

# Billiards Buzz

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# DOUBLE KILLER

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# FROM THE Head Rail

MIKE HOWERTON

**Y**ou've got to hand it to Joshua Filler, in a year that has seen Fedor Gorst with almost a half a million dollars in prize money, Filler has to at least be part of the conversation for Player of the Year.

Although it may not work out to have been a good decision for him in the long run, his participation at the World 8-Ball Championship and China Open in September sure worked out for him in the short term, with him winning both titles. He has almost \$300,000 in prize money and three major titles for the year.

As we get ready to release this issue though, it was announced that Filler would not participate in the Reyes Cup. With that in mind, his participation in the Mosconi Cup has to be questionable too.

I questioned whether it was the right thing to do to put Filler on the cover this month, but then I remembered to try to focus on his accomplishments instead of all of the negatively that has gotten prevalent in the sport today.

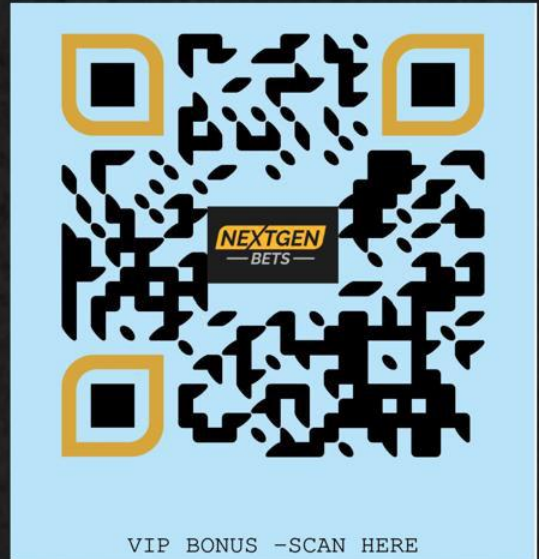
With that, congrats to the Killer. And good luck.

Until next time,  
Mike



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# Billiards Buzz Contents

October 2024  
vol.8, Issue 96



## 16 Filler & Han Defend China Open Titles

Article by Skip Maloney - AzB Staff / Photos courtesy WPA

## 20 Filler & Amit Win World Titles

Article and photos courtesy Predator Pro Billiard Series



## 26 Neuhausen Undefeated At Turning Stone

Article by AzB Staff / Photo courtesy Turning Stone Staff and Erwin Dionisio



## 22 Fefilova Wins First WPBA Career Title

Article by Skip Maloney - AzB Staff / Photos courtesy Erwin Dionisio

### 6 Watch & Learn

Phil Capelle

### 10 Pattern Play

Anthony Beeler

### 12 World Class Pool

### 14 Gospel Trick Shots

Steve Lillis

### 28 Van Boening & Thorpe Top Battle of the Bull

Story by Mary Kenniston / Photos courtesy Pool Action TV

### 32 Patsura, Van Boening, Kibaroglu & Wolford Take Texas Open

Story by Mary Kenniston / Photos courtesy Pool Action TV

### 36 Woodward Wins Pennsylvania Open

Story by Skip Maloney - AzB Staff / Photos courtesy Pete Marovich - TheBilliardAlmanac

### 40 Georgi George Wins Seattle Open Title

Story by Skip Maloney - AzB Staff / Photos courtesy Sandro Menzel

### 44 Eberle Undefeated in Spokane

Story by Skip Maloney - AzB Staff / Photos courtesy tournament staff and Erwin Dionisio

### 46 Team USA Shines

### 48 Texas Billiards Hall of Fame Celebrates First Inductions

Story courtesy Great Slate Production Group / Photos courtesy Jeff Smith - Heirloom Portrait Art

### 50 Reyes and Boyes Named Reyes Cup Captains

### 52 Duong and Sanchez-Ruiz Complete Reyes Cup Squads

### 54 Artistic Blackball

by Steve Lillis

### 56 Tournament Results

### 60 Upcoming Events

### 61 AzBilliards Money List



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# WATCH & LEARN

In my upcoming book, *Pool Is The Answer*, there is an entire chapter on becoming an expert pool watcher. During the recent Turning Stone Classic I followed my own advice and kept notes throughout the event. Below is a sampling of the ones that I turned into text for this feature. My big hope is that you will, when you watch good players, put on your observer's hat and take notes of the concepts that you feel can add much to your game and your enjoyment of it.

## TECHNIQUE

### AWUS: DO THEM!!

At Turning Stone I noticed that just about every top player now uses Air-Warm-Up-Strokes, or AWUS for short. AWUS, for the uninitiated, are those back and forth swings that a player will make, mostly using a closed-bridge, while they are standing on the line-of-aim prior to bending over to take their stance.

While I suppose that there are some who may think that these AWUS are an odd habit, or even a waste of time, to me these AWUS are one of the best methods that a player can use to prepare for a shot.

This is especially true when the shot requires your best stroke, including those at speeds of 7.0 and above. And, while a player is performing about 3-5 AWUS, they are also buying time to relax and to look out at the Shot Picture and further cement in their mind's eye the shot they are about to play.

### THE TIGHTEN UP

One of the big skills that separated Jack Nicklaus, golf's GOAT, from his competitors was his ability to hit long AND accurate tee shots. He could manage this trick because his swing did not break down at higher speeds.

Similarly, one of the big skills that separates the very best pool players such as Shane Van Boening, Joshua Filler, and Fedor Gorst from the rest is that

their strokes maintain their integrity when playing shots on the Spectrum of Speeds of Hard (7) to Extremely Hard (9+).

There are two main sources of power – your arm swing and the cocking and releasing of your hand and wrist into the shot. At Turning Stone Michael Baoanan (797), who finished third in this event, exhibited the classic technique of a player who derives much of his power from cocking and releasing his cue.

In any case, far too many players, even very good ones, tend to tighten up on power shots. This problem can be resolved partly with better technique. But it also helps to relax, trust in yourself, and freewheel into contact without being so worried about the result.

### WALKOVER REVISITED

In case you missed it in the April issue, here is my definition of a Walkover:

A Walkover occurs when a player walks from their line-of-aim to the Walkover position. This is a straight line that runs from the back of the pocket through the object ball and out the other side. Once they are done peering down the Walkover line, they then return to their position to take their stance.

While watching the Turning Stone I noticed that Moritz Neuhausen (802), the winner, does the full version of the Walkover, like Fedor Gorst. This involves going to the Walkover position, crouching low and, for several sec-

onds, staring down the line from the pocket through the object ball. Michael Baoanan also uses it on occasion.

If you read my article (or when you do) you will have no trouble deciphering my position on the practice – which is that the Walkover is a total waste of time and energy. I have since spoken with a top instructor about it and all he could come up with is that it has become a part of their routine, that it must work for them. I am sorry but I need to know why, not just cause. And if no good answer is forthcoming, then I recommend that all players who now use the Walkover to ditch this valueless practice ASAP. And this goes double for those who often play on a clock.

## PLAYERS

### THE ICEMAN COMMETH

Mika Immonen, 51, stormed his way into the finals, then fell behind 20 year old Moritz Neuhausen, 9-3. But there was no give-up as the Iceman mounted a big comeback that saw him draw to within a game at 12-11 before losing, 13-11. It was great to see Mika playing so well, especially after his recent bout with cancer.

I have always admired Mika's method of play. He uses AWUS before many of his shots. And when he's doing his WUS routine, he uses the Continuous Movement style of play, with no pauses till his follow through is complete. And, of course, he lets his elbow drop after contact. One thing he does not do is the

Walkover. So, at age 51, it appears that Mika, with a Fargo Rating of 787, has plenty of game left in him.

## NEW BLOOD

I always enjoy seeing fine young players for the first time. In this edition of the Turning Stone Classic there were three, including young Neuhausen from Germany. At his age he makes Joshua Filler, who just turned 27, seem ancient by comparison. I like Mortiz's mechanics and the way he stays put in his stance with his cue level until well after contact on tough shots. I do wish he'd stop using the Walkover.

The moment I saw Michael Baoanan play in Match #10 I said in my coverage that he was my favorite should Jayson Shaw not win. And he did come close. I like his relaxed and confident play. He does position his hold (grip) hand well inside his elbow, but he stays nice and loose throughout his stroke and follow through.

Mustafa Alnar, 23, from Turkey finished in the 5-6th position. His is rated 765 by Fargo, but I predict that he will soon reach the 780s and above. In Match 14 on the stream he was sent into the One Loss Side by Neuhausen by a score of 9-8.

## EARL HERRING AT 77

When I look down the list of entries as part of my preparations for covering this event, I am always happy to come across Earl Herring's name. At 77 he's got a 664 Fargo, which indicates that this senior citizen can still run out, which I saw him do in Match #5. And, while I do not recommend his follow through, which is loaded with body english, I do enjoy watching him play because of his gyrations, and his expert handling of the cue ball.

One of the big points I continue to make is that pool is for those from 9-99+. That being the case, Earl may have another couple of decades of Turning Stone Classics ahead of him. I sure hope so, and I suppose he does too.

## THE GAME

### KICKING IS BACK – CONFRONTING THE GAP

The rules can have such a huge bearing on how the game is played, and therefore on the version that we are watching. At the Turning Stone Classic, no jump cues are allowed. So, with this rule in place, kick shots returned to their former glory days when Efen Reyes first showcased this master skill to us Americanos.

If jump cues were permitted, a player in this position shown in **Diagram #1** would go right over the 8-ball and into the 2-ball, eliminating the chance of fouling from missing the ball. Since jump cues are not allowed, the only route is to send the cue ball off the side-rail and down the table, hopefully into the 2-ball.

The illustration shows the entrance and rebound angles to be the same on both paths. But the angle will open up off the bottom rail. So, if you aim on the near side of Pocket E and use a little left english, you will open up the angle and stand a good chance of hitting the 2-ball.

Aiming past the side will send the cue ball long, and even more so because, at this angle of approach, the rebound angle widens quite a lot. To hit the 2-ball, you will need to aim close to Pocket E, use a hard stroke, apply draw, use right

english, or some combination of these techniques.

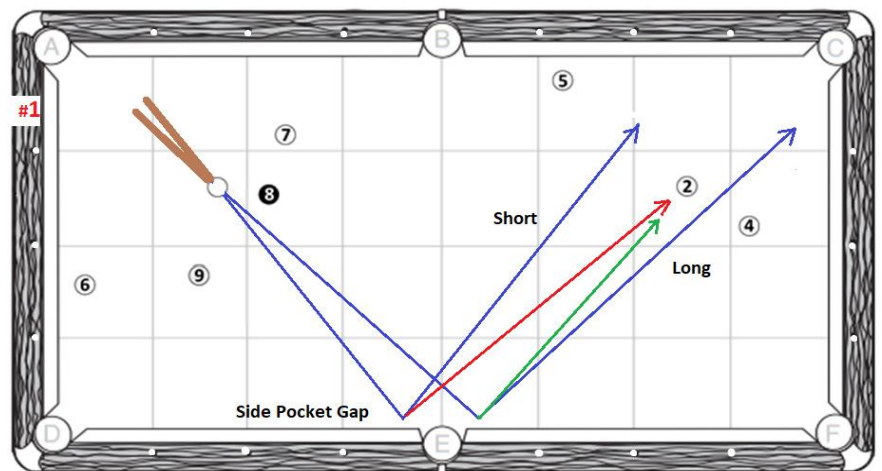
Viewing kick shots where a player is facing The Gap is a particular treat, especially compared to the brute force of slamming the cue ball up and over the obstructor, because you can see how the empty space between the points affects the shot.

### TRENDS IN THE PRO GAME

I am sure that you have noticed, perhaps with great annoyance, that so many people mix the words “you know” in with their speech. And you know (LOL) how annoying it can be to listeners such as yourself. Lately so many commentators are now ending sentences with the word “right,” which is so unnecessary, right? Turning to pool, I mentioned in a previous section that many players are now copying other pros and are doing the god-awful Walkover.

Nowadays it also seems that so many pros are choosing to play safeties when an offensive shot is available. While either the safe or the shot could be the right shot, Hall-Of-Famer Nick Varner liked to go for big shots. Nick spoke the words of wisdom below to me for my column in the June 2023 issue.

*“The guys that win a lot don't win because their opponent dogs it. They win a lot because they shoot their way into the winner's circle. They are not waiting for their opponents to lose. Instead, they just grab the gold ring themselves.”*



As an aspiring amateur who wants to compete at higher levels, I suggest that you go for more of the tougher shots, especially in the first half of a rack when you may get another inning or two if you do miss, rather than playing so many safeties. Sure, it's important to be a great defense player, but in our sport nothing beats making a big-time shot when a game or even the match is on the line!

## NEW TERMINOLOGY: LEFT SIDE, RIGHT SIDE

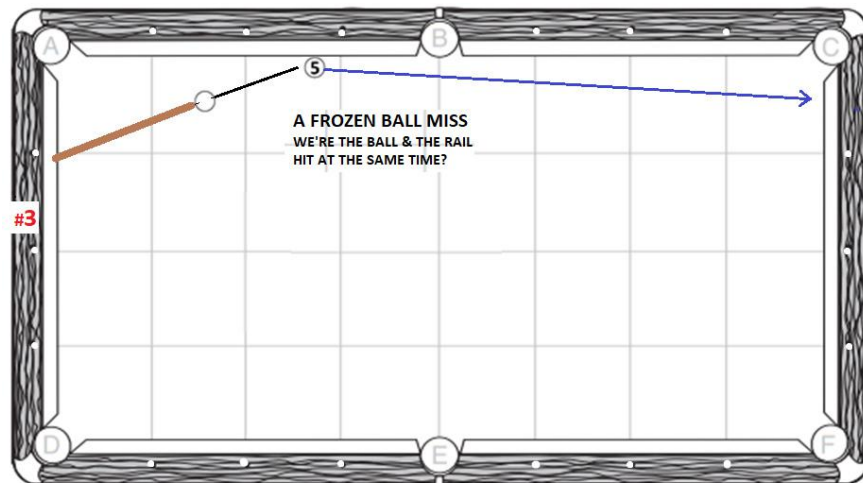
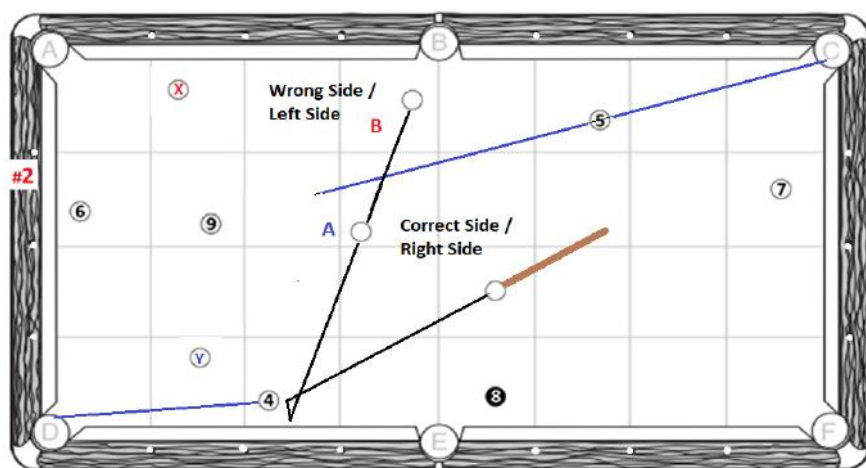
In the September 2023 issue my column was titled Correct Side / Wrong Side, which is one of my 22 Principles of Position Play. As a quick refresher, here are the two key definitions:

**Correct Side** – When the cue ball is on the better side or only side of the Straight-In-Line for playing position.

**Wrong Side** – When the cue ball is on a side of the Straight-In-Line that makes playing position more difficult, if not impossible.

**Diagram #2** shows a position play from the 4-ball to the 5-ball. Notice that getting from the 5-ball to the 6-ball on the left end rail is not the easiest position play, even from the Correct Side at Position A. Consider how you would play shape on the 6. Position Y shows the ideal spot.

Now take a look at the cue in Position B. It is on the Wrong Side because now you would need to play the shot with



low right english and a hard (7) stroke. The cue ball would have to travel across the table twice to arrive at Position X.

While watching the Turning Stone Classic I was pondering the idea of using Left Side of the straight in line, and Right Side of that line because these terms describe a definite side of the Straight In Line.

While the player at the table is looking over the shot, a commentator might say that he will want to be on the Left Side or, as in the example, on the Right Side of the straight in line. It is understood that the designated side, Left or Right, is the Correct Side!

## FROZEN BALL NIGHTMARE #1

I was as surprised as any viewer when Jayson Shaw, one of the straightest

shooters in the world, missed the shot on the 5-ball as shown in **Diagram #3**. Every pool player knows that balls frozen to the rail can be easily missed, especially when shooting them past the side pocket. Indeed, if there is one conspiracy theory that I believe in pool, it's that the far point of the side often jumps out and knocks the object ball off course!

The big problem with these shots when they have a cut angle of more than 5-10 degrees, or 20 as in this example, is that Contact Induced Throw (CIT) is going to push the ball into the rail. It will then rebound and miss as shown.

The way to counteract this is by aiming to hit the rail slightly before the ball. You will then, in effect, be cutting the ball into the rail, but now CIT will counteract that, leading to a successful shot. Note that when the ball is frozen with a thin cut that you want to hit the rail first and use inside english.

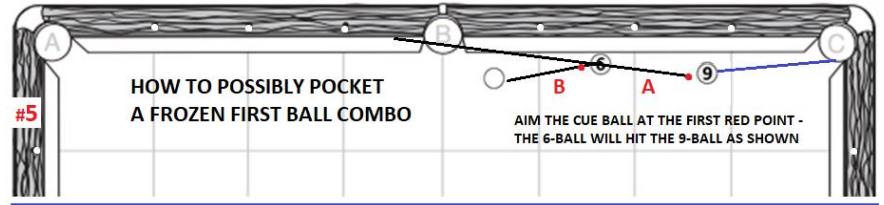
Shots with the ball frozen to the rail do not come up all that often, but often enough that they deserve some practice.

