrats to Stu Mattana on Winning the Limited Edition Balabushka Cue!!



Kristina Zlateva and Loree Jon Brown



Caroline Pao



Congrats to Marsha Dearing!

🎁 Floating Shelf from Cue Pocket



🎁 Custom Rack from Delta - 13



🎁 CueQueens Cue from Sterling

KO PIN YI: A DECADE ON

Article by Jack Mitchell - Matchroom Multi Sport / Photos courtesy Matchroom Multi Sport

In 2015, Ko Pin Yi achieved what few players ever dream of—he conquered the world of pool.

In one remarkable calendar year, Ko won the World 9-Ball Championship, the World 10-Ball Championship, and the World Cup of Pool. It was a golden treble that established him as one of the game's true greats.

Now, a decade on, Ko returns to the World Pool Championship not just as a former champion, but as a player with renewed purpose and a sharpened game, carrying the pride of Chinese Taipei and the hopes of a new generation on his shoulders.

What he remembers most from that unforgettable 2015 run isn't the trophies—but the people beside him. "My brothers were with me during those tournaments, which gave me a

great sense of comfort and allowed me to compete with peace of mind," Ko reflects. "My family was also very supportive, which meant a lot to me."



Ko Pin Yi

That final match in the World 9-Ball Championship, the moment he potted the winning ball to become champion of the world, lives on vividly. “Winning a world championship is every professional player’s dream. In that moment, I achieved it. More than just happiness, it gave me confidence—the confidence to proudly say, ‘I am a world champion.’”

But time has passed, and the game has evolved. So too has Ko.

As he returns to the sport’s biggest stage ten years on, the fire still burns—but with a different kind of energy. “I’m approaching this year’s World Championship with a calm mindset,” he says. “Of course, if I can achieve that dream again, I’ll be extremely happy, and I’ll give my all to compete at my best.”

His record since 2015 proves he remains a force in world pool. In 2023, he added the prestigious World Pool Masters, then claimed the inaugural Reyes Cup, won as part of Team Asia last year. “To me, every tournament is a new challenge,” he says. “The World Pool Masters was actually the title I dreamed of the most, so winning it made me even happier than winning the World Championship. The Reyes Cup is a team event that requires strong chemistry, and being able to win that with Team Asia made me very happy as well.”

What sets Ko apart today isn’t just his past—it’s how he’s adapted to the present. Over the last decade, the level of competition has intensified. Ko has had no choice but to grow with it. “Technically, I think I’ve improved a lot because all the top players have



been constantly getting stronger. So I’ve had to keep improving myself too. Mentally, I’ve become more mature and better at handling pressure and difficult situations.”

In a deeper, more physically demanding game, staying at the top takes more than just talent. “I believe the key elements are skill and mindset,” he says. “But physical endurance is also crucial. Even if you have great technique, without good stamina, you can’t perform at your best.”

Today, Ko is more than a competitor—he’s a leader. An icon to the wave of young players coming out of Chinese

Taipei. “I hope I can inspire these young players to work harder and follow in my footsteps,” he says. “I’m always willing to share my experience with them. I hope that in the future, we’ll see even more world champions coming out of Taiwan.”

That legacy matters to him just as much as medals and prize money. But don’t mistake perspective for complacency. The hunger remains. “Absolutely,” he says. “I still have a strong desire to win every tournament I play. Beyond rankings and prize money, what really drives me is the hope of making the pool scene in Taiwan and all of Asia even better—and inspiring more people to fall in love with the game because of me.”

Ten years on, Ko Pin Yi is no longer the young phenom chasing his first world title. He’s the seasoned champion who’s seen it all—and still has something to prove.

“**TECHNICALLY, I THINK I’VE IMPROVED A LOT BECAUSE ALL THE TOP PLAYERS HAVE BEEN CONSTANTLY GETTING STRONGER. SO I’VE HAD TO KEEP IMPROVING MYSELF TOO.**

— Ko Pin Yi



CARLO BIADO: ONE MORE SHOT AT HISTORY

Article by Jack Mitchell - Matchroom Multi Sport / Photos courtesy Matchroom Multi Sport

It's been nearly a decade since Carlo Biado ascended to the pinnacle of world pool. In 2017, the Filipino star captured the World Pool Championship, etching his name into the sport's history books and delivering a moment of pride for an entire nation.

A year later, he came agonisingly close to defending the title, reaching the final once again. Since then, while the trophy has remained just out of reach, Biado's fire has never faded.

"To me, the World Pool Championship is everything," Biado says. "It was always my dream—not just to play in it, but to win it. That victory changed my life, and even now, I still think about it. I remember the moment so clearly. It felt like something out of a dream."

But the journey to that dream wasn't easy. Biado had tasted heartbreak before. In 2015, he lost to Ko Pin Yi in the Last 32—a loss that taught him lessons he would carry two years later.



