

# Billiards Buzz

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# Styer On Fire



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# FROM THE Head Rail

MIKE HOWERTON

**S**o, I had one of those milestone birthdays the other day that starts to get you thinking about the years you've followed the game and the experiences that you've had. Then I saw two things that got a chuckle from me.

I saw a post on the forums about a top player who was on some podcast and commented on how the prize money in pool is too top heavy and how the top pros have to finish in the top 6-8 players in order to make any money at a lot of these events.

It was the same things that players have been complaining about for as long as I've been reporting on the game. Almost verbatim.

The other thing I found amusing was an article from 1990 about a new organization was being created whose purpose was to "negotiate with the International Olympic Committee for cue sports to be played in upcoming olympiads." Basically the same thing that organizations talk about today as their big goal for the success of the game.

I guess the message behind all of this is that if you are playing the game for the money or the olympic glory, you might have chosen the wrong occupation.

Me, I do it cause I love the game.

Until next month,  
Mike



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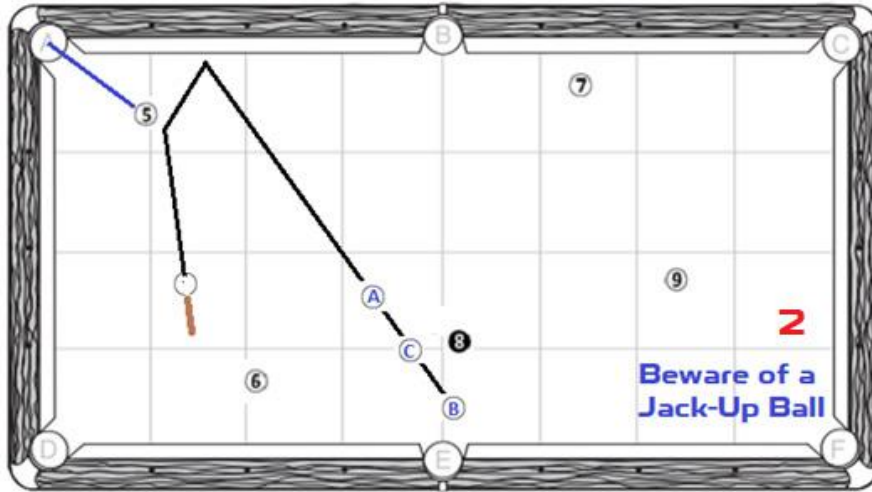


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The best choice is to use low inside english with a very soft stroke. This is not a draw shot, but one that opens up the angle as shown, sending the cue ball to Position B. The beauty of this route is that it gives you more room to work the cue ball, which leaves you with a very an easy shot on the 8.

**TEXTBOOK POOL VS. DIAGRAM POOL**

When someone is playing very precise pool and/or their method looks like a model for how a players stands and strokes, that player is said to be playing textbook pool. While this is meant to be a compliment of the highest order, the word textbook sounds like something you would study in school, with all of the negative connotations that has for so many people.

While my books could be considered textbooks, the key is to take the knowledge in them, including that expressed in the illustrations, and get on the table and turn it into playing knowledge. So, perhaps saying that someone plays **Diagram Pool**, as in how a shot would be shown on a diagram, would be a fresh new way to describe fine pool.

Ball could force you to have to elevate your cue and bridge over it.

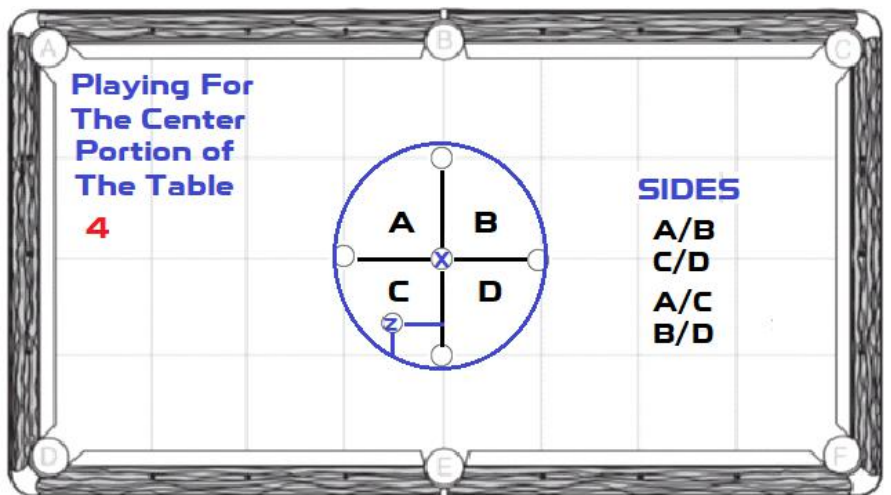
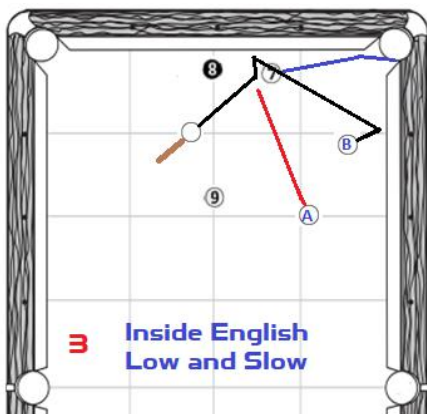
The diagram shows three results going from the 5-ball to the 6. Position A leaves you with a very playable route to the 7-ball. The shot on the 6 from Position B is a very makeable backcut. Now look at the cue ball in Position C. The 8-ball is the Jack-Up Ball. From here the best you can do is to roll in the 6-ball and play a long cross table cut on the 7-ball.

If you have super speed control, you might be able to avoid a jack-up shot. But even top pros will often find themselves in Position C. So, the best you can do is try to dial in your best feel for speed during your

WUS and hope for the desired outcome.

**INSIDE LOW SPIN**

The route in **Diagram #3** is especially useful late in the game when you want your position to be as precise as possible. In this situation, if you play a conventional route, you could end up at Position A. Now you would have to go to the opposite end rail and back, a route that is fraught with danger. You might also try to draw into the 8 and see what you get, but even fine players are known to misplay this shot and end up having to play safe.



And it would certainly separate our sport from the classroom. Since you in the pool world have a say in things like this, I would like to hear what you think of this concept, or if you have another term that could replace textbook pool.

## CENTER ZONE PLANNING

You've probably heard commentators say that, when in doubt, you should send the cue ball to the center. I am sure they don't mean the exact center, which is shown by Cue Ball X in **Diagram #4**. But what could "to the center" really mean?

In this ultra-precise game of ours, I thought a simple visual could help in returning that cue ball to a more advantageous location than just in "the center." Hence, the four sections as shown. You could start by envisioning two sides of the table going end to end. This would give you Side A/C and Side B/D. Or you could go A/B on one half, and C/D on the other. You could further narrow down your zones to A, B, C, or D. And another refinement could come from approximating how far up from the first diamond on the side pocket, and how far from the line between the sides might you want

the cue ball to stop. In the example Position Z is ideal.

The whole purpose is to see that wide open space "in the center" a little more precisely, to visualize sections, and to imagine more specific locations within them as landmarks to be used in planning your position plays. While this proposed method is a work-in-progress, IMO it is far better than simply saying that Player X needs to send the cue ball to the center of the table.

## MORITZ'S ROUTINE

Players are copy cats, so even the top players in the world will, sometimes unbeknownst to themselves, incorporate the methods of their fellow pros. And when amateurs viewers see a player get good results, they may think that they should try to emulate that technique.

While watching Moritz Neuhausen storm to the title in the European Open, I got a good read on his game. I suppose that I am stating the obvious when I say that he's got the total package – break, position play, patterns, defense, and technique. And then there is that stroke: He has a smooth delivery, drops his elbow

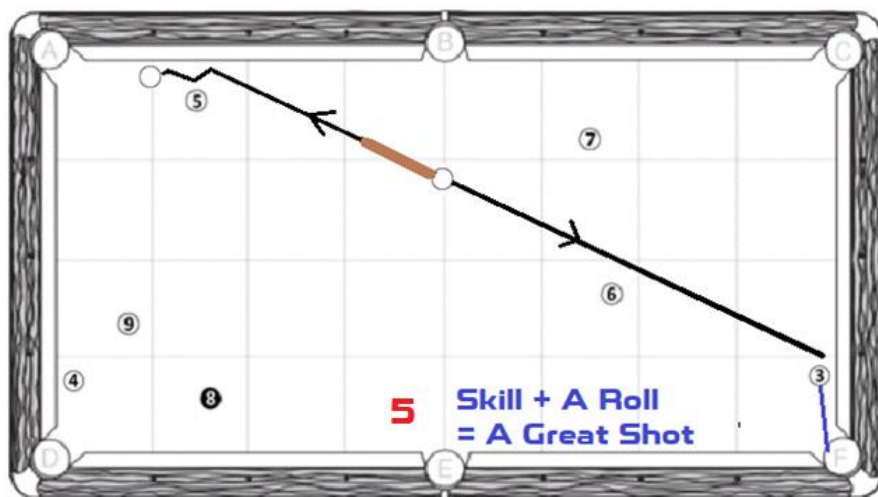
on the follow through, and stays down long after contact.

Power shots are a great indicator of a player's technique because, even at the pro level, so many break down at a speed of 8 (very hard) and above. But not Moritz's. As an example, on one shot he sent the cue ball 7 diamonds down the table and drew it all the way back to the other end rail – with apparent ease! Now that I am done with his much deserved plaudits, it's time to examine his routine prior to landing on the table.

Moritz does an extreme version of the Walkover. He will walk over to the straight in line, get into a super low crouch, bob his head and/or sway left and right while doing a process that burns several seconds off the clock. While most players will use shortcuts when possible to save time and energy, Moritz insists on using his elongated version of the Walkover even on easy shots on the 9, including those with cut angles less than 5 degrees! What purpose does this super intense Walkover process serve?

Interestingly, as game 3 of the finals was concluding and Moritz was preparing to shoot the 9, Karl Boyes said "He has his own sort of quirky routine." After he barely made the 9 in the far right side of the pocket, the other commentator said "I don't know what is going on there. It's almost as if he talked himself out of it."

Another unusual move is that, before setting up for a shot, Moritz meticulously places the chalk on a diamond near to his shooting position, a move I have not seen any other player use. And finally, he is constantly waving his right hand



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# Bridges Don't Miss Balls— Bad Bridge Choices Do

ANTHONY BEELER

**I learned the importance of bridge selection the hard way in a big tournament years ago. I was playing kind of set where everyone gets quiet, the room feels tighter, and every little decision feels like it's being watched by the table itself.**

I got down on a shot that looked simple—cue ball frozen to the rail, object ball near the corner. In my head it was automatic: “Just make it with some power.”

But my bridge choice wasn't automatic. It was lazy.

I tried to “make do” with a normal extended rail bridge on top of the rail. The cue sat a little high. It wasn't locked in. During the stroke, the cue tip wandered just enough from the speed of the shot that I jabbed at it. The object ball rattled. And the guy across from me smiled like he'd just scratched a winning lottery ticket.

Afterward, an old-timer named Edgar Wilson said something I never forgot: “Son, you picked the wrong bridge for the job. That wasn't a stroke problem. That was a tool problem.”

That's exactly what bridges are—tools. And the best players treat them that way. I've watched pro player **John Brumback** take a full minute—or two—just to find the *right* bridge on a tricky shot. He'll get down, build a bridge, and if it doesn't feel right, he gets up. Then he tries another. Not because he's unsure, but because he understands something most players ignore: **the bridge is the foundation of the stroke.** If the foundation feels unstable, or you feel the least bit uncomfortable, the shot is already compromised.

This is especially important in situations where standard bridges *can't* be used—cue ball frozen to a rail and you need to hit the shot with power, or maybe you are wedged in an awkward spot where your normal hand position doesn't fit. In those moments,



trying to force your usual bridge is a losing strategy. The correct move is to search for a bridge that gives you stability, comfort, and a level cue.

Most players know the basics: open bridge, closed bridge, rail bridge, and extended rail. But two bridges that you hardly ever see people use—and almost everyone should have—are the **Power Extended Rail Bridge** and the **Tweener Bridge**.

## The Power Extended Rail Bridge (for cue ball frozen to the rail)

When the cue ball is frozen to the rail, many players automatically go to an extended rail bridge. The problem



is that bridge isn't suited for power. The cue stick isn't locked in. That's when you need the **Power Extended Rail Bridge**, a variation of the closed bridge.

You're essentially creating a locked-in channel for the cue while extending your reach along the rail. This gives you the security of a closed bridge with the efficiency of a rail bridge. The goal is simple: **remove wobble, remove steering, and deliver the cue on line.** If Brumback is taking time to find a bridge that feels anchored, you should too.

### The Tweener Bridge (when rail bridge is too long and the open or closed bridge is too short)

The second bridge is the **Tweener Bridge**, and it solves a very common problem: sometimes a rail bridge is bit too long but using a standard open or closed bridge on the slate is too short.

This happens when the cue ball is close enough to the rail that you need the rail as an anchor, but the bridge length is too long to strike the shot accurately.