## FROZEN BALL NIGHTMARE #2

When a player decided to go for Shot #1 at the top of **Diagram #4**, I prepared myself for the worst. And sure enough he missed, as shown. There were oth-

er balls on the table, so he could have played safe, but the closeness of the balls and an quick win were evidently too tempting for him to pass up.

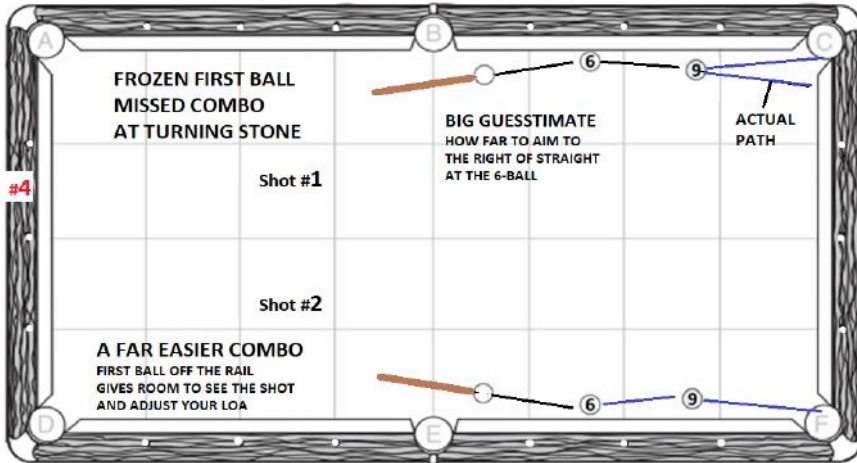
The trouble on combos where the first ball is frozen to the rail is that it is difficult to see where to aim. You must aim off center. However, unlike Shot #2, which is a regular combo, there is no way to tell how much you think you need to hit the first ball to the left or



right. So, my advice when you have a combo where the first ball is frozen to the rail is to look for another shot – un-

less, of course the ball to be pocketed is in front of the pocket.

Should you persist in playing a first ball is frozen combo as demonstrated in **Diagram #5**, then here is some science to guide you. The 6-ball must leave the rail at a certain angle to follow Line A and into the red dotted center of the ghost ball next to the 9-ball. To have the 6-ball rebound at the correct angle, you must have the entrance angle be the same as shown by Line B. Your goal is to hit the red dotted center of the first ghost ball at the end of Line B. Folks, this is a lot of figuring which must all take place in a few seconds on the slide rule of your mind. As the Sopranos would say, “fuhgeddaboutit.”



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# PATTERN PLAY: THE ART AND SCIENCE OF STRATEGIC PLAY

ANTHONY BEELER

**The game of pool is not only a test of skill but also a demonstration of strategy. The interplay of physics, geometry, and psychology culminates in what can be described as “pattern play.”**

**P**atterns are a recurring sequence of shots that players learn to recognize and execute, allowing them to control the game more effectively. Understanding patterns enhances a player’s ability to position the cue ball for subsequent shots, manage angles, and maintain control of the table.

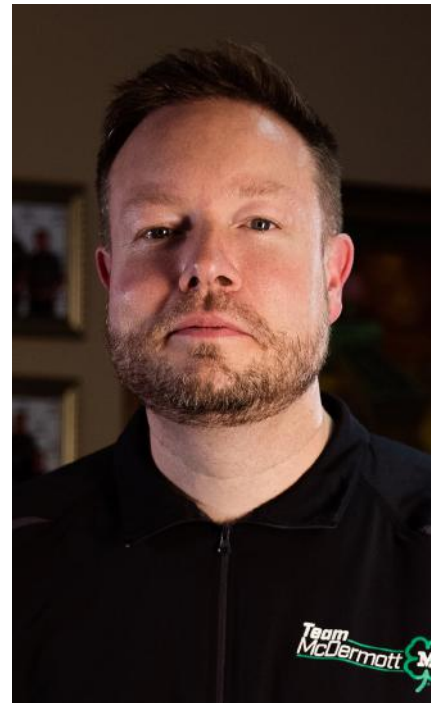
## **Pattern Fundamentals**

Patterns refers to the strategic layout and sequence of balls that a player aims to clear in a game. Players ana-

lyze the arrangement of balls on the table to determine the most efficient sequence for pocketing them. This analysis incorporates various factors, including the position of the cue ball, the angles at which the balls are set, and the potential obstacles posed by other balls.

## **Decision Making**

When it’s your turn at the table I recommend picking up a piece of chalk (this is a signal to turn your brain on and think). With chalk in hand, it’s



helpful to try and predict everything you want to happen while it is your turn. You should think at least 3 balls ahead, but most professional players think through their entire turn.

## **PASS Formula**

PASS is an acronym for potential problems, angle, speed, and spin. First, you should look for potential problems. Are you better off shooting your shot too hard or a little too soft? What angle do you have? If you are cutting your object ball to the left, then the cue ball will head to the right. What speed do you need to execute the shot? Also, what spin do you need to use?

Once all your decisions are made you should put your chalk down (and signal to your brain it’s time to stop thinking) and “shut up and shoot.”

## **Learning Patterns**

To learn patterns, I recommend watching professional players on YouTube or some other media outlet such as Accu-Stats. When the game begins, try pausing or freezing the frame, then



try to predict the next 3 to 4 shots the player will attempt to shoot. Make notes on a paper and then keep a percentage of how often you were correct or incorrect. It can be helpful to watch the same player over and over. It's noteworthy that not all professional players play the same patterns. You should make it a goal to be correct with your predictions 95% of the time.

### Psychological Aspects of Patterns

Beyond the technical skills and scientific principles, pool is also a psychological game. Players must not only focus on their own patterns but also anticipate their opponent's moves. This requires a keen understanding of how opponents think and play, which can influence one's strategy. For instance, a player may choose to disrupt their opponent's preferred patterns by positioning the cue ball in such a way that their opponent is

left with challenging shots. The ability to adapt one's strategy based on the flow of the game is crucial.

Furthermore, mental patterns come into play as well. Players often develop personal routines and strategies that help them maintain focus and consistency. These routines may involve specific ways of visualizing shots or certain pre-shot rituals that help them settle into the rhythm of the game. This mental fortitude can be just as important as physical skill, as it allows players to remain composed under pressure.

### Summary

Patterns represent a fascinating intersection of strategy, physics, and psychology. Mastering these patterns not only enhances a player's technical abilities but also enriches their understanding of the game as a whole. By recognizing and employing effective patterns, players can elevate their

game, turning billiards into a dynamic art form that blends precision with strategy. As players continue to hone their skills, they embark on a journey that is as much about personal growth and development as it is about competition and winning.

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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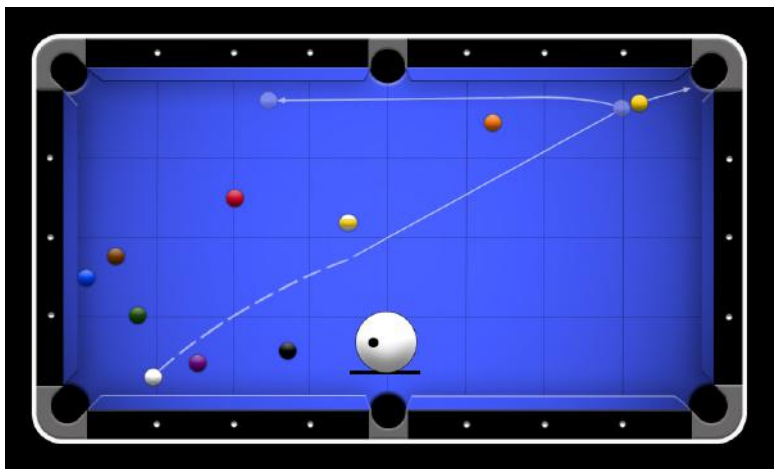
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Pool ball: 8

**F R O M**



**A**ccu-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 #56

## The 2-4-2 Shot

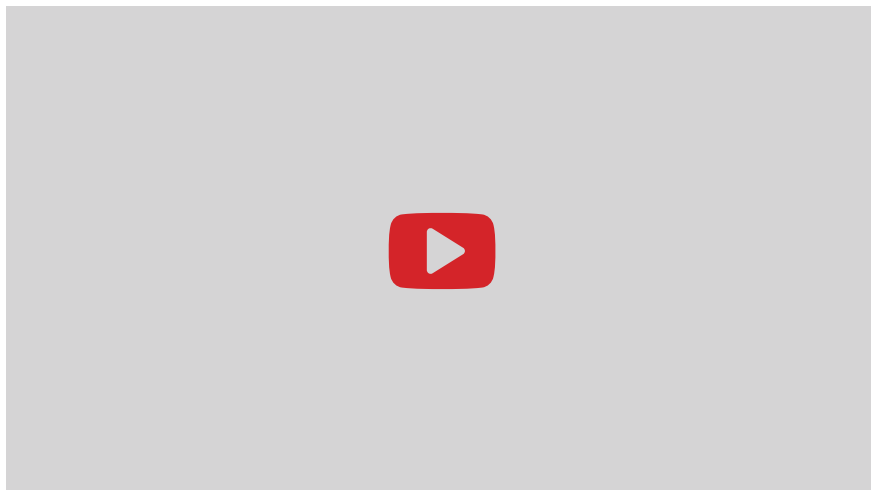
**History of the Shot:** This new Gospel Trick Shot, performed by GTS President Wayne Parker, took place on a standard English-style Blackball pool table. On September 27th, Wayne and several GTS RACK team members from South Africa visited the Safe Haven Rehabilitation Center in Johannesburg to present a Gospel Trick Shot Show. During the event, they demonstrated 12 Gospel Trick Shots aligned with the global AA twelve-step program. At the conclusion of the show, Wayne recorded this month's GTS Shot featuring all the rehab residents gathered around the table. This particular shot was introduced at the rehabilitation center, carrying a meaningful message that resonated with the attendees.

**GTS Name and Why:** The shot known as the “2-4-2 Shot” involves a sequence where two balls are pocketed in each side pocket, followed by a cluster of four balls, and finally, the cue ball moves around the table to pocket the last two balls from a triangle placed on the table. This impressive technique results in all eight balls being pocketed in a single shot. The name “2-4-2” also references the Bible scripture 2 Timothy 4:2, which encourages believers to preach the Word of God both in favorable and unfavorable circumstances. Many individuals feel unqualified to share the Gospel, believing that they must first improve their character before they can be effective witnesses. However, it is important to remember that the Lord desires to work through us as He continues to work on us. This principle resonated deeply with residents of the rehab center, aligning with step 12 of their recovery program, which emphasizes the importance of sharing their message and principles with others. We all experience seasons of being “in season” and “out of season.” The 2-4-2 Shot serves as a reminder to be prepared to share our faith and testimonies at any time, demonstrating that we can spread the Word of God regardless of our circumstances.

**Scripture Reference (NIV):** 2 Timothy 4:2, “preach the word; be ready in season and out of season; reprove, rebuke, and exhort, with complete patience and teaching.”

**Cue Ball Placement:** About a half diamond away from the center of the table in line with the 2<sup>nd</sup> yellow ball in the cluster of balls around the foot spot.

**Object Ball Placement:** Two yellow balls frozen to the cue ball each pointing to the closest pocket point of the side pockets to allow for throw. Four yellow balls are placed around the foot spot as diagrammed. The 2<sup>nd</sup> yellow ball from the foot cushion is on the foot spot. The cluster of 4 yellows are all frozen to each other. The two back yellow balls of the 4-ball cluster are lined up toward to the side

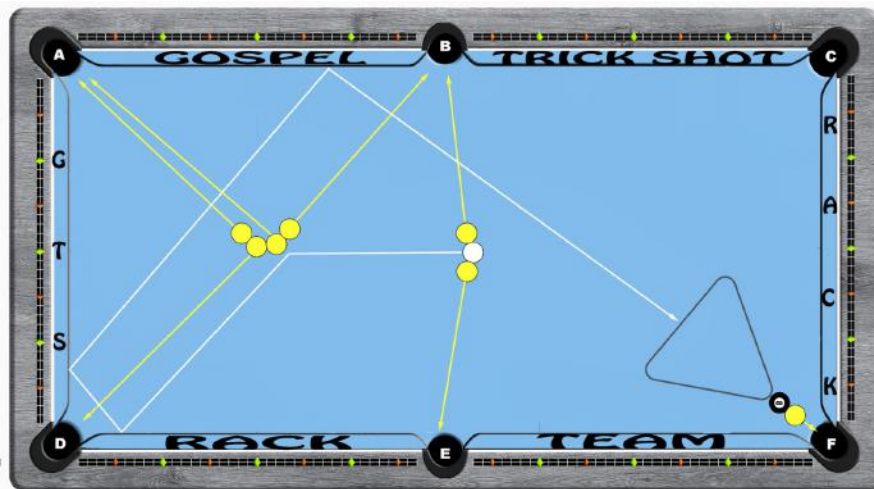


pocket as show in the diagram. Then the black ball and last yellow ball also frozen to each other near the corner pocket ‘F’ with a triangle frozen to the black ball.

**Objective:** Shoot the cue ball toward the 3<sup>rd</sup> yellow of the 4-ball cluster as diagrammed aiming toward the left edge of the yellow ball. Play cue ball using high right-hand spin at about 1 o’ clock. The cue ball will pocket the first two yellows in the side pockets and then follow through make contact with the yellow ball in the 4-ball cluster at about half ball and then be deflected toward the side rail and make its way around the table toward the triangle. The 4 balls will be made in their respective pockets and the cue ball will run into the triangle which will pocket the last 2 remaining balls.

**Special Notes:** You will need to experiment with the amount of spin you use. If the cue ball runs too long around the table and misses the triangle going into the short rail then you need to hit the yellow in the cluster a bit thicker. If the cue ball misses the rack going in the long rail, then you need to hit the yellow in the cluster a bit thinner. Adding a bit more right-hand spin could also help with a slight adjustment on the cue ball’s angle of entry into the triangle.

**Crowd Reaction Through the Years:** As seen in the video, the shot is nothing less than impressive once successfully made. Seeing all the balls being made in their respective pockets is very amazing to witness, so expect a loud roar of applause and shouting as all 8 balls are made in one shot!





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# FILLER AND HAN

## DEFEND THEIR RESPECTIVE MEN'S AND WOMEN'S TITLES AT CHINA OPEN

Article by **Skip Maloney** - AzB Staff / Photos courtesy WPA

**Random draws into a Pro tournament bracket have a way of matching higher- and lower-ranked competitors in the early stages of an event.**

It's designed that way to facilitate matchups between an event's best players towards the end of an event, thereby enhancing spectator interest, often reflected in on-site

ticket sales or pay-per-view streamed broadcasts. It also tends to create an 'early mindset' among players at the start of a tournament, an expectation that they'll have some time to get 'in

stroke' against competitors they don't know, before facing stronger competitors that they do know. Not always, of course, because competitive pool has the reputation of being a 'funny' kind



of sport in that regard, where a much lower-ranked opponent in a given event can suddenly show up with the best games/matches of their otherwise unremarkable career.

This past weekend (Sept. 18-22), the 2024 China Open drew 64 men and 48 women to the Tangzhen Cultural and Sports Center in Shanghai, the world's third-most populated city, on the shoreline of the Yangtze River, about 12 hours south of China's capital, Beijing, the world's most populated city. In the opening, double-elimination stage of the Men's tournament, there were eight groups of eight that battled down to four on each side, who advanced to a 32-entrant, single-elimination phase. The Women's tournament broke up into eight groups of six in the opening stage and advanced 16 to single elimination.

Germany's Joshua Filler went undefeated to win his third China Open and before he'd successfully navigated his way through the event's opening, single-elimination phase, he may have had cause to reflect on any tendency he might ever have to take such an opening phase for granted. He would end up winning 70% of the games he played in the second, single-elimination phase (55-23), while winning only 54% of the games he played in two matches of double elimination (18-15). His first opponent, China's Xue Zhenqui, came within a game of forcing a 17th, double-hill game, before Filler edged out in front to win his opener 9-7. His second draw happened to be the Philippines' Dennis Orcollo, who did force a single, deciding game in their match. Filler watched Orcollo take a shot at the match-winning 9-ball in that game and was delighted to see it hang in a pocket. Not wanting to play an extra, loss-side match, Filler sunk the 9-ball and advanced to single elimination.

Filler's eventual opponent in the finals, Japan's Hayato Hijikata didn't fare any better in his single-elimina-



Han Yu

tion work. He won only 50% of his first stage games (26-25), losing his opening, double-hill match against Hungary's Oliver Szolnoki and then, on the loss side, had to survive two, double-hill matches versus Egypt's Mohamed Said and Japan's Hsuan-Wei Kuo. He did, and advanced accordingly.

Counterintuitively, Joshua Filler's easiest wins came in the opening stages of the single-elimination rounds. He defeated Sergey Lusker 11-4 and then gave up just a single rack to Yang Zhe before things started to tighten up in the event quarterfinals, where Filler squared off against Poland's Mieszko Fortunski. Hijikata, in the meantime, opened with an 11-7 victory over Xihe Zhu and fought an almost-double-hill battle (11-9) against Taiwan's Kun-Lin Wu before advancing to face Jui-Ann Hsu in one of the other quarterfinals.