Carlo Biado

"When I lost to Ko Pin Yi in 2015, I really felt the pressure. I struggled to play my game," he admits. "But that match taught me a lot—how to handle nerves, how to be ready for the biggest moments. By 2017, I was still nervous in the final, but I was able to enjoy it. That made all the difference."

"After making the 8-ball, I just shouted with joy—to release all the tension before pocketing the 9-ball. Then it hit me. I called my family straight after and said, 'We did it—we won.' That win wasn't just mine. My wife has supported me through every tournament. That title belongs to her too."

Now in 2025, that dream remains alive. The Filipino veteran returns to Jeddah with history in his sights: no player from the Philippines has ever won the title twice. For Biado, doing so would be more than a personal triumph—it would be a moment of national pride for a country with a rich pool legacy.

"After 2017, I told myself—I have to do this again. I have to win it one more time. That's still my goal today," Biado says. "To be the first Filipino to win it twice—that would mean everything. It would put me up there with the greats, especially my idol, Efren Reyes. He's the reason I play. So to achieve something historic like that, it wouldn't just be for me—it would be for every Filipino who loves this game."

Last year, Biado was part of Team Asia's triumphant Reyes Cup side—the first edition of the high-octane team event that saw Asia's finest take on Team Europe. Biado was led by his idol Efren Reyes, in a moment that reignited his love for the game and his hunger to win on the biggest stage.

"Playing for Team Asia in the Reyes Cup was unforgettable," he says. "Competing alongside the best players from the continent and being led by Efren—it meant so much to me. That event reminded me how much I love winning, how much I love this sport. It really reignited my hunger."

This year's return to Jeddah also holds special significance. The 2024 staging of the World Pool Championship was a watershed moment for the sport in the region, and the scale of the event only looks set to grow.

"The venue in Jeddah last year was amazing," Biado recalls. "Everything—the arena, the practice room, the atmosphere—was first-class. I felt motivated before every match. And this year, it's even bigger. That means more pressure, but also more excitement. I know I need to work harder than ever if I want to lift the trophy again."

In 2017, Carlo Biado fulfilled a dream. In 2025, he returns to Saudi Arabia hoping to relive it—and perhaps even etch his name in the history books once more.



Shane Van Boening
GENERATION II

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KIM YOUNG

AWARDED JERRY BRIESATH INSTRUCTOR OF THE YEAR

Nominated by students, fellow instructors, and industry leaders, Kim Young was recognized for his outstanding commitment to the growth and development of others at the conclusion of the 2024 Jerry Briesath Instructor of the Year Award ceremony.

Kim was voted Best Presenter among all International Certified Instructors at the 2024 ICI Summit—a reflection of his dedication, expertise, and generous mentorship.

A valued board member of the PBIA, Kim actively contributes his time to advancing the organization's mission. He engages in collaborative discussions on multiple initiatives and remains a trusted listener and advisor to instructors seeking to enhance their teaching practices.

As a full-time PBIA Instructor, Kim leads both in-person and online courses through his Dragon Billiard Academy. Known for his responsiveness and willingness to assist instructor candidates, Kim consistently demonstrates a commitment to the success of others in the billiards education community.

His leadership was further evident at the recent G1 Summit, where he facilitated group instruction and openly shared best practices with peers. Coupled with his generous support of numerous events, Kim's efforts continue to set a high standard for professionalism, collaboration, and mentorship.

Congratulations to Kim Young on receiving the 2025 Jerry Briesath Instructor of the Year Award—an honor well earned and richly deserved.



Kim Young

PRESIDENTIAL BILLIARDS

ANNOUNCES U.S. DISTRIBUTION PARTNERSHIP WITH RASSON BILLIARDS

Bringing Together the Best in Residential Design and Professional Performance

Houston, TX – 26 June 2025. Presidential Billiards is proud to announce its U.S. distribution partnership with Rasson Billiards, one of the world's leading manufacturers of professional pool tables. This strategic collaboration brings together two industry powerhouses, delivering both premium residential craftsmanship and competition-grade performance under one brand umbrella.

Presidential Billiards, known for its finely crafted home billiard tables that combine timeless design with everyday durability, will now offer the full

line of Rasson commercial and professional tables across the U.S. market. Rasson tables are trusted by top-tier tournaments including the Mosconi Cup, World Pool Championships, Reyers Cup, and the World Cup of Pool, – to name a few. They are renowned for their innovative design, technical precision, patented leveling systems, and superb playability.

“This partnership represents the best of both worlds,” said Elaine Gerber, Founder of Presidential Billiards. “Our mission has always been to bring beautifully designed, high-quality game room furniture to American

homes. Now, with Rasson, we're also offering world-class performance tables for competitive venues, clubs, bars, universities, and beyond.”

