

Billiards Buzz

an  publication

vol.8, Issue August 2024



SOFIA SWEEPS JR Nationals

Volume 8, Issue #94

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FROM THE Head Rail

MIKE **HOWERTON**

We had a lot of options for the cover this month. With Kristina Tkach winning her first WPBA title, Pia Filler absolutely dominating the European Championships and Deuel, Fisher and Van Boening adding more hardware to their display cases, any of them could have been well deserving of the title.



As you can see though, we went with the Pink Dagger, Sofia Mast. We thought four gold medals and six total medals at the Junior Nationals was a pretty worthy accomplishment. How cool is it that we have so many years in front of us to enjoy the top level play of these junior stars?

Congrats to all of the winners in Quincy and in all of the other events that were held in another very busy month of pool action.

Until next time,
Mike



09.03.2024

WE'VE GOT NEXT.

CURTEC



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YOU SHOOT BASED ON WHAT YOU SEE

To play great pool you must become an expert at seeing things – things like the position of the balls and what shot should be played – and things like the elements that go into making up each shot. And, you must have an unshakeable belief in what you are seeing. This belief comes with practice, knowledge, and experience in competition.

To develop your Seeing Superpowers, you must translate what you see into a series of actions that are based on what you see and what you are feeling.

While producing this column I began reading Maureen Seaberg's 2023 book, *Fearfully and Wonderfully Made – The Astonishing New Science of the Senses*. In it she says, "We have severely underestimated our abilities. Using the senses to their fullest potential is every human being's birthright." I read that and I immediately thought about what her ideas could mean to our ongoing quest to improve our pool games.

The idea that we underestimate our abilities got me to thinking about things we see and feel as we go about the business of playing our shots. These thoughts would include those at both the conscious and subconscious levels. When we play a shot we see the things that combine to make up that shot, and we also develop feelings regarding the actions that our body is about to make. So, our shots are made up of seeing and feeling what we need to do.

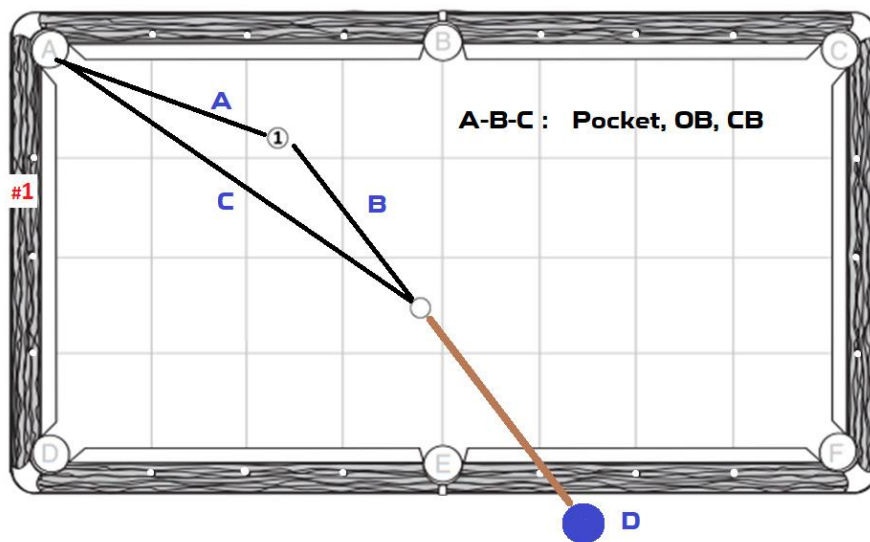
Aiming well is comprised in large part from developing your arsenal of Shot Pictures. Then, when playing a shot, making the needed adjustments to your line-of-aim for the infinite number of variations that you will face

when down over each shot. (For more on this, see my column in last month's Billiards Buzz.) You then act on those Shot Pictures with your stroke, which results from how you see the shot and how you feel the shot.

Later in the book Seaberg added that, "Essentially, things perceived by two or more senses are more memorable." WOW! That means that the combination of your Shot Pictures and Shot Feelings (your motion and your various speeds of stroke and acceleration patterns) combine to create even stronger memories. And it is these supercharged memories that enable fine players to keep improving, and to stop, as Seaberg would say, the habit of underestimating our abilities.

THE FOUNDATIONAL TRIANGLE

Diagram #1 shows the foundational pool triangle, which is formed by the pocket, the object ball, and the cue ball. Line A leads from the pocket to the object ball. Line B runs from the object ball to the cue ball. Finally, Line C goes from the cue ball to the pocket. This line is never talked about, but it is nevertheless an integral part of the spatial relationship between the elements, the one that you see when looking at the shot as you engage in your WUS routine. I suspect that somewhere in our subconscious we use this last part of the basic triangle, though it's unbeknownst to us.



Now, if you were looking down on this position from the overhead view as you often see during a stream, you would be able to see the various elements and their relationship to one another. And, with a little imagination, you just might be able to create the triangle as shown.

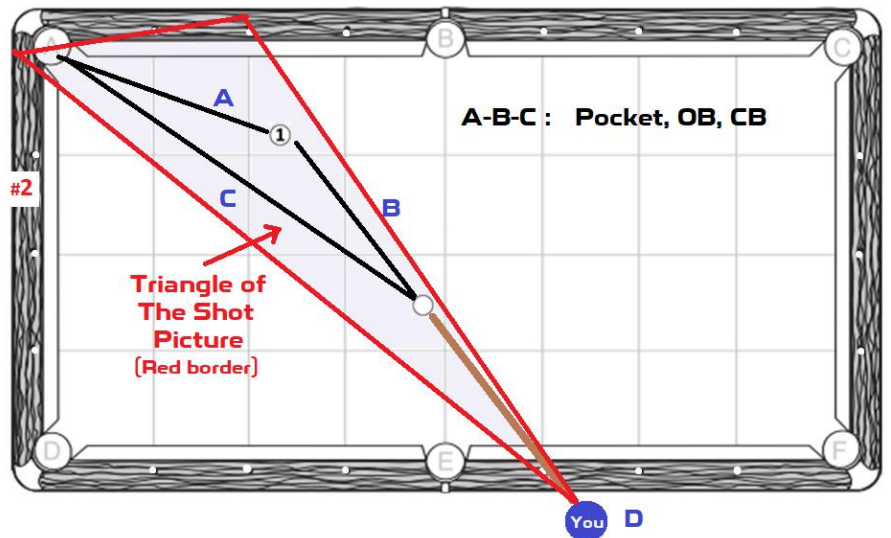
In the real world of playing pool shots, however, we must recognize and deal with distortions – and it is these distorted views of each shot are, in fact, our reality, which we must utilize in creating the player's view of our shoots.

When lining up for the shot in the illustration, your head would be close to or at Position D. Your eyes would be about 30" from the cue ball, which is close to or at the joint of your cue. And, depending on prefer to stand, your eyes will be about 9"-15" above the bed of the table.

So, the balls are on the table "over there" and your head is some distance from the various elements. You are looking down on the Shot Picture from your perch at these elements as you go about fine tuning your line-of-aim.

The critical nature of achieving correct alignment is why top instructors continue to harp on the need to stand and land with such great precision. Furthermore, the need to make sense of those relatively distant objects and to point your cue in the best direction possible is one of the reasons why I advise that you take as many warm-up-strokes as you need until you feel like you are zeroed in on the line-of-aim, and are ready for the Go Signal.

To repeat, the balls and the pocket form a triangle. And, despite being in your observation perch some distance away from the elements with your eyes at an elevation of about 9-15 inches above the table, you must somehow maneuver your body and cue into the proper alignment so that you can swing your down a path that will enable you to make the shot.



THE SHOT PICTURE TRIANGLE

The most important view on every shot is the one you see when you are down in your stance, as shown by Position D in **Diagram #2**. That final look provides you with the last pieces of information – the ones that will enable you to make those micro adjustments that make the difference between a make and a miss.

From your "cockpit" several inches above the table in Position D you can look out over the table and see the elements – the cue, the cue ball, the object ball, the pocket, and the table. And as you see them in their totality your mind develops the Shot Picture as shown by the shaded area in the illustration. The red border encompasses the perimeter of the Shot Picture which, in this case, again forms a rather expansive triangle. Notice also the white space, which is not relevant to the pocketing the shot.

Inside of the Shot Picture is the foundational triangle as discussed in **Diagram #1**. You can obviously see the Shot Picture that describes this shot on the 1-ball, and you know that can be seen in an article like this. However, when playing, this depiction of the shot resides in your subconscious, not on the printed page. Still, it is of value to present shots in this manner because you can become all the more

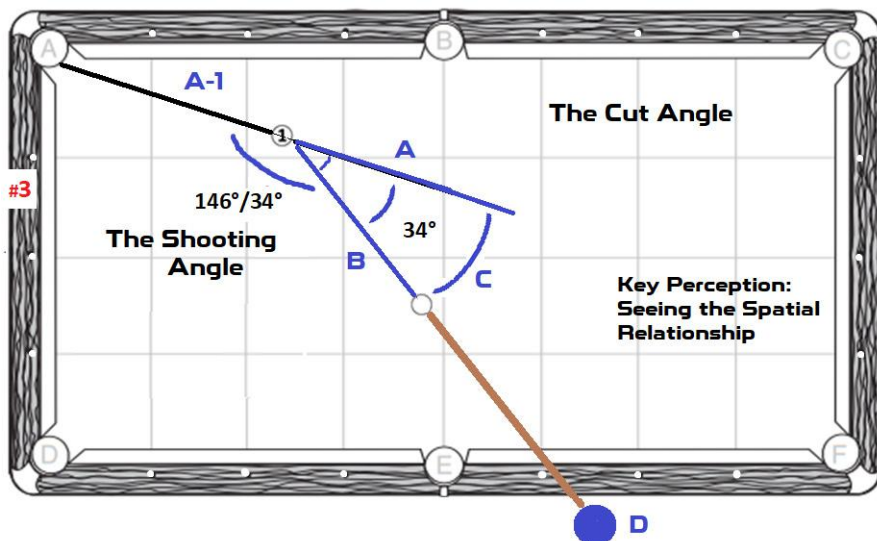
familiar with elements in the Shot Picture, and with relevant parts of the table – the area that you should be looking at.

In Seagram's book she introduces readers to Alipasha Varizi, a physicist who studies the smallest portions of quanta in the physical world. In describing certain human's ability to see photons (under certain test conditions), he says that "It is more of a feeling of seeing something rather than really seeing it. Like being (at the threshold) of imagination."

Most players, including the vast majority of pros, use The Feel Method, which I introduced in *Play Your Best Pool* back in 1995. When using this approach, you look out over the table at the Shot Picture, and then, based on what you see, you go about developing your final feeling that guides your stroke into contact with the cue ball.

SEEING THE CUT ANGLE

Diagram #3 shows the traditional way of describing the magnitude of a cut shot. In this case it is 34 degrees. The angle is measured by running a line straight out from the pocket, through the object ball, and out some distance past the object ball (see Lines A-1, A). Another line (Line B) runs from the cue ball's location at contact with the object ball to its position before being



shot. The arc from Line A to Line B is the cut angle. With sufficient practice, When estimating a cut angle you will be able to, in a few seconds, determine the cut angle to within about 2-5 degrees for shots when the cut angle is over about 15 degrees.

I have shown three lines for the arc. It is most difficult to estimate the cut from up close. The line in the middle is ideal. Line C is for illustrative purposes. Everything else being equal, the larger the cut, the greater the difficulty of the shot.

While describing shots in terms of their cut angle, the angle that actually matters is the one formed by the line from the pocket to the object ball (Line A-1) and the line from the cue ball at contact to the cue ball before it's been struck (Line B). In this case, this angle is 146 degrees. This is a big and unwieldy number, so we mostly just see this angle, which could be called the Shooting Angle, as part of our view of the Shot Picture. So, though you base part of your decisions on how to play a shot on the Cut Angle, it is The Shooting Angle that you are seeing (in your subconscious) as you play the shot.

To finish this brief geometry lesson, the 146 degree angle is the supplementary angle to one of 34 degrees. So, we determine a cut by its cut angle. However, when playing a shot, we

do not look at the arc lines or Line A as shown in the illustration.

SEEING SHALLOW CUT SHOTS

The shot in **Diagram #4** shows a shot with a small cut angle of only 10 degrees. On straight and nearly straight in shots the Shot Picture is very narrow as shown. This enables you to easily estimate the cut angle while you are preparing to land and while you are over the shot. In other words, you can combine the two steps – determining the cut, and forming the Shot Picture at the same time.

When playing shots with small versus larger cuts, such as the one in **Diagram #3**, you will learn to go through your process for each, one that de-

pends in part on how easily you can see the shot.

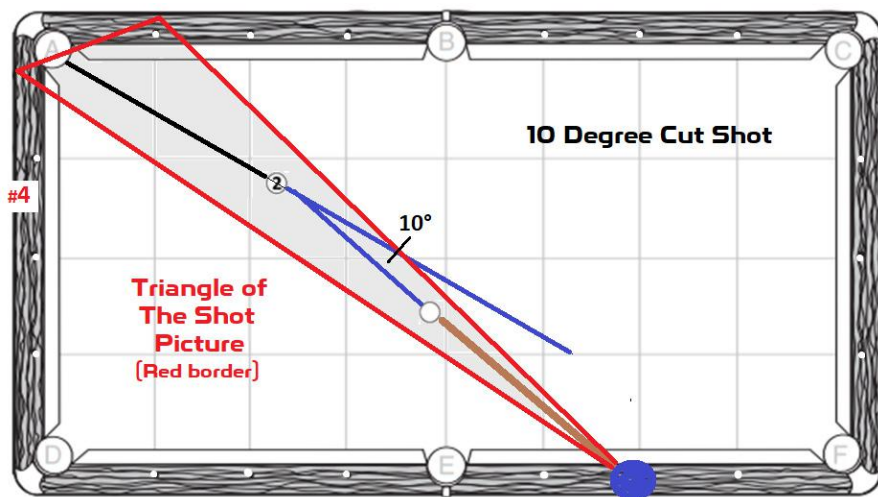
It may be helpful, in your next practice session, to pay special attention to your routine, and the steps that you take in arriving at the ideal line-of-aim. Take notice of any differences you may detect between setting up for a small angle cut shot and a moderate to thin cut.

MAKING USE OF WHAT YOU SEE

If your mind drew lines and wrote text while you prepared to play each shot, the items in the diagrams in this column might be a part of what you see. However, since playing pool is a world apart from writing about it, these calculations, estimations, spatial relationships, feelings, and things we see are, instead, all going into the marvelous stew we concoct in our brain while preparing to play each shot.