Here's how to do it: **rest the heel of your hand on the rail, and rest three fingers on the slate. Use the thumb and index finger to form a closed bridge.** That hybrid contact gives you a stable base and a shorter bridge than a full rail bridge, but more reach and structure than a standard bridge on the cloth. It's a perfect "in-between" option that keeps your bridge solid.

### The rule that makes every bridge better

**Keep the cue as level as possible.**

When the butt rises and the tip drops, you introduce unintended swerve into the shot. A level cue is a straight cue, and a level cue builds confidence and accuracy.

So, the next time you miss a shot you "know you can make," don't just blame your stroke. Ask the smarter question: **Did I choose the right bridge for the job?** Because in pool, the bridge is the handshake between your brain and the cue—and the wrong handshake ruins the deal.

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

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# CHALKIN' UP THE MEMORIES...



**After I returned to Los Angeles, I got back into my routine. I was still working a few days a week for the doctor at the Long Beach VA Hospital or practicing in the afternoons at Bellflower or Hollywood Billiards, meeting Freddie or Kelly after work and hitting the Stagger Inn or one of the pool rooms.**

**S**oon it was time to get ready for the first women's division at the Last Call For 9 Ball event in Atlantic City, NJ. One of the local pool rooms held a tournament for the men and the women with the first prize being the \$500 entry fee. As usual, it was Robin Dodson and I in the finals and I won the paid entry fee.

A few days later, Kelly and I headed to LAX for the long flight to Newark.

The tournament was held at the Resorts International Hotel & Casino – it was the first hotel that opened when New Jersey passed casino gambling. It was huge and after we checked in, we headed down to the tournament room.

It was great seeing some of my old friends from the northeast again in addition to seeing all the other players. The format for all three divisions – men's, women's and seniors – was single elimination with races to seven, two out of three sets. Play was to begin the next day so after the players meeting and draw, they closed the tournament room. Everyone except a few of us headed down to the casino or to get something to eat. I went to the practice room – it would stay open until 3 am.

I walked in and saw that the room had six tables. All were being used by two

players except one – Luther Lassiter was hitting balls alone.

I saw Buddy Hall next to Lassiter's table so went over to say hello. He saw I had my cue with me so he introduced me to Luther and asked if he'd mind hitting some balls with me.

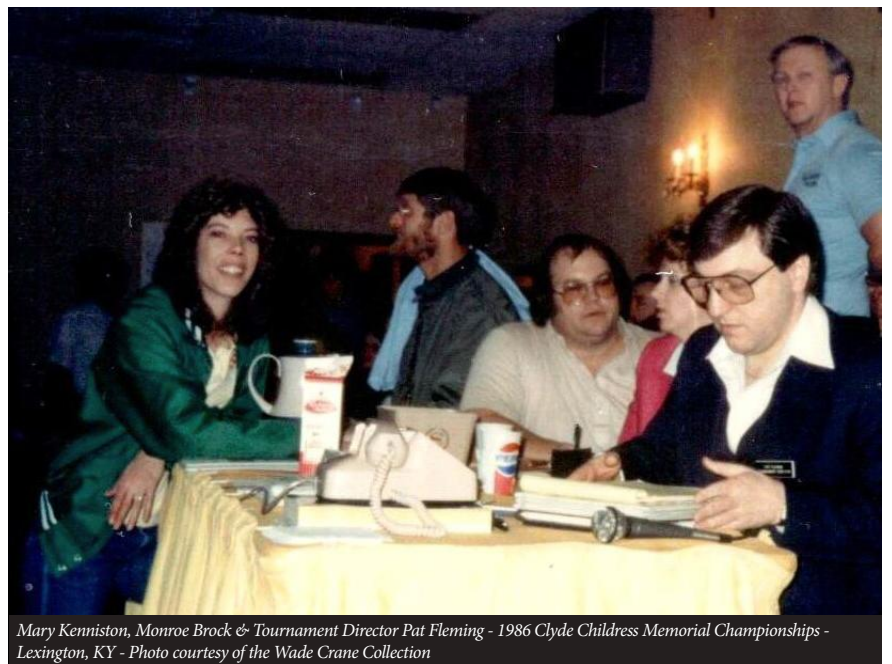
Graciously, he agreed and raked the balls in. Grabbing the rack, he told me to break the first game.

I was so nervous! I was going to play with Luther Lassiter!

I broke the balls, made one and luckily for me, it was a road map – I ran out. I went to rack for Lassiter but he told me, "No. Go ahead – I'll shoot when you miss."

With my nerves settling down, I broke and ran that rack too. As he grabbed the rack again, he looked over at Buddy with an eyebrow raised.

Buddy grinned and said, "You didn't think I'd saddle you with someone who couldn't play, did you?!!!"



Mary Kenniston, Monroe Brock & Tournament Director Pat Fleming - 1986 Clyde Childress Memorial Championships - Lexington, KY - Photo courtesy of the Wade Crane Collection



*The Maverick Club - early '90s - Photo courtesy of Kentucky History*

Luther smiled and looked at me as he answered, “She’s a mouth breather. All the best players are mouth breathers!”

Guess Luther put the rack to me because the next break I came up dry. He broke and ran the next three until he played a safety on me. I kicked and hit it but sold out.

We ended up playing for a few more hours until security came to shut the room down. During that time, Lassiter showed me a couple good safeties that I used for years.

The following day, I won my first match. My opponent in my next match was LoreeJon Ogonowski-Brown. I won the first set, she won a close one in the second set and closed out the match with a win in the third. So just like that, I was out of the tournament. And, to everyone’s surprise, so was Jean Balukas!

Peg Ledman had come out strong and knocked Jean out of the tournament in two sets. With Jean out of the tournament, Robin Dodson fought

through the bracket to get to the finals and won the tournament! Ironic, huh? I won the entry fee and she won the tournament! Guess she got the best of that deal!

Later in the tournament, I wandered over to the men’s chart looking for a match to sweat. While I was standing there, my friend, Billy Johnson,

walked up. We talked a few minutes – still looking at the board.

I noticed a name way out on the winner’s side that I didn’t recognize and said to Billy, “Wow! Who’s this Wade Crane? He’s really tearing up the winner’s side! He’s beaten some really good players!”

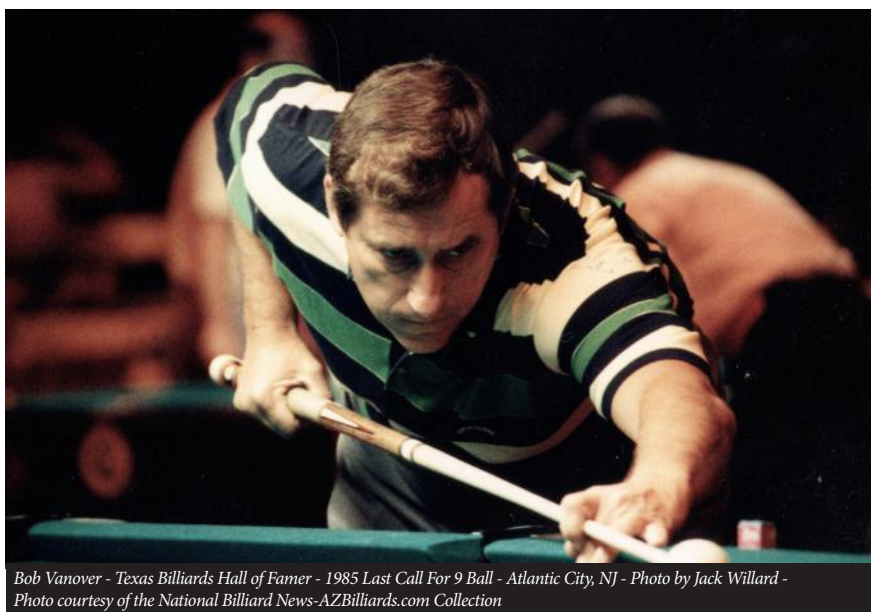
He didn’t miss a beat. He said, “Mare, don’t you know Wade Crane? How could you not know Wade Crane? Damn, girl! You know everybody!”

I said I didn’t and asked him for a description of the guy.

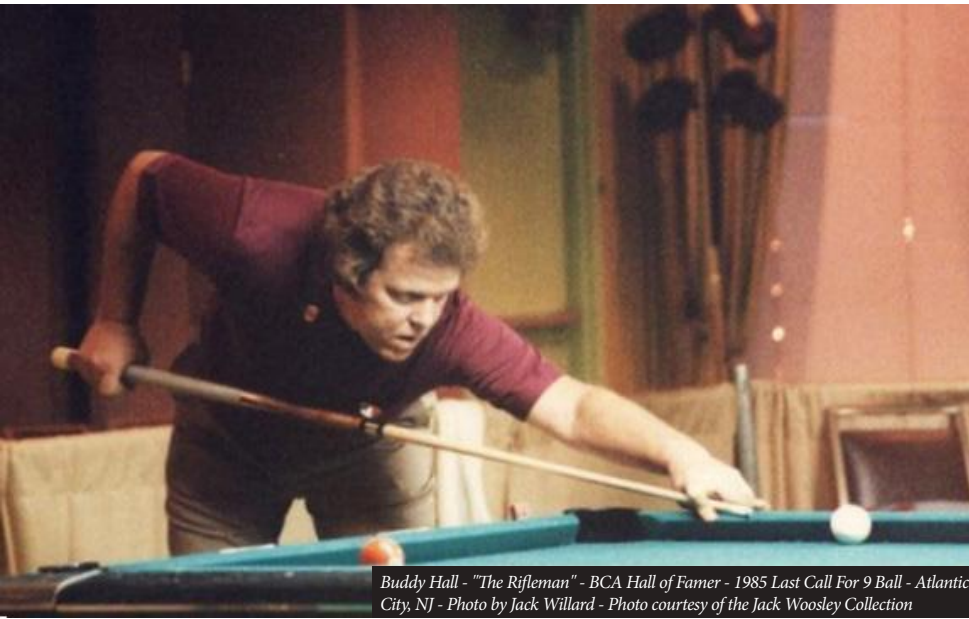
“Well,” he said, “Let’s see. He’s about my height, a little on the stocky side - really good lookin’! A snappy dresser! Plays real good – and his break! Oh, man! It’s like a thunderclap! I can’t believe you don’t know him!!!”

Now, he’s got me thinking – I’m racking my brains out trying to picture this guy! Well, he kept it up until he couldn’t keep a straight face any longer and that’s how I found out Billy Johnson was really Wade Crane!

We wandered over to sweat the finals in the Senior’s Division. Bob Vanover had looked like the favorite going in



*Bob Vanover - Texas Billiards Hall of Famer - 1985 Last Call For 9 Ball - Atlantic City, NJ - Photo by Jack Willard - Photo courtesy of the National Billiard News-AZBilliards.com Collection*



*Buddy Hall - "The Rifleman" - BCA Hall of Famer - 1985 Last Call For 9 Ball - Atlantic City, NJ - Photo by Jack Willard - Photo courtesy of the Jack Woosley Collection*

played just as good left-handed as he did with his right and even played one-handed – on the rail or in the air! I remember watching him play Ronnie Allen at the Orange County Sports Arena in Anaheim – both players shooting one handed in the air!

I'd never seen anything like it! They both broke and ran out – drawing, following and stunning the ball! It was the first time I'd ever seen where every single person in the place stopped playing to sweat a match!

He was like a one man band with a huge entourage – seemed like every Filipino in southern California went everywhere he did. Not only did Efren match up - the rooms were packed with other players sweating, betting on the side and matching up on all the other tables. Soon southern California was buzzing with the news that the Sands Regency in Reno was going to have their first nine ball event with both a men's and women's division. By Memorial Day weekend, the pool rooms had emptied out as everyone headed to Reno.

I made it to the finals against Jean Balukas again and this time, she gave

as he had won the Caesars Tahoe Seniors title in the fall and sure enough, he had reached the finals. His opponent was the legendary "Boston Shorty" - Larry Johnson. Shorty won the first set 7-4 and led the second 6-2. Vanover fought back to tie it up at six apiece and then broke dry. Shorty ran out to claim the title.

Later that evening was the men's division finals featuring my close friends, Wade Crane and Buddy Hall. Although I had bet on every match I'd sweated, I couldn't bet this one – both men were my close friends. I hated to see either one of them lose.

The match began in front of a packed house. Hall won the lag and put a three-pack together. However, Crane had come to play and it was the last time Buddy got to the table as he ran seven and out!

Crane won the lag in the second set and ran the first five racks before having to play safe after the sixth break. Hall got up and played out of the safety but Crane ran out that game and the seventh for the title!

Looking back, I'm glad I got to witness that match because it was the first

perfect .1000 score since Accu-Stats had begun documenting statistics of pool matches a couple years before!

After staying at my Mom's in north Jersey for a few days and showing Kelly my old stomping grounds, she and I headed back to Los Angeles and guess who showed up too? Efren Reyes!

Efren made the rounds – hitting all the pool rooms. He matched up and played everyone. Turned out he



*Efren Reyes - "The Magician" or "Bata" - 1986 Clyde Childress Memorial Championships - Lexington, KY - Photo courtesy of Mike Haines & Bill Porter*



*Kelly (Simpson) Oyama - "Big Mama Oyama" - 1985 US Open 9 Ball Championships - Norfolk, VA - Photo courtesy of the Pool & Billiard Magazine Collection*

me no air. She played nearly perfectly as she shot a .956 – a single set performance record at that time – and she claimed yet another title. Mike Sigel defeated Jim Rempe in the men’s finals to claim what would be the first of many events at the Sands Regency.