Through this partnership, Presidential Billiards will be the authorized distributor of Rasson tables in the U.S., providing streamlined access to commercial-grade products for dealers, designers, hospitality buyers, and the broader billiards community.

Whether you're outfitting a family game room or a professional tournament floor, the Presidential and Rasson alliance delivers excellence at every level of play.



OLHAUSEN BILLIARDS

ANNOUNCED AS OFFICIAL TABLE SPONSOR OF 2025 ONEIDA WPA WOMEN'S 8 BALL WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP

World-Class Tables Meet World-Class Competition in Green Bay

Olhausen Billiards, America's premier manufacturer of high-quality billiard tables and game room furnishings, is proud to be the official table sponsor of the 2025 Oneida WPA Women's 8 Ball World Championship, to be held July 2–6 at Oneida Casino Hotel in Green Bay, Wisconsin.

With a legacy spanning more than five decades, Olhausen Billiards has long been synonymous with quality, performance, and American craftsmanship. We are excited to announce the debut of our newest tournament table at this prestigious global event. Every table is hand built by Olhausen in our 300,000 square foot facility in Portland Tennessee underscoring the company's commitment to excellence and its continued investment in the future of professional and amateur billiards.

"As a brand built on the foundation of quality and family tradition, we are honored to provide the playing surface for one of the most elite women's events in the sport," said Dan Bourget, Owner of Olhausen Billiards. "To support these extraordinary athletes and bring our tables to the world stage is a proud milestone for our company. We believe in the growth of the sport at every level, and events like this play a vital role in that future."

The tournament marks a major moment for Green Bay and the broader Wisconsin pool community, which has emerged as one of the most vibrant and engaged regions in the country for billiards. The 2025 Oneida WPA Women's 8 Ball World Championship will feature the top women players from around the globe competing for a share of a \$150,000 prize pool—one of the richest in the sport's history.

In addition to the main event, the Roy Skenandore Memorial amateur tournament will run concurrently with a \$20,000 added prize purse, creating opportunities for local and regional talent to compete alongside the sport's elite. The tables for the championship event and the opening ceremony at Lambeau Field will be provided exclusively by Olhausen Billiards.

Beyond competition, the week will include a youth clinic hosted at Lambeau Field and a spectacular opening ceremony at the same iconic venue. These events celebrate the past, present, and future of the sport, with Olhausen proudly playing a central role.

"Whether it's in a family game room or on the world championship stage, our mission has always been to support the love of the game," added Bourget. "This event brings that mission full circle."

The 2025 Oneida WPA Women's 8 Ball World Championship, produced by the Women's Professional Billiards Association (WPBA), will take place at Oneida Casino Hotel, conveniently located adjacent to the Green Bay airport and offering accommodations for more than 300 players and guests. It is the only hotel in the region connected to a casino, making it an ideal setting for players and fans alike.

More information about event tickets, live-stream coverage, and registration for the Roy Skenandore Memorial tournament will be released in the coming weeks.

For media inquiries, sponsorship opportunities, or additional information, please contact: info@olhausenbilliards.com

Only Showing a Little Leg

UNVEILING of the NEW
- TOURNAMENT PRO -
WPBA World Women's Eight Ball Tournament JULY 2025



THRILLER IN MANILA:

WORLD NINEBALL TOUR LAUNCHES INAUGURAL PHILIPPINES OPEN POOL CHAMPIONSHIP – 21–26 OCTOBER

The World Nineball Tour continues its global expansion with the launch of the first-ever Philippines Open Pool Championship, a brand-new Matchroom Major taking place 21–26 October 2025 at Gateway Mall, Quezon City, Manila — right in the heart of the capital.

In partnership with Puyat Sports, the Philippines Open follows hot on the heels of the Reyes Cup (16–19 October), making Manila the hub of world-class pool this October. The event will be broadcast live on One Sport, **WNT TV**, and through the World Nineball Tour’s global partners, bringing the action to fans both locally and worldwide.

A landmark moment for the sport in Southeast Asia, this historic tournament puts the Philippines — one of nineball’s most passionate nations — firmly on the Tour’s centre stage. Top international stars will battle it out in

what promises to be a thrilling new chapter in the World Nineball Tour calendar.

With Manila joining global host cities like **Hanoi**, **Orlando**, and **London**, this latest addition further strengthens the Tour’s international presence and cements the Philippines’ status as a powerhouse in professional pool. It also offers homegrown talent a rare opportunity to shine in front of a roaring local crowd.

Johann Chua, reigning **Hanoi Open champion** and **2024 Reyes Cup winner**, said:

“To now have a Matchroom Major here in the Philippines means everything to us as Filipino players. The crowd in Manila is one of a kind — we’ve felt their passion at the Reyes Cup, and now we get to play for them again. It’s going to be electric.”