And while we can't explain exactly what we are doing while we are in the midst of doing it, we also know exactly what we are doing – which is putting our miraculous eyes, minds, and bodies to work while we enjoy the ride!

In sum, remember that when you make your final stroke that it will be the result of all that you have seen in preparing for this moment, and how your skill at seeing a shot and acting on that vision will largely determine your skill at pocketing one shot after another.



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RETHINK YOUR PRE-SHOT ROUTINE

ANTHONY BEELER

The pre-shot routine is undoubtedly your most important tool on the pool table. From this moment on, I'd like you to think of your pre-shot routine as the true measure of success for any shot you shoot.

You can't control the outcome 100% of the time, but you can control what you focus on during your pre-shot routine. The better the pre-shot routine, the better your chances of pocketing the ball and gaining position on your next shot.

What's important to remember is that your skillset is what it is, when you are playing a game. You're not technically going to become a better player by coaching yourself through better mechanics. You must let go and focus on the things that are going to help produce the best stroke possible.

The pre-shot routine is exactly what will help you do this and gain access to your best possible performance.

WHAT IS THE PURPOSE OF THE PRE-SHOT ROUTINE?

1. FOCUS

In between shots is for "switching off" and staying "present." It's like a "walking meditation." Relaxing your brain will help you focus during your pre-shot routine. Your pre-shot routine is to remind you to get focused and ready for your upcoming shot.



2. MAKING THE CORRECT DECISIONS

This sounds obvious, but you'd be surprised at the number of lessons I give where the student doesn't pick the correct shot or pattern. You should ask yourself the following questions before each shot: "what is my pattern?" and "what is my angle, speed, & spin?" Also, consider your margin of error. Ask yourself, "if I make a mistake with my speed, am I better off falling a little short or a little bit long?" Another thing I try to consider is what I refer to as the "order of operations of spin." When playing position, you should first look at stun, then follow, and drawing your cue ball should be your last option if given the choice.

3. COMMITTING TO YOUR SHOT

Commitment is a really important factor in executing a great shot. When you are committed you are free from doubt (doubt does not produce good pool strokes). Use mental and physical rehearsal to commit even further



by playing the shot in your mind before you shoot it on the table.

4. PLAY IN THE PRESENT MOMENT

From the time where you make your approach to where you start your backswing is a really overlooked part of the pre-shot routine. You could have done everything well up to this point, but you could easily undo it by getting distracted by things such as where you don't want your cue ball to go or trying to remember what to think about during your stroke. What's most important here is that you can stay present, and target focused with a quiet mind.

5. ACCEPT YOUR RESULTS

At the end of the pre-shot routine is what I refer to as the post-shot routine. How well you can anchor good shots and stay neutral to bad shots, can affect your mood and anxiety/tension levels.

PRACTICE YOUR PRE-SHOT ROUTINE

During your practice sessions, work out what is most important for you to focus on (for each player it's different). This is something I help players with during my mental game coaching sessions. Many pool players never actually practice their pre-shot routine, it's just something they do (inconsistently) on the pool table. Making this part of your practice (during some competitive practice drills) is going to help you play a better game of pool.

MONITOR YOUR SUCCESS

During your next match, keep a record of how many shots that you successfully went through your pre-shot routine. Measure your success by how well you were able to focus on these steps, instead of what the results were. Try to make your mind as quiet as possible and focus only on the intention for the shot. This is a far better goal to have than what the score of your match is. This keeps you focused on what you can control and steers you away from the anxiety of speculating about what the score will be.

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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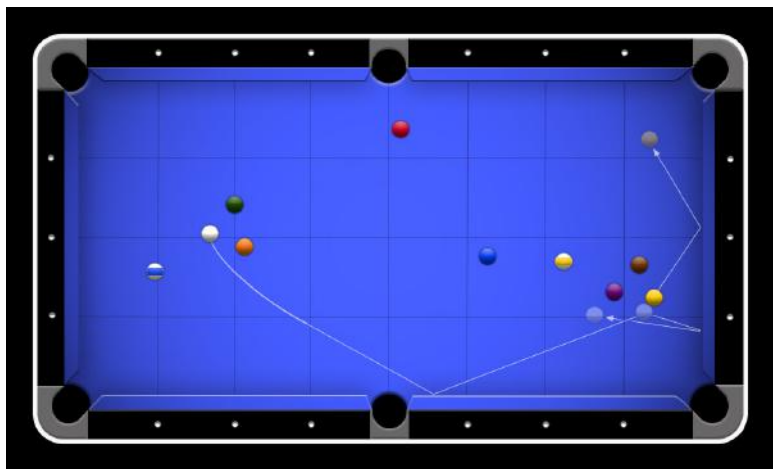
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F R O M



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 finals of the 2024 Derby City Classic Big-foot Challenge.

Joshua Filler and Lee Vann Corteza were battling it out and had just exchanged safeties when Filler came with this great masse shot, to take control of another rack.

We think the crowd and player's reactions truly indicated what a great shot it was.



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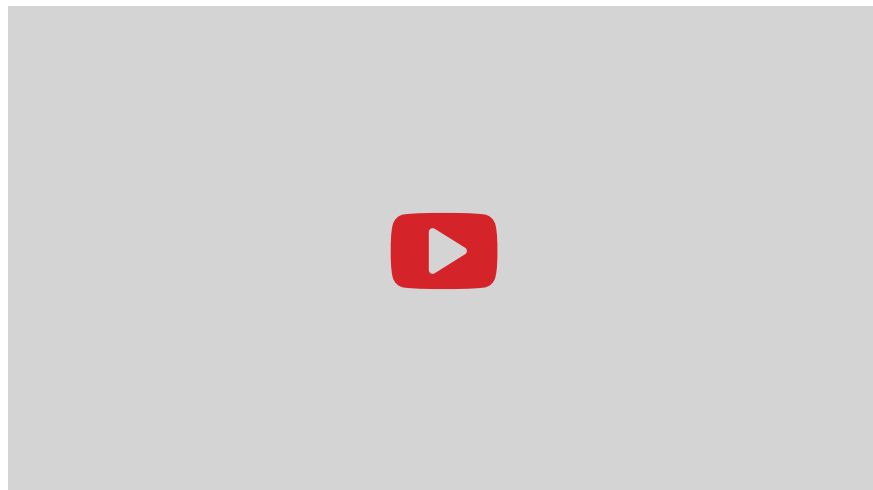


Gospel Trick Shot #54

Appearance

History of the Trick Shot: This is the final shot out of three Gospel Trick Shots performed by Brian “Superman” Pauley on a United Blackball pool table by McDermott at the Hopkins Super Billiards Expo at the Philadelphia Expo Center in Oaks, PA in April 2024. It was also developed from an Artistic Pool shot which is featured in the new Artistic Blackball shot program in Discipline 2 “Special Arts” which debuted as an Artistic Blackball shot in the GTS Classic Artistic Blackball Cup in Johannesburg, South Africa in October 2023. This is shot number 1 in that discipline with a degree of difficulty of 6, meaning that you get 6 points for making it on the first attempt, 5 on the second attempt, 4 on the third attempt, and zero if not executed. The reason it is number 1 is that it is the easiest to execute in the “Special Arts” discipline. With a little practice and proper technique just about any cue sports enthusiast can master this shot!

GTS Name and Why: Brian Pauley came up with the story line as the shot looks impossible at first glance. He realized that things do not always appear as they seem and so it is in life that some situations are not as they appear. There are unknown spiritual forces many times causing deception and false appearances. Brian also knows from the Bible that nothing is impossible with God! Applying those spiritual principles to this shot give a great life lesson! Situations that appear to be impossible become possible with God! Once the proper technique of executing this shot is applied then what appears to be impossible becomes possible. The video will demonstrate and the diagram will show the set-up.



Scripture References (NIV): Ephesians 6:12 says, “For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers over this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places” and Matthew 19:26 says Jesus looked at them and said, “With man this is impossible, but with God all things are possible.”

Cue Ball Placement: In hand, exactly 3 ball’s width from the red ball and centered on ‘B-E’ Line.

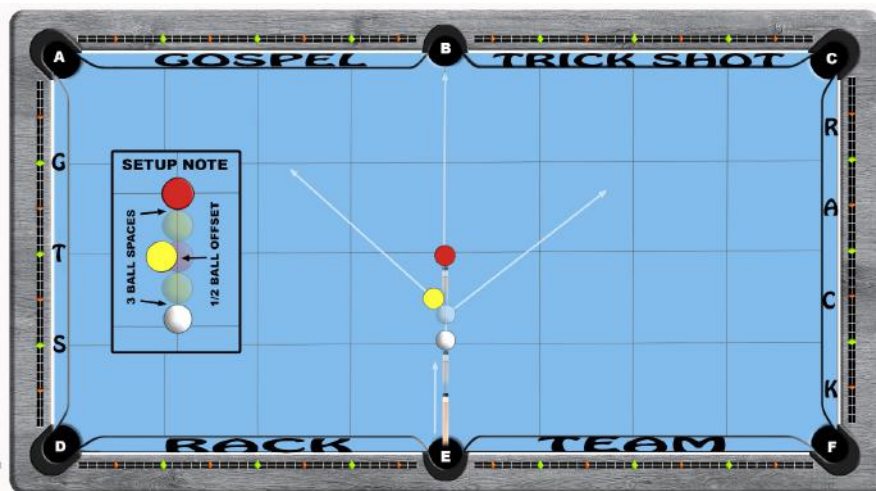
Object Ball(s) placement: Red ball in the center of the table. Yellow ball is centered between

the cue ball and red ball, and is ½ ball offset in either direction.

Objective: Shoot cue ball straight toward red ball. Cue ball will hit half of yellow ball and deflect “out of way” as diagram indicates. Cue stick continues follow thru in one fluent motion, so that tip contacts red ball and makes it in pocket “B”.

Special Notes: This shot must be performed in one continuous forward motion. Even though this shot is technically a foul (double hit) it makes for a great trick shot for a show.

Crowd Reactions Through the Years: This Gospel Trick Shot (GTS) has been performed many times by Tom “Dr. Cue” Rossman in GTS shows worldwide to the delight of many audiences. Yours truly Steve Lillis usually would follow Tom in many of those GTS shows as this shot along with many others would exhibit similar life lessons and spiritual themes for the glory of God. On the Blackball table this shot and others were done in GTS shows in Morocco in 2022, England, Ireland, and South Africa in 2023. The USA Blackball Team partially sponsored by GTS will be competing in the WPA Blackball International (BI) 2024 World Team Championships and will produce and direct the first ever WPA Artistic Blackball World Championships in England in October 2024. In the GTS Classic Artistic Blackball Cup competition in South Africa in October 2023, this was also a favorite among the full field of 48 players who participated in that event as many of the competitors were able to execute this shot successfully and were delighted to score points.





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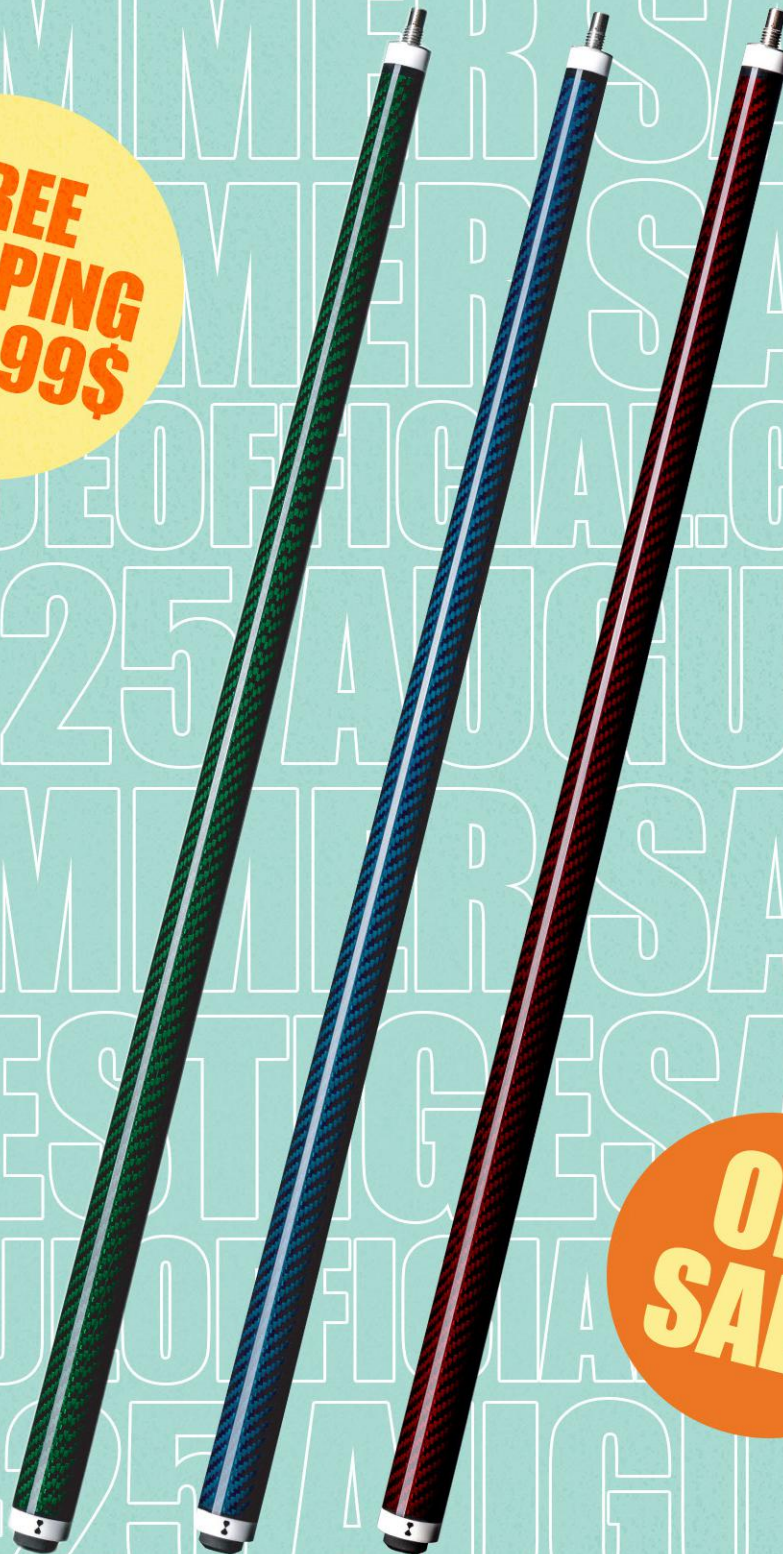
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PRASAD, MAST, AND ERNST