Later in the year, Kelly asked me what I was going to do after the WPBA National 9 Ball Championship in New London, CT. When I replied that I would probably just return to LA, she said we should go on the road. I told her that I really didn’t have the extra money to plus if I was going to go back on the road, I definitely wanted to go with a better player than me!

Laughing, she didn’t want to hear it and told me that she’d cover all the expenses – she wanted to check out Franklin, TN – just south of Nashville. She’d read that Toyota was planning on building a manufacturing plant there and thought it might be a good place to open a pool room. Hard to turn that down so we made our plans.

Well, Buddy had always been trying to get me to come to Kentucky in the

fall when the tobacco farmers were flush from selling their crops. He said we could win a lot of money. At that time, he and Earl Strickland were based in Richmond as their stake-horse, Monroe Brock, lived there and owned the Maverick Club. The Maverick Club was the site of the 1982, 1983

and 1984 Clyde Childress Memorial 9 Ball Championships. I agreed to go if we could stop there for a couple days. She was all for it.

“Magine. Action!” she laughed.

So, after the Nationals were over, we rented a car and headed south. Of course, when we got there Buddy and Earl were nowhere to be found – they were also on the road. Figured.

Since we were in town anyway, we got a room and later that night, drove over to the Maverick Club. It was a pretty big place with a bar area in the front, dance floor in the middle and about eight bar boxes in the back. The place was hopping and the music was cranked up full blast. Eric Clapton’s “Cocaine” was hot at that time and was played repeatedly all night long. Of course, when the song got to the part where Clapton sang “Cocaine,” the whole place stomped their feet and shouted “Cocaine” with him. To this day, every time I hear that song, I flash back to the Maverick Club!

We headed to the back and put our quarters up. It wasn’t long before we



*LoreJon Ogonowski-Brown - "Queen of the Hill" - BCA Hall of Famer - 1985 Last Call For 9 Ball - Atlantic City, NJ - Photo by Jack Willard - Photo courtesy of the Jack Woosley Collection*



Luther Lassiter ("Wimpy") - BCA Hall of Famer - 1985 Last Call For 9 Ball - Atlantic City, NJ - Photo by Jack Willard - Photo courtesy of the Jack Woosley Collection

were in action. My opponent didn't like it after I beat him and woofed at me to play some \$50 nine ball. I couldn't turn that down especially since he was slightly inebriated and still drinking.

He played okay and when they announced last call, I'd won about a thousand and Kelly had won a hundred or so.

We headed out the door, hit the local Waffle House and then found us a room. We were exhausted.

About ten the following morning, we were awakened by a pounding on the door. Thinking it was housekeeping,



Rommie Allen - "Fast Eddie" - One Pocket Hall of Famer - 1986 Clyde Childress Memorial Championships - Lexington, KY - Photo courtesy of Mike Haines & Bill Porter

Kelly hollered for her to come back later. The pounding continued so I got up to answer the door. Standing there was my opponent from the previous night - clean and sober this time and wanting to play some more!

I agreed and told him we'd meet him at the club at six. He agreed and turned to walk back to his car. Kelly yelled at him, "Hey! How did you find us?"

Laughing, he told us it wasn't that hard - we were the only out of state plates at the only motel in Richmond!

We got to the Maverick Club a little before six and Monroe was there getting the place ready to open for the night. Surprised to see we were still in town, I told him the guy I played the previous night wanted to play again. He told me the kid was from London, KY - his daddy owned the junkyard there and was known to lose plenty. Sounded good to us!

I went to the back to loosen up and in he walked. We flipped a coin and began playing. Since he was sober this time, I expected him to play better but he didn't - he played better stone cold drunk! After he lost another \$1500 or so, the place closed and we headed out of town - laughing all the way.

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



Wade Crane, Robin Dodson & Larry Johnson ("Boston Shorty") - 1985 Last Call For 9 Ball champions - Atlantic City, NJ - Photo courtesy of the Wade Crane Collection



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# FEFILOVA-STYER GOES UNDEFEATED TO CLAIM WPBA RAXX MEZZ OLHAUSEN CPBA INVITATIONAL

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

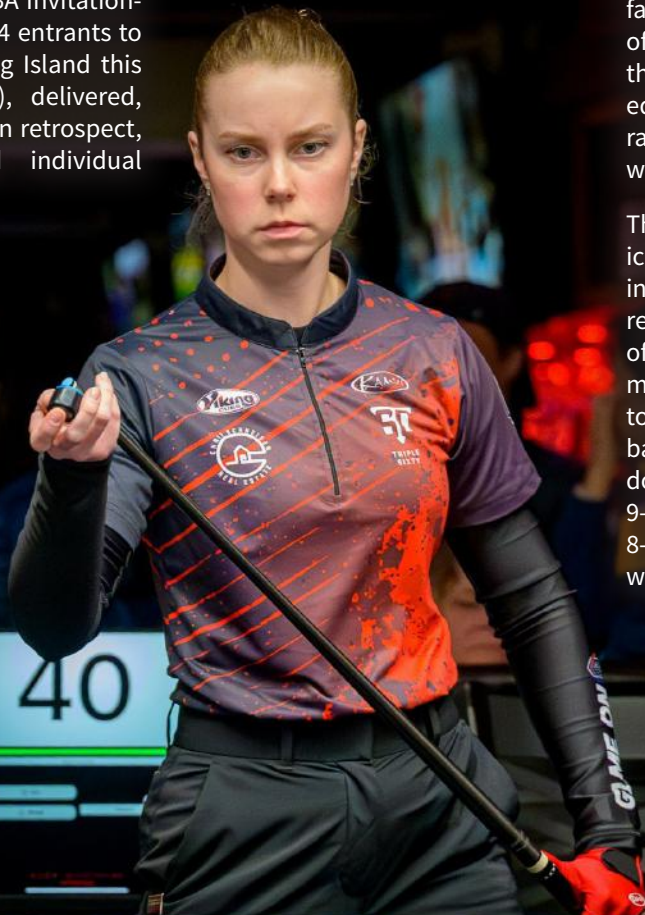
**W**e do love our double-hill finals, don't we?

In some small corner of the mind, with no influence on how it's going to play out, everybody (watching in-person or via stream), with the possible exception of the competitors themselves, is hoping for an exciting, double-hill final. And with each game that moves that hope forward, the tension mounts. The \$35,000-added WPBA Raxx Mezz Olhausen CPBA Invitational that drew a capped, 64 entrants to Raxx Pool Room on Long Island this weekend (March 12-15), delivered, 'in spades,' as they say. In retrospect, critical junctures and individual

shots in the final game play out in the mind's eye like screen-swipes on a cell phone. Evidence of tension at the table as it played out was exemplified in the last moment, when Margaret Fefilova-Styer dropped the last 9-ball to claim the event title and, with feet on the floor, literally collapsed onto the table in brief relief. Stay tuned for further details.

Ever mindful of benefits associated with community outreach, the WPBA opened its visit to Long Island with a Pick-a-Pro ProAm Challenge on Wednesday night (March 11). Local pool enthusiasts, many of whom were likely associated with leagues that play out of Raxx, were offered the opportunity to register for the event and pick a pro with whom they would compete in a 9-ball race to 2. For \$20, they could draw from an array of 10, face-down cards, each with the name of a Pro on the other side. For \$30, they could choose the Pro they wanted. Not surprisingly, the WPBA's top-ranked competitor, Kristina Tkach, was the most requested Pro.

The Pros played with a built-in handicap. When they reached the 9-ball, in either of the two games, they were required to roll a single die; each face of which detailed a requirement for making the 9-ball. They would have to either bank it, shoot behind their back, make the shot with eyes closed, do it one-handed, kick it, or put the 9-ball into the same pocket that the 8-ball had dropped into. If missed, it was game on again until one or the



Margaret Fefilova-Styer

other dropped the 9-ball.

They'd done a similar event at one of the Iron City Invitationals, which, instead of dice determining a Pro's handicap, employed a spinning wheel to accomplish the same thing, and had some alternative handicaps, like standing on one leg or using a bridge for the shot.

"The place was crowded," said the WPBA's Caroline Pao of attendance, "and there was a lot of laughing."

Things got more serious at noon on Thursday, when half the field got underway in their opening-round of races-to-8 (both sides) play. There were 11 of the 20, top-ranked WPBA competitors 'in the house' and in the absence of (most notably) Pia Filler (#2) Tzu-Chien Wei (#5), Kelly Fisher (#6), Chieh-Yu Chou (#10), Monica Webb (#12), Jasmin Ouschan (#14), and Eylul Kibaroglu (#15), there was likely to be a great deal of 'making hay while the sun shined' before it was all over. And there was. More on this, too, a little later.

On her trip to the hot seat, Styer opened with matches against Cathy McDaniel, Lisa Cossette and Angela Janic, all of whom failed to record a single rack against her. Meng-Hsia (Bean) Hung broke that 'ice' by chalking up four against her in their winners' side quarterfinal. Styer advanced and in her winners' side semifinal, drew Sofia Mast, who, just by being there, was assured of her highest finish in a WPBA event; previously 7th, twice. Mast entered the tournament at #9 in the tour rankings and along the way to this winners' side semifinal she had defeated Caroline Pao (#19) 8-4 and Kristina Zlateva (#4) 8-5. She was facing #3.

The Philippines' Rubilen Amit, in the meantime, a Women's World 9-Ball champion ('24), coming off of her best recorded earnings year with us here



at AZBilliards ('25) and was appearing in her first WPBA event, got underway for her with a shutout over Canada's Brittany Bryant. She followed with victories over Amanda Mann 8-3, Briana Miller 8-4 and, in a winners' side quarterfinal, faced the current (for a while and still) leader on the WPBA's ranking list, 'The Krystal,' Kristina Tkach. They locked up in a double-hill fight that eventually sent Tkach to the loss side and Amit to a winners' side semifinal against Kaylee McIntosh Driskell.

Mast fought a spirited battle against Styer, but it was Styer who advanced to the hot seat match 8-4. Amit gave up just a single rack to Driskell and joined her. With her 8-1 victory over Amit to claim the hot seat, Styer figuratively sat in it, having won, on average, three out of every four games that she'd played to get there.

Generally speaking, as the winners' side of the bracket dwindles down to its final two, the loss side keeps filling and re-filling up with the most likely candidates to unseat the occupant of the hot seat. When the winners' side had come down to Styer, at about 1 p.m. on Saturday, there were still eight left on the loss side. At 3 p.m., when

the winners of the 13th/16th matches moved into the 9th/12th matches, there were still eight and it was a potent mix of eight. Brittany Bryant faced Meng-Hsia (Bean) Hung, Briana Miller drew Kristina Zlateva, Ashley Benoit and Kristina Tkach squared off and last, though by no means least, Savannah Easton took on Veronique Menard.

The Loss-Side Eight came down to a final four, once Bryant eliminated Hung 8-2, Zlateva defeated Miller 8-6, Easton had gotten by Menard 8-1 and in another last, but not least (a surprise to some, and no surprise to those who've been watching Ashley Benoit's climb up the WPBA ladder lately), Benoit sent Tkach to the proverbial showers 8-5. The winners played against each other, with Zlateva shutting out Bryant, and (another surprise) Savannah Easton eliminating Benoit 8-2.

Zlateva and Easton moved on to pick up their opponents, fresh off their winners' side semifinal losses; Kaylee McIntosh Driskell and Sofia Mast, respectively. The battle between Mast and Easton, who've been waging table war against each other since they emerged from the very junior level to



join the professional arena, was one of those 'worth the price of admission' matches. Both matches for advancement to the quarterfinal were 8-5 wins; Mast over Easton (surprise to some, not so much to others) and Zlateva over Driskell.

Zlateva had her hands full in that quarterfinal vs. Mast (it's now Sunday), which came within a game of double hill, before Zlateva advanced 8-6 to the semifinal. Zlateva and Amit exchanged pre-match pleasantries and got down to the business of who was going to face the woman who'd been winning three out of every four games since Thursday. Amit earned a second shot against Styer with an 8-6 win over Zlateva.

And here we go, a race to 10 for all of the proverbial marbles, destined to be doled out in much more useful cash.

Styer and Amit traded racks through the first five games of the match that would require 19 of them before it was over. It was Styer who first broke the pattern and began a run of three racks to get out in front 5-2. They traded a pair of racks to make it 6-3 before Amit launched the match's longest run for either of them; four in a row that gave

Amit her first lead at 7-6. Just what the doctor ordered for that 'Oh boy, double-hill feeling.'

Styer fought back with two in a row to re-take the lead at 8-7. Four games left, and it was Amit who re-engaged the 'win one, lose one' pattern with which the match had begun. She tied it up, before Styer followed and reached the hill at 9-8.