Filler defeated Fortunski 11-7 and advanced to a semifinal versus Poland's Konrad Juszczyszyn, who'd defeated the Philippines' Jeffrey DeLuna 11-6 to reach him. Hijikata chalked up another almost-double-hill win versus Hsu to draw Japan's Naoyuki Oi in the other winners' side semifinal.

Things appeared to ease up a bit for the two men who'd cross the finish line first and second. Filler defeated Juszczyszyn 11-5, as Hijikata gave up the fewest racks he'd given up throughout the tournament (6) in defeating Oi.

Hijikata's aspiration to become the first Japanese winner of this event had survived a lot of pool play, but it didn't get past Joshua Filler. Filler completed his undefeated run with an 11-6 victory and collected the \$40,000 first-place prize.

**“GERMANY'S JOSHUA FILLER WENT UNDEFEATED TO WIN HIS THIRD CHINA OPEN AND BEFORE HE'D SUCCESSFULLY NAVIGATED HIS WAY THROUGH THE EVENT'S OPENING, SINGLE-ELIMINATION PHASE, HE MAY HAVE HAD CAUSE TO REFLECT ON ANY TENDENCY HE MIGHT EVER HAVE TO TAKE SUCH AN OPENING PHASE FOR GRANTED.”**

## China Open

### Han Yu claims her fourth China Open title in eight years

It was an All-China final in this year's China Open, with Han Yu claiming the title over fellow countrywoman Wang Xiaotong. Both had gone undefeated to the final match and put on a fitting and thrilling double-hill show to end it.

Recipient of an opening-round bye in the double-elimination phase, Han got by Ukraine's Daria Siranchuk 7-5 and Taipei's Chieh-Yu Chou 7-3 to qualify for single elimination. Xiaotong qualified with victories over Poland's Lena Primus 7-3, gave up just a single rack to Taipei's Wan-Ling Wang and defeated China's Muyan Zhang 7-4.

There were still some challenges to face as the women moved into single elimination. Among the final 16 were quite a few world-champion-class competitors, any one of whom could have emerged to challenge and eventually deny Han Yu her fourth title. Among them were Taipei's Tzu-Chien Wei, Austria's Jasmin Ouschan, the Philippines Rubilen Amit, Bulgaria's Kristina Zlateva and China's Siming Chen.

Among those, only Amit advanced to the semifinals. Tzu-Chien Wei was defeated by Han Yu 9-4 in one of the quarterfinals. Siming Chen lost her quarterfinal match to eventual runner-up Xiaotong Wang 9-7. Ouschan lost her opener to Amit and Zlate-

va fell in the same round to Chihiro Kawahara, both 9-3.

Amit won her quarterfinal match versus Kawahara 9-5 to draw Han Yu in a semifinal, as Wang squared off against Chieh-Yu Chou in the other semifinal. Han Yu eliminated Amit 9-3 as Wang chalked up a surprising (to many) double-hill win over Chou.

And along came what was likely the most exciting of the entire event's numerous double-hill matches. Wang was in the midst of what was arguably the most significant match in what was also arguably one of the more significant weeks of her career. Han Yu was on a quest for a fourth China Open title, with 'Queen of the China Open' as a potential 'name' title. The double-hill match was a testament to their mutual desire to win it. Han Yu claimed her fourth China Open title.

**“ HAN YU WAS ON A QUEST FOR A FOURTH CHINA OPEN TITLE, WITH 'QUEEN OF THE CHINA OPEN' AS A POTENTIAL 'NAME' TITLE. ”**

”

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# FILLER & AMIT

## TRIUMPH AS WORLD 8-BALL AND WORLD 9-BALL CHAMPIONS

Article and photos courtesy Predator Pro Billiard Series

### Mast, Maimre & Van Berkel claim World Junior titles

**F**ive new WPA World Champions have been crowned in New Zealand, as Hamilton played host to billiards stars from around the globe, with \$425,000 on the line.

Joshua Filler claimed the Yalin WPA Men's World 8-Ball Championship with a thrilling 10-8 victory over Jui-An Hsu in the final. This marks Filler's first World 8-Ball title, along with the \$75,000 top prize.

Two-time Women's World 10-Ball Champion Rubilen Amit achieved her dream by winning her first World 9-Ball title. The "Bingkey" from the Philippines defeated Siming Chen in the final to claim the 2024 Massé WPA Women's World 9-Ball title and \$50,000 top prize.

In the Junior Divisions, Sofia Mast captured the 2024 Predator WPA Junior Girls Championship. After a runner-up finish last year, the 'Pink Dag-



Chihiro Kawahara, Kristina Tkach, Rubilen Amit and Si Meng Chen

ger' secured victory with a 6-5 win over Savannah Easton in an exciting all-American showdown.

Revo Maimre has been crowned the 2024 Predator WPA World Junior Champion Under-17. The Estonian young talent triumphed over Walter

Laikre in a thrilling hill-hill final, winning 7-6.

Mika Van Berkel completed the podium of gold medals. The Dutch sensation redeemed his runner-up position from last year by winning 7-3 in the final against Adrian Prasad.

This concludes a fantastic week of pool in Hamilton, New Zealand. A special thank you to all the staff, fans, players, and sponsors who made this event possible.

This event was a success thanks to the generous support of sponsors and partners, including Predator Group, Yalin, Massé, Kamui, VenBilliards Corporation, Little Monster, and Samsung TV Plus.

Check out all the info and results on Pro Billiard Series website. Rewatch the matches on youtube Pro Billiard TV.



Wu Kun Lin, Marco Teutscher, Joshua Filler and Jui-An Hsu

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# FEFILOVA GOES UNDEFEATED

## TO WIN HER FIRST WPBA TITLE AT INAUGURAL OLHAUSEN CLASSIC IN COLORADO

Story by SKIP MALONEY - AzB Staff / Photos courtesy ERWIN DIONISIO

**“It takes a village,” is what they say. Though usually followed by “to raise a child,” there is evidence that mounting a professional pool tournament, featuring a large contingent of world-class professional competitors takes the same kind of “village” or community effort.**

**T**hough a pool tournament only lasts a few days, it takes the same amount of care and coordination, along with an earnest desire to enhance the players’ experience, as raising a child would require over a much greater length of time. A lot less room for error with a pool tournament and lot more ‘children’ to think about.

In addition to support-by-attendance on the part of a number of Colorado women, including Debbie Schjodt,

Carina Gonzales, Holly Figueroa, Isabel Gutierrez, Rachel Bradford, and Chris Honeman, a great number of ineligible-to-compete, local citizens stepped up to help sponsor the inaugural \$15,000-added, Olhausen Colorado Classic, which drew 64 entrants to Felt Billiards Bar and Restaurant in Englewood, CO this weekend (Sept. 26-29). Citizen sponsors included what was described by WPBA representatives as a “substantial contribu-

tion” from Adam Burke, who chose not to publicize the amount.

“The support from the whole community was just amazing,” said Samm Diepp Vidal, the house pro at Felt Billiards. “It was all hands on-deck leading up to and throughout the entire weekend event.”

“It’s been a dream of mine for over a decade to bring a women’s professional event to Colorado,” she add-



Margaret Fefilava Styer

ed. “Of course, at the time I began to dream this, I was imagining it as an event at which I would be participating. That did not happen, of course, but being a part of it has been just as rewarding for me, to bring this event here for my pupils and ladies in the Colorado pool community.”

As for the ‘child’ that the ‘village’ raised, the inaugural Olhausen Colorado Classic caused a bit of shuffling in the WPBA rankings. The shift(s) can be traced to a time preceding the Iron City Invitational in July and the results of the Palmetto Billiards Invitational, last month in South Carolina. Prior to the Iron City event, Kelly Fisher and Tzu-Chien Wei had held something of a grip on the women’s tour, way ahead in ranking points for quite some time.

They both missed the Iron City Invitational, which gave Kristina Tkach (who won it), Margarita Fefilova (runner-up), Allison Fisher (3rd), April Larson (4th) and others a window of opportunity to close the points gap separating them from Kelly and ‘Wei-Wei.’ That opportunity turned in to two opportunities when Wei-Wei did not compete in South Carolina (dropping to #6 in the rankings) and Kelly finished 4th, behind Allison Fisher, Kristina Zlateva, and Tkach. Those two occurrences moved Tkach into 1st place in the rankings with Kelly in 2nd place. This past weekend, Kelly and Wei-Wei were absent again, moving Kelly from 2nd to 4th, while Wei-Wei managed to maintain her position in 6th place.

Moving to continue the climb to higher positions on the WPBA ranking ladder this past weekend were (among others) Tkach and two women in search of their first WPBA event title, Margarita Fefilova and the female component of ‘The Killer Fillers,’ Germany’s Pia Filler. Fefilova hadn’t missed a WPBA event since May, while Filler, though not idle in the interim, was making her first appearance on the tour since June’s Soaring Eagle Masters.



*Pia Filler*

Fefilova and Filler competed twice, hot seat and finals, for the Olhausen Classic title. Fefilova won both matches, handily, as it turned out. Kristina Tkach, in the meantime, who finished in the four-way tie for 9th place in Colorado managed to maintain her position at the top of the WPBA rankings. Fefilova moved up a spot (#4 to #3), as Filler moved up a few notches to #19. Kristina Zlateva, who was in 3rd place behind Tkach and Kelly Fisher after the Palmetto Invitational, moved up to #2 when she finished in third place after losing the Olhausen Classic’s semifinal to Filler.

There was other movement on the rankings, as well, but there were also notable performances and intriguing matchups that made this WPBA particularly memorable. The teen-aged winner (Sofia Mast) and runner-up (Savannah Easton) of the 2024 World Junior Girls Championship in New Zealand (earlier this month, Sept.) were on-hand to compete in Colorado, although not against each other, as they had in the finals in New Zealand (won by Mast). Mast turned in a stellar performance in Colorado and although she lost her second-round match to Monica Webb, she won five on the loss side, against Teruko Cuculelli, Dawn Hopkins, Susan Wil-

liams, Emily Duddy and eliminate the top-ranked WPBA competitor Kristina Tkach, before falling to Briana Miller. Savannah Easton did not fare as well, losing her opening match, double hill, to Nicole Keeney and winning a single match on the loss side versus Joanne Ashton, before being eliminated by Ada Lio.

Briana Miller, tour director and top competitor on the J. Pechauer Northeast Women’s Tour (JPNEWT) and Ashley Benoit (pronounced Ben-wa) have been battling back and forth on that tour for a while and though they, too, failed to ‘connect’ in Colorado, they were the two competitors who ended up in the tie for 5th/6th place, both having won their opening match, lost their second-round match, won six on the loss side and were eliminated in the seventh, loss-side round.

Monica Webb, who’s having her best year since 2022, has finished in 4th place, twice, on the past two WPBA events. This past weekend, she went through an array of multi-generational talent that included the likes of Sofia Mast (8-2), Kaylee McIntosh (double hill), and Ashley Benoit (8-5, loss side) on the younger end of that spectrum and Lisa Cossette (opening round, 8-3), Brittany Bryant (8-4) and

Pia Filler (4-8 loss in a winners' side semifinal), on the older side of the age ranges. Her bid for the title was ended in the quarterfinals 8-5 by Kristina Zlateva, also on the older side of that age range.

All that said, it appeared as though Margarita Fefilova was on something of a mission. In races to 8, she didn't allow any of her first four competitors to get any closer than four racks, beginning with Dawn Hopkins (4) and moving on through Laura Semko (2), Joann Mason Parker (4), and Ashley Rice (2) to arrive at a winners' side semifinal against Zlateva. Filler, in the meantime, didn't give up more than three prior to her winners' side quarterfinal. She got by Chris Honeman (2), Janet Atwell (3) and Veronique Menard (2), before running into Kristina Tkach, who chalked up five against her. She advanced to face Monica Webb in the other winners' side semifinal.

Fefilova got into the hot seat match with an 8-6 win over Zlateva and was joined by Filler, who'd sent Webb to the loss side 8-4. Filler got an early, slim lead in the hot seat match, winning her first two racks. Fefilova won the third, but Filler moved out in front, ahead by two again. They traded racks to a 4-4 tie, which seemed

at that point (with the exception of the six racks Zlateva had managed), to have become Fefilova's "no more" point. She chalked up the next four in a row to claim the hot seat.

When Monica Webb showed up on the loss side, she picked up Ashley Benoit, who was working on a fairly remarkable six-match winning streak that had eliminated, among others, Menard (double hill), LoreeJon Brown (3), April Larson (5) and Kaylee McIntosh (5). Zlateva drew Briana Miller, who'd lost her second-round match to Brown and was working on a six-match winning streak as well. That streak had eliminated Lonnie Fox-Raymond (5), JoAnn Mason Parker (4), Brittany Bryant (double hill) and Sofia Mast (6). These two matches set up a potential quarterfinal between Miller and Benoit, who'd been facing each other off and on (including a few finals) over the past two years on the JPNEWT.

It didn't happen. Webb got into the quarterfinal with an 8-5 win over Benoit, as Zlateva was busy eliminating Miller 8-6. Zlateva then eliminated Webb 8-5 in those quarterfinals.

Zlateva and Filler then fought a spirited, double-hill semifinal to earn a

shot at Fefilova, waiting for one of them in the hot seat. Filler dropped the final 9-ball and shortly thereafter, the match between two women looking for their first WPBA title got underway.

It was perhaps a sign of what was to come when Fefilova won the lag, dropped three on the first break and ran the table for a 1-0 lead. Filler broke the second rack and dropped one, but she turned the table back over to Fefilova, who eventually finished the rack to go up by two. She then broke the third rack and ran that table to go up by three.

Filler responded with her first break and run, at which point they traded racks to 4-2. But Fefilova came right back to go ahead by three again. Filler broke and ran again to pull back within two, but once again, Fefilova brought it back to a three-rack lead at 5-2.

Filler broke dry, but regained the table to, for the last time, pull within two, at 5-3. It was, for all intents and purposes, over at that point. Breaking the 9th rack, Fefilova sunk three balls to go ahead by three again and then, very methodically, very calmly, won the next four racks to claim the inaugural Olhausen Colorado Classic.

Tour director Jerry Stuckart and the WPBA thanked Joseph Stewart and Adam Robertson and their entire Felt Billiards staff for their hospitality along with sponsors Olhausen Billiards, Fodor's, Adam Burke, PoolDawg, Action Cues, Rodney, Phil & Foster (local competitors), Simonis, Aramith, Moonlighting Billiards and Jane Chalks.

The next event on the WPBA calendar, scheduled for the weekend of Oct. 10-13, will be the \$10,000-added WPBA Cuespeed NAPA Invitational, hosted by Railyard Billiards and Sports Club in Louisville, KY.



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# NEUHAUSEN GOES UNDEFEATED FOR TURNING STONE CLASSIC WIN

Germany's Moritz Neuhausen capped off an undefeated run through a field of 128 players to win the Turning Stone Classic XXXIX, held at the Turning Stone Resort & Casino in Verona, NY on August 29th – September 1st.

**N**euhausen got things underway with back to back 9-0 shutouts against tour regulars Bob Lewis and Holden Chin. "The Giant Killer" Jeremy Sossei was up next, and he took Neuhausen to the hill at 8-8 before Neuhausen could put him away.

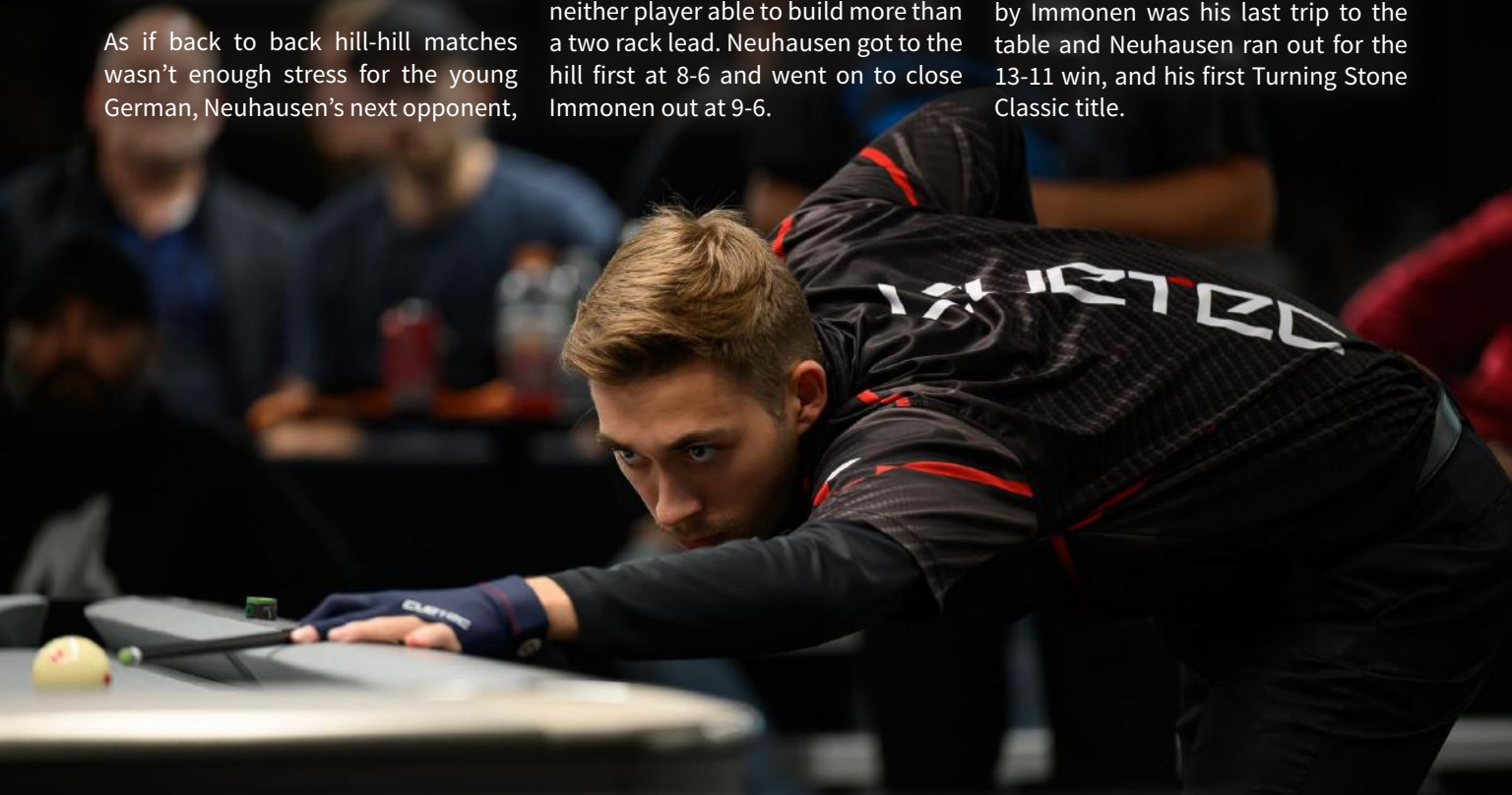
Neuhausen's next match was against a newcomer on the pro scene, Turkey's Mustafa Alnar. Alnar led the match most of the way, until Neuhausen finally clawed his way ahead late in the match. It still came down to hill-hill before a missed 4-ball by Alnar resulted in a 9-8 win over Neuhausen.