DOMINATE 2024 BEF JUNIOR NATIONAL POOL CHAMPIONSHIPS

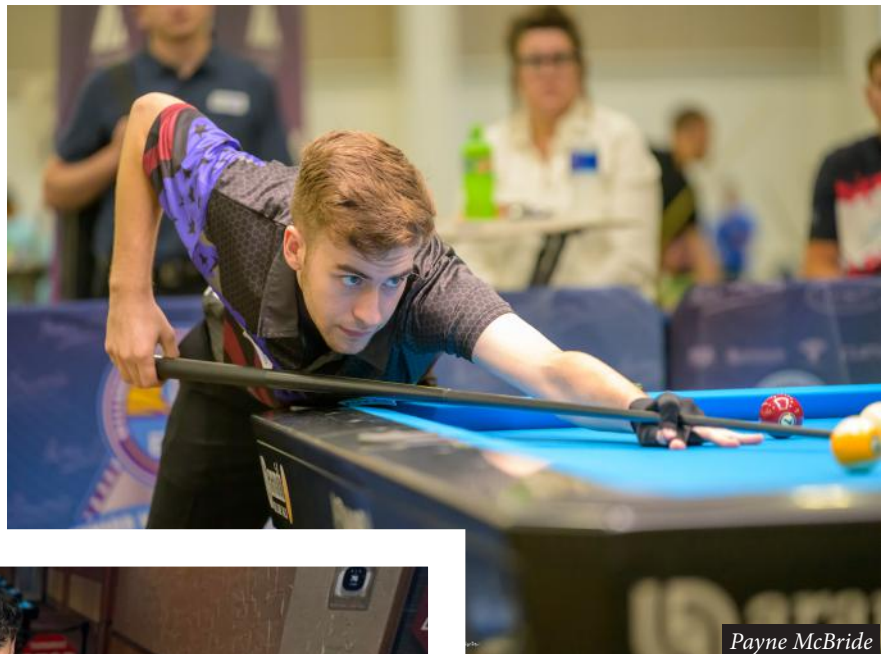
The 36th Annual BEF (Billiard Education Foundation) Junior National Pool Championships concluded on Saturday, July 13, 2024 at the Oakley-Lindsay Civic Center in Quincy, Illinois. Over 150 billiard student- athletes from 21 states attended this year's event.

Junior Heyball National Championships sponsored by JOY Billiards

The week kicked off with the inaugural USA Junior Heyball National Championships played on 19 pristine Joy Heyball tables. Players and spectators were treated to high level pool by our 57 junior athletes who entered this new pool discipline.

22 & Under Men's Junior Heyball National Championships

- Gold medalist: Payne McBride from Middleton, IN



Payne McBride



Avah Weems

- Silver medalist: Ben Kleinfelter from Perrysburg, OH
- Bronze medalist: Robert Orta from Odessa, TX

22 & Under Women's Junior Heyball National Championships

- Gold medalist: Avah Weems from Tom Bean, TX
- Silver medalist: Tiffany Tang from Tallahassee, FL
- Bronze medalist: Kennedy Dunn from Newport, VT



Jamison Gall

14 & Under Coed Junior Heyball National Championships

- Gold medalist: Hayden Ernst from Louisville, KY
- Silver medalist: Noel Montano from Colorado Springs, CO
- Bronze medalist: Isaac Garcia, Jr. from Denver, CO

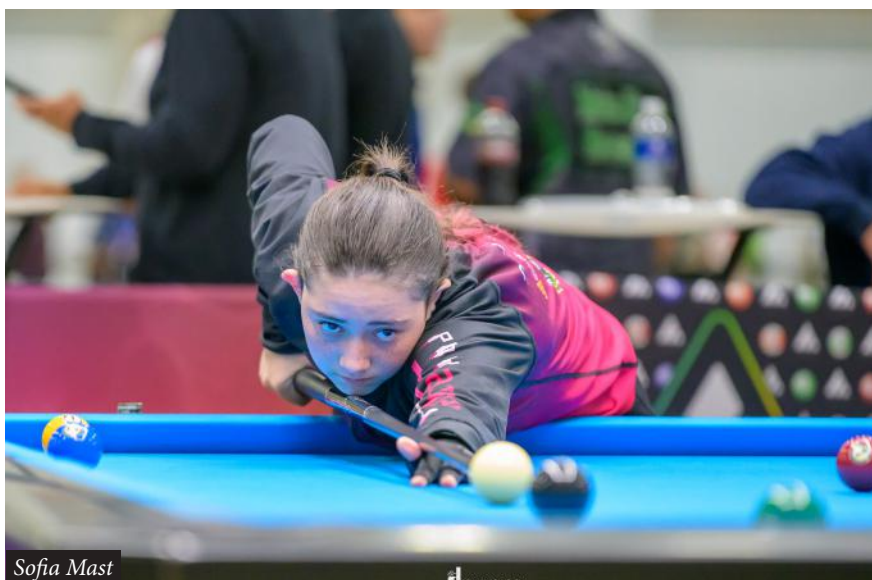
As champions of the 18&U Heyball divisions, both Jamison Gall and Sofia Mast will receive an all-expenses paid trip to upcoming JOY's WPA World Junior Heyball Championships (location and date are still TBD).

18 & Under Boy's Junior Heyball National Championships

- Gold medalist: Jamison Gall from Council Bluffs, IA
- Silver medalist: Adrian Prasad from Sacramento, CO
- Bronze medalist: Siyu Chen from Groton, MA

18 & Under Girl's Junior Heyball National Championships

- Gold medalist: Sofia Mast from Wesley Chapel, FL
- Silver medalist: Savannah Easton from Las Vegas, NV
- Bronze medalist: Kennedy Dunn from Newport, VT



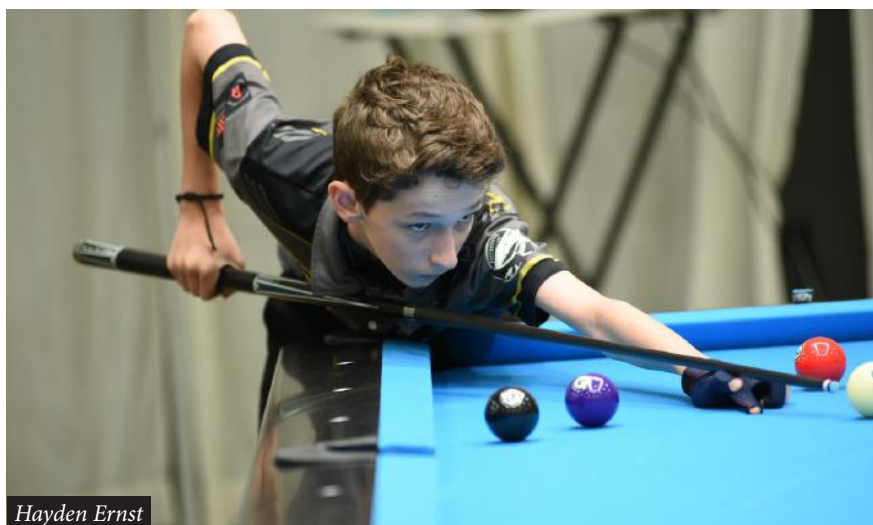
Sofia Mast

Junior National 8-Ball Championships sponsored by Lucasi Custom Cues

The next event to wrap up was the Junior National 8-Ball Championships sponsored by Lucasi Custom Cues, which saw many familiar competitors continue to take the podium.

22 & Under Men's National 8-Ball Championships sponsored by Lucasi Custom Cues

- **Gold medalist: Adrian Prasad from Sacramento, CA



Hayden Ernst

36th Annual BEF Junior National Pool Championships



Adrian Prasad

liard Products, 13-year-old Hayden Ernst was on a mission to not accept runner-up again this year. In the end, he defeated Wisconsin's Damond Kahler with his parents and grandparents continually cheering for him. Mast defended her Junior National 9-Ball titles once again.

16 & Under Girl's Junior National 9-Ball Championships sponsored by Diamond Billiard Products

- Gold medalist: Sofia Mast from Welsey Chapel, FL
- Silver medalist: April Gonzales from DFW, TX
- Bronze medalist: Kennedy Dunn from Newport, VT

14 & Under Girl's Junior National 9-Ball Championships sponsored by Diamond Billiard Products

- Gold medalist: Jordan Helfery from St. Joseph, MO
- Silver medalist: Kennedy Dunn from Newport, VT
- Bronze medalist: Savannah Easton from Las Vegas, NV

14 & Under Boy's Junior National 9-Ball Championships sponsored by Diamond Billiard Products

- Gold medalist: Hayden Ernst from Louisville, KY

- Silver medalist: Payne McBride from Middleton, IN
- Bronze medalist: Landon Memberg from Saint Peters, MO

22 & Under Women's National 8-Ball Championships sponsored by Lucasi Custom Cues

- **Gold medalist: Sofia Mast from Welsey Chapel, FL
- Silver medalist: Savannah Easton from Las Vegas, NV
- Bronze medalist: Jordan Helfery from St. Joseph, MO

16 & Under Coed Junior National 8-Ball Championships sponsored by Lucasi Custom Cues

- Gold medalist: Hayden Ernst from Louisville, KY
- Silver medalist: Kaden Hillman from New London, WI
- Bronze medalist: Noel Montano from Colorado Springs, Colorado

10 & Under Coed Junior National 8-Ball Championships sponsored by Lucasi Custom Cues

- Gold medalist: Donovan Seymour from Raymond, CA
- Silver medalist: Able Kuhns from Cheyenne, WY

- Bronze medalist: Christian Montalvo from Ypsilanti, MI

As the champions in the 22&U men's and women's National 8-Ball Championship: Adrian Prasad won an invite and free entry into the 2024 WPA Men's World 8-Ball Championship in New Zealand; and Sofia Mast won a free entry into a WPBA event for 2024.

Junior National 9-Ball Championships sponsored by Diamond Billiard Products

In the Junior National 9-Ball Championships sponsored by Diamond Bil-



Donovan Seymour

AIRDRIVE 3

MEZZ JUMP

AERIAL DOMINANCE



36th Annual BEF Junior National Pool Championships

- Silver medalist: Damond Kahler from Appleton, WI
- Bronze medalist: Gavin Mathew from Frisco, TX

Junior National Straight Pool Championships sponsored by McDermott Cues

The Junior National Straight Pool Championships sponsored by McDermott Cues saw a slight format change this year. Going from match play to ball-in-hand challenges, the top four highest cumulative scores advanced to a single-elimination bracket for their respective divisions.



Jordan Helfery

22 & Under Men's Straight Pool National Championships sponsored by McDermott Cues

- Gold medalist: Adrian Prasad from Sacramento, CA
- Silver medalist: Eddie Vonderau from Blacksburg, VA
- Bronze medalist: Aidan Wagner from Sparrow Bush, NY
- Bronze medalist: Brayden Bowen from OKC, OK

22 & Under Women's Straight Pool National Championships sponsored by McDermott Cues

- Gold medalist: Savannah Easton from Las Vegas, NV

- Silver medalist: Jorden Helfery from St. Joseph, MO
- Bronze medalist: Sofia Mast from Welsey Chapel, FL
- Bronze medalist: Alessandra Alejandro from Elmhurst, NY

16 & Under Boy's Junior National Straight Pool Championships sponsored by McDermott Cues

- Gold medalist: Eddie Vonderau from Blacksburg, VA
- Silver medalist: Shane Petrick from Houston, TX
- Bronze medalist: Hayden Ernst from Louisville, KY
- Bronze medalist: Landon Wisner from Norman, OK

16 & Under Girl's Junior National Straight Pool Championships sponsored by McDermott Cues

- Gold medalist: Jorden Helfery from St. Joseph, MO
- Silver medalist: Sofia Mast from Welsey Chapel, FL
- Bronze medalist: Avah Weems from Tom Bean, TX
- Bronze medalist: April Gonzales from DFW, TX

In addition to the tournament for Straight pool, the BEF also committed to recording and providing \$1000 scholarship for the high runs throughout the tournament. This year, Eddie Vonderau from Blacksburg, VA captured the boys high run with 44 balls, and Savannah Easton from Las Vegas, NV secured the girls high run with 28 balls.

Junior National 10-Ball Championships sponsored by Iwan Simonis

The main event to wrap up the week was the Junior National 10-Ball Championships sponsored by Iwan Simonis and this event determined who would represent Team USA at the 2024 WPA World Junior Championships in New Zealand. As a bonus, two additional 22 & Under divisions were added to



Savannah Easton

the 10-Ball event. It's no surprise that Mast and Easton met up in a thrilling hill-hill final once again while Prasad and Ernst continue to display their dominance on their own respective 10-Ball divisions.

22 & Under Men's National 10-Ball Championship sponsored by Iwan Simonis

- Gold medalist: Adrian Prasad from Sacramento, CA
- Silver medalist: Bryzen Manipula from Ontario, Canada
- Bronze medalist: Ben Kleinfelter from Perrysburg, OH
- Bronze medalist: Jamison Gall from Council Bluffs, IA

22 & Under Women's National 10-Ball Championship sponsored by Iwan Simonis

- Gold medalist: Savannah Easton from Las Vegas, NV
- Silver medalist: Avah Weems from Tom Bean, TX
- Bronze medalist: Kennedy Dunn from Newport, VT
- Bronze medalist: Kaitlyn Giddens from Clinton, NC

18 & Under Boy's National 10-Ball Championship sponsored by Iwan Simonis

- Gold medalist: Adrian Prasad from Sacramento, CA
- Silver medalist: Eddie Vonderau from Blacksburg, VA
- Bronze medalist: Payne McBride from Middleton, IN
- Bronze medalist: Kaden Hillman from New London, WI

18 & Under Girl's National 10-Ball Championship sponsored by Iwan Simonis

- Gold medalist: Sofia Mast from Wesley Chapel, FL
- Silver medalist: Savannah Easton from Las Vegas, NV



- Bronze medalist: Leigha Belieu from Waukee, IA
- Bronze medalist: Marissa Du from Sammamish, WA

16 & Under Boy's National 10-Ball Championship sponsored by Iwan Simonis

- Gold medalist: Hayden Ernst from Louisville, KY
- Silver medalist: Robert Orta from Odessa, TX
- Bronze medalist: Reed Larson from Sioux City
- Bronze medalist: Kaden Hillman from New London, WI

All three 10-Ball world qualifying champions: Adrian Prasad, Sofia Mast, and Hayden Earnst will have the airfare and accommodations cover for their trip to the 2024 WPA World Junior 10-Ball Championships coming up this September in New Zealand.