Mr Aristeo “Putch” Puyat, commented: “The Philippines has long been a proud home of world-class billiards, and this new chapter with the World Nineball Tour is a dream realised for Filipino fans and players alike. Hosting a Matchroom Major here is not just an honour — it’s a testament to our enduring love for the sport. We



look forward to welcoming the world to Manila, where passion for pool runs deep and history is about to be made.”

Emily Frazer, CEO of Matchroom Multi Sport, added: “Launching the Philippines Open Pool Championship is a huge milestone for the World Nineball Tour. We’re proud to partner with Puy-at Sports to bring this major event to Manila — a city rich in pool history and home to one of the sport’s most passionate fanbases. This tournament will give local stars the spotlight they deserve and welcome the global nineball community to the Philippines for what promises to be an unforgettable week. Tickets will be on sale very soon, and I’d urge fans to sign up and be ready — you won’t want to miss this.”



Johann Chua

Details including ticketing, tournament format, and the full player line-up will be revealed in the coming weeks. Fans are encouraged to register for ticket alerts now to avoid missing out.

Don’t miss your chance to be part of history — the first-ever Philippines Open is coming this October.
For all the latest news and announcements follow Matchroom Pool on **Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, TikTok and YouTube.**

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REYES CUP

SET FOR ELECTRIFYING RETURN TO MANILA, OCTOBER 16–19

The countdown begins for Team Asia's first-ever title defence

The World Nineball Tour, in partnership with Puyat Sports, is thrilled to announce the return of the Reyes Cup — set to light up Ninoy Aquino Stadium in Manila once again from October 16–19, 2025. Broadcast live on One Sports and WNT TV, the four-day team clash promises even greater firepower, intensity, and drama, as Team Asia prepares to defend their crown on home soil.

The full list of broadcast partners will be announced soon.

Following its explosive debut in 2024, where Team Asia clinched a commanding 11–6 victory in front of a raucous home crowd, the Reyes Cup is back for its second edition — and with it, the return of the electric team format that has captured the hearts of fans across the world.

Inspired by the legendary Efen “Bata” Reyes, the Reyes Cup honours the Philippines’ deep-rooted passion for cue sports while showcasing the finest talent from across Asia in a high-energy team environment. Among those chasing Reyes Cup glory, 2024 MVP Aloysius Yapp currently tops the Race to the Reyes Cup for Team Asia — and will be looking to return as a key force this October.

The tournament follows the same thrilling four-day format as the prestigious Mosconi Cup, and in just one year has established itself as a major highlight on the global pool calendar drawing huge crowds in Manila and millions of viewers worldwide. With rivalries reignited and pride on the line, the Ninoy Aquino Stadium is expected

to be packed to the rafters once again.

Efen Reyes, said: “Last year was very special — to see Team Asia win the first Reyes Cup in front of our home crowd was unforgettable. The atmosphere was amazing, and I’m so happy the tournament is coming back to Manila! It was an honour to serve as captain last year, and I’ll be cheering the team on as they go for back-to-back titles.”

Mr Aristeo “Putch” Puyat, commented: “Bringing the Reyes Cup back to Ninoy Aquino Stadium means so much — it’s an iconic venue for sport in the Philippines, and the perfect stage to celebrate our love for pool. Team Asia’s win last year was just the beginning, and I’m proud to welcome the world back to Manila for another incredible event.”

Emily Frazer, CEO of Matchroom Multi Sport, stated: “The first Reyes Cup exceeded every expectation — the ener-

gy, the passion, the crowd, everything came together to create something truly special. Bringing the Reyes Cup back to Manila in 2025 — once again with our incredible partners Puyat Sports — was a no-brainer. With Team Asia defending their title and rivalries heating up, this year promises to be even bigger and better. Ninoy Aquino Stadium is the perfect venue for an atmosphere like no other — and with tickets on sale soon, fans won’t want to miss their chance to be part of it.”

With the world’s best set to collide once again in Manila, fans won’t want to miss a moment. Full broadcast details, team announcements, and ticket information will be announced soon.