Rack #18, broken by Amit, who dropped one ball, began with something of an immediate problem; a too-cozy relationship between the 3-ball and 9-ball, which, side-by-side, were facing a corner pocket, making for a possibly terrific 9-3 combination; 3-9, not so much. Once past the '3-ball problem,' each of the other balls out and about on the table were in an easily discernible, hole for every ball, connect-the-dots position. When Amit had dropped the 1-ball and turned her attention to the 2-ball, she was staring the 3-9 problem right in the face; 2-ball, down table, cue ball up table, a little closer to the rail than Amit would like to have been. Cutting the 2-ball into the right corner was the easy part. Spin on and speed of the cue ball were critical if it were going to carom off the 2, hit the short rail at an

angle that would allow it to come off that rail, move left to further bounce off the left rail and come to rest in a position to put the 3-ball where she'd just dropped the 2-ball.

It was a 'Goldilocks' problem; too much or too little of any component of the shot could turn the table over to Styer and give her the chance to clear all of the 'connect the dots' balls left. But the 'Goldilocks' cue ball, thanks to Amit, got it just right and positioned itself right where it needed to be in front of the 3-ball. Amit dropped it, connected the rest of the dots to complete a break 'n run and it was double-hill time.

Styer broke, dropping one and facing a wide-open table. With one cue ball control issue that she had to navigate, moving from the 5-ball to the 6-ball (and did), she went on to apply some well-executed draw to the 8-ball that allowed her to drop the 9, win the game and claim the 2026 Raxx Mezz Olhausen CPBA Invitational title.

The win moved Styer up to #2 on the tour rankings, ahead of the absent Pia Filler (now #3) in the WPBA standings, just behind Tkach, who remained at the top. Zlateva remained right where she was when she'd showed up on Long Island, in 4th place, while Savannah Easton moved up two 'rungs' to land in 5th. Kaylee McIntosh Driskell moved up two to #6, as Sofia Mast moved up two, as well, from #9 to #7. The absent Tzu-Chen Wei slipped down to 8th, with Kelly Fisher, right behind her in 9th place. Meng-Hisa (Bean) Hung moved up one to become the last piece of the Top 10 WPBA puzzle.

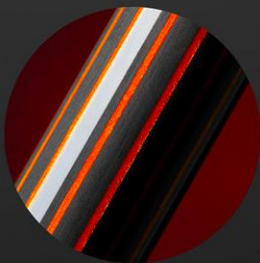
Tour representatives thanked Holden Chin and his Raxx Billiards staff for their hospitality, as well as event sponsors Mezz Cues, Olhausen Pool Tables, CPBA Billiard Cloth and HSU-nami Shafts.



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# WPBA Raxx Open Gallery



Ashley Benoit



Ashley Rice



Brittany Bryant



Caroline Pao



Julie Mason Parker



Bean Hung



Kristina Tkach



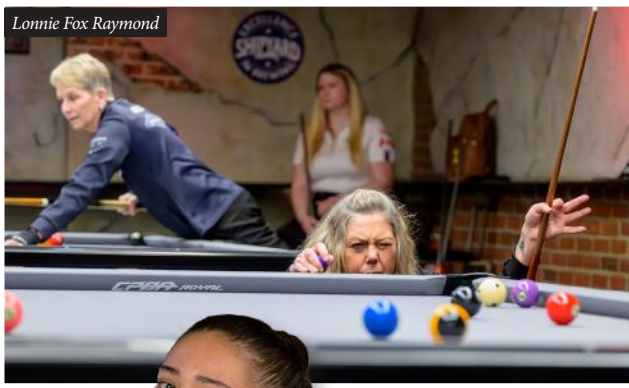
Kennedy Meyman



Savannah Easton



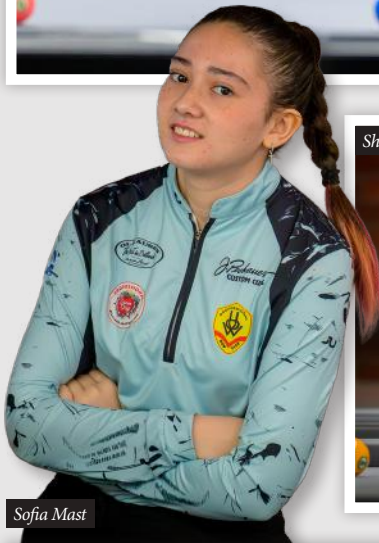
Rachel Walters



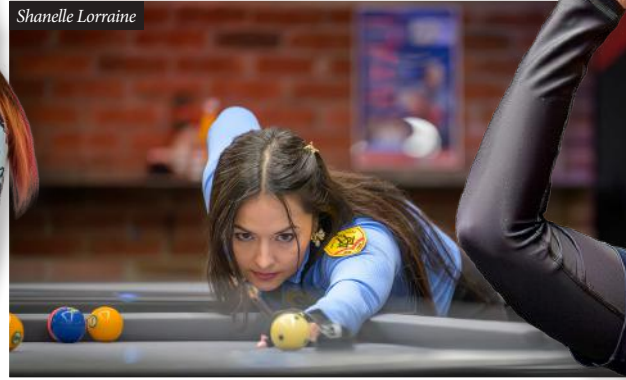
Lonnie Fox Raymond



Rubilen Amit



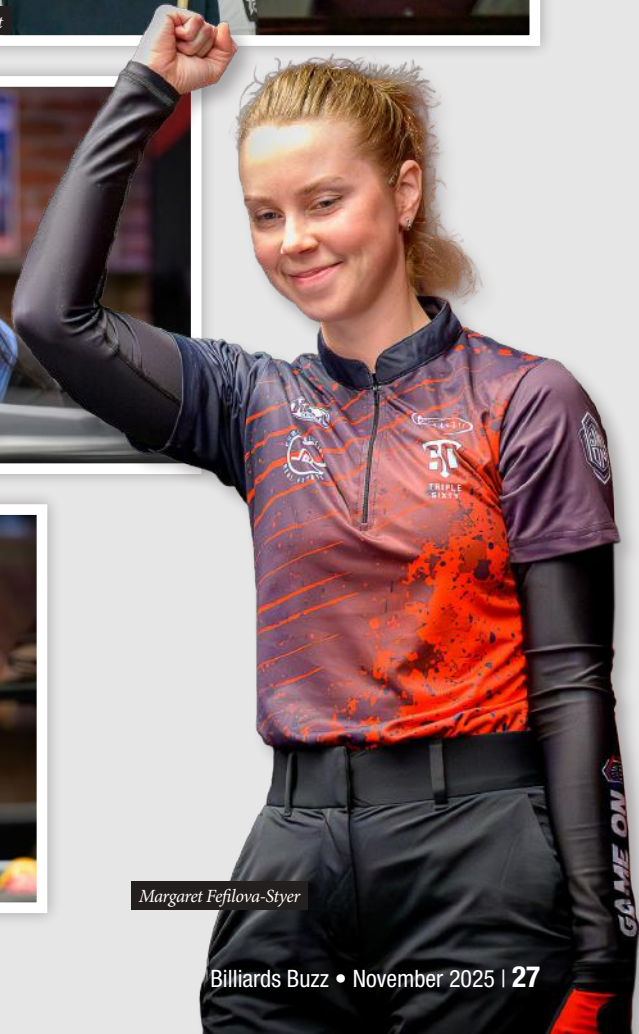
Sofia Mast



Shanelle Lorraine



Susan Mello



Margaret Fefilova-Styer

# NEUHAUSEN STUNS WITH EPIC COMEBACK

## TO WIN EUROPEAN OPEN TITLE | 2026 ROOBET EUROPEAN OPEN POOL CHAMPIONSHIP

Article and photos courtesy Matchroom Multi Sport

**Moritz Neuhausen completed a remarkable comeback to be crowned the 2026 Roobet European Open Champion, defeating Austria's Mario He in a dramatic final to secure his long-awaited maiden Major Open title on the World Nineball Tour.**

**R**eflecting on the biggest victory of his career, Neuhausen said: "This win feels different because it definitely wasn't a gift. It was a really hard-fought battle and I feel very fortunate to come out on top. I've been chasing an Open title for a long time, but even with all the tough matches this week I always believed I

had what it takes to win one. And now it's finally happened."

### Final

Moritz Neuhausen 13 – 7 Mario He

Mario He started the final in commanding fashion, capitalising immediately after winning the lag to take the opening two racks. The Austrian

continued to apply pressure with confident shot-making and strong table control, stretching his advantage to 7-2 as he looked poised to run away with the match.

But the contest soon turned dramatically. Neuhausen seized his opportunity and began building momentum





Mario He

rack by rack. With calm precision and composure, the German mounted one of the most remarkable turnarounds seen in a final, reeling off eleven consecutive racks to complete an extraordinary 13–7 comeback victory.

Neuhausen said: “First of all, congratulations to Mario — he played an amazing tournament. His recent results don’t really show how strong his game is. Today he played great and being 7–2 down was because of how well he controlled the table.

“He didn’t play badly and didn’t make any big mistakes, but somehow everything turned around for me. I stayed patient, kept believing, and today the pool gods were definitely on my side.”

Neuhausen’s route to the title was anything but straightforward. Earlier in the day he delivered a commanding 11–5 semi-final victory over Eklent Kaçi, after navigating a difficult path through the knockout stages that included wins over Robbie Capito

and Premier League Pool champion Duong Quoc Hoang on the penultimate day.

Reflecting on his week, Neuhausen said: “I honestly didn’t feel great at the start of the tournament. My game felt a little bit all over the place in the early rounds. But I kept digging deep, taking it match by match and trying to stay focused. That mindset helped me get through the tough moments, and in the end it’s the reason I made it to the final — and the reason I’m standing here with the trophy.”

The triumph marks another milestone in what has been a rapid rise for the German star. After capturing his first Matchroom Major title at last year’s Premier League Pool in Sarajevo, Neuhausen has continued to build momentum with a series of standout performances — including winning the Peri Open, reaching the Hanoi Open final, and earning Mosconi Cup MVP on his debut for Team Europe.

The 2026 Roobet European Open title now adds a maiden Major Open crown to his growing list of achievements and further cements Neuhausen’s status as one of the most formidable players on the World Nineball Tour.

The 2026 Roobet European Open Pool Championship took place at the iconic Hotel Hills in Sarajevo, Bosnia & Herzegovina, from 10–15 March, with more than 200 players from across the globe competing in the fifth edition of the prestigious Matchroom Major.

#### NEXT MATCHROOM MAJOR

The next Matchroom Major is the UK Open Pool Championship, set to take place in Brentwood, United Kingdom, from 26–31 May, where 256 of the world’s best players will battle it out for a \$225,000 prize fund.

For all the latest updates, follow Matchroom Pool on Facebook, Instagram, X, TikTok, and YouTube.

# European Open Gallery



Albin Ouschan



Fedor Gorst



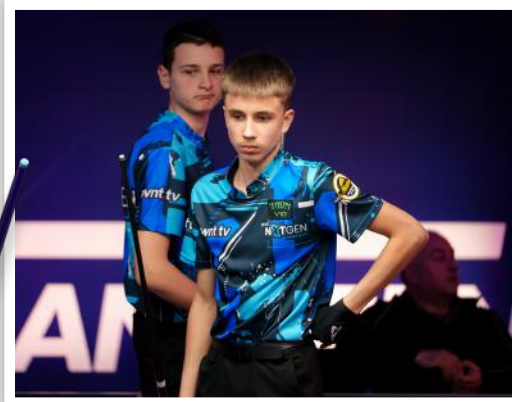
Moritz Neuhausen and Mario He



Eklent and Kledio Kaci



Joshua Filler



Duong Quoc Hoang



Muhammad Soufi



Ralf Souquet



Robbie Capito



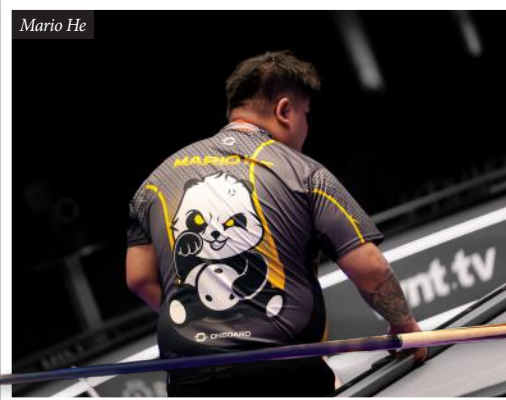
Moritz Neuhausen



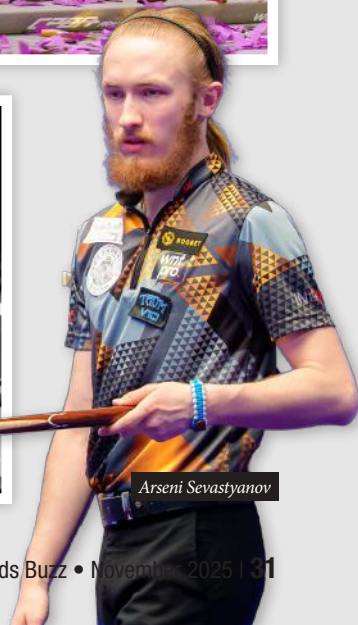
Naoyuki Oi



Emily Frazer



Mario He



Arseni Sevastyanov

# FRACASSO-VERNER GOES UNDEFEATED TO WIN WNT/INTHEBX OPEN EVENT AT RAXX ON LONG ISLAND

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

**Lukas Fracasso-Verner (LFV) is 'on track' to make 2026 his best recorded earnings year (by a lot) with us here at AZBilliards.**

**W**e've been tracking his career since 2015, recorded his previous 'best year' with us in 2025, and as we're preparing this report, is currently at the highest level he's ever attained (#41) on our 2026 AZBilliards Money Leaderboard, which hasn't 'heard' about his undefeated run at the InTheBx Open out on Long Island this weekend. Yet. The \$10,000-added, WNT qualifying event drew an international field of 57 entrants to Raxx Billiards out on Long Island this weekend (March 27-29).