As if back to back hill-hill matches wasn't enough stress for the young German, Neuhausen's next opponent,

New York's Aaron Greenwood also took him to hill-hill before Neuhausen pocketed the final 9-ball for the match win.

Neuhausen then made quick work for Christoph Neumayer (9-4) to set-up the hot-seat match against Mika Immonen. Immonen, a two time Turning Stone Classic Champion, was looking like the Mika of old, with notable wins over Canadian Champion Erik Hjorliefson, American Young Gun Lukas Fracasso-Verner and young Filipino hotshot Michael Baoanan. The hot-seat match was a close one, with neither player able to build more than a two rack lead. Neuhausen got to the hill first at 8-6 and went on to close Immonen out at 9-6.

Immonen dispatched with Baoanan 9-6 and the rematch with Neuhausen in the finals was underway. Neuhausen quickly built a 6-2 lead and looked to be in complete control at 9-3, but Immonen didn't win two US Open 9-Ball Championship titles by rolling over when he trailed in a match. Immonen win five straight racks to get back to win one at 9-8. Then it was Neuhausen's turn to take control of the match, as he won three racks to take the hill at 12-8. Immonen had one more run in him, as he won three straight to get within one again, at 12-11 but an early scratch in the 24th rack by Immonen was his last trip to the table and Neuhausen ran out for the 13-11 win, and his first Turning Stone Classic title.



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# **VAN BOENING & THORPE VICTORIOUS AT THE BATTLE OF THE BULL**

Story by **Mary Kenniston** - Photos courtesy **Pool Action TV**

**Owners Kory & Trena Wolford and proud parents of “Champagne Shane” Wolford welcomed players and fans to Wolf’s Den Billiards for the 2nd Annual \$45,000 added Battle of the Bull.**



*John Morra, Wolf’s Den owners Trena & Kory Wolford, Bull Carbon’s Wes Bond and Billy Thorpe*

Located in Roanoke, VA and presented by title sponsor Bull Carbon/Koda Enterprises & Wolf's Den Billiards, this event featured a \$10,000 added One Pocket division and a \$35,000 added Nineball division. The Nineball championship was also a Matchroom Mosconi Cup points qualifying event to complete this year's Mosconi Cup teams.

Local sponsors joining Wolf's Den Billiards, Wes and Jamie Bond's Bull Carbon and PoolActionTV.com were Premier Billiards, Attorney Joseph J. Long, Brambleton Computer, JB Cases, Simonis, Aramith, Diamond Billiard Products, Inc., Savage Billiards, Vinton Computer and Fort Worth Billiards Superstore.

Fresh off from taking down the Texas Open One Pocket Championship, new BCA Hall of Fame inductee Shane Van Boening had arrived as did this year's Bayou State One Pocket victor, Billy Thorpe, reigning Big Tyme Classic 9-Ball champ Sky Woodward and current Big Easy Classic Barbox 9-Ball champ, Josh Roberts.

Also spotted were 2024's Chuck Markulis Memorial and Midwest Billiards & Cue Expo 9-Ball champ Tyler Styer, Tony Chohan, winner of The Rack's One Pocket Classic, Florida star Anthony Meglino – Zingale's Labor Day champ and last year's Maryland Open 9-Ball champ, Brandon Shuff.

Young guns like reigning Buffalo's Pro Classic Open 9-Ball champ Lukas Fracasso-Verner were also spotted as well as Shane Wolford – winner of 2023's Midwest Open 9-Ball and the Chuck Markulis Memorial 9-Ball and junior champ Landon Hollingsworth.

Foreign players such as Filipinos Roberto Gomez – winner of this year's Buffalo's Pro Classic One Pocket and the Scotty Townsend Memorial Open 9-Ball and last year's Battle of the Bull One Pocket champ Roland Garcia were also there as well Ukraine's



*Wes Bond, Shane Van Boening and Kory Wolford*

Vitaliy Patsura – Texas Open Nine Ball and Skinny Bob's Nineball Classic winner, Venezuela's II International Open of the Americas titlist Gregorio Sanchez, Canadian John Morra, 2022's Hex.com Pro-Am 10-Ball champ and Albania's Eduard Bregu.

Also spotted were Sacramento's Hard Times owner and former Mosconi Cup team member Oscar Dominguez, New England Pool & Billiards Hall of Famers Jeremy Sossei and Mike Dechaine, one pocket legend Danny Smith, Battle Creek, MI's Jeremy Seaman and Louisville, KY's Louis Demarco.

After an auction, players meeting and draw, the event began on Monday evening with the \$10,000 added One Pocket division. Featuring 27 players, the entry fee was \$350 with the three

foul rule in effect. The double elimination event and racing to three until down to the final eight players. From there, it was single elimination with races to four.

Seaman, Smith, Meglino, Gomez went undefeated and Van Boening, Garcia, Thorpe and Fracasso-Verner survived the one loss side to advance to the knock out phase of the event.

A redraw pitted Fracasso-Verner against Seaman who eked out a 4-3 win, Van Boening thumped Gomez 4-1 while Smith defeated Thorpe and Meglino eliminated defending champ Garcia – both scores were 4-2.

Both Smith and Van Boening made quick work of their respective opponents, Fracasso-Verner and Meglino – both 4-1, to move into the finals.

**“ SEAMAN, SMITH, MEGLINO, GOMEZ WENT UNDEFEATED AND VAN BOENING, GARCIA, THORPE AND FRACASSO-VERNER SURVIVED THE ONE LOSS SIDE TO ADVANCE TO THE KNOCK OUT PHASE OF THE EVENT. ”**

**“ BILLY WON THE FOLLOWING TWO GAMES TO MAKE IT 8-2 BEFORE JOHN WON ANOTHER. THE SCORE WAS NOW 8-3. HOWEVER, WITH ALL THE MOMENTUM BEHIND BILLY, HE CLOSED OUT THE MATCH 13-3 TO CLAIM THE TITLE. ”**

In the opening rack, Shane shot out to a 5-1 lead but Danny clawed his way back to make it 5-4. They both made another ball to make it 6-5 but from there, Van Boening took the first game 8-5.

Danny broke the balls in the second game but it was Shane who got the first shot. He ran eight and out to claim the game.

Now 2-0, it was Shane's break and he laid down a good one. Danny attempted to get out of it but left Shane a shot. He made that one, sliced in two extremely thin cuts and then four more to put him on the hill. He left himself a bank and it barely grazed the cue ball on the way to the pocket but just enough to cause a miss.

After a few safes and attempts by both players to pocket a ball, Danny finally got another shot and ran five. Needing a makeable three but faced with a cut on a ball below the side pocket, it hit the point and Shane pocketed the final ball he needed to make it 3-0 needing only one game to clinch the title.

In game four and on Danny's break, things took a turn. After a few shots back and forth, Shane barely missed a bank and from there, Danny ran five for his first lead in the match. A few shots later, Danny attempted a kick safe but fouled – score now 4-0. More back and forth, another kick safe attempted by Danny but fouled – now 3-0.

Now it was Shane's turn to kick safe – another foul – score 3-minus 1. This had turned from a shooting game into an “old school” game!

Safety after safety, Danny finally fired in a combination bank to make it 4-minus 1!

Answering, Shane back cut a long rail bank and made it. He followed that with four more to take the lead 5-4! After another attempted cross bank that he barely missed, Danny was back at the table.

Left with a three rail bank, Danny made it look easy as he made it, plus a spot shot to retake the lead 6-5. He then sliced a ball down the rail & pocketed one more to win the game! What a game!

With the score now at 3-1, Shane broke the balls but scratched – Danny got ball in hand behind the line and as he had no shot at his pocket, he decided to “rearrange the furniture.” Shane answered with a kick into the stack almost pocketing a ball. Danny decided to let Shane have that one. With the ball spotted, the game was now back to even. Shane played safe, leaving the cue ball up table in the jaws of the corner pocket. Danny back cut a ball and barely missed. This time it was Shane who gave him the ball and repositioned the cue ball back down table – 1-0 Danny. He attempted a safety but left Shane a shot.

Looking to win this game and end the match, Shane pocketed the ball and ran more seven more to take the title!

As the one pocket division was winding down, the main event, the \$35,000 added 9 Ball division began after the players auction, meeting and draw.

Slicing through the field undefeated to get to the single elimination portion of the event were Van Boening, Wolford, Dominguez, Morra, Styer, Thorpe, Sanchez and Sossei.

Patsura, Garcia, Hollingsworth, Bregu, Gomez, Woodward, Meglino and Doug Shulz emerged from the one loss side.

Now down to the final sixteen and after a redraw, Van Boening beat Hollingsworth 11-5, Gomez squeaked past home court hero Shane Wolford 11-10 and Sossei eliminated Schulz 11-3.

By the same score of 11-9, down went Garcia to Dominguez, Meglino to Morra and Woodward to Sanchez. Also by the same score of 11-8, it was Thorpe over Bregu and Patsura over Styer.

Next round saw Sanchez over Sossei 11-6, Morra over Dominguez 11-8, Thorpe over Patsura and Gomez end Van Boening's chances of a sweep – both matches 11-9.

Now down to the final four, Morra pounded Gomez 11-3 and Thorpe dusted Sanchez 11-5.

Playing one final race to thirteen, Thorpe shot out to a 5-0 lead before Morra won his first game. They then split the next two games making it 6-2. Billy won the following two games to make it 8-2 before John won another. The score was now 8-3. However, with all the momentum behind Billy, he closed out the match 13-3 to claim the title.

Congratulations to both Billy and Shane for their victories!

PoolActionTV.com would like to thank Kory & Trena Wolford and their staff for rolling out the red carpet for all the players and fans!

Thanks also go out to Tournament Director Kory Wolford and his assistant, Ian Jones, for doing an excellent job!

We'd also like to thank our commentators for another fine job! They included Jeremy Jones, Larry Schwartz, Josh Roberts, Dominick Dunne and Ray Hansen.

We look forward to next year!

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# PATSURA, VAN BOENING, KIBAROGLU & WOLFORD TAKE TEXAS OPEN

Story by MARY KENNISTON - Photos courtesy Pool Action TV

**As the end of summer approaches and Labor Day weekend is on the horizon, pool players from all over know it means just one thing – the Texas Open!**

**T**he 51st Annual Texas Open Nine Ball Championship had \$30,000 in added money and featured four divisions. They included the main event – Open 9 Ball – plus Ladies 9 Ball, a 9 Ball Mini and One Pocket.

Local sponsors joining Skinny Bob's owners Kim and Tracy Sanders and

PoolActionTV.com included Hanshew Jump Cues, Austin Pro, Green Ape Coffee Roasters, Capitol Bearing & Hydraulics, JCS Heating & Cooling, LLC, attorney Joseph J. Long, Sanders Roofing & Exteriors LLC, GAF, Simonis, Aramith, Mints Amusements, Savage Billiards, ABC Supply Co., Inc., JB Cases, Savage Billiards, Diamond Billiard

Products, Inc. and the Fort Worth Billiards Superstore of Fort Worth, TX.

Spotted at this year's event was America's premier player, Shane Van Boening. Considered to be one of the best players of all time, Shane has captured over a hundred professional titles including the WPA World Nine Ball Championship and five US Open Nine Ball titles. Just returning from a runner-up finish in the US Open Pool Championship in Atlantic City, NJ, he will be inducted into the BCA Hall of Famer later this year. Another former US Open 9 Ball champion, Gabe Owen, was also there along with defending champ Tyler Styer.

Also seen was this year's Skinny Bob's Nine Ball Classic victor, Vitaliy Patsura, and 2024 Big Tyme Classic 9 Ball champ, 2023's Cajun Coast Classic 9-Ball and Banks champ, Sky Woodward, as well as Jonathan Pinegar ("Hennessee") – last year's Scotty Townsend Memorial Pro Players champion. Newly minted Buffalo's House Pro Sergio Rivas, Danny Smith and looking to make a comeback, four-time Mosconi Cup player Mike Dechaine, were there as well.

Multiple time European ladies champion, Turkey's Eylul Kibaroglu – 2024 Big Tyme Classic and Scotty Townsend Memorial winner – was also there. Other top ladies included Jennifer



Main Event Winner Vitaliy Patsura

*Roberto Gomez and Shane Van Boening*

the win 4-3 leaving Morra in third place.

As this was true double elimination, Roberto would have to defeat Shane two sets to claim the title. The match was closer than the hot seat match but it was Van Boening who took the title 5-3. What a great match between two great players!

On Thursday evening, there was a warm-up for the main event. The \$500 added single elimination 9 Ball Mini featured a \$25 entry fee with a full field of 64 players playing races to three.

Playing down to the final four were Shane Wolford and Eric Alcinena in the upper portion of the bracket and Joven Bustamante and Justin Stewart in the lower. Shane won his match 3-1 and Joven won his 3-0. Moving into the finals, Wolford claimed the title 3-1.

Friday night saw the beginning of the main event – the \$16,000 added 9 Ball Open. A full field of 128 players posted their \$200 entry fees to compete in this double elimination event. The format was races to nine and winner breaks with the nine racked on the spot – the three point rule was in effect. After the player auction, meeting and draw, play began.

No one drew tougher than two-time Texas Open 9 Ball champ Sky Woodward. He drew Lee Vann Corteza in the first round and went down to the wire with him – finally knocking that last nine ball in the hole for the win. Waiting for him was defending champ Tyler Styer – Tyler was sent packing 9-3. It wasn't getting any easier for Sky as his next match was with Mike Dechaine. He won this one also by the same score but then was upset in the fourth round by Daniel Schneider 9-5!

Down went Gomez, Chohan, Wolford, Calderon, Owen, Van Boening, Thorpe, Roberts, Smith, Hennessee, Rivas

Kraber, Chris Fields, Ashley Rice and Kim Pierce.

This year's extravaganza kicked off on Tuesday evening with the \$11,000 added One Pocket Championship. Twenty one players paid their \$1,000 entry fees to compete in this double elimination event – races were 5/4. Following the players auction, meeting and draw, play began.

First round action saw last year's winner of both the Midwest Open 9 Ball and the Chuck Markulis Memorial 9 Ball events, Shane Wolford, edge out Rick Moreno 5-4 and 2023 Buffalo Pro Classic's 9 Ball champ Alex Calderon defeated Eric Alcinena 5-2. Danny Smith eked out a win over current Big Easy Classic Barbox 9-Ball champ, Josh Roberts, 5-4 and Billy Thorpe, reigning Bayou State One Pocket winner, smoked Joseph Herron 5-0. All the other players caught those coveted first round byes.

2024's Buffalo's Pro Classic One Pocket champion Roberto Gomez blitzed Justin Stewart as did reigning Alfa Las Vegas Open champ Lee Vann Corteza over James Davis Jr – both 5-0. Current Big Tyme Classic One Pock-

et champ Tony Chohan had a harder time with the always tough Danny Smith but squeaked out a 5-4 win. Van Boening tore through Calderon, as did Wolford over Charlie Mora – both matches 5-1. Defending Texas Open Banks champ, John Morra, defeated Owen 5-3 and Thorpe beat 2023 Battle of the Bull winner, Roland Garcia, 5-2.

Things tightened up in the next round as Gomez managed a 5-4 win over Corteza and Thorpe defeated Rivas 5-3. Morra took down Chohan 5-3 and Van Boening sent Wolford west 5-2.

Now down to four undefeated players, Van Boening plowed through Morra 5-1 and Gomez notched a win over Rivas 5-3. Shane and Roberto advanced to the hot seat match where it was all Shane as he held Roberto scoreless and secured his spot in the finals.

Over on the one loss side, it was one great match after another, however once the dust settled, the last two standing were Chohan and Morra. Battling it out to see who'd face Gomez, John took the match 4-1. Tony finished in fourth place.

And what a match it was! Playing down to the case game, Gomez took

## 51st Texas Open

and so many others as Roland Garcia, John Morra, Vitaliy Patsura and the relatively unknown Billy Dyke sliced their way through the field.

Vying for the hot seat match were Garcia and Morra. Roland took his match with John 9-6 and Vitaliy won his with Billy 9-3. Morra and Dyke headed to the one loss side to await their opponents.