With sprawling number of events and disciplines the junior athletes participated throughout the week, the BEF also awarded scholarships for Micheal Repici's Girls in Billiards Scholarship funds to the following champions: Sofia Mast, Savannah Easton, Jordan Helfery, and Avah Weems.

This year's Brendan Crocket sportsman award recipients were Avah Weems and Jakob Ross for their continual demonstration of exceptional sportsmanship and behavior throughout the week. Both winners were awarded Meucci Cues as a token of appreciation and setting the standard for how a cue sport athlete should act on and off the table.

In addition to all the pool these young athletes competed in throughout the week, the BEF also recognized over 80 competitors that had a GPA of 3.5 or better and acknowledged them with an All-American Academic medal.

About Billiard Education Foundation

The Billiard Education Foundation (BEF) was formed in 1993 as a 501(c)(3) nonprofit charity committed to promoting a love of pool and building the next generation of players through youth programs and academic scholarships. The BEF is managed by the Billiard Congress of America. For more information about the BEF or to learn how you can support the foundation please visit BilliardEducation.org.

TKACH GOES UNDEFEATED

TO CLAIM WPBA IRON CITY INVITATIONAL IN BIRMINGHAM

Having already secured 2024 as her best (recorded) earnings year since she first showed up in our database 10 years ago, Kristina Tkach went undefeated to claim the WPBA's \$15,000-added Iron City Invitational in Birmingham, AL this past weekend (July 24-28).

It was her 16th (again, recorded) victory since logging her first eight years ago when she won the Ladies division of the Dynamic Billiard

North Cyprus Open. In the finals this past weekend, Tkach faced the same opponent in the Iron City event that she'd met and defeated in that first

victory, Margarita Fefilova. Tkach entered and exited the event this past weekend as #3 in the WPBA rankings, behind Kelly Fisher and Tzu-Chien



Kristina Tkach

Wei. Fefilova entered and exited in the #4 position.

The event began with a field of 48 competing in a double-elimination bracket that advanced 16 competitors (eight from each side of the bracket) to a second double-elimination bracket that eventually crowned the champion. The 16, Stage 1 competitors joined 32 seeded competitors in Stage 2 that eventually yielded the event's champion.

From the start, if Tkach and Fefilova were going to meet at all on the winners' side of the bracket in this event, it was going to be in the hot seat. After an opening round bye, Tkach's first three opponents started gaining on her, from Dawn Oldag, who chalked up three against her, to Teruko Cuccecelli who got four and finally, in a battle versus best friend, April Larson, got as close as five. Tkach finished it to draw Allison Fisher in one of the winners' side semifinals.

Fefilova, also with an opening round bye, opened with an 8-1 victory over Judie Wilson and downed Monica Webb 8-2, before Janet Atwell put up an almost double-hill fight against her in the winners' side quarterfinal. Fefilova prevailed 8-6 to draw Kristina Zlateva in the other winners' side semifinal.

Fefilova got into the hot seat match with an 8-3 win over Zlateva, as Tkach was busy sending Fisher to the loss side 8-1. As it turned out, Fefilova would chalk up six racks against Tkach, twice. In the first, they battled back and forth to a 6-6 tie before Tkach took command and claimed the hot seat 8-6.

On the loss side, where competitors would end up engaging in 10 double-hill battles (as compared to only four on the winners' side), Zlateva picked up April Larson, who'd followed her loss to Tkach with two straight, al-



Margarita Fefilova-Styer



TKACH WON RACK 15 TO REACH THE HILL AND THEN WITH A CONNECT-THE-DOTS FINAL RACK, CLAIMED THE EVENT TITLE 10-6.



most-double-hill wins over Caroline Pao and Loreejon Brown, both 8-6. Fisher drew Kaylee McIntosh, who'd followed her winners' side quarterfinal loss to Zlateva with wins over Veronique Menard 8-6 and a double-hill victory over Brittany Bryant.

Larson eliminated Zlateva 8-4 and advanced to the quarterfinals. She was joined by Fisher, who'd defeated McIntosh 8-3. Fisher downed Larson 8-4 in those quarterfinals and then, after battling to a 5-5 tie in the semifinals, she watched Fefilova chalk up three in a row to win 8-5 and advance for a second shot against Tkach, waiting for her in the hot seat.

Tkach came out gunning in the finals and took off to establish a four-rack lead, a lead with which she would finish the match as well. At 4-0, Fefilova

got on the board to reduce the lead to three, but for the next eight games, Tkach pushed back, to re-establish her four-rack lead. At 8-4, Fefilova closed the gap, once again, to three and then reduced it to two in Rack 14 (8-6). Tkach won rack 15 to reach the hill and then with a connect-the-dots final rack, claimed the event title 10-6.

WPBA representatives thanked the ownership and staff at Iron City Billiards for their hospitality, along with sponsors Diamond Billiards Products, Iwan Simonis, Aramith Balls, Kamui, How Cue Tips and BFCC (Big Family Custom Creations). The next event on the WPBA calendar, scheduled for the weekend of Aug. 22-25, will be the \$20,000-added Palmetto Billiards Invitational, hosted by the Palmetto Billiards Academy in Charleston, SC.

PERFECT PONGERS TAKES MAIDEN EURO TOUR TITLE

19-YEAR-OLD Dutchman Yannick Pongers claimed his first-ever Euro Tour title as he got the better of Mario He (Austria) by 8-6 to capture the DYNAMIC BILLARD Podčetrtak Open.

Pongers has got all the pedigree as junior, having won a host of European Youth Championship titles as well as being a WPA World Junior Champion but this was his first big title in the men's game and fully deserved.

Pongers had suffered defeat early on in the event at the hands of Wojciech Szewczyk and had to battle through the one-loss side. He recorded good wins in the single-elimination over Mikael Oegaard, Marc Bijsterbosch and an 8-1

semi-final victory over fellow WPA Junior Champ Szymon Kural (Poland).

Mario He though was the toughest of propositions in the final, coming into the Euro Tour off the back of a 9-ball gold medal earlier in the week at the Dynamic Billard European Championships.

Playing 10-ball, Pongers got the final underway but his break was fruitless. He's visit lasted just the single shot before Pongers cleared the table to

take the opener. They both had visits in the next before Pongers left the 5 ball showing and from there Mario cleared to level the match.

Another loose safety from Pongers allowed He in and he worked his way through the table before running out of position on the 6 ball. He redeemed the situation with a jump shot and that left the 8 and 10 balls and he chose the safety option. Pongers though, cut it in and then deposited the 10 ball for a 2-1 lead.



Yannick Pongers



Mario He

ble to reach the hill at 7-4. There was more jump shot magic from Pongers as he potted the 2 and 3 with consecutive table-length efforts. He sensed his chance, but missed the bank on the 3 ball, though. He didn't let the opportunity slip as he ran out for 7-5.

Pongers stayed at the table following the break but a weak safety gave He a look with the jump cue. He made the shot but hooked himself behind the 8. His bank escape was a little clumsy and left the object ball on for Pongers. The Dutchman looked set again but it came to nothing, and Mario ultimately closed out the rack for 7-6.

He's dry break gave Pongers a chance and a fortuitous snooker saw Mario miss the 3 ball off the rail to give ball-in-hand to Pongers and a golden opportunity to finish the match off. Looking a bundle of nerves, he held himself together for a terrific victory.

A delighted Pongers said, "I'm completely over the world! I really didn't expect to win the Euro Tour, especially after my bad results at the European Championships so I can't really describe how I feel.

"I felt more comfortable with each match but I know that everyone can win, especially after the last 32 and last 16. It was just a bit of luck but also well played. I beat four big players on paper in a row and then into the final then it's like 'why not one more?' I knew it would be difficult, I knew it would be hard but it happened."

Results, live scoring, and draw are available at www.epbf.com

It was He's turn to come up dry on the break but with nothing available, they both exchanged safeties before He missed a 1/5 combination which Pongers himself made. From there he free-wheeled through the remaining balls for a 3-1 lead.

A miss from Pongers in the next put the brakes on but He's weak safety saw the Dutchman wedge the cue ball right behind the 5. He escaped but a

long pot on the 4-ball got Pongers back in it and he cleared for an ominous 4-1 advantage.

A great break from He saw three balls drop and a clear view of the low-numbered ball but he got out of position again and missed the 6 ball. Pongers needed no hesitation to move it to 5-1. In the next, Pongers played all the good shots but missed a straight-forward long 5-ball into the top right pocket. It was a life-line for Mario who had started to look a little out of sorts. What should have been 6-1 was now 5-2.

Another superb break from He saw five balls drop and he banked the 1 ball in to give himself a real chance. A simple run out took the score to 5-3. Nothing dropped for Pongers on the next break and He was back in. From what looked like losing position, Mario was now just a single rack behind.

He got a ball down off the break in the next rack but the 1 ball was blocked. He pushed out, barely moving the cueball to leave Pongers a short jump shot. It was a strategic error from He as Pongers made it and proceeded to clear the table.

When he needed it, the break came good for Pongers as he dropped a ball and with a good spread, ran the ta-

“ I FELT MORE COMFORTABLE WITH EACH MATCH BUT I KNOW THAT EVERYONE CAN WIN, ESPECIALLY AFTER THE LAST 32 AND LAST 16. IT WAS JUST A BIT OF LUCK BUT ALSO WELL PLAYED.

- Yannick Pongers

KAPLAN

TAKES TITLE IN SLOVENIA

INA KAPLAN CLAIMED her fifth PREDATOR Women's Euro Tour title as she defeated home hope Ana Gradisnik 6-4 to win the Women's Podcetrtek Open today.

Kaplan, who had a relatively quiet European Championships, saved her best for the Euro Tour as she went undefeated through the field for victory. In addition to the title, Kaplan also qualifies for the World Games which takes place in Chengdu, China next year.

Having won the lag, Kaplan got things underway but with no shot on the

1 ball she played a tidy safety. Both players had repeated visits before it was Gradisnik who seized the initiative with a lovely bank on the 5 ball to set up a run out for the early lead.

The German though completed a nice run out following a scratch from Gradisnik to level the match in the next and they both had opportunities to win the third rack. It was Gradisnik who prevailed to restore her lead at 2-1.

A messy table after the break gave no clear chances and both players tried to create something. However, it was Gradisnik who fouled attempting a table length bank and with ball-in-hand, Kaplan levelled it up.

In the next, Gradisnik missed a one-rail kick on the 1 ball to present ball-in-hand to Kaplan who composed herself to clear for a 3-2 lead. A tight snooker from Kaplan forced Gradisnik



Ina Kaplan

into leaving the 4 ball over the centre pocket and from there, Kaplan increased her lead to 4-2. It was soon 4-3 as Gradisnik clawed her way back into it.

Kaplan had a great chance in the next but caught the 2 ball on the centre pocket knuckle while attempting to pocket it down the rail. Gradisnik though, couldn't get her momentum going as she retreated to a more conservative game. A scratch from the Slovenian gave the table to her opponent and Kaplan cleared to reach the hill at 5-3.

Gradisnik took the next and the next rack was understandably tense, but the Slovenian fired in a superb jump shot but failed to take advantage on the 2 ball which she missed. Kaplan played an easy safety forcing Gradisnik to go rail first but in the end, it was a poor shot from the German that left the 4 ball out in the open. The Slovenian looked all set but left her-



self a tester on the 10 ball which rattled the jaws and stayed out, leaving Kaplan a table-length cut which she executed for the win.

Commented Kaplan, "It was a rough route. Pia Filler was the one I had to beat and also Ana played really well and I was really lucky that she missed that last 10 ball which was crucial for me and I was shaking so much!

"I had a good break today but no shots afterwards so I always had to play safe and her also. We both played good but she started not to cue well on those last three balls, which was good for me but she's a fighter. It was important to qualify for the World Games here which was the main goal here."

Results, live scoring, and draw are available at www.epbf.com

DEUEL AND FISHER

GO UNDEFEATED TO WIN THE AMERICA'S HEYBALL CHAMPIONSHIPS IN QUINCY, IL

Short of polling the players, it would be safe to say that the 40 women and 64 men who separately competed in The Americas Heyball Championships last weekend (July 8-11) at the Oakley Lindsay Center in Quincy, IL represented a broad array of experience with the game, ranging from people who were experiencing it for the first time to people with a good deal of experience.

The latter was represented by the Ladies winner, Kelly Fisher, who at one time (as she put it) “way back, back, back in the day” had a Heyball table in her home.

Fisher had a great deal to say about the game (often spoken of as Chinese pool) and spoke about it at some length in a report (elsewhere in the News). She spoke of it as a game that might at some point down the road be considered as a possibility for the Olympics. She likes the game and as her victory in the event demonstrates, has a more than passing familiarity with it.

The Americas Heyball Championships were held in conjunction with the Billiards Education Foundation’s Junior National Championships at the Oakley Lindsay Center, which, as this report is being filed, is still ongoing. The two winners, Kelly and Corey Deuel, are members of the sport’s elite and signal an awareness and potential for growth which is likely to play out with an increase in the number of events, utilizing it as the ‘game of record.’

Both events played out in modified, double-elimination style with the men’s higher numbers leading to a

round of 16 (eight from each side of the bracket), quarterfinals, semifinals and the finals. The Ladies, eight of whom were seeded into a second round in the double-elimination bracket, played two rounds (the seeded competitors) or three (for those who played in the opening round) for qualification into their quarterfinals and went on from there.

Following her opening round bye, Kelly Fisher chalked up two straight shutouts over Julie Ann Mitchell and Janet Atwell, which put her (Fisher) into the event quarterfinals against



Corey Deuel



Kelly Fisher

Savannah Easton. Joining her in the quarterfinals from the winners' side of the double-elimination bracket were South Africa's Marina Jacobs (who'd defeated eventual runner-up April Larson in their qualifying round), Turkey's Eylul Kibaroglu (who'd survived a double-hill match against Sofia Mast), and the 'other' Fisher (Allison), who'd defeated Ada Lio 6-1 in her qualifying round.