The field featured six competitors sporting FargoRates in the '800's (Jayson Shaw, Konrad Juszczyszyn, Mieszko Fortunski, Moritz Newhausen, Ruslan Chinakhov, and Naoyuki Oi). There were also 12 with rates higher than LFV's 747. The 'pool gods' put their finger on the 'random draw' scale and gave him six opponents with an average FargoRate of 741.

The event was broken up into two stages; a double-elimination Stage 1 that played out until there was a Final 16, eight from each side of the bracket. A re-draw placed those 16 into four 'money' rounds of single elimination.

The 64-player, winner's side, double-elimination bracket was broken up into eight, smaller brackets, which narrowed as the rounds progressed toward advancement to Stage 2. Each of those smaller brackets would advance one competitor, who'd won



Lukas Fracasso-Verner

either two or three matches. The competitors who needed to win only two matches, LFV among the seven of them, had received opening-round byes.

Fracasso-Verner opened with a 9-2 win over Ricky Geronimo (583), followed with a double-hill win over an opponent whose FargoRate was one point lower than his (747/746), Sullivan Clark, and advanced to Stage 2. Joining him from the same 'group of eight' bracket was Germany's 18-year-old Felix Vogel, who faced and defeated three opponents, two of them, fellow countrymen. He downed USA's Michael Callaghan 9-2, before surviving a double-hill challenge from Boris Ivanovski, and sent The Hitman (Thor-

sten Hohmann) to the loss side 9-6.

Jayson Shaw, the highest FargoRated competitor in the event at 834, was another competitor who was awarded a bye in the opening round, which he followed with a victory over Dominik Jastrzab 9-6 and then, survived a double-hill challenge from Hunter Lombardo. Joining Shaw in advancement to Stage 2 from the same mini-bracket of 8 was Finland's Petri Makkonen (another bye recipient), who'd defeated Abdulgani Unwala 9-1 and fellow countryman Arseni Sevastyanov 9-6.

Japan's Naoyuki Oi, the second highest FargoRated competitor (also with an opening-round bye) advanced with victories over Mhet Vergara 9-3



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Lukas Fracasso-Verner, Elvis Rodriguez and Naoyuki Oi

and Nathan Childress 9-5. Poland's Mieszko Fortunski (bye) defeated countryman Hubert Lopotko 9-6 and Finland's Casper Matikainen, both 9-6 to join Oi in advancing to Stage 2.

Sergio Rivas opened with two matches in which he gave up just a single rack (total), giving up the one to Jonathan Martinez and the 'none' to Justin Pelech. Rivas advanced to Stage 2 with a third-round, 9-7 victory over Moritz Neuhausen. He was joined by Poland's Kural, who'd sent Joshua Friedberg 9-3, Konrad Juszczyszyn (double hill) and UK's Emil Gangflot 9-7 to the loss side.

Only one of the eight players who advanced to Stage 2 from the loss side of Stage 1's double-elimination bracket, played more than a single match on the loss side. Domink Jastrzab, who'd lost to Jayson Shaw on the winners' side, benefited from a loss-side forfeit and then, defeated Janni Siekkinen 9-5, ahead of eliminating Moritz Neuhausen 9-7 and advancing to Stage 2.

Emil Gangflot won his only loss-side match over Tye Wang 9-4, The Iceman (Thorsten Hohmann) defeated Mhet Vergara 9-4 and Sullivan Clark downed Hubert Lopotko 9-6. Casper Matikainen defeated Robert Mendoza 9-4, Nathan Childress survived a dou-

ble-hill challenge from Boris Ivanovski and Konrad Juszczyszyn eliminated Arseni Sevastyanov 9-3. Hunter Lombardo completed the loss-side field of competitors advancing to Stage 2 with 9-6 win over Justin Pelech.

Five of the eight matches which comprised the opening round of the single-elimination Stage 2 (all of them began at noon on Sunday) went double-hill or almost-double-hill (9-7). Fracasso-Verner's match against Nathan Childress was not one of them. Unlike his Stage 1 activities, LfV would face four, Stage 2 opponents in a row and only the first of them, Nathan Childress would have a FargoRate lower than his. He defeated Childress 11-7 in that opening, Stage 2 round and advanced one of the event quarterfinals versus Emil Gangflot, who'd defeated Felix Vogel 11-4.

Szymon Kural won his double-hill bout versus Casper Matikainen and was joined in the event quarterfinals by Sullivan Clark, who'd ousted Sergio Rivas 11-9. Jayson Shaw and Konrad Juszczyszyn (which, by the way, is pronounced yoosh-CHIH-shin) fought a double-hill battle for advancement to the quarterfinals; won by Juszczyszyn, who was joined in the quarterfinal by Petri Makkonen, who'd

defeated Dominik Jastrzab 11-9. The Iceman defeated Mieszko Fortunski 11-9 and was joined in the quarterfinals by Naoyuki Oi who'd eliminated Hunter Lombardo 11-3.

Fracasso-Verner eliminated Gangflot 11-8 and was joined in the semifinals, by Kural, who'd sent Clark home 11-7. Juszczyszyn downed Makkonen 11-7, as Oi was busy getting by The Hitman 11-9 to join him in their semifinal match.

LfV downed Szymon Kural 11-5 in the semifinal. Oi defeated Juszczyszyn 11-7 in their semifinal.

While the 'pool gods' may have cut LfV some slack in the Stage 1 'draw,' they were of no help whatsoever when it came down to who he'd face in the final. FargoRate calculations put his chances of defeating Naoyuki Oi in a race to 13 at just shy of a (rounded-up) 9%. Oddly enough, his odds of winning would triple were it to have been a single-game final. He entered the final with a total, 62% game winning average (51-30); 64% (18-10) in Stage 1, and 62% in Stage 2 – winning a little over six out of every 10 games he played.

He won just over 56% of the games he played in the final against Oi. They were dead even at 10-10, at which point LfV pulled out in front to stay, claiming the InTheBx Open title 13-10.

Tour directors Chris Wilburn thanked Holden Chin and his Raxx Billiards staff for their hospitality, along with title sponsor InTheBx (Elvis Rodriguez), Universal Cues, Moori Tips, CPBA Cloth, Taom. PPC (Pool Players Care) Ultimate Pool (New York Metro), Level Up, Ship The Cash (streaming services), Mayhem Strength and Mob Cue Repairs. The next WNT qualifying event will be the 32nd Annual Super Billiards Expo, scheduled for April 9-12 at the Greater Philadelphia Expo Center in Oaks, PA.



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# InTheBx Open Gallery



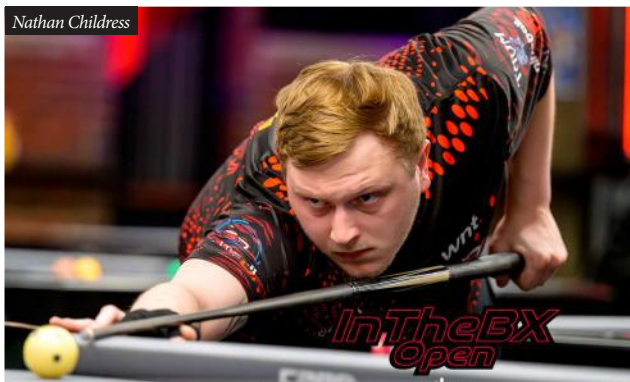
Naoyuki Oi



Moritz Neuhausen



Nathan Childress



Petri Makkonen



David Callaghan



Raymond Linares



Szymon Kural



Thorsten Hohmann



# IT'S ANTALYA GLORY FOR SZEWCZYK & JASMIN

Article and photos courtesy **European Pocket Billiard Federation**

**THERE WERE WINS for Poland's Wojciech Szewczyk and Jasmin Ouschan (Austria) as the PREDATOR TURKISH Open played out on Sunday night in Antalya.**

**8**-ball was the game and Szewczyk defeated countryman Radoslaw Babica to claim his first-ever Euro Tour title. For Ouschan it was title number 22 and she did it the hard way, defeating unsung German Miriam Steiner by 7-5.

For Szewczyk, it was the culmination of a long Euro Tour journey which began in the late 00s. Having reached the final on two previous occasions—in 2012 and 2025 – it was something of a monkey on his back, given his outstanding accomplishments within the game.

That was banished though, as his chance came this week and he led 4-1 and 7-2 before a spirited comeback from Babica reduced arrears to 8-6 before Szewczyk, with two breaks in hand, got the job done for a 9-6 victory. Szewczyk was at the end of a long trip which started in mid-February in Las Vegas and took in the Predator Pro Billiard Series, the Predator European Pool Championships and finally the Euro Tour.

He said, “I’m over the moon really! I really wanted to win this one. We changed to 8-ball which has always been a really strong game of mine so I thought maybe I will have a chance here and I’m just very happy with the final and the way I played. Although there was a lot of pressure, I felt considerably relaxed and I think I played

some good pool, Radek as well, I’m still very fresh after the final but it’s pretty emotional for me.

“He was closing the gap with one bad break of mine and then his two breaks and runs and I knew I had two breaks left and I really wanted to hit them good at 8-6 because if I didn’t, I would have been left with only one break. It was closer than it looked, it’s a very tricky format with two breaks each because the score doesn’t always reflect the situation and I never felt secure in that match. I know Radoslaw is a fighter and can always come back

so it was all up to me as there was no chance that he would give it for free.

“I’m super sure my family are proud of me, I’m also proud of myself and I can’t wait to see them again and give them a huge, huge hug; I think I’m not going to let them go for 24 hours. Maybe this will make winning a second one a little easier since the pressure has gone now but I’m going to enjoy what I achieved today,” concluded Szewczyk.

For Ouschan, she proved that a great champion gets the job done whatever



Jasmin Ouschan and Wojciech Szewczyk

the circumstances. She freely admitted to being fatigued due to a heavy travel schedule but was still able to deliver the goods in a championship setting.

Her opponent, Miriam Steiner, was very much an unknown quantity, having generally kept out of international competition but came to the fore with a gold medal win in the two-women teams event at the European Championships. She carried that form into the Euro Tour as she blasted her way in the final match before being outsmarted by Ouschan. The Austrian reached the hill at 6-1 but Steiner chipped away at her lead to draw back to 6-5 before Ouschan shut the door.

She said, "Honestly, I've no idea how I got through it. The last couple of days were really draining and I could really tell that after four-and-a-half weeks on tour in tournament mode I'm running out of fuel. When you are in ten-

sion for that time, there comes a point when you can't keep up the tension and then you make errors.

"So I thought, fight from one match to the next and see what happens and now I'm here and I have another title on my list and I'm so happy about and glad that it all worked out for me and I had the rolls at the right times.

"Sometimes it's your job to fight through the matches when it's not going your way and I definitely had my share of errors over the past days and I was getting frustrated at some point with my game as I know I can play better but, in the end, you have to pot that 8-ball and you have to finish those racks and I guess that's what I did.

"I started playing really well running out a lot of racks but with that score you're thinking, OK, that's going well and I didn't do many errors then, I just

had dry breaks and she kept running out and I thought this is going to get exciting. She was playing well and running racks and it could have been a hill-hill but she made a mistake at the end and I could take advantage of that," she added.

Tables 1, 2 and 3 at the Predator Turkish Opens were streamed live on YouTube, via the Pro Billiard TV channel – <https://www.youtube.com/@ProBilliardTV> Follow all Predator Pro Billiard Series events on the same platform.

For all results, live scoring and draw, visit [www.epbf.com/tournaments/european-championships/](http://www.epbf.com/tournaments/european-championships/)

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# ULTIMATE POOL USA'S IOWA OPEN WRAPPED UP

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

**The Rack Billiard Club in Clive, IA was action central this past week (March 13th-15th) for Ultimate Pool USA's Iowa Open.**

**F**eaturing five eight ball events plus the first ever 10-Ball Showdown – the Shootout, the Open, the Women's Open, Junior Open and the Mixed Pairs Open – were played on Brunswick seven footers.

The format for the 8-ball events was single elimination, 30 minute matches, UPL 8-Ball rules, a 30 second shot clock (15 seconds in the final ten minutes), no match races, no golden breaks and no ducks – ties decided by a 6-ball shootout.

Well known faces were spotted around the venue including BCA Hall of Famers Shane Van Boening, Rodney Morris and Johnny Archer as well as the newly inducted Ultimate Pool USA Hall of Famer David Matlock.

Other Ultimate Pool USA stars included Dennis Hatch, Tom Cousins, Craig



Waddingham, Joven Bustamante, Jordan Helfery and Mary Talbot.