After losing in the third round, Styer tore through John Becker, Justice Eagan and Bernard Walker – all 9-1. Next was Ernesto Bayaua (9-2), Billy Thorpe (9-7), Tony Chohan (9-3), Eric Alcinena (9-6) and Roberto Gomez (9-5). Waiting for him was Dyke – Tyler defeated him also (9-7).

After losing his opening round match, Lee Vann Corteza also had his work cut out for him. He eliminated Marc Oler and Boog Long – both 9-2. Next were Sky Massingill and Alex Calderon – Lee beat them 9-3. Steve Sheppard (9-2), Callum O'Donnell (9-1), Hennessee (9-3) and Daniel Schneider (9-4) all went down until he ran into Van Boening. Shane knocked him out of the tournament 9-5 but then next match, Morra took dead aim and that was all for Shane. He went down 9-1.

And then, that was it for Morra as Styer eliminated him as well. It was a battle but Tyler closed it out at 9-7. John finished in fourth place.

Playing to get into the finals against Patsura, Styer and Garcia went neck and neck. Tied at five apiece, Tyler won the next game but Roland won the next three to get to the hill first! Now, 8-6, Styer won the next two games to tie it up! Breaking, Tyler made two balls on the break but was hooked on the one. Playing the ball rail first, he pocketed the ball and broke up two that were tied up. The balls were now laying nicely for him and Styer took the match! Garcia finished in third place.



Ladies event winner Eylul Kibaroglu

The finals would be a rematch from last year! In 2023, Styer went undefeated & Patsura came from the one loss side but was unable to defeat Tyler twice for the title. This year, it was reversed! Tyler would have to win two sets to defend his title.

The match began and those looking for a battle were disappointed. The 2022 Texas Open 9 Ball champ, Patsura Vitaliy, came out of the gate hot and went straight to the hill having won the first eight games. In Tyler's defense, he didn't get to the table very often and when he did, he didn't have much to work with. Mercifully for Styer, Patsura won the last game to take the title 9-0.

While the main event was in progress, the \$2,500 added Ladies 9 Ball began on Saturday night. A full field of 32 players paid an entry fee of \$125. The format was double elimination, race to seven and winner breaks – the one was racked on the spot. As always, after the auction, meeting and draw, play began.

As expected, Kibaroglu was never threatened as she defeated Kim Sanders 7-2, Ricki Casoyer 7-1, Tam Trinh 7-1 and Jenna Bishoff 7-3 to reach the hot seat match.

In the upper portion of the bracket, Sue Orr also made her presence

known. Teresa Garland went down 7-4 as did Molly McWhorter 7-1, Makenna Sanders 7-5 and Camille Campbell 7-2.

Playing in the hot seat match, Eylul and Sue battled it out with Kibaroglu claiming the win 7-5. She locked up her berth in the finals and Orr headed west to await an opponent where Rice and Kraber were battling to stay alive. Down to the wire, it was Rice who eked out a 7-6 win – Kraber finished in fourth place.

Playing for the other spot in the finals, it was again Rice who won the match 7-4. Orr finished in third place.

As this was also true double elimination, Ashley would have to win two sets to claim the title. However, it was not to be. Although close, it was Eylul who won her third title of the year 7-5.

We'd also like to thank Tournament Director Ian Jones for doing a great job running the various events.

Thanks also go out to Larry Schwartz, Scott Rabon, Josh Roberts and Ray Hansen for their topnotch commentary.

Congratulations to Shane Van Boening, Vitaliy Patsura, Eylul Kibaroglu and Shane Wolford for becoming this year's Texas Open champions!

We can't wait until next year!



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# WOODWARD

## GOES UNDEFEATED AT WNT-QUALIFYING PENNSYLVANIA OPEN

Article by **Skip Maloney** - AzB Staff / Photos courtesy **Pete Marovich**/TheBilliardAlmanac

Two down and three to go. That, at least, is the current 'official' tally for selections to the 2024 USA Mosconi Cup team, though there are nuances in the selection process that suggest it could be 'three down and two to go,' or even 'four down and one to go.'

The selections are based on a process that chooses three of the team's members according to their current rankings on the World

Nineball Tour (WNT)'s Mosconi Cup rankings (separate, though not by a lot from the overall WNT rankings). Fedor Gorst, based on his #1 USA-and-

world ranking on the list and virtually uncatchable in that position, became team USA's first official pick.



Skyler Woodward

Skyler Woodward, who is currently the #4 USA competitor on the list, has been chosen as Team USA's captain, which sets up an interesting dynamic in what's ahead for the remaining Team USA selections.

Both of those choices were official and have been announced by Matchroom Sports, to include the announcement that as a result of Woodward's selection as team captain, the 2024 Mosconi Cup will feature two playing captains for the first time since 2005. It would appear that Shane Van Boening, as the #2-ranked, USA competitor will be the proverbial 'shoe-in' for the third 'automatic' selection to Team USA. This creates the 'three down (Gorst, Van Boening, Woodward) and two to go' scenario. According to Matchroom Sports, the remaining decisions will not be made officially until after the Hanoi Open, scheduled for Oct. 8-13 in (of course) Hanoi, Vietnam.

However, prior to this weekend, Tyler Styer was 3rd on the WNT's USA Mosconi Cup rankings, which put him into 'automatic selection' territory for the top three. If Skyler Woodward is going to be captain and play, it means he'll be choosing himself as one of his two discretionary 'picks.' That's the 'four down (Tyler Styer added), one to go' scenario.

Either way, Woodward, as team captain, got to see and presumably assess the qualifications and suitability of four of them this past weekend (Sept. 13-15). He traveled to Philadelphia to compete in a WNT ranking event, the \$10,000-added Pennsylvania Open, which, brought to you by the folks at PA ProAm Pool, drew 68 entrants to Bluegrass Billiards in Philadelphia. Woodward went undefeated to claim the event title, presumably liking what he 'saw' in that performance. Though he did not compete against any of the four other 'potential picks' that were on hand for the event, he did get a chance to watch and reportedly spoke to all of them.

Tyler Styer headed the list as the third highest-ranked US competitor in the Mosconi Cup points race, behind Gorst and Van Boening. Styer finished third in Philadelphia, behind Woodward and runner-up, Spain's Jonas Souto Comino. Oscar Dominguez, fifth on WNT's Mosconi Cup list, finished in the four-way tie for 5th place in Philadelphia. Lukas Fracasso-Verner, who's #8 among US competitors on the WNT list, finished in the eight-way tie for 9th place this past weekend. Rounding out the list of 'on-hand' potential picks for Team USA was Jeremy Sosei, 10th among US competitors, who finished in the 15-way tie for 49th.

Rounding out the top 10 US competitors on the WNT ranking list going into this past weekend, though not in attendance in Philadelphia, were (in order) BJ Ussery, Jr. (#6), Shane Wolford (#7), and Billy Thorpe (#9).

It was a typical, two-stage, modified double-elimination bracket which advanced eight competitors from each side of a Stage 1 bracket, to a 16-player, single-elimination Stage 2. In a random draw of competitors competing in an Open event with FargoRates

ranging from 427 to Woodward's 812, Woodward got a few 'softballs' tossed his way in the Stage 1 proceedings. He opened against the '427,' Bettyanne Mauceri and defeated her 9-1. In the three matches that it took him to qualify for single elimination, Woodward faced three opponents with a FargoRate average that was 212.6 Fargo points lower than his 812. Ms. Mauceri, 385 points below him, raised that average considerably; without her, the two remaining opponents had a FargoRate average that was only 126 points below his. Woodward went on to defeat the 148-point lower, veteran Atlantic Coast competitor, Steve Fleming 9-6 and in the final, qualifying round, beat the 105-point lower Kirill (Kenny) Rutman 9-5. Joining Woodward in advancement to Stage 2 from the same mini-bracket within Stage 1's 128-player bracket was Georgi Georgiev, who'd made his way to Philadelphia from Seattle, WA where, on Labor Day weekend, he'd won the Seattle Open (another WNT ranking event), defeating Lukas Fracasso-Verner, double hill, in the finals.

Also advancing to single elimination from the winners' side were Ukraine's

*Jonas Souto*



Vitaliy Patsura, Oscar Dominguez, Jonas Souto, Roland Garcia, Fracasso-Verner and Tyler Styer; putting three of the four possible Mosconi Cup 'picks,' upon whom the US Team Captain was likely paying particular attention, into single elimination. Like Woodward and Georgiev, the six who advanced from the original bracket from the winners' side were taking swings at a few hittable 'pitches.' Dominguez, though, had to get by two younger and formidable opponents in Nathan Childress and Landon Hollingsworth, whose FargoRates (727 and 716, respectively) were in his 785 'league,' so to speak.

All but one of the eight competitors who advanced from the loss side of the original bracket, did so with a single win on the loss side. Alex Bausch, who'd lost his opening round match to The Iceman, Mika Immonen, had to battle and win four matches on the loss side, including a 9-6 win over Jonathan Pinegar in the last qualifying round. Joining him in advancement were Kirill (Kenny) Rutman, who'd defeated Matt Krahn in the final qualifying round, Shawn Bogutskie, Mhet Vergara, Mika Immonen, Nathan Childress, Rob Krull and Landon Hollingsworth.

### Four matches to a title, doubling money through all but the final round

There is some truth to the idea that once you're at the table, the money motive for advancement has a way of fading into the background of a player's 'process.' There will be, noted the late Kenny Rogers, "time enough for countin' when the dealin's done." By the same token, it's not likely to have

escaped the attention of the final 16 that each match win, with the exception of the finals, would double their money; from \$700 to \$1,400 and on through \$2,800, \$5,600 and \$8,600. They knew, too, that for the most part, there weren't going to be any more 'softballs' being pitched in the final four rounds.

Woodward opened against Mhet Vergara, downing him 9-4 and advancing to face The Iceman in one of the quarterfinals. Immonen had eliminated Georgi Georgiev, double hill, in his opening round and was then defeated, double hill, by Woodward, who advanced to a semifinal against Vitaliy Patsura, who'd defeated Oscar Dominguez in a double-hill quarterfinal.

From the other half of the 16-player, single-elimination bracket, Souto opened up with a 9-6 win over Landon Hollingsworth, eliminated Alex Bausch 9-3 and advanced to face Tyler Styer in the other semifinal. The Styer 'thread' from the opening round had eliminated one of the potential Mosconi Cup picks. In one of the quarterfinals, Styer had won a 9-5 match over Nathan Childress, who'd defeated Fracasso-Verner 9-7 in the opening round.

The semifinal match between Styer and Souto was one of four double-hill battles among the 15 matches waged among the final 16. Souto edged Styer out that way and advanced to the finals. Woodward ousted Patsura 11-7 to join him.

Though their FargoRates were only 22 points apart (812/790), FargoRate

odds calculations gave Souto only a 35% chance of winning the final race to 13, which might have seemed low to a lot of people, who might easily have given it odds similar to a coin toss. That said, Souto only won 30% of the match's racks, as Woodward claimed the event title 13-4.

After this weekend, Woodward's win and Styer's 3rd place finish narrowed the difference between their positions on the Mosconi Cup rankings list, by just a little less than \$1.5k (it's measured by total money-earned at WNT ranking events). It elevates the importance of the next event to the make-up of the 2024 Mosconi Cup team in general and Woodward/Styer in particular. That event will be the \$35,000-added Battle of the Bull, scheduled for Sept. 23-29 at Wolf's Den in Roanoke, VA. Woodward and Styer are expected to compete and dependent on how they finish, they could switch places on the rankings list, making Woodward third and Styer fourth, which would, in turn, put Woodward into the automatic selection category, allowing him, as USA Team Captain, to make two 'discretionary' picks instead of the one he would have if he were 4th on the list and both captain and player.

PA ProAm Pool's Frank Maialetti thanked the ownership and staff at Bluegrass Billiards for their hospitality, along with sponsors Integrity Cues, Crossroads Cues, The League Room, Marty Magee's, Dunkel Custom Cues, digitalpool.com, InTheBox Sportswear, Cue Pocket, Trophy Smack, GameOn Sportswear, and Fast & Loose Design. The next PA ProAm event, in collaboration with the JPNEWT Tour, will be the \$2,500-added, PA State Women's 8-Ball Championships, scheduled for the weekend of Oct. 5-6 and hosted by Blue Grass Billiards. JPNEWT.

**“AFTER THIS WEEKEND, WOODWARD'S WIN AND STYER'S 3RD PLACE FINISH NARROWED THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN THEIR POSITIONS ON THE MOSCONI CUP RANKINGS LIST, BY JUST A LITTLE LESS THAN \$1.5K (IT'S MEASURED BY TOTAL MONEY-EARNED AT WNT RANKING EVENTS).”**

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# BULGARIA'S GEORGI GEORGIEV

## GOES UNDEFEATED TO TAKE WNT SEATTLE OPEN TITLE

Article by **Skip Maloney** - AzB Staff / Photos courtesy **Sandro Menzel**

### **Eberle, Tourangeau & Baker compete following travel from Spokane 9-Ball Open to Seattle**

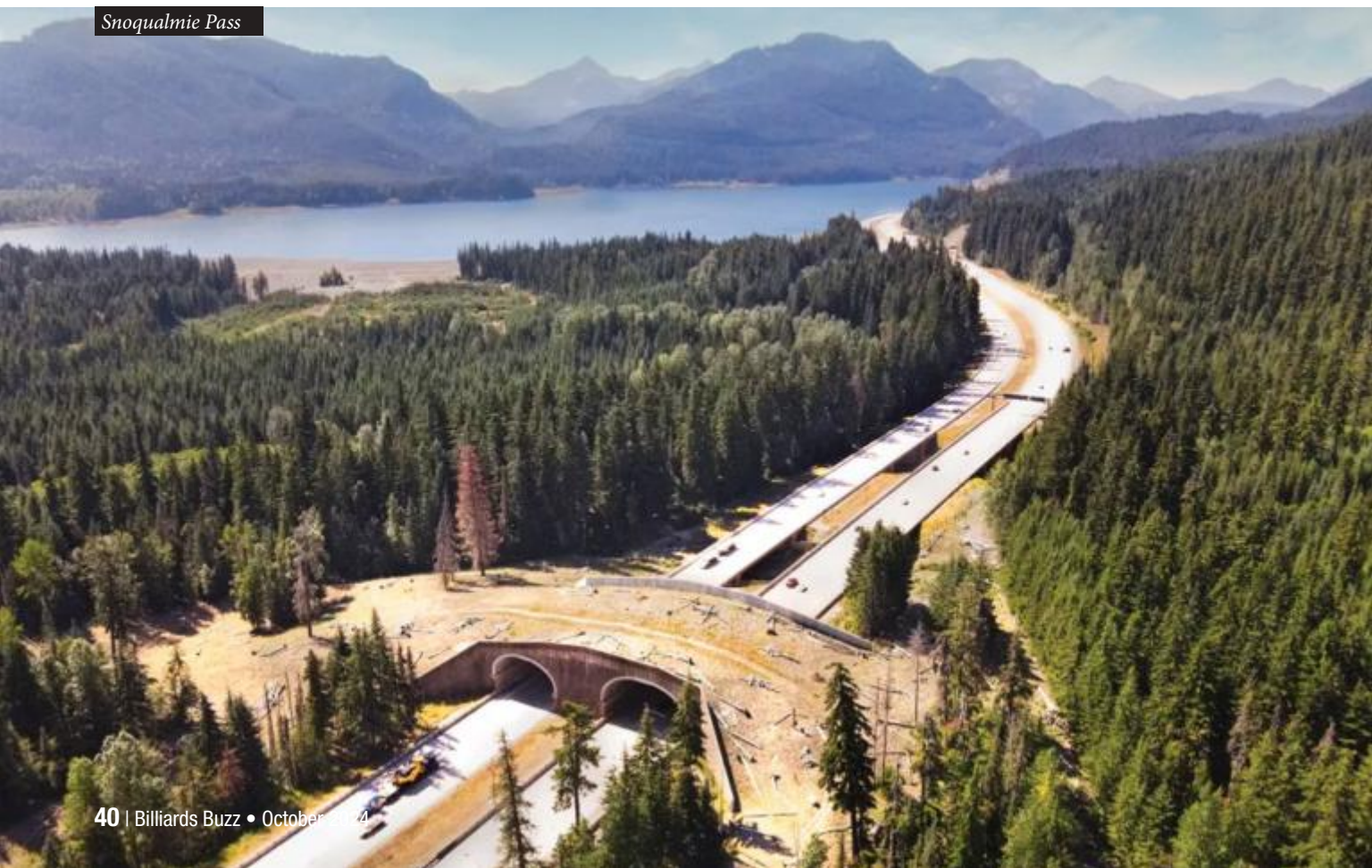
It's about a four-hour trip from Spokane to Seattle, WA, along an interstate (I-90) that cuts through the Cascade Mountains in what's known as the Snoqualmie Pass. Along the way, travelers are exposed to some stunning scenery that includes a

bridge, over which wildlife can travel, protected from the dangers of speeding vehicles as they move about in their natural habitat.

The top three finishers who competed in the Spokane 9-Ball Open on La-

bor Day weekend (Max Eberle, Stan Tourangeau and Blake Baker) would likely have passed over the bridge, either in the air or on the highway as they made their way west to compete in the World Nineball Tour's Seattle Open this past weekend (Sept. 6-8).

*Snoqualmie Pass*



It was a moderately successful trip, financially, for two of them. Eberle lost a double-hill match to Jeremy Long in the single-elimination, Stage 2 of the event and finished in the four-way tie for 5th place. Baker lost his first Stage 2 match to Nicholas De Leon and finished among the eight competitors tied for 9th place. Baker defeated Eberle 9-7 in the last qualifying round for single-elimination from the winners' side. Eberle advanced to single elimination from the loss side. Tourangeau was defeated in a double-hill battle versus James Davee in the last qualifying round for advancement to Stage 2 from the loss side of the original bracket.