From the loss side of the bracket, all of the women who qualified played a single, loss-side match to join the single-elimination competition. Larson downed Mexico's Elissa Navarrete to draw Kibaroglu, Mast benefited from a forfeit by Samm Diep-Vidal to pick up Jacobs, and Atwell defeated Jordan Helfrey to join the 'other' Allison.

Fisher defeated Mast 6-2 and advanced to the finals. Larson eliminated Fisher 6-3 to join her. Fisher closed it out with a 6-4 victory over Larson and took home The Women's 2024 Americas Heyball Championship title.

"She played well," said Fisher of Larson's effort, adding that in a conversa-

tion after their match, Larson told her that she wished she had more time to practice the game. Larson, who was still on a bit of a 'high' from being engaged in the first (Pro) final of her professional career, agreed.

"With more time to practice, I would practice every day," she said, adding

that she agreed with Fisher's assessment that in Heyball, the cue stroke itself is very important. "I love the (game). Absolutely love it."

"It's a game that drives you crazy," Fisher told her, "but with a little more practice, you could play better and well."



Clint Ianson

“Being the first-ever finals of my career,” said Larson, “it was nervousness in itself. You tighten up, you’re not comfortable and of course, my first finals played out on the tightest pockets ever. I was trying to stay loose because any thing, any flinch, the ball I knew the ball was going to rattle in a pocket.”

“That nervousness cost me,” she added, “and of course, Kelly took advantage of the opportunities that I gave her.”

Fueling her joy at her first runner-up finish was her elation about her semi-final victory over Allison Fisher. Not so much because she’d won it, but because of what Allison told her afterwards.

“She said she’d learned a lot by watching me play,” said Larson. “You made my tournament, I told her. She’s always been one of my biggest supporters and it was the best compliment on earth.”

“Look at the photos,” she added. “I can’t wipe the grin off my face.”

Strong start and three double-hill battles put Deuel into the Men’s winners’ circle

Corey Deuel demonstrated some early skills at this new Heyball game, opening up against three opponents, allowing them a total of only two racks in 23 games; none to Greg Gallegos, and one each to Joe Nielsen and Mason Koch. He would go on to win three, double-hill matches, including the final, that would put the title in his hands.

It should be noted, too, that Heyball brought “The Kentucky Colonel,” BCA Hall of Famer Nick Varner ‘out of the woodwork,’ so to speak. His last two known payouts at the tables came in the 7th and 8th Annual Seniors One Pocket Classics in Houston, TX at which he was runner-up in 2022 and won in 2023, both the only known (by us) appearances at the tables in those years. Prior to that, he hadn’t recorded a cash payout with us since 2016 and had won his last event in 2007’s Big Orange Classic VI in Knoxville, TN. Played out under the auspices

of Shannon Daulton’s Great Southern Billiards Tour, Varner defeated Daulton in the event finals of that Big Orange Classic. His best recorded earnings year was 2006, in a career that according to our records began in 1986 with a 3rd place finish in the US Open 9-Ball Championships.

Varner won his first two matches against Adrian Prasad 6-2 and Patrick McMullan 6-3 would have qualified him for the single-elimination phase, but in a double-hill fight versus Brad Hutchins, he was eliminated.

Joining Deuel from the winners’ side of the bracket, advancing to the final 16, were Ukraine’s Vitaliy Patsura, the aforementioned Wayne Parker, Ricky Evans, Xudong Yang, Krzysztof Derewonski, Clint l’Anson, and Steven Ellis. Joining them from the loss side were Kurshan Moodley, Mason Koch, Brad Hutchins, Bill Dunne, Payne McBride, Junior Junior, Tye Wang, and Craig Brown.

From the top of the final 16 bracket, Patsura downed McBride 7-2, Parker eliminated Junior Junior 7-3, Deuel survived his first double-hill battle against Wang and Brown defeated Ricky Evans 7-3. From the lower half, Yang got by Moodley 7-3, Derewonski defeated Koch 7-2, L’Anson eliminated Hutchins 7-3 and Ellis got by Bill Dunne.

Three of the four quarterfinals went double hill with Patsura eliminating Parker, Deuel chalking up his second double-hill win, and l’Anson downing Ellis. Yang edged out in front near the end of his match versus Derewonski to win 7-5 and advance to the semifinals.

Deuel came out on top against Patsura 7-4 in their semifinal matchup as l’Anson gave up just a single rack to Yang to join Deuel in the finals. In Deuel’s third and l’Anson’s only double-hill match, it was Deuel who prevailed to claim The America’s 2024 Heyball Championships.



April Larson

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KO PIN YI

TRIUMPHS AT THE 2024 RASSON LUSHAN OPEN

The 2024 RASSON Lushan Open, a landmark event as the first World Nineball Tour Ranking tournament in mainland China, concluded with a thrilling victory for the Chinese Taipei star Ko Pin Yi.

Ko's path to the title was anything but straightforward, as he faced the Filipino cueist Jeffrey Roda in a tense finale. The match, a race to 13 racks, culminated in a nail-biting finish with Ko narrowly surpassing Roda hill-hill.

Throughout the finale, both players exchanged racks, but it was Roda who first reached the hill, leading 12-11 and putting him just one rack away from victory. However, Roda's attempt at a safety shot on the 2 ball proved costly, allowing Ko to seize the opportunity with a stunning long jump shot to pot and set up a clearance of the table.

With the score tied at 12-12, Ko Pin Yi demonstrated composure under pressure, clearing the table in the final rack to secure his triumph at the first Lushan Open. This victory not only earned Ko the title but also \$15,000 in ranking points.

Ko Pin Yi has now risen two spaces up to 13th on the World Nineball Tour rankings.

The step up in the rankings brings Ko closer to qualifying for the upcoming Reyes Cup, where Team Asia will face the 2023 Mosconi Cup winners, Team Europe.

With Aloysius Yapp having confirmed his spot following June's World Pool

Championship in Saudi Arabia, the next qualification spot will be determined next week in Fulda, Germany at the European Open Championship. Fans can purchase their tickets here.

Despite the narrow loss, Jeffrey Roda, along with semi-finalists Carlo Biado, and Moritz Neuhausen, gained valu-

able ranking points for their efforts in the tournament.

As the season progresses and the players eye the coveted spots in the Reyes Cup and Mosconi Cup, events like the 2024 RASSON Lushan Open are crucial in shaping not only the WNT but the landscape of international pool.





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BUSTAMANTE, STYER, HANSON & SEAMAN ARE THE BIG DOGS IN DES MOINES

The Tenth Annual Midwest Billiards & Cue Expo came to a close this past weekend. Hosted by owners Randy Hanson and James Landrum, Big Dog's Billiards in Des Moines, IA became action central!

In addition to the Cue Show, this \$18,000 added event featured four divisions – one pocket, nine ball, a banks ring game and bar table nine ball.

Presented by Diveney Cues, Big Dog Billiards and PoolActionTV.com, other sponsors included the attorney Joseph J. Long, World Nineball Tour, Smash Billiards, Aramith, Simonis, Jacoby Custom Cues, Nineball World Rankings, Everything Billiards, Kamui, Savage Billiards, Matchroom and Diamond Billiard Products.

Drawing hundreds of exhibitors, players and fans, some well-known faces were spotted around the room. They included BCA Hall of Famer Francisco Bustamante, One Pocket Hall of Famers Jeremy Jones and Scott Frost as well as New England Pool & Billiard Hall of Famer Jeremy Sossei. Other titleists from 2024 included Roberto Gomez (Buffalo Pro One Pocket), Billy Thorpe (Bayou State One Pocket), Tony Chohan (The Rack One Pocket Classic), Lukas Fracasso-Verner (Buffalo's Pro Classic Open 9 Ball), Sky Woodward (Big Tyme Classic 9 Ball), Jonathan ("Hennessee") Pinegar (Music City Classic), Vitaliy Patsura Skinny Bob's 9 Ball, BJ Ussery (North Carolina State 9 Ball) and newly minted Heyball champ, Corey Deuel.



Francisco Bustamante, Scott Frost and Roberto Gomez

Others included last year's Midwest Open 9 Ball champ Shane Wolford, Texas Open 9 Ball champ Tyler Styer, multiple European Pool Championships gold medalist Margaret Fefilova Styer and five time US Amateur champ Brian Parks in addition to Oscar Dominguez, Max Eberle, Danny Olson, Sergio Rivas and Sharik Sayed.

The action kicked off on Wednesday evening with the \$5,000 added One Pocket Championship. Fourteen players posted their \$1,000 entry fees to compete in this double elimination event. The format was alternate break with races to four. After the players auction, meeting and draw, play began.

Gomez and Rivas drew the coveted first round byes. Frost defeated Jones 4-2 and Thorpe beat Seaman and Fracasso-Verner took down Chohan – both 4-0.

Second round action saw Wolford defeat Frost 4-2, Gomez edged out Thorpe 4-3, Whitey Walker beat Sergio Rivas 4-2 and Bustamante smoked Fracasso-Verner 4-0.

Vying for seats in the hot seat match saw Gomez taking down Wolford 4-2 and still on fire, Bustamante blitzed Walker 4-0.

The all-Filipino showdown to lock up a spot in the finals went to Francisco 4-2. Roberto headed west to await an opponent.

After being forced to take the scenic route after a first round loss, Frost was a man on a mission. He tore through Eric Pickar 4-1, Thorpe 4-2 and Walker 4-0. Duking it out in the upper portion of the one loss side were killers Jones, Rivas, Seaman and Wolford. Wolford survived only to be eliminated by Frost 4-2.



Tyler Styer

Waiting for Scott was Roberto – he also went down 4-2 and Frost was in the finals!

Since this was true double elimination, Scott had to defeat Francisco twice to take the title. Playing nearly perfect one pocket and giving Frost no air, Bustamante won four games in a row to add another title to his long resume!

The \$2,000 added Bar Table Nine Ball began on Friday evening. After the players auction, meeting and draw, play began. When the smoke cleared, it was down to four players. Randy Hanson took first place, George Walters finished second, Jon Giles came in third and Marc Phillips was fourth.

The \$1,000 added Banks Ring Game was an eight man invitational – each paid a \$250 entry fee. Paid by the rail, the last two standing were Jeremy

Seaman and Sky Woodward. Jeremy took the cheese!

The \$10,000 added Big Dog's Nine Ball & World Nine Ball Tour event also began on Friday evening. Thirty six players paid their \$300 entry fees to play in this double elimination event and chase Mosconi Cup points. The format was races to 9/7, winner breaks with the nine racked on the spot. After the players auction and meeting, the draw was completed with seeding according to World Nineball Tour (WNT) rankings.

After a first round bye, Woodward and Sossie began their marches across the top portion of the bracket. Woodward had wins over Philip Howk and Deuel – both scores 9-2. Sossei defeated Benjamin Gonzales 9-1, squeaked past Patsura 9-8 and sent Woodward west 9-3.

Next rung down the chart saw Ussery also receive a first round bye and was then victorious over Trevor Seale and Gomez – both scores 9-6. After his first round bye, Rivas had a tougher road but still defeated Olson and Wolford – both 9-4. He then beat Ussery 9-6 to reach the final four on the winners side where he would face Sossei.

In the bottom portion of the bracket and also the recipient of a first round bye, Tyler Styer took down Marcus Genson 9-3 and Seaman 9-2 before facing De Leon. After De Leon's first round bye, he posted wins over Eduard Bregu 9-0 and Margaret Fefilova Styer 9-4. Now facing Tyler, it was close but he went down 9-7.

And, the final rung of the chart saw Dominguez receive his first round bye followed by wins over Jody McLaughlin 9-0 and Hennessee 9-4. Bustamante also got a first round bye and was



Sergio Rivas

posted wins over Sam Henderson 9-5 and Thorpe 9-6. He then went on to send Dominguez packing 9-5 and meet Styer in the final four on the winners side.

Battling it out for a berth in the hot seat match was Sossei & Rivas. It was all Rivas as he prevailed 9-3. The match for the other seat was a lot closer but it was Styer who finally pulled away from Bustamante 9-6.

Both young guns were in dead stroke but when it was all said and done, it was Styer who locked up his place in the finals. Rivas went west to await an opponent.

The west side was loaded with strong players but when all was said and done, it was Sossei and Olson who emerged from the pack. Jeremy won 7-2 leaving Danny in fourth place. Sossei was then knocked out by Rivas in a nailbiter - 7-6. Leaving Jeremy in third place, Sergio moved on to the finals.

Again, since this was true double elimination, Rivas would have to defeat Styer twice to claim the title.

He shot out to a 5-1 lead but Tyler clawed back to make it 5-3. Sergio maintained his two game lead to make it 6-4 and 7-5. Digging deep, Styer tied it at seven each and then went on to reach the hill first! Rivas fought back and tied the match at eight!

And, as almost always, the final game of the set would be a puzzle rack! Both players took turns at the table but it finally came down to a long straight shot on the orange. Styer made the shot and faced a 6-9 combination. He pocketed the nine for the game and the title. What a match!

Congratulations to Francisco Bustamante, Tyler Styer, Randy Hanson and Jeremy Seaman for becoming the 2024 Big Dog champions!

Looking forward to next year!



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ON SALE

SHANE GOES UNDEFEATED

TO SUCCESSFULLY DEFEND HIS DON WEIR MEMORIAL TITLES

The impetus for the Don Weir Memorial Tournament held annually every year at Golden Fleece Billiards in Everett, WA had its origins in an original and ongoing set of conversations between Don Weir himself (who passed away in 2019) and his son, Jason Weir. Oddly enough, the conversations were as much about golf as they were about pool.

“I grew up around golf,” said Jason in an interview with Molina Mike (Mike Ortiz) on his ‘Doggin’ It’ podcast last year, “and learned that golf is a special game (in regards to the) manners and respect that its players have for the game. When I started to transition to pool, I spoke to my Dad about the differences.”

That’s why the idea(s) emanating from the first Don Weir Memorial in 2022, which hosted 16 competitors that first year, were focused on “bringing people into the event who were good peo-

ple and by invitation only” and why, at the heart of the invitations, was an attempt to assure that the details were taken care of; like taking care of transportation from an airport that was 50 miles away and assuring that the hotel nearest the tournament was 50 yards from the venue.

“We respect the time and effort that (the invited players) bring to the game,” said Jason. “We raised money from private sponsorship and have been trying to make it bigger and better every year.”

“It takes a lot of money to make these big tournaments happen,” he added, “and let’s face it, it’s a business, so I’m not trying to ‘bash’ (others who put these big tournaments on). But there are people out there who do have money that can put up a significant amount of money and raise purses to get these players taken care of.