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



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Tourney Results

Jun 05 - Jun 08

2025 WPBA Soaring Eagle Masters

Soaring Eagle Casino & Resort

Mt. Pleasant, MI

- 1 Tzu-Chien Wei \$15,000
- 2 Pia Filler \$8,500
- 3 Kristina Zlateva \$6,200
- 4 Seo Seoa \$4,500
- 5 Kristina Tkach \$3,500
- 5 Silvana Lu \$3,500
- 7 Kelly Fisher \$2,800
- 7 Yuki Hiraguchi \$2,800
- 9 Chieh-Yu Chou \$2,000
- 9 Meng-Hsia Hung \$2,000
- 9 Sakura Miramatsu \$2,000
- 9 Sofia Mast \$2,000
- 13 Bojana Sarac \$1,500
- 13 Chihiro Kawahara \$1,500
- 13 Savannah Easton \$1,500
- 13 Soledad Ayala \$1,500
- 17 April Larson \$1,000
- 17 Brittany Bryant \$1,000
- 17 Jasmin Ouschan \$1,000
- 17 Kennedy Meyman \$1,000
- 17 Monica Webb \$1,000
- 17 Nina Torvund \$1,000
- 17 Shui Ching Chiang \$1,000
- 17 Wan-Ling Wang \$1,000

Jun 05 - Jun 08

2025 Mezz Bucharest Open

Club IDM

Bucharest

- 1 Kledio Kaci \$11,000
- 2 Joshua Filler \$4,950
- 3 Robbie Capito \$2,200
- 3 Wiktor Zielinski \$2,200
- 5 Ernesto Gjoni \$1,100
- 5 Hubert Lopotko \$1,100

- 5 Jonas Souto Comino \$1,100
- 5 Ralf Souquet \$1,100
- 9 Andrea Milioli \$550
- 9 Antonis Brabin \$550
- 9 Can Salim \$550
- 9 Ermal Dyli \$550
- 9 Francesco Candela \$550
- 9 Fraser Patrick \$550
- 9 Marcus Chamat \$550
- 9 Talal Alblooshi \$550
- 17 Aleksa Pecelj \$330
- 17 Antonis Kakaris \$330
- 17 Arjan Matrizi \$330
- 17 Babken Melkonyan \$330
- 17 Christos Papageorgiou \$330
- 17 Cristian Surdea \$330
- 17 Dean Shields \$330
- 17 Dominik Zajac \$330
- 17 Fabio Petroni \$330
- 17 Georgi Georgiev \$330
- 17 Matthew Rigley \$330
- 17 Niels Feijen \$330
- 17 Oliver Szolnoki \$330
- 17 Sashko Dimitrov \$330
- 17 Valentino Cordelli \$330
- 17 Walter Laikre \$330
- 33 Alexandru Florescu \$175
- 33 Andreja Klasovic \$175
- 33 Aris Damoulakis \$175
- 33 Damianos Giallourakis \$175
- 33 Elvis Mladinescu \$175
- 33 Fadil Ozdemir \$175
- 33 Ioan Ladanyi \$175
- 33 Istvan Farkas \$175
- 33 Ivica Putnik \$175
- 33 Labros Exarhos \$175
- 33 Louka Petros \$175
- 33 Mario Valchev \$175
- 33 Martin Forman \$175
- 33 Selim Sozen \$175

- 33 Serge Das \$175
- 33 Yoan Salambashev \$175

Jun 07 - Jun 08

Joss Tour 2024-2025 #19

Snookers - Sports Billiards, Bar & Grill

Providence, RI

- 1 Kevin Guimond \$1,100
- 2 Joe Dupuis \$800
- 3 Lukas Fracasso-Verner \$600
- 4 Ray McNamara \$400
- 5 Curtis Wright \$250
- 5 Keith Platt \$250
- 7 Ryan Lima \$150
- 7 Steve Edmiston \$150

Jun 07 - Jun 08

Joss Tour 2025-2026 #19 2nd Chance

Snookers - Sports Billiards, Bar & Grill

Providence, RI

- 1 Francisco Cabral \$300
- 2 Jake Jackson \$200
- 3 Kevin Bauccio \$120
- 4 Demian Provost \$80
- 5 Chris Crawford \$30
- 5 Mike Renshaw \$30

Jun 07 - Jun 07

Q City 9-Ball Tour Stop

Dot's Cue Club

Rocky Mount, NC

- 1 Jerry Cannon \$500
- 2 Lloyd Phipps \$380
- 3 Tommy Prater \$200
- 4 Steven Page \$120
- 5 Jimmy Faircloth \$55
- 5 Randy Miles \$55

Jun 08 - Jun 08

Pool Series Stop #9

Breaktime Billiards

Cary, NC

- 1 Mike Davis \$880
- 2 Greg Kane \$550
- 3 Adam Bryan \$350
- 4 Jas Makhni \$200
- 5 Scott Roberts \$100
- 5 Tyler Chappell \$100
- 7 Bryan Plummer \$50
- 7 Joshua Padron \$50