Moving on from those points in time, it was Bulgaria's Georgi Georgiev, who went undefeated to claim the Seattle Open title, but not before Lukas Fracasso-Verner, who came to the final undefeated, fought a fierce, double-hill battle in a race-to-13. The WNT ranking event, the first in the Pacific Northwest, drew 64 entrants to OX Billiards in Seattle.

It was a three-match march for eight competitors to qualify for single-elimination on the winners' side of the original bracket. A bit more, dependent on how long another eight competed on the loss side. In races to 9, Georgiev's path to qualification went through Sue Orr (2), Michael Deitchman (1) and Simon Pickering (5). Had there been an additional qualification round, Blake Baker would have competed against Georgiev. Both advanced to single elimination.

Fracasso-Verner's trip to advancement and eventually, the final, was almost sidetracked in the opening round of play. Shucheng Chao put up a double-hill fight. Fracasso-Verner survived, got the 'message,' so to speak and gave up just a single rack over his next 19 games, to Daniel Lybeck (1) and Sean Lewis (0), advancing to single elimination, paired in the same mini-16 bracket with Oscar Dominguez.

Georgi Georgiev



Also advancing to single elimination from the winners' side of the original bracket were Tyler Styer, Sam Henderson, Jonas Souto and Mason Koch.

On the loss side, Max Eberle picked up the one victory he needed to advance, downing Jack Kiske 7-1 and moving on, paired with Simon Pickering. Stan Tourangeau, playing in the only match he needed to advance, lost his double-hill bout with James Davee, who advanced to single elimination, along with Nicholas DeLeon. Also advancing from the loss side were Ryan Carden, Jeremy Long, Keith Yip and Daniel Sardonicillo.

### Four-match march to the finals in Stage 2 yields thrilling final

Coming into the Sweet 16, single-elimination Stage 2 of this WNT Seattle Open, three competitors were the most obvious favorites to win, based on their position as the top three Fargo-rated players in the remaining field. In order, they were Jonas Souto (788), Tyler Styer (783) and Oscar Dominguez (780). Two of them

survived the opening round, advancing to (possibly later) matchup in the semifinals.

It was Tyler Styer, who lost his opening round battle, 11-4 to Jeremy Long, who advanced to the quarterfinals against Max Eberle. Souto downed Ryan Carden 11-3 in the opening round, advancing to face Daniel Sardonicillo in another quarterfinal match. Dominguez eliminated Simon Pickering 11-7 to face Fracasso-Verner, while Georgiev, who'd downed Keith Yip in the opening round 11-8, advanced to face Nicholas De Leon in the remaining quarterfinal.

Souto and Dominguez were eliminated in the quarterfinals. Souto fell 11-7 to Sardonicillo, who advanced to a semifinal against Fracasso-Verner, who'd eliminated Dominguez 11-9. Long and Eberle battled to double hill in their quarterfinal, with Long advancing to the semifinals against Georgiev, who'd defeated De Leon 11-3.

Georgiev defeated De Leon 11-9. Fracasso-Verner joined him in the race-

## Seattle Nineball Open

to-13 final with an 11-4 victory over Sardoncillo.

Races to 13 are generally, though not always, subject to 'mood swings,' during which one opponent or the other manages to establish runs of varied lengths that delay any clear impression of an obvious winner. Fracasso-Verner's opening salvo of three straight racks might have carried more 'weight' in a race to 9, or even 11, but in the trek to 13, players and the capacity crowd in the room were well aware that it was just the beginning.

Georgiev made that abundantly clear by responding with seven in a row, which yielded that match's first of only three ties at 3-3 and proved to be the longest 'run' of the match. Things tightened up considerably at that point, but as dominant a performance as those seven racks were, Fracasso-Verner repeated his opening run of three to pull within one at 7-6.

They traded racks back and forth, increasing the lead to two and reducing it back down to one, three times, to a 10-8 lead for Georgiev. Fracasso-Verner down by two, again, won two in a row to create the match's second tie.

Georgiev looked to re-establish the 'two steps forward, one step back' pattern of the match, winning rack 21 and then, significantly, rack 22, which put him on the hill at 12-10.

Not to be outdone, Fracasso-Verner closed it to within one (maintaining the pattern) and then, equally significant, dropped four balls on the break of rack 24, and then continued on to create the match's third, final and this time, double-hill tie.

Fracasso-Verner's break of the last rack proved fatal. He dropped two balls, but left himself with a very low-percentage shot at the 2-ball. He played safe, but not safe enough. Georgiev exploited a window between two balls that offered him a chance to hit the 2-ball, but little or no chance to

put it in a hole. He took the shot and when the proverbial dust settled, a beneficial roll nestled the cue ball up against the 4-ball. The 2-ball was inches away but impossible to hit straight.

Fracasso-Verner took some time looking it over, measuring the 'kick' off the far rail that he hoped would hit the 2-ball and put it into the opposite side pocket. It didn't come close, but the cue ball kicked back off the rail, bounced off the edge of the 2-ball and shot right into a corner pocket.

Everybody in the building knew that, in effect, it was over. Georgiev took ball in hand. Three hours and 38 minutes after its final match had begun, Georgiev dropped the tournament's last ball, claiming the WNT Seattle 9-Ball Open title.

Room owner Mike Dominguez and partners Jaime Miller, Christian Younger and Phuc Dang thanked their OX Billiards staff for their assistance with the event, along with sponsors CueTec, Matchroom Sports, ANDY Cloth, Littman Lights, Sandro Menzel

Photography, and Table Filters Billiards Service (Zach Jonas).

OX Billiards opened in August of 2022, with a mission of Dominguez and his partners to help raise the standard of cue sports in Seattle, the Pacific Northwest and across the US.

"Teaming up with Matchroom and the World Nineball Tour is an important step for us to take in that direction," noted Dominguez. "The Seattle 9-Ball Open showcased local players like Daniel Sardoncillo, who defeated the event's #2 seed, Jonas Souto, and we provided a world stage for local commentators and players in the commentary booth. Christian Youngers and Jonas Souto even commented one rack all in Spanish."

"All three days hosted a sold-out capacity crowd with a seating area large enough to put in risers for a stadium-like atmosphere," he added. "As the first WNT ranking event in the Pacific Northwest, we hit all the goals we set out to accomplish."

Lukas Fracasso Verner



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# EBERLE GOES UNDEFEATED TO CLAIM 14TH ANNUAL SPOKANE OPEN TITLE

Article by **Skip Maloney** - AzB Staff / Photos courtesy tournament staff and **Erwin Dionisio**

## Battles Stan Tourangeau twice, hot seat and finals

**W**ith the recent emphasis on emergent talent on the pool scene, combined with the COVID epidemic which kept a great many competitors, old and new, away from the tables over an extended period of time, some of the more notable veterans appeared at times to have vanished from the scene. Two of them, Max Eberle and Stan Tourangeau, squared off against each other, twice (hot seat and finals) at this past Labor Day weekend's, 14th Annual Spokane Open at The Black Diamond in Spokane, WA. It was Eberle who ended up claiming title to the \$6,875-added (by sponsors and room) event, which drew 121 entrants.

Tourangeau had been away the longest. Though he finished third at last year's 2nd Don Weir Memorial (Shane Van Boening defeated him in the semifinals), that was his first recorded payout since 2018, when his only cash payout was a victory at a Memorial Day weekend event at the 15th Street Grill in Auburn, WA. It should be noted that as a native of Fort Chipewyan in Alberta, Canada and a member of the Mikisew Cree First Nation, there may have been a lot of Canadian tournaments in which Tourangeau competed that were not reported to us here at AZBilliards. In the midst of his recorded-payouts absence, he was inducted into the Western BCA Hall of Fame in

2022 after a career that spanned two decades that we know about. His entry into the AZB database commenced two years after AZBilliards began in 1998 and noted two cash payouts at the Northern Lights 9-Ball Shootout (4th) and the Reno Open (49th) in June of that year. Born in 1955, Tourangeau was 17 when Eberle was born.

Though Las Vegas' Max Eberle played, more or less, through most of the pandemic (he did not record a payout in 2021), it had been almost two years since he recorded his last major event victory at the Bankshots 10-Ball Open in Florida. That said, his resume, like Tourangeau's, dates back to (around)

*Stan Tourangeau, Makayla Kvasnicka, Max Eberle, Brian Kvasnicka and Blake Baker*



the turn of the century with his first appearances in the AZBilliard database occurring at the turn of the century; 10 cash finishes, including two wins on the Planet Pool Tour in 2000. So, in a sense, the hot seat match and finals of this year's Spokane Open pitted two veterans from chronologically different generations, with approximately the same starting date for their careers.

And it showed. Their hot seat match went double-hill and their final match – at 8-7, with Eberle on the hill – turned on the 'dime' of a missed 1-ball.

Eberle gave up only four racks in his first 40 games. In races to 9, he opened with a 9-1 victory over Chadd Olson, a 9-2 win over Eddie Mataya, and another 9-1 romp over Sterling George, before shutting out Ken Brown. He ran into his first 'spot of trouble' when Brady Gollan chalked up six against him, but he advanced to face Mike Robinson in one of the winners' side semifinals.

Tourangeau, in the meantime, gave up a similarly low number of racks-against; seven in his first 43 games. He opened with a shutout over Erik Lord and a 9-1 victory over Ken Mundel, before giving up four to Rafael Lima, two to James Mason and then, seven to Clay Belvoir. He drew and defeated Blake Baker (whom he'd meet again in the semifinals) 9-6 in the other winners' side semifinal, joining Eberle in the hot seat match.

About halfway through the hot seat match, Tourangeau was down 2-7 to Eberle. Though he would eventually give up the one rack that put Eberle on the hill, Tourangeau won six of the next seven to force a deciding 17th game. In that double-hill game, Tourangeau found himself out of position for a shot at the 4-ball, with the 8-ball in the way of a clear shot. He tried a long bank shot off a far-away short rail, which bounced off the edge of the side pocket on its way back to the 4-ball. Eberle took the ball-in-hand and cleared the table to claim the hot seat.

Max Eberle



On the loss side, Blake Baker picked up Brady Gollan, who'd followed his winners' side quarterfinal loss to Eberle with victories over Dan Louie 7-1 and Damian Pongpanik 7-5. Robinson drew a rematch versus Eric Vargas, who'd sent him to the loss side, double hill, in the fourth round (Vargas, at the time of that match, had yet to give up a single rack). Vargas moved west on the bracket, winning four straight on the loss side, which included the recent elimination of Aman Sunar 7-3 and Clay Belvoir 7-5

Both battles for advancement to the quarterfinal went double hill, with Baker downing Gollan, and Vargas defeating Robinson a second time. So, too, went the quarterfinal with Baker and Vargas battling for a shot at whoever was going to emerge from the ongoing hot-seat match as the two of them stepped to the table. Baker won that double-hill quarterfinal about an hour before the hot seat match was concluded. Tourangeau joined him for the semifinal, downing him 7-3 to earn his second shot against Eberle.

Eberle took a quick, 2-0 lead in the opening set of the true double-elimination final. But it was short-lived, as Tourangeau came back, not only with two to tie, but three more, which proved to be the longest 'run' of the

match. Three racks later, Eberle had tied things up at 5-5.

They traded racks back and forth to a fourth 7-7 tie, after which Eberle took his first lead since he'd been ahead by two at the start. That lead put him on the hill. He broke the next rack and dropped three, though he left himself without a shot at the 1-ball and played 'safe.' A good one, as it turned out, forcing Tourangeau to take something of a 'Hail Mary' kick shot at it, which he missed.

From there, especially with ball in hand, the dots-to-be-connected by Eberle looked obvious, though they're never as easy as they may look. Eberle went to work, finishing the rack with such a short-distance, straight-on shot at the 9-ball that Tourangeau, literally, from his chair, threw in a towel which landed on the felt before Eberle took aim.

Tour director Brian Kvasnicka, with able assistance from his daughter, Makayla, thanked the ownership and staff at The Black Diamond for their hospitality, as well as sponsors JamUp Apparel, Chris Mundel and the Home Gurus, J&A Roofing, Sandi Fisher Realtor, Bob Danielson Cues, Admen Banner and Sign, APA of Spokane, Ultimate Pool League, JC's Lawn and Trees, and Legacy Billiards.

# TEAM USA SHINES

## AT 2024 WPA PREDATOR WORLD JUNIOR CHAMPIONSHIPS

The WPA (World Pool-Billiard Association) Predator World Junior Championships, regarded as the pinnacle achievement for billiard student-athletes, was held this year in the picturesque town of Hamilton, New Zealand, from September 5th to 8th.

Organized by the continent’s respective federation, this prestigious event featured athletes from over 20 countries, coinciding with the Predator WPA World 8-Ball Championships and the Women’s World 9-Ball Championships.

In the Under 19 Girls division, Team USA dominated the podium, securing both gold and silver. In a thrilling hill-hill final, Florida’s Sofia Mast, known as “The Pink Dagger,” triumphed over Nevada’s Savannah Easton, “Road Runner,” with a score of 6-5. A lock-up safety on the Six-Ball handed Mast ball-in-hand, sealing her victory. This gold medal marked the first for Team USA in the girls’ division since Mary (Rakin) Tam’s consecutive wins in 2006 and 2007.

In the Under 19 Boys division, California’s Adrian Prasad improved upon last year’s bronze medal by taking home silver. The 17-year-old faced a series of close matches, defeating Canada’s Bryzen Manipula 7-5 in the

quarterfinals. He advanced to the semifinals, where he narrowly edged out Japan’s Aoi Kanazawa 7-6 before being bested by Mika van Berkel of the Netherlands in the final match.

In the Under 17 Boys division, 13-year-old Hayden Ernst from Louisville, Kentucky, earned top honors, finishing in the top eight after being eliminated in the single-elimination knockout round.

In the end, Team USA brought home one gold and two silver medals, showcasing to the world the strength, determination, and exceptional talent of its young athletes.

“This is the closest our sport will get to the Olympics. These kids train all year long to represent our nation, and I could not be more impressed or proud of how hard they worked,” said USA Junior Team Coach Samm Diep-Vidal. “All they wanted to do in their spare time was hit balls, and they fought so hard in every single match. I

love how cohesive and supportive our team is, and I look forward to bringing home even more medals next year.”

### FULL RESULTS

#### GIRLS U19:

1. Sofia Mast – USA
2. Savannah Easton – USA
3. Shirin Volery – Switzerland / Ming-Ling Wang – Chinese Taipei

#### BOYS U19:

1. Mika van Berkel – Netherlands
2. Adrian Prasad – USA
3. Kanazawa Aoi – Japan / Feliz Vogel – Germany

#### BOYS U17:

1. Revo Maimre – Estonia
2. Walter Laikre – Sweden
3. Cheng Yen Lin – Chinese Taipei / Jakub Chrobot – Poland

### About The 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](http://BilliardEducation.org).





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# TEXAS BILLIARDS HALL OF FAME CELEBRATES FIRST INDUCTION CEREMONY

Story courtesy **Great Slate Production Group** - Photos courtesy **Jeff Smith** / Heirloom Portrait Art.

## Upcoming billiard movie films ceremony as part of its story.

**T**he Texas Billiards Hall of Fame, a newly established non-profit organization dedicated to celebrating and preserving the rich heritage of billiards in Texas, proudly hosted its inaugural induction ceremony at the Marriott Hotel in Round Rock, Texas.

This historic event marked the induction of the Hall of Fame's first five honorees: Gilbert Martinez, Belinda Calhoun, Jeremy Jones, Randy Goettlicher, and Bob Vanover. Each has

made extraordinary contributions to the sport, leaving a lasting impact on billiards in Texas.

A deeply emotional moment was shared as Bob Vanover, who has passed away, was honored posthumously. His brother, Gary Vanover, delivered a touching tribute, reflecting on the finesse and dedication that define the Vanover legacy. Omega Mike presented Gilbert Martinez, who expressed heartfelt gratitude and lamented that his parents were

not alive to witness this honor. Belinda Calhoun, celebrated for her illustrious career as a Texas pool player and WPBA professional, was also recognized for her contributions to the sport.

Randy Goettlicher, a renowned instructor, expressed his pride, saying, "For an instructor to be inducted into the Hall of Fame is a lifetime achievement." Jeremy Jones, former captain of the Mosconi Cup team and current billiard broadcaster, remarked, "It

2024 Texas Billiards HOF Inductees and Board





*Crowd taking pictures of inductees*

means everything to be part of the Texas Hall of Fame. A true honor in every respect.”

The ceremony featured moving speeches and tributes, celebrating the exceptional achievements and unwavering commitment of the inductees. The evening not only honored their individual accomplishments but also celebrated the enduring legacy of billiards in Texas.

Kevin Welling, President of Texas Billiards Hall of Fame, Inc., shared his excitement, stating, “We are thrilled to honor these incredible individuals who have greatly influenced the world of billiards. Their passion, skill, and commitment have set a high standard for future generations.” In his opening remarks, Welling outlined the organization’s future vision, including youth camps that demonstrate the connection between academic concepts and billiards, and the introduction of HOF city championships across Texas leading to a state championship. This initiative aims to crown a true state champion who represents their city with pride.

Welling, also the Producer and Director of the upcoming sports movie

about billiards, *The Tale of Texas Pool*, filmed the festivities as part of the plot of its story. All of the inductees have played a role in the movie, each being interviewed about the history of pool within Texas as part of the movie’s cast. The movie is set to release on major streaming VOD platforms this coming Christmas.

Membership and donation options are now available on the Texas Bil-

liards Hall of Fame website for those wishing to support the organization’s mission. The Hall of Fame is committed to continuing its work in recognizing and honoring the contributions to billiards in Texas and looks forward to future events and community support.