England's Chris Melling – a formidable eight ball player – joined Tyler Styer,

Justin Bergman, Sky Woodward, Joey Gray, Shane McMinn, Joe Prince, Chase Stumfoll, Manny Perez, Eric Charlton, Coby Jaap, Declan Brennan and Vilmos Foldes at the venue.

The Iowa Open kicked off on March 13th with its first event – the Iowa Open Shootout.

The field wound down to the last two men standing – Chris Melling delivered a flawless performance resulting in a 9-0 pounding on the always tough Justin Bergman.

While the Shootout was finishing up, the Iowa Open Mixed Pairs Championship was underway. The final match featured Laura and Scott Hargens versus Mary Talbot and Joe Prince. The match was close but Talbot and



Prince pulled away to take the match and title 5-3.

Next up was the inaugural Iowa Open 10-Ball Showdown. Filled with top players and when the smoke cleared, it came down to Chris Melling and Rodney Morris. A tightly fought match that went down to the wire, it was Morris who took the last game to take the title.

The Iowa Junior Open Championship was won by Brady Deverna. His strong performance in the final overwhelmed his opponent D'von Garcia – score 6-1.

The Iowa Women's Open finished with a nailbiter of a match. Jordan Helfery claimed the title with a 5-4 win over Mary Talbot.

The winners of the Second Chance events were Brendan Greene after defeating Rylan Mayland in Iowa Junior Open, Nicole Obarowski after beating Penny Mehler in the Iowa Women's Open and Cory Data for his victory over Darrell Edwards in the Iowa Open.

The week closed with the main event, the Iowa Open, which featured Dennis Hatch and Chris Melling. This was Melling's third finals appearance at this year's Iowa Open.



Jordan Helfery

Everyone expected a dogfight and no one was disappointed!

Melling opened by taking the first two games but Hatch answered with two of his own to tie it up.

Melling took the next one but Hatch came with a runout of his own to make it three apiece and then won the following game to take the lead for the first time in the match 4-3.

Melling came with two more to regain the lead 5-4. Back at the table, Dennis faltered letting Chris back to the table. They traded safeties until Melling at-

tempted to kick his last stripe. Almost making it, the ball hung and allowed Hatch to pocket the solids making it 5-5.

Melling broke the next game and, as he had all match long, faced a very demanding layout. Down to the final ball before the eight, he again kicked one rail, made it and simultaneously scratched.

This proved to be the massive decider in the match.

A dejected Melling watched Hatch take ball in hand and clear off the remaining balls to regain the lead.

At 6-5 and with 1:38 left on the clock, Hatch simply needed to pocket a ball on the break and run out the clock for the match and the title of Iowa Open champion.

Ultimate Pool USA closed out another successful event and added the 2026 Iowa Open champions to the record books. They are sponsored by Brunswick, Horo Tips, HotelPlanner, CPUSA, Jam Up, Viking Cues, Ozone Billiards, Turning Point and Smart Rack.

Ultimate Pool USA's next event is the Florida Open. The dates are May 8th-10th and will be held at Classic Billiards in Lauderhill, FL.



Rodney Morris

# SECRET SKILLS

## When Art Challenges Physics

**Becue pushes carbon fiber inlay beyond every known limit with a collection that redefines what a billiard cue can be**

There is a moment in craft work when technique stops being a tool and becomes a language. When an object ceases to be a product and turns into something else entirely — an idea with a shape, a thought you can hold in your hands.

Secret Skills is that moment.

Becue's new collection was born from an unlikely but necessary collaboration: Alessandro Bressan and Michele Carniel, the two founders of the Italian company Becue, joined forces with Simone Bonanni, one of the most acclaimed contemporary product designers in Italy, whose studio has built its reputation around limited editions and the deep understanding of objects — their essence, their function, their meaning. For Bonanni, aesthetics is not a question of personal taste. It is the result of research. In his hands, objects are not material entities. They are emotion activators.

The meeting of these two worlds — Becue's decade-long mastery of

high-performance carbon fiber and Bonanni's design intelligence — has produced something that the billiard world has never seen before.

Three cues. Thirty pieces. Zero precedents.

The collection is built around three models — Stillness, Genius, and Method — each limited to just ten numbered pieces. These are not variations

on a single concept: every cue is its own distinct project, its own self-contained story, its own philosophy. The design of each one is not merely decorative. It is the visual and physical translation of its name's meaning — as if the form already knew what it wanted to be before anyone sat down to draw it.

**Stillness** is the quality a player reaches for in the seconds before a shot:



that moment when the crowd disappears, the pressure drops away, and the mind narrows to pure geometry. The name runs along the full length of the cue body, inlaid into the carbon fiber — a quiet inscription, a reminder. But the defining hallmark of this cue is what it refuses to have: no rings, no joint collar. Where every other cue in existence marks its transitions with bands of metal or resin, Stillness reads as a single unbroken form from tip to end. The inlays themselves are long and directional, thin lines that pull the eye along the entire length — a visual stillness that perfectly mirrors the quality it is named for. Achieving this required pushing inlay work further than it had ever been pushed before: the longer the inlay, the harder it becomes to maintain precision, consistency, and structural integrity. Stillness holds all three.

**Genius** is not a given talent. It is what surfaces in the moments a player refuses the obvious — finds an angle no one else saw, solves a problem by redefining it. The name is inlaid along the cue body as a constant invitation to think beyond the expected. And the design does exactly that. The inlays on Genius are defined by curves: rounded, flowing forms that move against the natural geometry of a cylindrical surface — and that is precisely what makes them extraordinary. Working with curved inlays on carbon fiber is a frontier that very few have attempted, and none at this level of refinement. Every contour demands a degree of



precision that straight lines simply do not. The result is a cue that looks, genuinely, like it should not be possible to make. At its extremity, a band of wood inlay replaces the traditional ring — a shift in material that is entirely intentional, a nod to craft, to the organic, to the human hand that is present in every element of this collection.

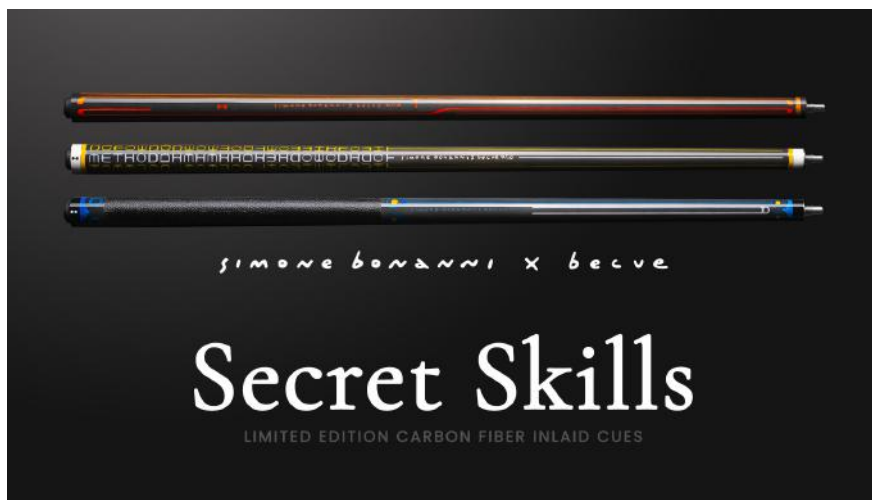
**Method** is the least glamorous and perhaps the most honest of the three. It is about the work that happens away from the table — the repetition, the discipline, the small daily gestures that accumulate, slowly and invisibly, into mastery. The design reflects this with uncompromising consistency: hundreds of letter-form inlays cover every centimeter of the surface, dense and relentless, stacked in rows and layered in columns. The name itself is scattered across the grip in fragments — letters out of order, appearing and disappearing. But look closely enough, and in one place the word becomes fully legible. A reminder that

meaning always emerges from repetition. That method, in the end, always reveals itself.

The real challenge behind all three cues, however, was not aesthetic. It was technical.

Inlaying carbon fiber is a practice with only a few years of history behind it. Becue was among the very first to explore this territory: in 2025, the brand introduced Horizon to the market — the first inlaid carbon fiber cue ever made, a product that had already required the development of an entirely new proprietary technology. With Secret Skills, that same technology has been pushed to a radically higher level of complexity. The process combines high-precision CNC mechanical machining with a phase of entirely handcrafted finishing: the cavities carved into the carbon tube are filled by hand with specially formulated resins and wood, in work that demands patience, expertise, and an almost meditative steadiness of execution.

Every great player, the project suggests, carries something invisible. A quiet ritual. A stubborn discipline. An untamed instinct. Secret Skills gives those invisible qualities a physical form — objects that are not just cues but portraits of the mindset that separates the extraordinary from the ordinary.



# TEAM PHILIPPINES

## CROWNED CHAMPIONS OF THE 2026 PREDATOR WPA TEAMS WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP

Article and photo courtesy Predator Pro Billiard Series

**After a dramatic and hard-fought championship final, Team Philippines captured the 2026 Predator WPA Teams World Championship, defeating Team Poland in a thrilling showdown.**

**P**oland struck first, taking control of the match by winning the opening two sets and putting early pressure on the Philippine squad. Team Philippines responded with resilience and determination, rallying back to claim both the third and fourth sets to level the match. With the title on the line, the championship was ultimately decided in a shootout, where Team Philippines held their nerve to secure the world crown.

With the world title, the Philippine squad earned \$120,000 to be shared from a total prize fund of \$300,000, reinforcing the nation's place among the global powerhouses of professional billiards.

### When Billiards Becomes a Team Story

There is always something extraordinary about world team championships. Beyond individual talent, these events give rise to rare team chemis-

try connections that develop match after match through trust, strategy, and shared pressure.

This evolving alchemy is what makes team competition so compelling, as players grow into their roles and elevate each other throughout the tournament.

All matches are played in sets, race to 4, using a winner-break format.

- **Set 1:** Three-player team rotation (two same-sex players + one opposite-sex)
- **Set 2:** Same-sex doubles
- **Set 3:** Mixed doubles
- **Set 4:** Singles (if required, with player eligibility restrictions)
- **Set 5:** Shootout (if required)

This format emphasizes team depth, versatility, and strategy, rewarding squads that can adapt and perform under the highest pressure.

### Team Philippines – World Champions

The championship-winning lineup featured: • Carlo Biado • Chezka Centeno • Rubilen Amit • Jefrey Roda

A balanced and experienced squad whose collective strength proved decisive on the sport's biggest stage.

### Defending Champions Eliminated

The defending world champions, Team Germany, saw their title defense end in the quarterfinals, where they were defeated by Team USA-A, highlighting the depth and competitiveness of the 2026 field.

### Team Billiards at Its Best

Once again, the Predator WPA Teams World Championship delivered a global showcase of elite cue sports where precision meets emotion, momentum can shift in an instant, and teams write history together.

### Witness History in the Making.





simone bonanni x becue

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# ALBERT JANUARTA WINS THE 2026 LAS VEGAS JUNIOR'S OPEN

Article and photo courtesy Predator Pro Billiard Series

The future of professional billiards took center stage in Las Vegas as Albert Januarta captured the title at the 2026 Las Vegas Junior's Open, emerging as one of the sport's most exciting young talents.

In the championship final, the Indonesian standout defeated American finalist Sofia Mast in a mixed-gender final, overcoming a formidable opponent in one of the tournament's most compelling matches. Mast was one of only three female players in a 32-player junior field, making her run to the final a remarkable achievement in its own right

1st Place – Full Scholarship Package

With the victory, Albert Januarta earned a Full Scholarship Package,

designed to accelerate his transition toward the professional ranks, including:

- Free hotel stay + entry to a USA PBS Open
- Free hotel stay + entry to an International PBS Open
- Free entry to a future PBS Open

This comprehensive prize reflects a long-term commitment to player development rather than a single tournament result.

## Building the Champions of Tomorrow

Once again, the Pro Billiard Series demonstrated its mission to invest in the next generation of players by creating real pathways from junior competition to the professional stage.

By providing exposure, experience, and tangible opportunities, PBS continues to help tomorrow's talents grow, compete, and build sustainable careers in professional billiards.

**Witness History in the Making.**



Albert Januarta



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# WNT NXTGEN

## A NEW GLOBAL ERA FOR JUNIOR NINEBALL

The World Nineball Tour is proud to announce the launch of WNT NxtGen, a groundbreaking new global platform designed to unify and elevate junior nineball under one prestigious international banner.

**W**NT NxtGen has been created to bring together existing Junior World Nineball Tour events into a cohesive and recognisable global circuit, establishing a clear and aspirational pathway from junior competition to the professional World Nineball Tour.

This initiative will identify, develop and reward the world's best young talent while aligning junior competition with WNT standards, values and global reach.

Open to all players aged 16 and under at the time of competition, WNT NxtGen will operate under consistent rules, formats and prize structures across all sanctioned events. For the first time, junior competition will be delivered with unified branding and presentation standards, including official event jerseys provided to every competitor, elevating the professionalism and experience of junior nineball worldwide.

WNT NxtGen Sarajevo will mark the first opportunity for players to earn

official Junior ranking points. Rankings will be updated live and published globally via Matchroom Pool and WNT Live Scores, with positions determining qualification for blue-ribbon junior events and progression opportunities.