Jun 12 - Jun 14

Predator Euro Tour Austrian Open

Alpina Sport und Wellnesshotel

St. Johann im Pongau,

- 1 Mieszko Fortunski \$6,480
- 2 Wojciech Szewczyk \$4,968
- 3 Mario He \$3,240
- 3 Stefan Kasper \$3,240
- 5 Felix Vogel \$1,890
- 5 Oliver Szolnoki \$1,890
- 5 Ralf Souquet \$1,890
- 5 Ugar Turku \$1,890
- 9 Aleksa Pecelj \$1,350
- 9 Alvaro Canoniga \$1,350
- 9 Luca Menn \$1,350
- 9 Marius Skoneczny \$1,350
- 9 Mohammad Soufi \$1,350
- 9 Roman Hybler \$1,350
- 9 Sanjin Pehlivanovic \$1,350
- 9 Tobias Bongers \$1,350
- 17 Amil Andre Gangflot \$783
- 17 Casper Matikainen \$783
- 17 Damianos Giallourakis \$783
- 17 David Zalman \$783
- 17 Dennis Laszkowski \$783
- 17 Hubert Lopotko \$783
- 17 Jan Van Lierop \$783
- 17 Joshua Filler \$783
- 17 Juan Carlos Exposito \$783
- 17 Konrad Juszczyszyn \$783
- 17 Kristian Mrva \$783
- 17 Mateusz Sniegocki \$783
- 17 Matthias Hardtke \$783
- 17 Maximilian Lechner \$783
- 17 Niklas Dohr \$783
- 17 Szymon Kural \$783
- 33 Adrian Weiss \$324
- 33 Albin Ouschan \$324

- 33 Ayoub Bakhtaoui \$324
- 33 Harald Stolka \$324
- 33 Ilija Dimovski \$324
- 33 Jakub Chrobot \$324
- 33 Jose Alberto Delgado \$324
- 33 Julian Schreck \$324
- 33 Linnea Hjalmarstrom \$324
- 33 Marc Bijsterbosch \$324
- 33 Marco Spitzky \$324
- 33 Mikael Ogaard \$324
- 33 Petri Makkonen \$324
- 33 Thomas Binder \$324
- 33 Tomasz Kaplan \$324
- 33 Walter Laikre \$324

Jun 13 - Jun 15

Shane vs Fedor 10-Ball Challenge

Railyard Billiards

Louisville, KY

- 1 Fedor Gorst

Jun 14 - Jun 15

Predator Euro Tour Womens Austrian Open

Alpina Sport und Wellnesshotel

St. Johann im Pongau,

- 1 Pia Filler \$1,620
- 2 Ina Kaplan \$1,080
- 3 Angelina Lubinaz \$864
- 3 Katarzyna Wesolowska \$864
- 5 Jasmin Ouschan \$648
- 5 Jolien Schuurman \$648
- 5 Nina Torvund \$648
- 5 Simone Kunzl \$648

Jun 14 - Jun 14

Pool Series Stop #10

Fast Action Billiards

Statesville, NC

- 1 Mike Davis \$880
- 2 BJ Ussery \$550
- 3 Clint Clark \$350
- 4 Runal Bhatt \$200
- 5 Danny Jones \$100
- 5 Hank Powell \$100
- 7 Kirit Patel \$50
- 7 Michael Robertson \$50

Jun 14 - Jun 14

6th Annual Brian James Memorial

Borderline Billiards

Bristol, TN

- 1 Adam Pendley \$460
- 2 Eric Roberts \$240
- 3 Chris Cowan \$120
- 4 Gavin Hatley \$110

Jun 18 - Jun 22

2025 Junior World All Around 9-Ball Event

Railyard Billiards

Louisville, KY

- 1 Lazaro Martinez III \$1,100
- 2 Hayden Ernst \$1,100
- 3 Niko Konkel \$800
- 4 Jas Makhni \$500
- 5 Brent Worth \$250
- 5 Joey Tate \$250
- 7 Braxton Westmoreland \$150
- 7 Eddie Vonderau \$150

Jun 18 - Jun 22

2025 Junior World All Around Banks Event

Railyard Billiards

Louisville, KY

- 1 Kash Keaton \$1,500
- 2 Landon Hollingsworth \$1,000
- 3 Hayden Ernst \$700
- 4 Lazaro Martinez III \$400
- 5 Brent Worth \$250
- 5 Payne McBride \$250
- 7 Jas Makhni \$150
- 7 Niko Konkel \$150

Jun 18 - Jun 22

2025 Junior World All Around One Pocket Event

Railyard Billiards

Louisville, KY

- 1 Lazaro Martinez III \$1,400
- 2 Hayden Ernst \$1,000
- 3 Gabriel Martinez \$600
- 4 Brent Worth \$360
- 5 Joey Tate \$200
- 5 Kash Keaton \$200