For more information about Texas Billiards Hall of Fame, Inc. and upcoming events, please visit [www.halloftexas.com](http://www.halloftexas.com).



*Gilbert Martinez accepts induction into HOF*

# EFREN REYES *and* KARL BOYES

## NAMED CAPTAINS FOR THE INAUGURAL REYES CUP

The countdown begins for Team Asia vs Team Europe, October 15-18.

Efren Reyes and Karl Boyes are set to captain Team Asia and Team Europe, respectively, for the highly anticipated Reyes Cup, taking place from 15-18 October 2024 at the spectacular Ninoy Aquino National Stadium in Manila, Philippines.

This landmark event will see Asia's finest players face off against Europe's best in an exciting new fixture on the World Nineball Tour showcased across

the globe through local broadcaster Cignal TV, as well Sky Sports across the UK.

The Reyes Cup is set to mirror the format of the prestigious Mosconi Cup, bringing together two elite teams over four thrilling days of competition. A total of 21 matches, including singles and doubles, will be played, with each match a race to 5. The first team to reach 11 points will claim victory in

what promises to be a fierce contest between two of the world's strongest teams.

Efren Reyes and Karl Boyes officially met face-to-face during a press conference in Manila today (13 September), setting the stage for an epic showdown at the inaugural Reyes Cup.

At the helm of Team Asia is the legendary Efren "Bata" Reyes, widely regarded as the greatest player in the history



of the sport. Reyes, who is beloved in the Philippines and beyond, will lead his team in front of an impassioned home crowd. Reyes expressed his excitement ahead of the event:

“I’ve been waiting for this for so long. Ever since the founding of the Mosconi Cup I’ve wanted something for Asia. Europe will have the edge because of their experience in that arena, but Asia has plenty of skill and talent to get the win. I’m also looking forward to a potential exhibition against fellow captain Karl Boyes.”

Leading Team Europe is the six-time Mosconi Cup champion Karl Boyes, who brings a wealth of experience to Team Europe. Boyes said:

“My Nineball career started back in 2007 with Matchroom in the Philippines, so I know just how big the sport and this event is for the country. I’ve been lucky to be here many times in my career and I cannot wait to lead out Team Europe as captain next month, it is going to be very special.”

Aloysius Yapp, Johan Chua, and Ko Pin Yi are the first to qualify and will lead the charge for Team Asia, while Eklent Kaçi, Mickey Krause, and Joshua Filler form the forefront of Team Europe. Reyes and Boyes are set to select two wild cards to complete their squads this coming October. With the very best talent from both continents set to compete, the Reyes Cup is sure to become a flagship event on the global pool calendar.

Scheduled to run from 15-18 October, the tournament will unfold across four evenings at the Ninoy Aquino National Stadium in Manila.

**The event schedule is as follows (local time):**

**Tuesday, 15th October:  
7:30pm – 00:00am**

**Wednesday, 16th October:  
7:30pm – 00:00am**

**Thursday, 17th October:  
7:30pm – 00:00am**

**Friday, 18th October:  
7:30pm – 00:00am**

Fans in attendance can expect an electrifying atmosphere as Manila hosts this historic showdown in the spectacular Ninoy Aquino National Stadium.

Alongside the Reyes Cup Captains at the press conference panel were Founder of Puyat Sports Aristeo “Putch” Puyat, Matchroom Multi Sport CEO Emily Frazer, and Cignal TV’s Assistant Vice President Miguel S. Veal, all of whom shared their enthusiasm about the upcoming event.

Mr. Aristeo “Putch” Puyat, Founder and Owner of Puyat Sports, commented:

“It is a very opportune time to create an event in honour of Efren Reyes in his home country. My thanks go to

Matchroom. There is no bigger honour we can give to Efren Reyes after he announced himself on the world stage winning Matchroom’s first televised World Championship in 1999.”

Emily Frazer, CEO of Matchroom Multi Sport, said:

“This is going to just be phenomenal. The Mosconi Cup has been running for 30 years now and we sell out a 2,500 seat arena. Imagine where we will be with the Reyes Cup in just four weeks. I cannot wait to see all the seats filled up here at the Ninoy Aquino National Stadium in Manila. It’s about creating history, and what better way to do it under the iconic Efren ‘Bata’ Reyes.

Miguel S. Veal, Assistant Vice President – Sports Business Development Cignal TV added:

“Ticket information is coming very soon. On behalf of Cignal TV we are very excited and honoured to be selected as host broadcaster of this event. We are going to be utilising multi-platform for the Reyes Cup. For the free-to-air audience it will be on Onesports, for paid TV it will be Onesports+, and of course for digital natives it will be on our OTT app, Pilipinas Live.”

Tickets for the Reyes Cup will be available soon, and fans are encouraged to book early, as demand is high and the event is expected to sell out quickly.

For those unable to attend, the Reyes Cup will be broadcast live globally. In the Philippines, host broadcaster Cignal TV will bring the action to local audiences, while international fans can tune in via Sky Sports in the UK & Ireland, DAZN in the USA & Brazil, and other platforms worldwide, ensuring pool enthusiasts everywhere can experience every thrilling moment.

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

**“ THIS IS GOING TO JUST BE PHENOMENAL. THE MOSCONI CUP HAS BEEN RUNNING FOR 30 YEARS NOW AND WE SELL OUT A 2,500 SEAT ARENA. IMAGINE WHERE WE WILL BE WITH THE REYES CUP IN JUST FOUR WEEKS. ”**

# DUONG AND SANCHEZ RUIZ COMPLETE TEAMS FOR THE INAUGURAL REYES CUP

The countdown starts for Team Asia vs Team Europe, October 15-18

**D**uong Quoc Hoang and Francisco Sanchez Ruiz have been confirmed as the final players for Team Asia and Team Europe, respectively, completing both teams for the highly anticipated inaugural Reyes Cup.

This landmark event will see Asia's finest players face off against Europe's best at the spectacular Ninoy Aquino National Stadium in Manila, Philippines, with coverage broadcast globally, through local broadcaster Cignal TV, as well Sky Sports across the UK.

Duong Quoc Hoang, one of Vietnam's top players, has been chosen as the final wildcard for Team Asia. Known for his composed, tactical play and precision, Duong, the reigning Scottish Open Champion, is set to play a pivotal role in his team's campaign.

Duong commented: "I can't believe it! To be picked for Team Asia in the first ever Reyes Cup is a dream come true. Representing my country on the global stage is an honour I take great pride in, and I'm excited for the challenge of facing Europe's best."

Completing Team Europe is one of the sport's most accomplished players, Francisco Sanchez Ruiz. The former World Champion and a two-time Mosconi Cup winner, 'El Ferrari' Ruiz has a wealth of experience, which will make him an invaluable asset to Team Europe.

Captain of Team Europe, Karl Boyes stated: "It wasn't easy, but ultimately, Francisco was the right choice. What he has achieved on the World Nine-ball Tour is nothing short of remarkable, and his experience in events like Mosconi Cup, gives us an edge. I'm confident he will be a key player in this historic clash against Team Asia."

Duong will join fellow Asian stars Carlo Biado, Johann Chua, Aloysius Yapp, and Ko Pin Yi, while Sanchez Ruiz completes a formidable Team Europe, alongside Mosconi Cup veterans Jayson Shaw, Joshua Filler, Eklent Kaçi, and the 'Danish Viking' Mickey Krause.

The Reyes Cup, taking place from October 15-18 at the Ninoy Aquino National Stadium in Manila, Philippines,

will pit the best players from Team Asia against Team Europe in a thrilling four-day team format inspired by the Mosconi Cup. The event honours the legendary Efren 'Bata' Reyes, widely regarded as the greatest pool player of all time.

With the both teams now finalised, the stage is set for an epic showdown at the spectacular Ninoy Aquino National Stadium in Manila. Fans can register for ticket alerts for the inaugural Reyes Cup [here](#).

Full ticket details will be announced soon.

For more details and updates, follow Matchroom Pool on Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, Threads, TikTok, and YouTube.



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# ARTISTIC BLACKBALL

Article by **Steve Lillis**

**A**rtistic Pool is an umbrella term for eight various billiard disciplines. Each discipline represents a type of shot or stroke used on a pool table. Competitive Black-

ball or American pool players are familiar with most of the shots and use that knowledge while competing in traditional pool games like 8, 9, and 10 ball. In Artistic Blackball (Pool)

competition players will have an opportunity to showcase their overall knowledge and physical skills to a more extreme level. This experience has an added bonus as it will serve to



*Mike Massey and Tom Rossman*

enhance their ability to perform well in other traditional pool games.

The 8 disciplines of Artistic Pool are packed into a 32-shot program with 4 shots per discipline. Players will have 3 attempts on each shot with the first attempt having the most point value. The point value is determined by degree of difficulty (DOD) that has been carefully selected and tested over the past 24 years of competition by the world's greatest Artistic Pool players. An unofficial pilot event called the 2023 GTS Classic Artistic Blackball Cup was successfully run last year at the 2023 BI Hawley Cup in South Africa and had a full field of 48 players with 19 on a wait list. This year for the first time ever there will be an official 2024 WPA World Artistic Blackball Championship in Bridlington, England running alongside of the 2024 Blackball International World Championships. The first discipline is called "Trick and Fancy" which are traditional setup shots requiring the potting of multiple balls. This discipline requires the most time because a precise setup is needed. Be patient as the setup with the remaining 7 disciples will be easy as you follow the diagrams and the simple instructions in the 32-shot program which is listed on the tournament poster for free download. You can print it out or use your electronic device.

The remainder of the 7 disciples will go quickly in both the setup and execution of the shots. Each attempt on each of the 4 shots per discipline will take one or two minutes to complete. Disciple 2 is "Special Arts" and has at most 4 balls involved but easy setups. Disciplines 3 and 4 are extreme traditional "Draw" and "Follow" shots which will enhance your stroke. Discipline 5 is "Bank / Kick" shots which will test your knowledge and skill of using the cushions or rails. Discipline



6 is "Stroke" shots which will test your feel of the cue ball. Disciple 7 is "Jump" shots which will expand your understanding of what you can do in seemingly impossible situations. Finally Discipline 8 the "Masse" shots is always a fan favorite and usually determines the overall winner of the event. A bonus will be that each discipline winner and a sportsmanship award will receive a medal and a cash prize. Total 9 additional awards and cases prizes to go with trophies and prize money for 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, and 3<sup>rd</sup> place finishers.

About 200 years ago the Frenchman Francois Minguad, who invented the leather cue tip and the masse shot, dazzled crowds across Europe with his amazing artistry on the billiard table. In the 20<sup>th</sup> century notable USA billiard players came up with their own traveling road shows. BCA Hall of Famers Ralph Greenleaf used mirrors for Broadway shows in the 1920's and Charlie Peterson dazzled crowds in universities and community centers across the country in the 1940's and 1950's that helped expand pool and

billiards. At the start of the 21<sup>st</sup> century in Year 2000 Tom "Dr. Cue" Rossman who had his own traveling road show help found the modern Artistic Pool movement. After working for several years with amateur pool leagues, Tom with the help of others got WPA approval to become a new official cue sport discipline. Mike Massey who is generally considered the greatest trick shot artist of his generation won the WPA World Artistic Pool championship 3 out of the first 4 years. Steve Lillis became the first Chairman of the WPA Artistic Pool Division with his Gospel Trick Shot Ministries, Inc. (GTS) as a service sponsor helping the movement grow. More recently Florian "Venom" Kohler considered by many the greatest trick shot artistic of this new generation validated that claim by winning the 2023 WPA World Artistic Pool Championship under the direction of new WPA APD leadership led by Jason "The Michigan Kid" Lynch. Who will win the first ever 2024 WPA World Artistic Blackball Championship and cement their name in pool and billiards history?

# Tourney Results

## Sep 01 - Sep 01

### Mezz Cues LA 9-Ball Series Stop

#### Good Timez Billiards

- Huntsville, Alabama  
 1 Keegan Badour \$700  
 2 Al Garcia \$450  
 3 Rhino Lay \$310  
 4 Julius Argumedo \$200  
 5 Josh Watson \$130  
 5 Steve Kwon \$130  
 7 Johnny Tang \$90  
 7 Michael Hansen \$90

## Sep 02 - Sep 08

### WPA Predator World 8-Ball Championship 2024

#### New Zealand

- 1 Joshua Filler \$75,000  
 2 Jui An Hsu \$45,000  
 3 Kun Lin Wu \$22,000  
 3 Marco Teutscher \$22,000  
 5 Alexandros Kazakis \$11,000  
 5 Bader Al Awadi \$11,000  
 5 Jung-Lin Chang \$11,000  
 5 Konrad Juszczyszyn \$11,000  
 9 Albin Ouschan \$5,250  
 9 Alex Pagulayan \$5,250  
 9 Darren Appleton \$5,250  
 9 Mateusz Sniegocki \$5,250  
 9 Mieszko Fortunski \$5,250  
 9 Pijus Labutis \$5,250  
 9 Roman Hybler \$5,250  
 9 Thorsten Hohmann \$5,250

## Sep 02 - Sep 08

### 2024 Masse Women's World 9-Ball Championship

#### New Zealand

- 1 Rubilen Amit \$50,000  
 2 Siming Chen \$30,000  
 3 Chihiro Kawahara \$15,000  
 3 Kristina Tkach \$15,000  
 5 Jasmin Ouschan \$7,998  
 5 Kelly Fisher \$7,998  
 5 Sha Sha Liu \$7,998  
 5 Tzu-Chien Wei \$7,998

- 9 Chezka Centeno \$4,125  
 9 Chia Hua Chen \$4,125  
 9 Kristina Zlateva \$4,125  
 9 Marharyta Fefilava \$4,125  
 9 Sakura Miramatsu \$4,125  
 9 Seo Seoa \$4,125  
 9 Silviana Lu \$4,125  
 9 Wan-Ling Wang \$4,125

## Sep 02 - Sep 08

### 2024 WPA Predator World Junior Championships Boys 17 & Under

#### New Zealand

- 1 Revo Maimre  
 2 Walter Laikre  
 3 Cheng Yen Lin  
 3 Jakub Chrobot

## Sep 02 - Sep 08

### 2024 WPA Predator World Junior Championships Boys 19 & Under

#### New Zealand

- 1 Mika van Berkel  
 2 Adrian Prasad  
 3 Amar Kang  
 3 Felix Vogel

## Sep 02 - Sep 08

### 2024 WPA Predator World Junior Championships Girls

#### New Zealand

- 1 Sofia Mast  
 2 Savannah Easton  
 3 Ming-Ling Wang  
 3 Shirin Volery

## Sep 06 - Sep 08

### Seattle Nineball Open

#### Ox Billiards

- Seattle, Washington  
 1 Georgi Georgiev \$6,000  
 2 Lukas Fracasso-Verner \$3,200  
 3 Daniel Sardoncillo \$1,600  
 3 Jeremy Long \$1,600  
 5 Jonas Souto Comino \$900

- 5 Max Eberle \$900  
 5 Nick De Leon \$900  
 5 Oscar Dominguez \$900  
 9 Blake Baker \$500  
 9 James Davee \$500  
 9 Keith Yip \$500  
 9 Mason Koch \$500  
 9 Ryan Carden \$500  
 9 Sam Henderson \$500  
 9 Simon Pickering \$500  
 9 Tyler Styer \$500

## Sep 07 - Sep 07

### JPNEWT Tour 2024 Stop #6

#### Stokers Bar & Billiards

- Pelham, NH  
 1 Briana Miller \$720  
 2 Erica Testa \$520  
 3 Ashley Benoit \$320  
 4 Jane Im \$220

## Sep 07 - Sep 07

### Predator Tri State Tour 2024 Stop

#### Shooters Family Billiards

- Wayne, New Jersey  
 1 Hunter Sullivan \$1,000  
 3 Clint Pires \$530  
 3 Rosanne Daw \$530  
 5 Bob Toomey \$110  
 5 Christian Taea \$110

## Sep 07 - Sep 08

### Q City 9-Ball Tour Stop

#### Dot's Cue Club

- Rocky Mount, NC  
 1 Steven Page \$650  
 2 Nathan Childress \$420  
 3 Reagan Wallace \$260  
 4 Ricky Barrow \$150  
 5 Frank Leahy \$105  
 5 Paul Scarboro \$105

## Sep 13 - Sep 15

### 2024 Pennsylvania Open

#### Bluegrass Billiards

- Philadelphia, Pa

- 1 Skyler Woodward \$8,600
- 2 Jonas Souto Comino \$5,600
- 3 Tyler Styer \$2,800
- 3 Vitaliy Patsura \$2,800
- 5 Alex Bausch \$1,400
- 5 Mika Immonen \$1,400
- 5 Nathan Childress \$1,400
- 5 Oscar Dominguez \$1,400
- 9 Georgi Georgiev \$700
- 9 Landon Hollingsworth \$700
- 9 Lukas Fracasso-Verner \$700
- 9 Mhet Vergara \$700
- 9 Rob Krull \$700
- 9 Roland Garcia \$700
- 9 Shawn Bogutskie \$700

## Sep 14 - Sep 15

### Joss Tour 2024-2025 Stop 1

#### Winnie Bar and Billiards

Laconia, NH

- 1 Tsephel Tenzin \$1,000
- 2 DJ Hopkins \$700
- 3 Dave Hall \$500
- 4 Bob Mandenjian \$400
- 5 Beau Powers \$275
- 5 Scott Haskell \$275
- 7 Ray McNamara \$175
- 7 Xhuljiano Kamxhiu \$175
- 9 Doug Masiero \$100
- 9 Geoff James \$100
- 9 Jeremy Bean \$100
- 9 Peter Mac \$100