“It’s something that my Dad always wanted to see, so I guess that’s why I’ve been pushing for it.”

Mission accomplished, in no small measure by the pool players who’ve



Shane Van Boening

**John Morra**

been in attendance for the Don Weir Memorial over the past three years, to include (among others) its first and still-champion Shane Van Boening, as well as Corey Deuel, Robb Saez, Tony Chohan, LoreeJon Brown, John Morra, Oscar Dominguez, Stan Tourangeau, Chris Reinhold, and last year's runner-up, Spencer Ladin, who was double-dipped by Boening in the finals last year. Many of those who've come, and continue to come, knew Don Weir personally. All on that list with the exception of Oscar Dominguez and LoreeJon Brown, were present for this year's event.

On Saturday, there was a two-hour player break during which players (and guests for a minimal \$20 fee) were invited to attend a private dinner, two blocks away from the Golden Fleece. In addition to a meal, the players witnessed the presentation of an annual award, instituted last year. The award was named after and in its first year, awarded to Richard Geiler, a known "standout player" in the Northwest. The 72-year-old competitor and future recipients were chosen on the basis of their support for the game of pool and their standing as a good role model for the sport. This year's recipient is known by one and all as just

'Ford.' Enough so that it took a minute or two for someone who's known the man for years to recall that his given name is Henry Ford Rice, Jr. Chosen by the award's namesake and original recipient, Richard Geiler, 'Ford' served in the Everett Police Department, in the Northwest, has run multiple events in the area, had a 'hand' in the development of the Reno Open and was a good friend of Don Weir. He was awarded his trophy amidst a standing ovation.

Don Weir's friend, Shane Van Boening, wins 3rd straight memorial tournament held in his honor

This year, it was John Morra, who had the privilege of facing Van Boening twice and finished as the 3rd Annual Don Weir Memorial's runner-up. Though he competed this year, Spencer Ladin was defeated on the winners' side early (by Chris Reinhold) and eliminated by Lut Ganief.

In races to 7, Van Boening's path to the winners' circle took him by Cody Clark (3), Stephen Weakly (4), Jeffrey Jimenez (2), and Robb Saez in a winners' side quarterfinal (1) to set him up against James Davee in one of the

winners' side semifinals (Davee had previously defeated Corey Deuel). Morra, in the meantime, sent Jason Froehling (2), Jeff Beckley (5), Ben Kleinfelter (1), and Steve Lingelbach (5) to the loss side and faced Tony Chohan in the other winners' side semifinal (Chohan had previously survived a double-hill bout versus Chris Reinhold).

Van Boening defeated Davee 7-3 and advanced to the hot seat. Morra joined him after sending Chohan west 7-4. As he had failed to do last year against Spencer Ladin, Van Boening claimed the hot seat over Morra 7-5.

On the loss side, Davee and Chohan picked up the two competitors who'd sent them over, although not the same ones. Davee drew Reinhold, who'd followed his loss to Chohan with victories over Tyrel Blowers 7-4 and then survived a double-hill match against Lingelbach. Chohan picked up Deuel, who'd followed *his* loss to Davee with victories over Froehling 7-2 and then (like Davee) survived a double-hill match, against Robb Saez.

Deuel advanced to the quarterfinals with a 7-4 victory over Chohan and was met by Reinhold, who'd defeated Davee 7-3. It was a very familiar 'family final four' that faced off against each other in the 3rd Annual Don Weir Memorial.

Reinhold reduced the 'family' down to three with a 7-4 victory over Deuel. Morra brought it down to two by eliminating Reinhold 7-5 in the semifinals.

It became a single-set final and something of a mirror-image of the hot seat match that had preceded it. Van Boening and Morra battled back and forth, flirting with a double-hill finale and the possibility of a second set, until Van Boening pulled ahead near the end to win the only set necessary by the same score as the hot seat match 7-5.

THE SCORPION STINGS HIS NEMESIS, DOUBLE-DIPPING JOSH ROBERTS IN FINALS OF RACK RACE STOP #12

When Johnny Archer set himself to the task of getting (literally) ‘back in the game,’ he had a goal of becoming eligible for selection to the USA’s 2024 Mosconi Cup team. For Archer, chasing Mosconi Cup points in qualifying events around the globe was never an option.

Those points (in general) are how three of the team’s five members are selected, while Matchroom Sports, in coordination with the USA captain are allowed a degree of discretion in selecting the other two.

Archer and a host of other competitors of his caliber, for whom globe-trotting was not possible, are looking to make enough noise competing with the ‘globe trotters’ here in the US of A to attract the attention of the Mosconi

Cup decision makers and earn one of the two discretionary picks.

Archer took a major step in the right direction this past weekend (July 6-7) when he came from the loss side and

Josh Roberts and Johnny Archer



double-dipped Josh Roberts in the finals of Stop #12 of the 2nd Annual Rack Race, run out of two Rack & Grill locations. This past weekend's \$1,000-added stop drew 44 entrants to Rack & Grill II in Augusta, GA (a sort-of 'home room' for Archer) and marked the fourth time that Archer and Roberts had met in the finals of a Rack Race event, over the past two years. That fact fed into Archer's initial reaction to the win, as did the 4 a.m. time frame in which the two matches of the double-elimination final were held.

"I knew that the (long) day was going to hurt me," he said later. "I guess it was just when I did it, the adverse condition of it happening at 4:30 in the morning, and to be honest, it was more of a relief than anything. And I thought at the time, 'Not the best win in my life, but that was pretty good.'"

"Roberts had used me as a punching bag those last two times," he added. "I had to beat him twice in that final and he hadn't lost one of the Rack Race events the last seven times out. And you know, (the win) sunk in a little later. The next day, I was thinking 'That was pretty cool.'"

The path back to noticeable relevance hasn't been easy for The Scorpion, as evidenced by his initial inability to recall his last tournament win, which, according to our records, happened four years ago. He won the Cajun Coast 9-Ball Open in February, 2020 (downing Shane McMinn in the finals) and in September of that year, played and won a head-to-head tournament over Earl Strickland in a benefit event for Tommy Kennedy, who'd suffered a concussion (and complications) after competing in a Florida event. It was a 'legends' matchup (race to 30) that came within a game of double hill (30-28) and as the match went on, played host to over 2,000 'stream' viewers.

At the time of that event, Archer couldn't recall the last time he'd



Josh Roberts

played Strickland either. It's not a memory problem, it's more about the sheer volume of available data and an easily recognizable inability to recall specific tournaments in a career that goes back to the days when Archer was a teenager. His first recorded cash payout in our database predates AZ-Billiards itself and occurred when he placed 7th in Barry Behrmann's 1987 US Open 9-Ball Tournament at the age of 19.

Now, 37 years later, Archer's path to the winners' circle of Rack Race Stop #12 got sidetracked early. In races to 6, he opened with a victory over Ed Wachs (3) and shut out Matt Walling. William Sheppard then battled him to double hill before closing it out and sending Archer on a seven-match, loss-side trek that he could well have done without.

In the meantime, Roberts and Jason Stemen set out on a collision course toward the hot seat match. A pair of 6-2 wins over Hope Buffkin and Calvin Le, put Roberts into a double-hill match against Ian Burns that almost sidetracked his winners' side aspirations for advancement. Roberts survived that battle to face the competi-

tor who'd defeated Archer double hill, William Sheppard. Apparently, Roberts wanted no part of any double-hill battle and shut Sheppard out to draw and defeat Stevie Moore 6-1 in one of the winners' side semifinals. Stemen, looking for his first (recorded) cash payout anywhere, ran into some early trouble as well, getting caught up in a double-hill fight against Jimmy Lee, right out of the gate. Stemen survived and advanced to give up only five racks in his next 23 games to Ronnie Hughes (1), Shane Buffkin (1) and in his winners' side semifinal, Darrell Williams (3).

Stemen put up a fight against Roberts, chalking up four against him, before Roberts closed it out 6-4 to claim the hot seat. Stemen jumped out of the proverbial frying pan into a semifinal fire with a Scorpion in it, itching for a shot at the man Stemen had just played.

By the time Stevie Moore arrived on the loss side to take him on, Archer (no stranger to the territory) had chalked up four victories, giving up only four racks in 24 games. He'd most recently eliminated Todd Blackwell and Timmy Prince, giv-

Rack Race

ing up a single rack to each of them to draw Moore. Williams drew Jnan Cabahug, who'd lost a third-round, double-hill match to Todd Blackwell and like Archer, won four straight on the loss side. Cabahug gave up just one more rack than Archer had in his four matches and eliminated Shepard (sparing Archer that opportunity) and Barry Mashburn, both 5-2, to draw Williams.

Cabahug extended his loss-side trip by a single match, downing Williams 5-3 and advancing to the quarterfinals. Archer leapfrogged over Moore, who forfeited, to join him. As a person looking for his first recorded payout anywhere (as far as we know), Cabahug likely surprised Archer a bit in those quarterfinals. He put up a double-hill fight before Archer prevailed, advancing to the semifinals against Stemen.

It was now past 2 o'clock in the morning. A time of day that Archer would later acknowledge as being an issue with him these days.

"It's not near as easy as it used to be to just show up and play well," he said. "The stamina is the toughest thing for me."

That said, it wouldn't have been advisable to bet against him in the three matches that followed, chasing dawn on the Rack Race and Josh Roberts in the finals. He gave up just a single rack to Stemen in the semifinals and did what he would later describe as "muscling up" to finish his quest for the event title.

They raced to 6 in the opening set of the true double-elimination final and Roberts almost made it a double-hill match. The Scorpion wriggled out in front by a pair to win the set 6-4 and stung Roberts in the reduced-to-5 second set, allowing him only a single rack to claim his first Rack Race title and first major win in four years.



Johnny Archer

Being a professional for as long as he has been, Archer doesn't tend to dwell on the losses, nor, for that matter, does he get overly excited about the wins. It's always about moving on to the next one and with final selections for the Mosconi Cup team about five months away, Archer knows he has work to do.

"This was something to build off of," he said. "This is what I know how to do and have done for so long. There are a lot of ups and downs and of course, you want the ups more than the downs, but it ain't going to come easy, like it used to. I've got to put some work in and pick my spots."

"The main thing I need to do is get to some of the qualifying events, which I haven't done yet," he added. "I've been looking for them actually. I'm planning on getting up to Turning Stone (XXXIX 9-Ball Open, Aug. 29-Sept. 1) and looking ahead to the US Open and the International Open."

Finding them, of course, is the easy part. Playing and competing well enough to run his credentials-flag up a pole and see who at Matchroom Sports might salute is a different thing

altogether. He knows that there are aspects of his game that could use some work.

"My consistency is the hardest thing right now," he said. "There have been some good 'flashes' over the past few months, but it's still the main thing. Getting to play more, getting out there under (pro-event, pro-player) conditions, would be a big help."

"Position play," he responded when asked what he might consider to be the 'weak link' in the chain of his comeback. "Control of the cue ball. I've been horrible, definitely not up to the standards I'm used to, so that's something physical I have to work on."

Then, too, there are just a few 'life' things that he needs to get used to as well. Archer's life over the past few years or so has revolved more around his family and his relationship with his daughter. In addition to the reality of needing to be away from that family more, is the necessity of reacquiring a number of 'road habits.' Being out there, travelling to locations and staying 'wherever,' mostly on his own.

"It's difficult," he said, "but it's what we do. That's the way life is."

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BILL LARSON AND KRAY MIMS TAKE GOLD 2024 NORTH AMERICAN 8-BALL AND 9-BALL WHEELCHAIR CHAMPIONSHIPS

The Billiard Congress of America and NWPAs (National Wheelchair Poolplayers Association) North American 8-Ball and 9-Ball Championships concluded on Saturday, July 13, 2024 at the Oakley-Lindsey Civic Center in Quincy, Illinois. With 14 players representing North America in this year's inaugural tournament.

In the North American 8-Ball Wheelchair Championships Bill Larson (Fort Atkinson, WI) faced Tom Davis (Montpelier, IA) for an excited hill-hill match up. Tom looked like he was about to run out when he fouled and gave Bill ball-in-hand with an open three ball spread left on the table. Bill then quickly approached and cleaned up the table to win his first North

American 8-Ball Wheelchair Championship. Charlie Hans (Harrison, OH) and Andrew Blood (Grand Junction, CO) won bronze medals for this year's North American 8-Ball Wheelchair Championship.

For the North American 9-Ball Wheelchair Championship we saw Tom Davis (Montpelier, IA) again in the finals

facing Kray Mims (Fayetteville, NC) and again falling just short of the gold with another hill-hill thriller. This time, Tom had his sites on the last 9 Ball for the win and his first gold medal but the ball rattled the pocket and left Kray an easy shot and title of North American 9-Ball Wheelchair Champion. Charlie Hans (Harrison, OH) and Chris Parnell (Lincoln, NE) won bronze



Tom Davis, Kray Mims, Charlie Hans and Chris Parnell with the BCA's Shane Tyree

medals for this year's North American 9-Ball Wheelchair Championship.

Keith Hill (Dayton, OH) won a secondary trophy event, consisting of a combination of both the 8-Ball and 9-Ball game disciplines, defeating Alan Shepherd (Georgetown, TX) in the championship match. Jeffrey Dolezal (Fairfax, VA) and Charles Interante (Pottstown, PA) finished tied for 3rd Place.

The competitors in this inaugural event also formed 2 person teams to compete in a scotch doubles 9-Ball event. They elected to play the event on Joy Heyball tables that were brought in to Quincy for the first ever professional Heyball event held on American soil. These tables are taller than standard pocket billiard table and have unique flat rails and smaller pocket openings with rounded edges. This makes pocketing balls very challenging. Overall it was a great experience for the players to compete on a different style of table.

"We were excited to combine the North American Wheelchair Championships with the BEF Junior Nationals Championship this year," said Shane Tyree Billiard Congress of America CEO. "There simply isn't many opportunities to have a tournament like this on 9 foot tables for these para athletes. It was great watching them compete on such a grand stage and we look forward to bringing them back next year."

"It was a great pleasure to help organize, in collaboration with the Billiard Congress of America, these championships for our players who compete from a seated position," said Jeff Dolezal NWPAs president. "The NWPAs was honored to be invited by the Billiard Congress of America to have our players compete alongside the next generation of North American billiard champions, many of whom are already competing at a profes-



sional level. Our players were able to showcase their talents in front of other highly skilled competitors and served as excellent role models for the junior players regarding the will to win and overcome adversity. Our players are looking forward to being part of future similar BCA-hosted events."