7 Landon Hollingsworth \$120

7 Payne McBride \$120

Jun 19 - Jun 20

Ultimate Pool USA Boston Shootout

Courtside Bar & Grill

Pembroke, Massachusetts

1 Craig Waddingham \$3,500

2 Justin Bergman \$1,700

3 Shane Van Boening \$800

4 Joe Prince \$800

5 Eric Charlton \$300

6 Kevin Guimond \$300

7 Johnny Archer \$300

8 Tom Cousins \$300

Jun 19 - Jun 20

Ultimate Pool USA Boston Open Junior Main Event

Courtside Bar & Grill

Pembroke, Massachusetts

1 Harry Leinen \$800

2 Shane Petrick \$400

3 Brady Daverna \$200

4 Dominic Daniels \$200

5 Davin Greene \$100

6 Mimphis Wilson \$100

7 Kaden Herrbach \$100

8 Brayden Gallegos \$100

Jun 19 - Jun 20

Ultimate Pool USA Boston Open Women's Main Event

Courtside Bar & Grill

Pembroke, Massachusetts

1 Emily Duddy \$1,800

2 Ashley Benoit \$900

3 Amy Beauchamp \$450

4 Elise Vaillancourt \$450

5 Skylar Hess \$225

6 Krissy Myers \$225

7 Tina Larsen \$225

8 Julie Madlener \$225

Jun 19 - Jun 20

Ultimate Pool USA Boston Open Main Event

Courtside Bar & Grill

Pembroke, Massachusetts

1 Tom Cousins \$8,000

2 Declan Brennan \$4,000

3 Shane Van Boening \$1,800

4 Alex Bausch \$1,800

5 Skyler Woodward \$900

6 Cleve Thompson \$900

7 Joe Prince \$900

8 Kevin Guimond \$900

9 Craig Waddingham \$450

10 Emily Duddy \$450

11 Justin Bergman \$450

12 Chase Stumfoll \$450

13 Brett Snowden \$450

14 Ricky Evans \$450

15 Reggie Cutler \$450

16 Evan Moreau \$450

17 Henry Cha \$200

18 Mike Dechaine \$200

19 Jake Jackson \$200

20 Josh Walstrom \$200

21 Beau Powers \$200

22 Del Sim \$200

23 Tommy Jones \$200

24 Cody Myers \$200

25 Jim Prather \$200

26 Kevin Bauccio \$200

27 Holly Figueroa \$200

28 Lukas Fracasso-Verner \$200

29 Harry Leinen \$200

30 Eric Charlton \$200

31 Jason Craig \$200

32 Johnny Archer \$200

Jun 19 - Jun 20

Ultimate Pool USA Boston Open Mixed Doubles Event

Courtside Bar & Grill

Pembroke, Massachusetts

1 Ashley Benoit \$1,000

1 Shane Van Boening \$1,000

2 Justin Bergman \$500

2 Tina Larsen \$500

3 Skylar Hess \$200

3 Skyler Woodward \$200

4 Johnny Archer \$200

4 Nicole Obarowski \$200

Jun 22 - Jun 22

Mezz Cues LA 9-Ball Series Stop

Good Timez Billiards

Huntsville, Alabama

1 Terrence Lee \$280

2 David Nichols \$180

3 Jose Centeno \$115

4 Bob Jocz \$65

Jun 28 - Jun 29

JPNEWT Tour 2025 Stop #4

Snookers - Sports Billiards, Bar & Grill

Providence, RI

1 Ashley Benoit \$825

2 Ada Lio \$625

3 Kaley Sullivan \$475

4 Julia Bright \$315

5 Jane Im \$175

5 Liz Taylor \$175

7 Amanda Laverriere \$90

7 Erica Testa \$90

Jun 28 - Jun 29

NWPA Tour 2025 Stop 3

Phil's Bar & Grill

Salem, Oregon

1 Kathie MacDonald \$825

2 Marion Poole \$585

3 Jordan Oakes \$410

4 Sarah Myers-Mitchell \$275

5 Dora Valdez \$175

5 Robin Adams \$175

7 Andy Camping \$110

7 Sara Moore \$110

9 Maryann McConnell \$75

9 Sarah Sacco \$75

9 Sophia Tran \$75

9 Tylyn Holzapfel \$75

Jun 28 - Jun 28

Garden State Pool Tour Open Stop

Shooter's Family Billiards

Wayne, NJ

1 Michelle Brotons \$460

2 Levy Lempaam \$240

3 David Marchant \$140

4 Aaron Mendoza \$100

5 Luis Jimenez \$80

5 Tri Chau \$80




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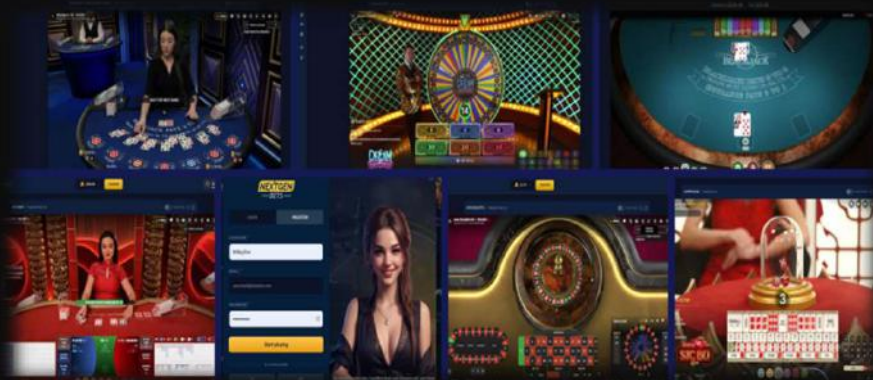
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COMING SOON

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.