WNT NxtGen will also serve as a direct pipeline to the World Nineball Tour, offering tangible incentives for top performers, including wild-cards into selected WNT professional events, invitations to become WNT Pros, and opportunities to com-



pete in WNT Pro-Ams and showcase matches.

The launch of WNT NxtGen builds on the success of junior stars who have already made the transition to the professional stage.

AJ Manas, a former Junior Champion, who has since established himself on the Tour and made his debut for Team Asia at last year's Reyes Cup — where he was crowned the youngest MVP — said: "Junior events changed everything for me. They gave me belief and the chance to prove myself. WNT NxtGen is going to raise the standard even higher and give young players a real platform to showcase their talent on a global stage. It's exciting to think about the next generation coming through."

2025 Saudi Junior Champion and 2025 Hanoi Junior Champion Albert Januarta, who last year became the

youngest player to win a WNT ranking event, added: "Playing in junior events gave me the confidence and experience to compete against the best in the world. To now see WNT NxtGen creating an official pathway for young players is amazing. It shows that if you work hard and perform, the opportunities are there. I'm proud to have come through that journey."

World No.1 and former World Champion Fedor Gorst welcomed the initiative: "Having a clear pathway from junior events to the professional tour is incredibly important. When you're young, you need structure, opportunity and something to aim for. WNT NxtGen gives players around the world a real target and a professional environment from an early age. That's how you build future world champions."

CEO of Matchroom Multi Sport, Emily Frazer, commented: "WNT NxtGen is about giving young players the oppor-

tunity to experience the sport on the biggest stage from the very beginning of their journey. We want them competing in a professional environment, playing alongside their heroes, and getting a real taste of what it means to perform in official World Nineball Tour events broadcast to audiences across the globe. This initiative isn't just about junior competition — it's about preparation, exposure and belief. We are creating a genuine pathway where the next generation can step into the spotlight early and see exactly what is possible."

WNT NxtGen signals the beginning of a new era — one built on opportunity, structure and global ambition — ensuring the next generation of champions has a clear route to the very top of the game.

For all the latest updates, follow Matchroom Pool on Facebook, Instagram, X, TikTok, and YouTube

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# **WORLD NINEBALL TOUR**

## **UNVEILS ACTIONED-PACKED JUNE–AUGUST 2026 SCHEDULE**

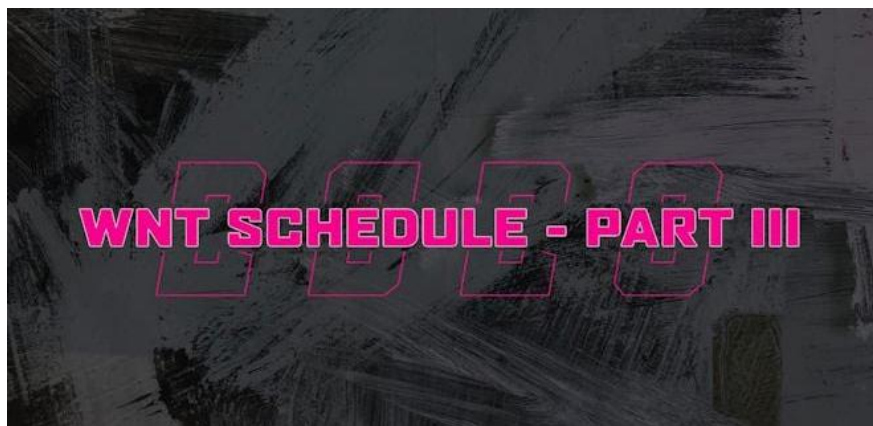
**The World Nineball Tour is thrilled to announce its action-packed June–August 2026 schedule — 11 must-watch events across five countries, with over \$1.2 million in prize money and career-defining opportunities on the line.**

**F**ans around the world can follow every moment of the 2026 season live on WNT TV as the battle for ranking points and Major glory intensifies – Sign up now to be part of all the action.

Building on a record-breaking start to the season, the Tour now heads into a jam-packed summer period that combines premier WNT Ranking Events with three marquee Major championships in the United States, promising thrilling matches and world-class competition every week.

### **2026 WNT CALENDAR – JUNE TO AUGUST**

- Mezz Hill Hill Estonia Open (\$25k), 5–7 June — Tallinn, Estonia
- Universal Open (\$63k), 25–28 June — Jakarta, Indonesia
- Mezz Bucharest Open (\$39k), 3–5 July — Bucharest, Romania
- 2AM Prague Open (\$35k), 8–11 July — Prague, Czech Republic
- McDermott Open (\$29.3k), 16–19 July — Connecticut, USA
- Empire State Championship (\$58k), 23–26 July — New York, USA
- The Alligator Open at Classic Billiards (\$71.2k), 29 July–2 August — Florida, USA
- Florida Open (\$225k), 4–9 August — Florida, USA
- Arizona Open (\$125k), 13–16 August — Arizona, USA
- Phoenix Open (\$71.2k), 18–22 August — Arizona, USA
- US Open Pool Championship (\$500k), 25–30 August — Texas, USA



The Florida Open returns for its second edition after a hugely successful inaugural year, which saw a sold-out final day and unforgettable moments of high-stakes action. The event will once again take place at the Caribe Royale Resort in Orlando, Florida, welcoming players and fans to one of the Tour’s premier summer destinations.

A brand-new Major, the Arizona Open, will challenge 128 players in a thrilling single-elimination format at the Quechan Casino Resort in Yuma, Arizona, ensuring no shortage of intensity and upsets.

Finally, the historic US Open returns for its 49th edition, taking place for the first time at the Embassy Suites in Frisco, Texas — a fitting stage for one of Nineball’s most prestigious events and a spectacular finale to an unforgettable summer.

Emily Frazer, CEO of Matchroom Multi Sport, commented: “Our summer

schedule delivers excitement, opportunity, and global reach at a scale the World Nineball Tour has never seen. Eleven events across five countries, three Major championships in the United States, and over \$1.2 million in prize money — this is a period of the season that can define careers.

From ranking events in Europe and Asia to a thrilling US run culminating in the US Open, players have every chance to make their mark. Nineball continues to grow at pace worldwide, and this summer will be one of the most competitive and memorable in our sport’s history.”

Further announcements for the remainder of the 2026 World Nineball Tour season will be revealed in the coming months as Nineball continues its most ambitious year ever.

Keep across all the action across Matchroom Pool’s social media channels: Facebook, Instagram, X, TikTok and YouTube.

CYNERGY



*Shane Van Boening*  
GENERATION II

AS HIS LEGEND GROWS, THE LEGACY CONTINUES | 4.7.2026 | CUETEC.COM

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# JOHN LEYMAN

## CROWNED AS 2026 INDUSTRY TITAN

The cue sports community has officially crowned a new “Industry Titan.” After a highly competitive voting process, John Leyman has been named the 2026 inductee into the CueSports Hall of Fame.

Leyman’s induction marks the third year of this prestigious honor, following in the footsteps of previous winners Barry Behrman (2024) and Pat Fleming (2025). His election as the 2026 winner highlights a career defined by integrity, technical mastery, and an unwavering commitment to the infrastructure of billiards.

### A Career of Integrity and Authority

John Leyman is perhaps best known as one of the most respected officiating voices in the world. Currently serving as the Director of Rules & Referees for CueSports International (CSI), Leyman is the architect behind the referee management of the world’s largest amateur billiards events.

His resume extends far beyond league play. For decades, Leyman has been a fixture at the highest levels of professional pool, serving as a head referee for prestigious international competitions, most notably the Mosconi Cup. His ability to handle the high-pressure environment of professional match play has earned him a reputation for unparalleled professionalism.

### Impact on the Tri-State and Beyond

While his officiating often takes him to the global stage, Leyman has remained deeply rooted in the growth of the game at the regional level. As the Executive Director of the Tri-State Tour, he oversees a vital competitive

circuit for players in the greater New York metropolitan area. His leadership in league management and tournament operations has been instrumental in providing a consistent and professional environment for thousands of players to hone their skills.

### Joining the Ranks of the Titans

The “Industry Titan” award was created to recognize those whose behind-the-scenes work—whether through promotion, officiating, or innovation—has fundamentally shaped the sport. Leyman emerged victorious from a 2026 ballot that featured several other legendary figures, including:

- Dr. Dave Alciatore: Renowned educator and physics expert.

- Roy Pastor: PBI Master Instructor and youth development advocate.
- Mike Page & Steve Ernst: The minds behind the FargoRate system.
- Mike Panozzo: The longtime publisher of Billiards Digest.

By winning this year’s contest, Leyman’s legacy will be permanently honored with a commemorative banner displayed at the CueSports International Expo.

As the 2026 inductee, John Leyman stands as a testament to the fact that the “man in the middle”—the one ensuring the rules are followed and the integrity of the game remains intact—is just as vital to the sport as the play-



John Leyman

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# Tourney Results

## Mar 01 - Mar 01

### Joss Tour 2026-2027 Stop 13 Second Chance

#### Snookers - Sports Billiards, Bar & Grill

Providence, RI

- 1 Steve Edmiston \$300
- 2 Paul Cormier \$200
- 3 Russell Bellisle \$140
- 4 Christian Cabera \$80

## Mar 02 - Mar 06

### Pattaya Open Pool Championship

#### S1 Pool Hall & Sports Bar

Pattaya

- 1 Johann Chua \$22,500
- 2 James Aranas \$12,500
- 3 Alexis Ferrer \$7,500
- 3 Dennis Orcollo \$7,500

## Mar 04 - Mar 07

### US Open 8-Ball Championship 2026

#### Griff's

Las Vegas, Nevada

- 1 Fedor Gorst \$9,200
- 2 Roland Garcia \$4,300
- 3 Mark Estiola \$2,500
- 4 Lee Vann Corteza \$1,500
- 5 Jesus Atencio \$900
- 5 Shane Van Boening \$900
- 7 Evan Lunda \$550
- 7 Vitaliy Patsura \$550
- 9 Jeffrey Consigna Roda \$400
- 9 John Morra \$400
- 9 Oliver Ruuger \$400
- 9 Stephen Holem \$400

## Mar 07 - Mar 10

### 2026 US Open Bank Pool Championship

#### Griff's

Las Vegas, Nevada

- 1 John Morra \$8,700
- 2 Shane Van Boening \$4,000
- 3 Lee Vann Corteza \$2,300
- 4 Jonathan Pinegar \$1,300
- 5 Neil Jacobs \$900
- 5 Oliver Ruuger \$900
- 7 Evan Lunda \$550
- 7 Justin Hall \$550
- 9 Chris Lulek \$400
- 9 Jack Scerca \$400
- 9 Roberto Gomez \$400
- 9 Tony Chohan \$400

## Mar 07 - Mar 07

### 2026 Rack Race Stop #5

#### Rack and Grill II

Augusta, Georgia

- 1 Johnny Archer \$1,000
- 2 Ricky Baughman \$540
- 3 Paul Song \$320
- 4 Tracy Prescott \$220
- 5 Mento Long \$140
- 5 Richard Kilgore \$140
- 7 Robert Nottingham \$80
- 7 Steven Ellis \$80

## Mar 07 - Mar 08

### Joss Tour 2025-2026 Stop 14

#### Utica Billiards On The Boulevard

Utica, New York

- 1 Tommy Cayer \$1,000
- 2 Omar Ashiq \$750
- 3 Ron Casanzio \$550
- 4 Damon Sobers \$450
- 5 Geoff Montgomery \$300
- 5 Jason Reese \$300
- 7 Armando Alavarenga \$200
- 7 Kiet Mieu \$200
- 9 Dan Sharlow \$100
- 9 Doug Wells \$100
- 9 Dwight Dixon \$100
- 9 Stephane Fournier \$100

## Mar 07 - Mar 08

### Joss Tour 2026-2027 Stop 14 Second Chance

#### Utica Billiards On The Boulevard

Utica, New York

- 1 Jake Jackson \$320
- 2 Frank Wolak \$220
- 3 Jordan Turner \$160
- 4 Marc Ciappa \$80

## Mar 07 - Mar 08

### B & L Billiards Quad Bracket

#### Bank Shot Bar & Grill

Laurel, MD

- 1 Lukas Fracasso-Verner \$5,100
- 2 Lucas Kilgore \$2,660
- 3 Esteban Aguilera \$1,560
- 3 Nelson Bobadila \$1,560
- 5 Dave Swank \$820
- 5 Matt Wrobel \$820
- 5 Paul Krimes \$820
- 5 Zach Edwards \$820
- 9 Chris Shifflett \$480
- 9 Daniel Aguilar \$480
- 9 Danny Jones \$480
- 9 Horelbin Ramos \$480
- 9 James Harris \$480
- 9 Jamie Evans \$480
- 9 Rich Cardillo \$480
- 9 Tony Long \$480

## Mar 10 - Mar 13

### 2026 US Open One Pocket Championship

#### Griff's

Las Vegas, Nevada

- 1 Carlo Biado \$8,700
- 2 Roland Garcia \$4,000
- 3 Tony Chohan \$2,300
- 4 Justin Hall \$1,300
- 5 John Morra \$900
- 5 Josh Roberts \$900
- 7 Billy Thorpe \$550