The 2024 North American Wheelchair 8-Ball and 9-Ball Championships were honored to be sponsored by industry leaders such as Lucasi Custom Cues, Fort Worth Billiards, Iwan Simonis, Diamond Billiard Products, Aramith Billiard Balls, Predator Group, CueSport Billiard Academy, and Big Dogs Pool Shop.

About Billiard Congress of America

Founded in 1948, the Billiard Congress of America is a non-profit trade organization dedicated to growing a united, prosperous and highly regarded billiard industry through BCA leadership. The BCA seeks to enhance the success of its members and promote the game of billiards through educational, marketing and promotional efforts, annual industry trade shows, tournaments and other programs designed to encourage billiards as a lifestyle and make pool everybody's game. For more information, visit bca-pool.com or call 303.243.5070.

About National Wheelchair Poolplayers Association

The National Wheelchair Poolplayers Association, Inc. (NWPAs) is a non-profit organization dedicated to encouraging, developing and regulating wheelchair billiards in the USA. The NWPAs serves wheelchair billiards under the umbrella of the Billiard Congress of America (BCA), which is the governing body for billiards in North America. Event schedules, tournament results, and NWPAs contact information can be found on our National Wheelchair Poolplayers Association Facebook page or by calling 703.980.2734.

European Championships

		Gold	Silver	Bronze	Total
1	Germany	4	3	8	15
2	Poland	3	1	x	4
3	Finland	2	1	2	5
4	Austria	1	2	3	6
5	Spain	1	2	2	5
5	Slovenia	1	2	2	5
7	Netherlands	1	1	2	4
8	Sweden	1	x	4	5
9	Hungary	1	x	x	1
10	Ukraine	x	1	2	3
11	Italy	x	1	1	2
12	Norway	x	1	x	1
13	Bulgaria	x	x	1	1
13	North Macedonia	x	x	1	1
13	Turkish North Cyprus	x	x	1	1
13	Czech Republic	x	x	1	1

STRAIGHT POOL

MEN'S	
Gold	Niels Feijen (NED)
Silver	Joshua Filler (GER)
Bronze	Lars Kuckherm (GER) Mustafa Alnar (TNC)

LADIES	
Gold	Pia Filler (GER)
Silver	Lena Primus (AUT)
Bronze	Kristina Zlateva (BUL) Johanna Indlekofer (GER)

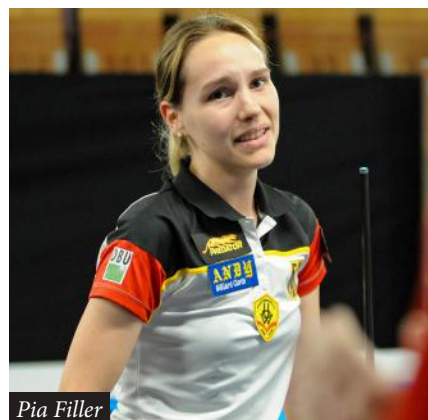


10 BALL

MEN'S	
Gold	Oliver Szolnoki (HUN)
Silver	Niels Feijen (NED)
Bronze	Joshua Filler (GER) Moritz Neuhausen (GER)

LADIES	
Gold	Pia Filler (GER)
Silver	Maria Teresa Ropero (ESP)
Bronze	Lena Primus (AUT) Linnea Hjalmarstrom (SWE)

WHEELCHAIR	
Gold	mil Malanowski (POL)
Silver	Matej Brajkovic (SLO)
Bronze	Henrik Larsson (SWE) Jouni Tahti (FIN)



8 BALL

MEN'S	
Gold	Francisco Sanchez-Ruiz (ESP)
Silver	Mario He (AUT)
Bronze	Joshua Filler (GER) Jonas Souto (ESP)

LADIES	
Gold	Ana Gradisnik (SLO)
Silver	Darya Siranchuk (UKR)
Bronze	Ina Kaplan (GER) Sandra Baumgartner (AUT)

WHEELCHAIR	
Gold	Henrik Larsson (SWE)
Silver	Matej Brajkovic (SLO)
Bronze	Vladimir Gjorgjieski (MKD) Jouni Tahti (FIN)

UNDER 23	
Gold	Arseny Sevastyanov (FIN)
Silver	Emil-Andre Gangflot (NOR)
Bronze	Dennis Laszkowski (GER) Dmytro Skorokhodov (UKR)



TEAM

MEN'S	
Gold	Poland Wojciech Szewczyk Daniel Maciol Mateusz Sniegocki Sebastian Batkowski
Silver	Spain Francisco Sanchez Ruiz Francisco Diaz Pizarro Diego Pedro Simon Jonas Souto
Bronze	Netherlands Niels Feijen Yannick Pongers Marc Bijsterbosch Mika Van Berkel Germany Joshua Filler Stefan Kasper Moritz Neuhausen

WOMEN'S		
Gold	Poland Oliwia Zalewska Monika Zabek	
Silver	Germany Pia Filler Veronika Ivanovskaia	
Bronze	Sweden Linnea Hjalmarstrom Louise Furberg Helena Nyberg Benjamin	Austria Sandra Baumgartner Lena Primus



9 BALL

MEN'S	
Gold	Mario He (AUT)
Silver	Luca Menn (GER)
Bronze	Marc Bijsterbosch (NED) David Zalman (CZE)

LADIES	
Gold	Pia Filler (GER)
Silver	Oliwia Zalewska (POL)
Bronze	Ana Gradisnik (SLO) Darya Siranchuk (UKR)

WHEELCHAIR	
Gold	Jouni Tahti (FIN)
Silver	Fabio Del Zoppo (ITA)
Bronze	David Slacek (SLO) Henrik Larsson (SWE)

UNDER 23	
Gold	Dennis Laszkowski (GER)
Silver	Arseny Sevastyanov (FIN)
Bronze	Luca Montanari (ITA) Pelayo Cueli Hurtado (ESP)





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DYNAMIC BILLARDS

European Youth Championships

		Gold	Silver	Bronze	Total
1	Netherlands	2	3	1	6
2	Poland	2	2	3	7
3	Slovenia	2	2	x	4
4	Finland	2	1	1	4
5	Sweden	1	2	2	5
6	Estonia	1	1	1	3
7	Germany	1	x	7	8
8	Ukraine	1	x	4	5
9	Switzerland	1	x	2	3
10	Serbia	x	1	1	2
10	Norway	x	1	1	2
12	Italy	x	x	1	1
12	Lithuania	x	x	1	1
12	Czech Republic	x	x	1	1

STRAIGHT POOL

UNDER 19'S	
Gold	Riku Romppanen (FIN)
Silver	Mika van Berkel (NED)
Bronze	Felix Vogel (GER) Konstantyn Ivanov (UKR)

UNDER 17S	
Gold	Jakub Chrobot (POL)
Silver	Maks Benko (SLO)
Bronze	Alessio Bonansinga (ITA) Robin-Hauge Pettersen (NOR)



10 BALL

UNDER 19'S	
Gold	Mika van Berkel (NED)
Silver	Lazar Kostic (SRB)
Bronze	Felix Vogel (GER) Ivan Rudenko (UKR)

UNDER 17S	
Gold	Maks Benko (SLO)
Silver	Revo Maimre (EST)
Bronze	Luka Bugarski (SRB) Ažuolas Tadaravicius (LTN)

GIRLS	
Gold	Shirin Volery (SUI)
Silver	Jolien Schuurman (NED)
Bronze	Linnea Hjalmarstrom (SWE) Romina Lenk (GER)



8 BALL

UNDER 19'S	
Gold	Riku Romppanen (FIN)
Silver	Mika van Berkel (NED)
Bronze	Karl Gnadeberg (EST) Mykola Moroz (UKR)

UNDER 17'S	
Gold	Maks Benko (SLO)
Silver	Walter Laikre (SWE)
Bronze	Fabrizio Ingrasci (GER) Jakub Chrobot (POL)

LADIES	
Gold	Linnea Hjalmarstrom (SWE)
Silver	Oktawia Brodecka (POL)
Bronze	Shirin Volery (SUI) Jolien Schuurman (NED)



9 BALL

UNDER 19'S	
Gold	Felix Vogel (GER)
Silver	Sasu Hietamies (FIN)
Bronze	Matous Vlk (CZE) Mykola Moroz (UKR)

UNDER 17'S	
Gold	Revo Maimre (EST)
Silver	Maks Benko (SLO)
Bronze	Michal Wiech (POL) Wojciech Glab (POL)

GIRLS	
Gold	Jolien Schuurman (NED)
Silver	Linnea Hjalmarstrom (SWE)
Bronze	Romina Lenk (GER) Shirin Volery (SUI)



TEAM

UNDER 19	
Gold	Ukraine Konstantyn Ivanov Ivan Rudenko Mykola Moroz
Silver	Poland Jakub Kraupe Jacek Pietrzyk Dominik Homza
Bronze	Germany Laurenz Geitz Felix Vogel Paul Gorgon Felix Wellers
	Finland Juho Teittinen Sasu Hietamies Riku Romppanen

UNDER 17	
Gold	Poland Dominik Regieli Michal Wiech Jakub Chrobot
Silver	Robin-Hauge Pettersen Joakim Langkas Benjamin-Herland Aralden
Bronze	Sweden Walter Laikre Jonah Kramer Gabriel Aspholm Sebastian Simonsson Falldin
	Germany Martin Roser Alessio Hybler Valentin Schmitz Fabrizio Ingrassi





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2024 Junior Championships Results

Young poolplayers made their way to the Renaissance St. Louis Airport Hotel in St. Louis, Mo., for the Junior Championships June 29 – July 1, 2024. After three days of competition, four kids returned home junior champions!

Champions received a prize package that included a \$300 Amazon gift card, Action cue and case, along with the championship trophy. Runners-Up took home a prize

package that included a \$175 Amazon gift card, Action cue and case, and trophy. Third-Place finishers received a prize package with a \$100 Amazon gift card, APA backpack, and trophy.

Green Tier (SLs 1-2)

In the Green Tier **Christopher Spears** (SL2) of Kentwood, La., defeated Aja Richards (SL3) of Kansas City, Kan. The Green Tier featured 105 participants.



White Tier (SLs 4-5)

In the White Tier, **Cameron Adair** (SL5) of East Peoria, Ill., defeated Alex Leck (SL5) of Hamburg, Pa. The White Tier featured 73 participants.



Red Tier (SL3)

In the Red Tier, **Nathan Wilson** (SL3) of Santa Ana, Calif., defeated Cameron Parrett (SL3) of Topeka, Kan. The Red Tier featured 57 players.



Black Tier (SLs 6-9)

In the Black Tier, **Konnor McFadyen** (SL9) of New Port Richey, Fla., defeated Tyler Ramos (SL7) of Kansas City, Mo. The Black Tier featured 23 players.



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Tourney Results

Jul 06 - Jul 07

TOP Tour Stop

Breaktime Billiards

Cary, NC

- 1 Mike Davis \$1,000
- 2 Jas Makhni \$700
- 3 BJ Ussery \$500
- 4 Nathan Childress \$300
- 5 Robert Hamilton \$130
- 5 Scott Roberts \$130

Jul 06 - Jul 07

2nd Annual Rack Race Event Twelve

Rack and Grill II

Augusta, Georgia

- 1 Johnny Archer \$1,000
- 2 Josh Roberts \$500
- 3 Jason Steman \$300
- 4 Jnan Cabahug \$200
- 5 Darrel Williams \$100
- 5 Stevie Moore \$100
- 7 Barry Mashburn \$70
- 7 Timmy Prince \$70
- 9 Doug Cogdell \$50
- 9 Shane Buffkin \$50
- 9 Todd Blackwell \$50
- 9 William Sheppard \$50

Jul 06 - Jul 07

2024 DL Billiards Tour Open Stop 4

Big Tyme Billiards

Spring, Texas

- 1 Roberto Gomez \$576
- 2 Tommy Tokoph \$432
- 3 Raed Shabib \$288
- 4 Kenny Price \$144

Jul 06 - Jul 07

Mezz Cues LA 9-Ball Series Stop

Good Timez Billiards

Huntsville, Alabama

- 1 Darwin Bernadaz \$625
- 2 Jose Centeno \$375
- 3 Jamal Oussi \$200
- 3 Julius Argumedo \$200
- 5 Derrick Cabrera \$100
- 5 Juan Cajina \$100
- 5 Keegan Badour \$100
- 5 Roberto Valenzuela \$100

Jul 08 - Jul 11

2024 The Americas Heyball Mens Championships

Oakley-Lindsay Center

Quincy, Illinois

- 1 Corey Deuel \$10,000
- 2 Clint Ianson \$6,000
- 3 Vitaliy Patsura \$4,000
- 3 Xu Dong Yang \$4,000
- 5 Craig Brown \$2,000
- 5 Krzysztof Derewonski \$2,000
- 5 Stephen Ellis \$2,000
- 5 Wayne Parker \$2,000
- 9 Bill Dunne \$1,250
- 9 Brad Hutchins \$1,250
- 9 Kurshan Moodley \$1,250
- 9 Mason Koch \$1,250
- 9 Payne McBride \$1,250
- 9 Ricky Evans \$1,250
- 9 Tye Wang \$1,250
- 17 Jared Brahler \$500
- 17 Jeffrey Lippincott \$500
- 17 Kang Lee \$500
- 17 Kyle Richard \$500
- 17 Michael Yednak \$500
- 17 Nick Varner \$500
- 17 Robert Moreno \$500

17 Ruben Bautista \$500

Jul 08 - Jul 11

2024 The Americas Heyball Wom- ens Championships

Oakley-Lindsay Center

Quincy, Illinois

- 1 Kelly Fisher \$10,000
- 2 April Larson \$6,000
- 3 Allison Fisher \$4,000
- 3 Sofia Mast \$4,000
- 5 Eylul Kybaroglu \$2,000
- 5 Janet Atwell \$2,000
- 5 Marina Jacobs \$2,000
- 5 Savannah Easton \$2,000
- 9 Ada Lio \$1,250
- 9 Elissa Navarrete \$1,250
- 9 Jordan Helfrey \$1,250
- 9 Samm Vidal Claramunt \$1,250

Jul 10 - Jul 14

2024 Midwest Billiards and Cue Expo 9-Ball

Big Dog Billiards

Des Moines, IA

- 1 Tyler Styer \$8,200
- 2 Sergio Rivas \$4,300
- 3 Jeremy Sossei \$2,700
- 4 Danny Olson \$1,700
- 5 Francisco Bustamante \$1,100
- 5 Oscar Dominguez \$1,100
- 7 BJ Ussery \$700
- 7 Nick De Leon \$700