## Sep 14 - Sep 14

### Q City 9-Ball Tour Stop

#### The Clubhouse

Lynchburg, Virginia

- 1 Collin Hall \$500
- 2 James Clay \$300
- 3 Robert Cuneo \$150
- 4 James Boddy \$105

## Sep 14 - Sep 15

### Joss Tour 2025-2025 Stop 1

#### Second Chance

#### Winnie Bar and Billiards

Laconia, NH

- 1 Geoff James \$340
- 2 Jeff Dunn \$220
- 3 Andrea Duvall \$160
- 4 Mike Chandronnait \$100

## Sep 14 - Sep 22

### 2024 China Open Ladies Division

#### Shanghai China

- 1 Han Yu \$36,000
- 2 Xiao Tong Wang \$18,000
- 3 Chieh-Yu Chou \$9,000
- 3 Rubilen Amit \$9,000
- 5 Chia Hua Chen \$5,400
- 5 Chihiro Kawahara \$5,400
- 5 Siming Chen \$5,400
- 5 Tzu-Chien Wei \$5,400
- 9 Chezka Centeno \$2,700
- 9 Jasmin Ouschan \$2,700
- 9 Kristina Zlateva \$2,700
- 9 Seo Seoa \$2,700
- 9 Soledad Ayala \$2,700
- 9 Wan-Ling Wang \$2,700
- 9 Xiao-Fang Fu \$2,700
- 9 Yu Ying Xia \$2,700

## Sep 14 - Sep 22

### 2024 China Open

#### Shanghai China

- 1 Joshua Filler \$40,000
- 2 Hayato Hijikata \$20,000
- 3 Konrad Juszczyszyn \$10,000
- 3 Naoyuki Oi \$10,000
- 5 Jeffrey De Luna \$6,000
- 5 Jui An Hsu \$6,000
- 5 Jung-Lin Chang \$6,000
- 5 Mieszko Fortunski \$6,000
- 9 Alex Pagulayan \$3,000
- 9 Daniel Maciol \$3,000
- 9 Dimitris Loukatos \$3,000
- 9 Jin-Hu Dang \$3,000
- 9 Kun Lin Wu \$3,000
- 9 Lin Ta-Li \$3,000
- 9 Wojciech Szewczyk \$3,000
- 9 Zhe Yang \$3,000
- 17 Alexandros Kazakis \$2,000
- 17 Bader Al Awadi \$2,000
- 17 Carlo Biado \$2,000
- 17 Denis Grabe \$2,000
- 17 J. Schertl \$2,000
- 17 Jian-Bo Fu \$2,000
- 17 Luca Menn \$2,000
- 17 Maxmimilliano Ossandon \$2,000
- 17 Pham Phuong Nam \$2,000
- 17 Po Cheng Kuo \$2,000
- 17 Sanjin Pehlivanovic \$2,000
- 17 Sergey Lutsker \$2,000
- 17 Shi Wenhai \$2,000
- 17 Toru Kuribayashi \$2,000
- 17 Zhao-Hui Xie \$2,000
- 17 Zhen Qi Xue \$2,000

## Sep 14 - Sep 15

### 2nd Annual Stevie Chan Memorial

#### Piazza's Sports Bar

Aurora, Colorado

- 1 Ruben Bautista \$4,500
- 2 Mike Banks Jr. \$2,800
- 3 Sergio Rivas \$2,000
- 4 Sharik Sayed \$1,500
- 5 Tom D'Alfonso \$1,000
- 5 Tony Chohan \$1,000
- 7 Jordan Holman \$600
- 7 Ruben Silva \$600
- 9 Andrew Pettenger \$300
- 9 Billy Skinner \$300
- 9 Nick Tafoya \$300
- 9 Rich Chan \$300
- 13 Aaron Goodwin \$225
- 13 Donovan Pedroncelli \$225
- 13 Kiko Ibarra \$225
- 13 Steven Wyatt \$225
- 17 Bill Hellmer \$150
- 17 Dave Gross \$150
- 17 Derrick McMaster \$150
- 17 Fernando Corona \$150
- 17 Ian Costello \$150
- 17 Jamie Pluta \$150
- 17 Marc Vidal Claramunt \$150
- 17 Mike Hellmer \$150

## Sep 21 - Sep 22

### NWPA Tour 2024 Stop 5

#### Legacy Billiards Bar & Grill

Spokane, Washington

- 1 Emilyn Callado \$420
- 1 Kathie MacDonald \$860
- 2 Gigi Callejas \$300
- 3 Janna Sue Nelson \$200
- 3 Jeanne Christiansen \$420
- 4 Meadow Klingler \$120
- 4 Nicole Donisi \$280
- 5 Julie Cook \$90
- 5 Katherine Robertson \$180
- 5 Khanh Ngo \$90
- 5 Sophia Tran \$180
- 7 Alison Fischer \$60
- 7 Angela Higgins \$115
- 7 Gwen Townsend \$115
- 7 Patty West \$60
- 9 Aimee Wilson-McDonnell \$80
- 9 Chris Mundel \$80
- 9 Kristin Norris \$80
- 9 Regene Lane \$80

## Sep 21 - Sep 22

### Joss Tour 2024-2025 Stop 2

#### Yale Billiards

Wallingford, Connecticut

- 1 Jeremy Sossei \$1,150
- 2 Christoph Neumayer \$750
- 3 Yesid Garibello \$600
- 4 Alex Bausch \$450
- 5 Bob Mendenjian \$350
- 5 Ron Casanzio \$350
- 7 Jonathan Smith \$250
- 7 Suad Kantaravic \$250
- 9 Beau Powers \$150
- 9 Chris Cabrera \$150
- 9 Nick Coppola \$150
- 9 Sam Traygis \$150
- 13 Brian Vu \$100
- 13 Josh Thiele \$100
- 13 Pascal Dufresne \$100
- 13 Pete Genovese \$100

## Sep 21 - Sep 22

### 2024 DFW 9-Ball Tour Stop 9

#### Jeffro's Billiards

Canton, Tx

- 1 Ramon Rodriguez \$710
- 2 Cain Austin \$490
- 3 Pasini Taloa \$350
- 4 Tony Mathew \$230
- 5 Mark Johnson \$160
- 5 Neil Siddawi \$160
- 7 Juan Parra \$100
- 7 Payton Bernard \$100

## Sep 21 - Sep 21

### Q City 9-Ball Tour Stop

#### Mickey Milligan's Sports Bar

New Bern, NC

- 1 Jack Whitfield \$500
- 2 Jerry Cannon \$300
- 3 Larry Cheek \$140
- 4 Delton Howard \$105
- 5 Glenn Weatherly \$55
- 5 Wilson Dorsey \$55

## Sep 21 - Sep 22

### Joss Tour 2024-2025 Stop 2

#### Second Chance

#### Yale Billiards

Wallingford, Connecticut

- 1 Dan Sharlow \$300
- 2 Rick Bentley \$200
- 3 Troy Fortin \$150

- 4 James Tedford \$90
- 5 Chris Crawford \$50
- 5 Demian Provost \$50

## Sep 23 - Sep 29

### 2024 Battle of the Bull

#### Wolf's Den Billiards

Roanoke, Virginia

- 1 Billy Thorpe \$17,000
- 2 John Morra \$9,000
- 3 Gregorio Sanchez \$5,050
- 3 Roberto Gomez \$5,050
- 5 Jeremy Sossei \$2,100
- 5 Oscar Dominguez \$2,100
- 5 Shane Van Boening \$2,100
- 5 Vitaliy Patsura \$2,100
- 9 Anthony Meglino \$1,000
- 9 Doug Shulz \$1,000
- 9 Eduard Bregu \$1,000
- 9 Landon Hollingsworth \$1,000
- 9 Roland Garcia \$1,000
- 9 Shane Wolford \$1,000
- 9 Skyler Woodward \$1,000
- 9 Tyler Styer \$1,000

## Sep 23 - Sep 29

### 2024 Battle of the Bull One Pocket

#### Wolf's Den Billiards

Roanoke, Virginia

- 1 Shane Van Boening \$8,000
- 2 Danny Smith \$4,250
- 3 Anthony Meglino \$2,000
- 3 Lukas Fracasso-Verner \$2,000
- 5 Billy Thorpe \$800
- 5 Jeremy Seaman \$800
- 5 Roberto Gomez \$800
- 5 Roland Garcia \$800

## Sep 26 - Sep 29

### WPBA Olhausen Colorado Classic

#### Felt Billiards

Englewood, CO

- 1 Marharyta Fefilava \$8,000
- 2 Pia Filler \$5,500
- 3 Kristina Zlateva \$4,000
- 4 Monica Webb \$3,000
- 5 Ashley Benoit \$2,000
- 5 Briana Miller \$2,000
- 7 Kaylee McIntosh \$1,500
- 7 Sofia Mast \$1,500
- 9 April Larson \$1,275
- 9 Ashley Rice \$1,275

- 9 Brittany Bryant \$1,275
- 9 Kristina Tkach \$1,275
- 13 Caroline Pao \$1,000
- 13 Emily Duddy \$1,000
- 13 Loree Jon Hasson \$1,000
- 13 Pamela Kelly \$1,000
- 17 Betsy Sundholm \$500
- 17 JoAnn Mason Parker \$500
- 17 Kennedy Meyman \$500
- 17 Lisa Cossette \$500
- 17 Nicole Keeney \$500
- 17 Stephanie Mitchell \$500
- 17 Susan Williams \$500
- 17 Veronique Menard \$500

## Sep 28 - Sep 28

### Garden State Pool Tour Amateur Stop

#### Shooter's Family Billiards

Wayne, NJ

- 1 Patrick Gutierrez \$600
- 2 Jose Mendez \$300
- 3 Tim Clark \$200
- 4 Pascal Dufresne \$140

## Sep 28 - Sep 29

### Jersey Girl Bayou Bash

#### Buffalo's Billiards

Jefferson, La

- 1 Jeff Phillips \$2,500
- 2 Jose Loera \$1,500
- 3 Keith Kennedy \$1,000
- 4 Klumor Toro \$680
- 5 Brent Harris \$500
- 5 Clarence Moore \$500
- 7 Grace Garretson \$450
- 7 Roger Hibachiy \$450
- 9 Audi Gutierrez \$200
- 9 Daryl Warwick \$200
- 9 Diego Moran \$200
- 9 Dwight Connie \$200

## Sep 28 - Sep 28

### Q City 9-Ball Tour Stop

#### Borderline Billiards

Bristol, TN

- 1 Eric Roberts \$400
- 2 Reid Vance \$200
- 3 Mike Skeens \$150
- 4 Zach Wilson \$55

# HALL OF FAME BANQUET

THE BIGGEST NIGHT IN POOL

STAGED AT THE MOSCONI CUP

FRIDAY, NOV. 29, AT 6:00 PM

CARIBE ROYALE HOTEL  
ORLANDO, FLA.

HONORING

**CAPTAIN  
AMERICA**

## SHANE VAN BOENING

- World 9-Ball Champion - 2022
- World 8-Ball Champion - 2023
- Five-Time U.S. Open Champion
- 17-Time Mosconi Cup Team USA
- World Pool Masters Champion - 2014, 2015
- Derby City Master of the Table - 2011, 2012
- Four-Time Derby City 9-Ball Champion
- Five-Time U.S. Open 10-Ball Champion

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**LIMITED SEATING!**  
This event will sell out!

**\$130 Per Person**

**Table of Eight: \$1,040**

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# Upcoming Tournaments

Each month *Billiards Buzz* looks ahead at the events on our calendar to give both players and fans the information they may use to plan their activities.

## OCTOBER/NOVEMBER

### 2024 Peri 9-Ball Open

**Oct 01 - Oct 04**

Vietnam

### Northeast 9-Ball Open XXXVI

**Oct 05 - Oct 06**

Utica Billiards On The Boulevard  
Utica, New York

### OTH Tournaments 599 & Under 10-Ball

**Oct 05 - Oct 06**

Brews & Cues on the Boulevard  
Glen Burnie, Maryland

### Hanoi Open Pool Championship 2024

**Oct 08 - Oct 13**

Hanoi

### Madison 3 Cushion International Open

**Oct 09 - Oct 13**

Madison, WI

### WPBA Railyard Invitational

**Oct 10 - Oct 13**

Railyard Billiards  
Louisville, KY

### Women's World 10-Ball Championship 2024

**Oct 12 - Oct 20**

Puerto Rico

### Joss Tour 2024-2025 Stop 5

**Oct 12 - Oct 13**

Brickhouse Billiards  
N. Syracuse, New York

### OTH Tournaments 599 & Under Split Bracket 9-Ball

**Oct 12 - Oct 13**

Cambridge, Maryland

### Reyes Cup

**Oct 15 - Oct 18**

Manila

### West Coast Women's Tour 2024 Stop 6

**Oct 19 - Oct 19**

Family Billiards  
San Francisco, CA

### Joss Tour 2024-2025 Stop 6

**Oct 19 - Oct 20**

Forest City Billiards  
Portland, ME

### 2024 Maryland State Bar Table 8-Ball Championships

**Oct 19 - Oct 20**

Brews & Cues on the Boulevard  
Glen Burnie, Maryland

### 16th Annual "Cues for the Cure" Breast Cancer Fundraiser

**Oct 19 - Oct 19**

Corner Pocket  
Largo, FL

### NWPA Tour 2024 Stop 6

**Oct 26 - Oct 27**

Ox Billiards  
Seattle, Washington

### Joss Tour 2024-2025 Stop 7

**Oct 26 - Oct 27**

The Golden Cue Billiard Lounge  
Albany, NY

### 1050 & Under 9-Ball Partners

**Oct 26 - Oct 26**

Bank Shot Bar & Grill  
Laurel, MD

### West Coast Women's Tour 2024 Stop 7

**Nov 02 - Nov 02**

Jimmy's Billiards  
Milpitas, California

### Joss Tour 2024-2025 Stop 8

**Nov 02 - Nov 03**

Raxx Pool Room, Sports Bar & Grill  
West Hempstead, NY

### 36th Ocean State 9-Ball Championship

**Nov 09 - Nov 10**

Snookers - Sports Billiards, Bar & Grill  
Providence, RI

### 1100 & Under 10-Ball Partners

**Nov 09 - Nov 09**

Center Pocket Billiards  
Bowie, Maryland

### Medalla Light Puerto Rico Open 2024

**Nov 11 - Nov 16**

San Juan, Puerto Rico

### 2024 International 9-Ball Open

**Nov 18 - Nov 22**

St. Augustine, FL

### 2024 Capital City Billiards Invitational

**Nov 21 - Nov 24**

Concord, NH

### 2024 American Straight Pool Championship

**Nov 23 - Nov 26**

St. Augustine, FL

### Mosconi Cup XXXI

**Nov 30 - Dec 03**

Caribe Royale  
Orlando, Florida

### 2024 Maryland State Bar Table 10-Ball Championships

**Nov 30 - Dec 01**

Brews & Cues on the Boulevard  
Glen Burnie, Maryland

# AZBILLIARDS MONEY LIST

	NAME	COUNTRY	\$ AMOUNT	
	Fedor Gorst	 USA	453.013,00 US\$	
	Joshua Filler	 GER	285.413,00 US\$	↑
	Shane Van Boening	 USA	186.538,00 US\$	↓
	Carlo Biado	 PHI	130.550,00 US\$	
	Eklent Kaci	 ALB	128.007,00 US\$	
	Mickey Krause	 DEN	81.468,00 US\$	
	Naoyuki Oi	 JAP	80.632,00 US\$	↑
	Johann Chua	 PHI	76.250,00 US\$	↓
	Kristina Tkach	 RUS	74.938,00 US\$	↑
	Denis Grabe	 EST	73.991,00 US\$	↓

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Nov. 18<sup>th</sup> - 26<sup>th</sup> 2024

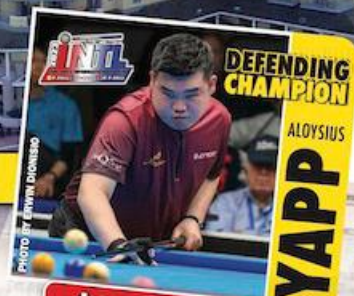
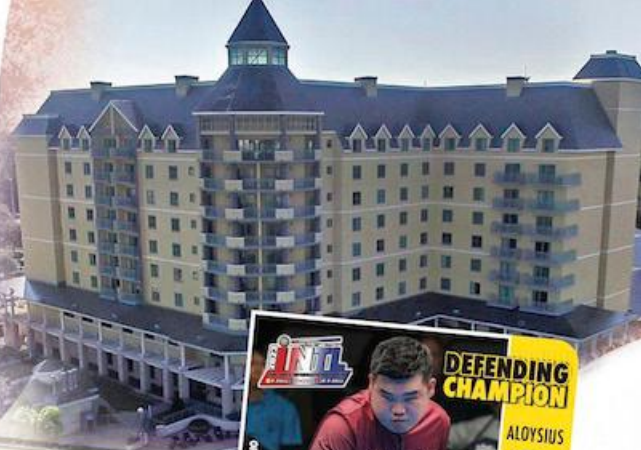
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INTL

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

14 INTERNATIONAL STRAIGHT POOL OPEN

Formerly Peter Burrows' American 14.1 Straight Pool Championship

48 - 64 Players — \$400 Entry

ROUND ROBIN FORMAT — FINAL 16 WILL ADVANCE TO SINGLE ELIMINATION — FIRST PRIZE \$10,000

\$30,000 added

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

JR 2024 JUNIOR 9-BALL INTERNATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP JR

16-PLAYER JUNIOR MEN'S and 8-PLAYER JUNIOR WOMEN'S DIVISIONS

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