JULY/AUGUST

World Women's 8-Ball Championship

Jul 02 - Jul 06

Oneida Casino
Green Bay, Wisconsin

2025 USA National Pool Championship

Jul 06 - Jul 12

Oakley-Lindsay Center
Quincy, Illinois

Kamui Slovenia Open 2025

Jul 10 - Jul 13

Tri Lilije Hall
Lasko, Slovenia

Arizona Women's Billiards Tour 2025 Stop 4

Jul 12 - Jul 13

Metro Sports Bar & Billiards
Fayetteville, GA

The West Coast Women's Tour 2025 Stop 3

Jul 12 - Jul 12

The Break Room
Berkeley, CA

NWPA Tour 2025 Stop 4

Jul 19 - Jul 20

The Pocket
Boise, Idaho

Tiger Florida Tour 2025 Stop

Jul 19 - Jul 19

Village Cue Club
North Palm Beach, Florida

World Pool Championship 2025

Jul 21 - Jul 26

Saudi Arabia

Rally in the Shenandoah Valley

Jul 31 - Aug 02

On Cue Sports Bar & Grill
Front Royal, Virginia

Florida Open

Aug 05 - Aug 10

Caribe Royale
Orlando, Florida

2025 Battle of the Bull

Aug 11 - Aug 16

Wolf's Den Billiards
Roanoke, Virginia

Arizona Women's Billiards Tour 2025 Stop 5

Aug 16 - Aug 17

Pockets Billiards
Tucson, AZ

The West Coast Women's Tour 2025 Stop 4

Aug 16 - Aug 16

Buffalo Billiards
Petaluma, California

NWPA Tour 2025 Stop 5

Aug 16 - Aug 17

Players Sports Bar
Kennewick, Washington

2025 U.S. Open 9-Ball Championship

Aug 18 - Aug 23

Harrah's Resort Atlantic City
Atlantic City, NJ

2025 WPBA Felt Colorado Classic

Aug 21 - Aug 24

Felt Billiards
Englewood, CO

McDermott Classic 2025

Aug 29 - Aug 31

Amazin Billiards
Malden, Ma

Monica Webb Battle of the Junior Champions III

Aug 29 - Aug 31

Borderline Billiards
Bristol, TN

AZB MONEY LIST

	NAME	COUNTRY	\$ AMOUNT	
	Joshua Filler	 GER	154.240,00 US\$	
	Shane Van Boening	 USA	71.200,00 US\$	↑
	Fedor Gorst	 USA	68.600,00 US\$	↓
	Aloysius Yapp	 SIN	57.000,00 US\$	
	Tony Chohan	 USA	51.450,00 US\$	
	Roberto Gomez	 PHI	49.875,00 US\$	
	Pijus Labutis	 LTU	48.950,00 US\$	
	Denis Grabe	 EST	46.075,00 US\$	
	Mickey Krause	 DEN	44.400,00 US\$	
	Sky Woodward	 USA	41.150,00 US\$	↑

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PAT FLEMING PRESENTS

2025



INTL

THE INTERNATIONAL OPEN

Nov. 14-23 2025



ALL EVENTS
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STREAM!

BACK-2-BACK
INTL 9-BALL
CHAMPION
'23 & '24



ALOYSIUS
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RENAISSANCE RESORT AT WORLD OF GOLF VILLAGE

ST. AUGUSTINE, FL



BIG FOOT INVITATIONAL 10-BALL

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 14 THRU MONDAY, NOVEMBER 17

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

\$8,000 added

14

INTL STRAIGHT POOL OPEN

Formerly Peter Burrows' American 14.1 Straight Pool Championship

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 14 THRU TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 18

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

\$20,000 added

1

INTL 1-POCKET OPEN

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 14 THRU WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 19

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

\$20,000 added

9

INTL 9-BALL SEMI-PRO OPEN

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 18 THRU SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 22

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

\$10,000 added

9

INTL 9-BALL OPEN

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 19 THRU SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 23

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

\$75,000 added

JR

JUNIOR TOURNAMENT

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

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 21 THRU SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 23

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

INTERNATIONAL SPLIT BRACKET BAR TABLE SERIES

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