Jul 10 - Jul 14

2024 Midwest Billiards and Cue Expo One Pocket

Big Dog Billiards

Des Moines, IA

- 1 Francisco Bustamante \$9,000
- 2 Scott Frost \$5,400
- 3 Roberto Gomez \$3,600

Jul 13 - Jul 13

West Coast Women's Tour 2024 Stop 3

Diamond Billiards

Modesto, California

- 1 Meadow Klingler \$400
- 2 Naomi Manuel-Callado \$290
- 3 Ashley Herr \$185
- 4 Gigi Callejas \$125
- 5 Lela Andrews \$65
- 5 Mary Dughi \$65

Jul 13 - Jul 13

JPNEWT Tour 2024 Stop #5

Shooter's Family Billiards

Wayne, NJ

- 1 Ashley Benoit \$720
- 2 Briana Miller \$550
- 3 JoAnn Mason Parker \$350
- 4 Caroline Pao \$450
- 5 Rachel Lang \$100
- 5 Rachel Walters \$100

Jul 13 - Jul 14

Q City 9-Ball Tour Stop

Borderline Billiards

Bristol, TN

- 1 Scott Largen \$750
- 2 Keith Young \$500
- 3 Scott Howard \$300
- 4 Eric Roberts \$150
- 5 Andy Ashburn \$105
- 5 Ron Frank \$105

Jul 13 - Jul 13

Tiger Florida Tour 2024 Stop 3

Brewlands Bar & Billiards

Lakeland, FL

- 1 Jeannie Seaver \$520
- 2 Kaylee McIntosh \$370
- 3 Margie Soash \$220
- 3 Nicolle Cuellar \$220
- 5 Jessica Barnes \$80
- 5 Lisa Anderson \$80

- 5 Michell Monk \$80
- 5 Shanelle Loraine \$80

Jul 14 - Jul 14

Garden State Pool Tour Amateur Stop

Side Pocket Billiards

Howell Township, New Jersey

- 1 Matt Wrobel \$400
- 2 Levie A. Lampaan \$240
- 3 Ronnie Xu \$120
- 4 Pierre Bontempo \$80

Jul 15 - Jul 15

Bergman vs Bustamante - 8-Ball Champions Challenge

Racks on the Rocks

Peoria, IL

- 1 Justin Bergman
- 2 Francisco Bustamante

Jul 20 - Jul 21

NWPA Tour 2024 Stop 3

Bobalou Billiards

Roseburg, Oregon

- 1 Molina Ortiz \$800
- 2 Gwen Townsend \$590
- 3 Maryann McConnell \$415
- 4 Stephanie Drakulic \$275
- 5 Kathie MacDonald \$175
- 5 Suzanne Smith \$175
- 7 Jeanne Christiansen \$115
- 7 Regene Lane \$115
- 9 Debi Hollander-Haney \$85
- 9 Nicole Donisi \$85
- 9 Raquel Minjarez \$85
- 9 Rita Chew \$85

Jul 20 - Jul 23

15th Annual Chuck Markulis Memorial 9-Ball Division

Hard Times Billiards - Sacramento

Sacramento, CA

- 1 Tyler Styer \$5,000
- 2 Jeremy Long \$3,000
- 3 Max Eberle \$2,000

- 3 Thorsten Hohmann \$2,000
- 5 John Morra \$800
- 5 Oliver Ruuger \$800
- 5 Oscar Dominguez \$800
- 5 Shane Van Boening \$800
- 9 BJ Ussery \$400
- 9 Corey Deuel \$400
- 9 Ernesto Dominguez \$400
- 9 Hunter Lombardo \$400
- 9 Nick De Leon \$400
- 9 Oscar Perez \$400
- 9 Oscar Valdiviezo \$400
- 9 Sam Henderson \$400

Jul 24 - Jul 28

WPBA Iron City Invitational IV

Iron City Billiards

Birmingham, Alabama

- 1 Kristina Tkach \$7,500
- 2 Marharyta Fefilava \$5,500
- 3 Allison Fisher \$4,000
- 4 April Larson \$2,800
- 5 Kaylee McIntosh \$2,200
- 5 Kristina Zlateva \$2,200
- 7 Brittany Bryant \$1,700
- 7 Loree Jon Hasson \$1,700
- 9 Caroline Pao \$1,200
- 9 Janet Atwell \$1,200
- 9 Savannah Easton \$1,200
- 9 Veronique Menard \$1,200
- 13 Emily Duddy \$850
- 13 Kia Burwell \$850
- 13 Monica Webb \$850
- 13 Susan Williams \$850
- 17 Ada Lio \$500
- 17 Ashley Benoit \$500
- 17 Ashley Rice \$500
- 17 Kennedy Meyman \$500
- 17 Laura Semko \$500
- 17 Lonnie Fox-Raymond \$500
- 17 Olivia Cheng \$500
- 17 Teruko Cucculelli \$500

Jul 25 - Jul 28

2024 Lushan Open

China

- 1 Pin-Yi Ko \$15,000
- 2 Jeffrey Consigna Roda \$7,500

Monthly Results

- 3 Carlo Biado \$3,000
- 3 Moritz Neuhausen \$3,000
- 5 Johann Chua \$1,500
- 5 Kun Lin Wu \$1,500
- 5 Ping Han Ko \$1,500
- 5 Po Cheng Kuo \$1,500
- 9 Aloysius Yapp \$750
- 9 Bernie Regaliaria \$750
- 9 Hongming Zhu \$750
- 9 Hui-chan Lu \$750
- 9 Marvin Asis \$750
- 9 Michael Feliciano \$750
- 9 Ri Teng Liu \$750
- 9 Wiktor Zielinski \$750
- 17 Albert Manas \$300
- 17 Ang Tuan Nguyen \$300
- 17 Che-Wei Fu \$300
- 17 Chen Hsin Ting \$300

- 17 Dang Thanh Kien \$300
- 17 Desmond Goh \$300
- 17 James Aranas \$300
- 17 Jeffrey Ignacio \$300
- 17 Jian-Bo Fu \$300
- 17 Kuan Yu Chen \$300
- 17 Kyle Amoroto \$300
- 17 Ming Wang \$300
- 17 Patric Gonzales \$300
- 17 Ping Han Ko \$300
- 17 Yi Wei Zhang \$300
- 17 Yu-Lung Chang \$300

- 1 Shane Van Boening \$11,000
- 2 John Morra \$7,000
- 3 Chris Reinhold \$3,500
- 4 Corey Deuel \$2,200
- 5 James Davee \$1,100
- 5 Tony Chohan \$1,100
- 7 Robb Saez \$750
- 7 Steve Lingelbach \$750
- 9 Ben Kleinfelter \$500
- 9 Jason Froeling \$500
- 9 Lut Ganief \$500
- 9 Tyrel Blowers \$500
- 13 Jeff Beckley \$400
- 13 Ollie Acosta \$400
- 13 Shucheng Chao \$400
- 13 Spencer Ladin \$400

Jul 27 - Jul 28

3rd Annual Weir Memorial 9-Ball Tournament

Golden Fleece

Everett, Washington

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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/SEPTEMBER

TAOM Maxrack Nineball Helsinki Open

Aug 01 - Aug 04

Biljardi 247
Helsinki

European Open 2024

Aug 06 - Aug 11

Hotel Esperanto
Fulda Germany

2024 US Women's Snooker Open

Aug 09 - Aug 11

Ox Billiards
Seattle, Washington

2024 Filler's Junior Open

Aug 09 - Aug 10

Hotel Esperanto
Fulda Germany

Shane vs Fedor 10-Ball Challenge

Aug 15 - Aug 17

Railyard Billiards
Louisville, KY

NWPA Tour 2024 Stop 4

Aug 17 - Aug 18

The Pocket
Boise, Idaho

2024 U.S. Open 9-Ball Championship

Aug 19 - Aug 24

Harrah's Resort Atlantic City
Atlantic City, NJ

WPBA Palmetto Billiards Invitational

Aug 22 - Aug 25

Palmetto Billiards Academy
Charleston, SC

2024 SVB Junior Open

Aug 22 - Aug 23

Harrah's Resort Atlantic City
Atlantic City, NJ

West Coast Women's Tour 2024 Stop 4

Aug 24 - Aug 24

Buffalo Billiards
Petaluma, California

Turning Stone Classic XXXIX

Aug 29 - Sep 01

Turning Stone Casino
Verona, NY

WPA Predator World 8-Ball Championship 2024

Sep 02 - Sep 08

New Zealand

2024 Masse Women's World 9-Ball Championship

Sep 02 - Sep 08

New Zealand

2024 WPA Predator World Junior Championships

Sep 02 - Sep 08

New Zealand

New Zealand Open 2024

Sep 02 - Sep 08

New Zealand

7th Annual Dennis Dieckman Memorial 3 Cushion

Sep 05 - Sep 08

Amazin Billiards
Malden, Ma

West Coast Women's Tour 2024 Stop 5

Sep 14 - Sep 14

The Jointed Cue
Sacramento, CA

Joss Tour 2024-2025 Stop 1

Sep 14 - Sep 15

Winnie Bar and Billiards
Laconia, NH

NWPA Tour 2024 Stop 5

Sep 21 - Sep 22

Legacy Billiards Bar & Grill
Spokane, Washington

Joss Tour 2024-2025 Stop 2

Sep 21 - Sep 22

Yale Billiards
Wallingford, Connecticut

The Maine Event XVI

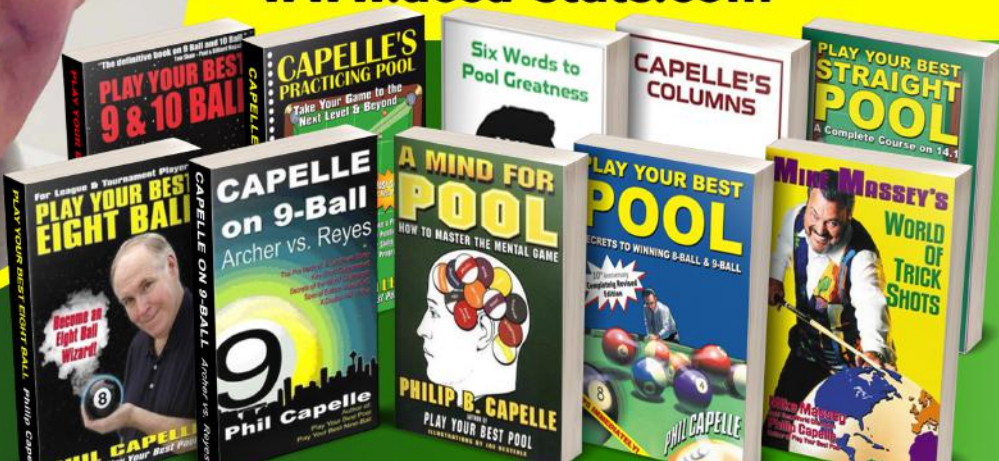

Sep 28 - Sep 29

TJ's Classic Billiards
Waterville, Maine

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	NAME	COUNTRY	\$ AMOUNT	
	Fedor Gorst	 USA	399.013,00 US\$	
	Joshua Filler	 GER	151.413,00 US\$	
	Eklent Kaci	 ALB	128.007,00 US\$	
	Shane Van Boening	 USA	121.938,00 US\$	
	Carlo Biado	 PHI	116.550,00 US\$	↑
	Denis Grabe	 EST	65.478,00 US\$	↑
	Chieh-Yu Chou	 TPE	62.750,00 US\$	↓
	Wiktor Zielinski	 POL	62.295,00 US\$	↓
	Pin Yi Ko	 TPE	60.376,00 US\$	↑
	Naoyuki Oi	 JAP	59.162,00 US\$	

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Nov. 18th - 26th 2024

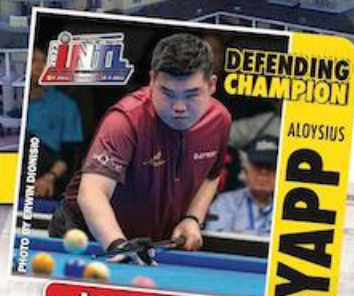
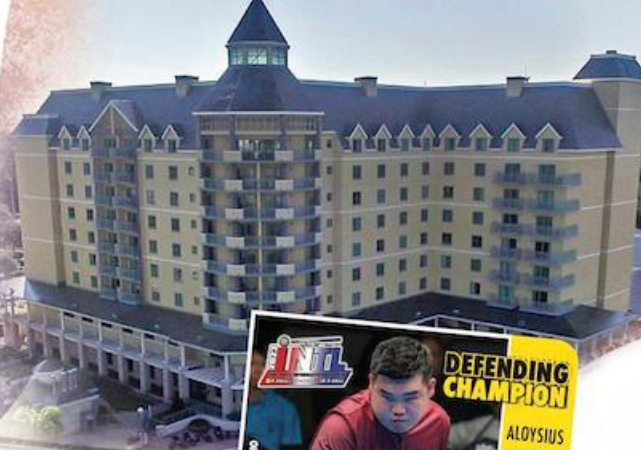
2024



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THE 2024 INTERNATIONAL OPEN

9 9-BALL 10 10-BALL 14.1 14.1



AT THE RENAISSANCE RESORT IN ST. AUGUSTINE, FLORIDA

Mon. Nov. 18 - Fri., Nov. 22

9 2024 INTERNATIONAL 9-BALL OPEN

128 Player Field — \$750 Entry — \$40,000 First Prize

TOTAL PRIZE FUND \$171,000, PAID TO THE TOP 32 PLAYERS — DOUBLE ELIMINATION (SINGLE ELIMINATION FINAL 16)

\$75,000 added

9 INTERNATIONAL 9-BALL SEMI-PRO OPEN

200 Player Field — \$125 Entry — \$6,000 First Prize

SINGLE ELIMINATION WITH A \$50 BUY-BACK

\$10,000 added

Sat. Nov. 23 - Sun. Nov. 24



BIG FOOT INVITATIONAL 10-BALL

8 Professional Players — \$500 Entry — \$4,000 First Prize

SINGLE ELIMINATION — 10-FOOT DIAMOND TABLE — TOP FOUR FINISHERS SHARE IN THE \$8,000 PURSE

\$4,000 added

Sat. Nov. 23 - Tues., Nov. 26

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\$30,000 added

Wed. Nov. 20 - Fri., Nov. 22

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