7 Shane Van Boening \$550  
9 Ivo Linkin \$400  
9 Oliver Ruuger \$400  
9 Roberto Gomez \$400  
9 Ronnie Wiseman \$400

## Mar 10 - Mar 15

### European Open 2026

#### Hotel Hills Sarajevo

Llida, Sarajevo  
1 Moritz Neuhausen \$40,000  
2 Mario He \$16,000  
3 Eklent Kaci \$10,000  
3 Joshua Filler \$10,000  
5 Kledio Kaci \$7,000  
5 Mohammad Soufi \$7,000  
5 Oliver Szolnoki \$7,000  
5 Quoc Hoang Duong \$7,000  
9 Arseny Sevastyanov \$3,125  
9 Can Salim \$3,125  
9 David Alcaide \$3,125  
9 Francisco Sanchez-Ruiz \$3,125  
9 Mika van Berkel \$3,125  
9 Naoyuki Oi \$3,125  
9 Robbie Capito \$3,125  
9 Wiktor Zielinski \$3,125  
17 Aleksa Pecelj \$2,000  
17 Amil Andre Gangflot \$2,000  
17 Besar Spahiu \$2,000  
17 Daniele Corrieri \$2,000  
17 Denis Grabe \$2,000  
17 Ermal Dyli \$2,000  
17 Fedor Gorst \$2,000  
17 Georgi Georgiev \$2,000  
17 Haris Trtovac \$2,000  
17 Hermann Hoyh \$2,000  
17 Imran Majid \$2,000  
17 Karl Gnadeberg \$2,000  
17 Marco Teutscher \$2,000  
17 Mark Foster \$2,000  
17 Pham Phuong Nam \$2,000  
17 Yannick Pongers \$2,000  
33 Adam Stankiewicz \$1,000  
33 Ajdin Pknjac \$1,000  
33 Albin Ouschan \$1,000  
33 Andreja Klasovic \$1,000  
33 Antonis Kakaris \$1,000  
33 Dean Shields \$1,000  
33 Dimitris Loukatos \$1,000  
33 Elliott Sanderson \$1,000  
33 Ernesto Gjoni \$1,000  
33 Flavian Glont \$1,000

33 Francesco Candela \$1,000  
33 Fraser Patrick \$1,000  
33 Gentjan Gega \$1,000  
33 George Antonakis \$1,000  
33 Gerson Martinez \$1,000  
33 Jonas Souto Comino \$1,000  
33 Lo Ho Sum \$1,000  
33 Luong Duc Thien \$1,000  
33 Marc Bijsterbosch \$1,000  
33 Marios Komninakis \$1,000  
33 Mark Magi \$1,000  
33 Nick Malai \$1,000  
33 Niels Feijen \$1,000  
33 Niklas Dohr \$1,000  
33 Pijus Labutis \$1,000  
33 Ralf Souquet \$1,000  
33 Ruben omar Docampo \$1,000  
33 Salvador Garcia \$1,000  
33 Sanjin Pehlivanovic \$1,000  
33 Slaven Kozaric \$1,000  
33 Thorsten Hohmann \$1,000  
33 Xhulio Albrahimi \$1,000

## Mar 11 - Mar 15

### WPBA Raxx Mezz Olhausen CPBA Invitational

#### Raxx Pool Room, Sports Bar & Grill

West Hempstead, NY  
1 Marharyta Fefilava \$11,000  
2 Rubilen Amit \$7,800  
3 Kristina Zlateva \$5,400  
4 Sofia Mast \$4,300  
5 Kaylee McIntosh \$3,200  
5 Savannah Easton \$3,200  
7 Ashley Benoit \$2,500  
7 Brittany Bryant \$2,500  
9 Briana Miller \$1,800  
9 Kristina Tkach \$1,800  
9 Meng-Hsia Hung \$1,800  
9 Veronique Menard \$1,800  
13 Aleksandra Guleikova \$1,300  
13 Angela Janic \$1,300  
13 Eleanor Callado \$1,300  
13 Susan Mello \$1,300  
17 Ashley Rice \$900  
17 Caroline Pao \$900  
17 Erica Testa \$900  
17 Janet Atwell \$900  
17 JoAnn Mason Parker \$900  
17 Kennedy Meyman \$900

17 Lonnie Fox-Raymond \$900  
17 Rachel Walters \$900

## Mar 14 - Mar 15

### Joss Tour 2025-2026 Stop 15

#### Brickhouse Billiards

N. Syracuse, New York  
1 Ron Casanzio \$1,200  
2 Bryzen Manipula \$850  
3 Jake Miosi \$600  
4 Aaron Greenwood \$450  
5 Bucky Souvanthong \$325  
5 Damon Sobers \$325  
7 Frank Riccelli \$200  
7 Seth Delvillano \$200  
9 Jason Reese \$100  
9 Marc Ciappa \$100  
9 Mark Creamer \$100  
9 Rick Miller \$100

## Mar 14 - Mar 15

### REVAMP 9-Ball Tour Stop

#### Peninsula Billiards

Newport News, Virginia  
1 Chris Bruner \$1,350  
2 Nathan Childress \$900  
3 Rob Leeper \$600  
4 John Hernandez \$450  
5 Jimmy Bird \$300  
5 Nil Lim \$300  
7 Frank Leahy \$200  
7 Lewis Courtney \$200  
9 Brent Worth \$100  
9 David Hairfield \$100  
9 Justin Squires \$100  
9 Samuel Holloway \$100

## Mar 14 - Mar 15

### REVAMP 9-Ball Tour Stop Ladies Division

#### Peninsula Billiards

Newport News, Virginia  
1 Reagan Wallace \$800  
2 Tracy Hardie \$500  
3 Courtney Hairfield \$400  
4 Kaitlyn Giddens \$300  
5 Jordyn Worley \$200  
5 Liz Taylor \$200  
7 Arianna Houston \$100  
7 Kelly Cox \$100  
9 Bert Flores \$50

- 9 Jackie Catlett \$50
- 9 Renee Marple \$50
- 9 Vanessa Moriera \$50

## Mar 14 - Mar 14

### Q City 9-Ball Tour Stop

#### Action Billiards

- Inman, SC
- 1 Chris Clary \$800
  - 2 Sammy Manley \$500
  - 3 Aaron McClure \$350
  - 4 Hunter Zayas \$220
  - 5 Marty Opyd \$120
  - 5 Tommy Tran \$120
  - 7 Landon Hollingsworth \$100
  - 7 Zach Martin \$100

## Mar 15 - Mar 15

### Lucasi Florida Tour 2026 Stop 2

#### Brewlands Bar & Billiards

- Lakeland, FL
- 1 Kaylee McIntosh \$700
  - 2 Jeannie Seaver \$480
  - 3 Jessica Barnes \$300
  - 3 Sofia Mast \$300
  - 5 Ariane Horvath \$150
  - 5 Emy Rose Decker \$150
  - 5 Helene Caukin \$150
  - 5 Stephanie Mitchell \$150

## Mar 21 - Mar 21

### B & L Billiards Quad Bracket

#### Bank Shot Bar & Grill

- Laurel, MD
- 1 Lucas Kilgore \$1,820
  - 2 Brian Rose \$1,000
  - 3 Donte Goldman \$540
  - 3 Roland Freolo \$540
  - 5 David Gutierrez \$300
  - 5 Ed Moody \$300
  - 5 Jerry Fitchett \$300
  - 5 Mayrah Yoeun \$300
  - 9 Aldrin Manreal \$140
  - 9 Anthony Morgan \$140
  - 9 Bill Wilson \$140
  - 9 Craig Boaman \$140
  - 9 Harshit Kedia \$140
  - 9 Matthew Brzozowski \$140
  - 9 Scott Haas \$140
  - 9 Tanvee Vallem \$140

## Mar 21 - Mar 22

### 7th Annual CT Valley State Championships

#### Racks Billiards & Bar

- Vernon, Connecticut
- 1 Joe Dupuis \$3,000
  - 2 Alex Bausch \$1,600
  - 3 Bob Mendenjian \$1,000
  - 4 Lukas Fracasso-Verner \$800
  - 5 Matthew Rezendes \$600
  - 5 Rachel Lang \$600
  - 7 Mhet Vergara \$435
  - 7 Raphael Dabreo \$435
  - 9 Dave Gavrich \$300
  - 9 Lance Lisciotti \$300
  - 9 Miuller Jaramillo \$300
  - 9 Reggie Cutler \$300
  - 13 Hunter Smutney \$230
  - 13 Justin Muller \$230
  - 13 Sam Traygis \$230
  - 13 Steve Mack \$230
  - 17 Daniel Lira Alvarez \$170
  - 17 Eduardo Agulay \$170
  - 17 Josh Thiele \$170
  - 17 Logan Tedford \$170
  - 17 Michael Weyant \$170
  - 17 Peter Cawley \$170
  - 17 Quoc Din \$170
  - 17 Rob Piersa \$170
  - 25 Ashley Benoit \$140
  - 25 Beau Powers \$140
  - 25 Chuck Altomare \$140
  - 25 Dan Uccello \$140
  - 25 Gene Hunt \$140
  - 25 Jamie Bogan \$140
  - 25 Matt Tetreault \$140
  - 25 Peter Bowman \$140

## Mar 21 - Mar 22

### Sullivan Pool Tour Stop

#### Shooters Family Billiards

- Wayne, New Jersey
- 1 Gregorio Sanchez \$1,050
  - 2 Rubilen Amit \$650
  - 3 Brian Vu \$430
  - 4 Ramon Canela Alvarado \$250
  - 5 Murtaza Afzal \$150
  - 5 Patrick Gutierrez \$150
  - 7 Goerne Rara \$100
  - 7 Joey Landi \$100

## Mar 27 - Mar 29

### InTheBox Open

#### Raxx Pool Room, Sports Bar & Grill

- West Hempstead, NY
- 1 Lukas Fracasso-Verner \$8,000
  - 2 Naoyuki Oi \$4,400
  - 3 Konrad Juszczyszyn \$300
  - 3 Szymon Kural \$300
  - 5 Amil Andre Gangflot \$1,500
  - 5 Petri Makkonen \$1,500
  - 5 Sullivan Clark \$1,500
  - 5 Thorsten Hohmann \$1,500
  - 9 Casper Matikainen \$1,000
  - 9 Dominik Jastrzab \$1,000
  - 9 Felix Vogel \$1,000
  - 9 Hunter Lombardo \$1,000
  - 9 Jayson Shaw \$1,000
  - 9 Mieszko Fortunski \$1,000
  - 9 Nathan Childress \$1,000
  - 9 Sergio Rivas \$1,000

## Mar 28 - Mar 30

### Carolina Billiards Circuit 9-Ball Open

#### Breaktime Billiards & Sports Bar

- Clemmons, NC
- 1 BJ Ussery \$1,100
  - 2 Joao Sias \$770
  - 3 Brandon Shuff \$650
  - 4 Mike Davis \$450
  - 5 Jas Makhani \$300
  - 5 Joshua Shultz \$300
  - 7 Eddie Little \$150
  - 7 Joe Hyatt, Jr. \$150
  - 9 Barry Mashburn \$75
  - 9 Christian Green \$75
  - 9 Hank Powell \$75
  - 9 Justin Mawyin \$75

## Mar 28 - Mar 28

### Albany Ladies 9-Ball Open

#### The Golden Cue Billiard Lounge

- Albany, NY
- 1 Rachel Walters \$720
  - 2 Ada Lio \$445
  - 3 Rachel Lang \$265
  - 4 Emily Duddy \$175
  - 5 Ashlee Trinci \$90
  - 5 Mae Beale \$90

# AZBILLIARDS MONEY LIST

	NAME	COUNTRY	\$ AMOUNT	
	Joshua Filler	 GER	97.175,00 US\$	
	Shane Van Boening	 USA	81.400,00 US\$	↑
	Fedor Gorst	 USA	78.900,00 US\$	↓
	Chezka Centeno	 PHI	56.750,00 US\$	↑
	Moritz Neuhausen	 GER	48.750,00 US\$	↑
	Carlo Biado	 PHI	43.825,00 US\$	↑
	John Morra	 CAN	43.350,00 US\$	↑
	Rubilen Amit	 PHI	39.150,00 US\$	↑
	Naoyuki Oi	 JAP	38.350,00 US\$	↓
	Duong Quoc Hoang	 VNM	38.000,00 US\$	↓

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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.

**APRIL/MAY**

## Predator Pro Billiard Series St Louis

**Apr 01 - Apr 08**

Westgate Las Vegas Resort & Casino  
Las Vegas, Nevada

## 2026 Super Billiards Expo Open NineBall Pro Players Championship

**Apr 09 - Apr 12**

Greater Philadelphia Expo Center  
at Oaks  
Oaks, PA

## Joss Tour 2025-2026 Stop 16

**Apr 18 - Apr 19**

Yale Billiards  
Wallingford, Connecticut

## 3rd Annual Amar Kang Memorial

**Apr 22 - Apr 26**

Hard Times Billiards - Sacramento  
Sacramento, CA

## 2026 Nevada Junior 10-Ball State Championship

**Apr 25 - Apr 25**

Walter's Billiards  
Las Vegas, Nevada

## Joss Tour 2025-2026 Stop 17

**Apr 25 - Apr 26**

Utica Billiards On The Boulevard  
Utica, New York

## Joss Tour 2025-2026 Stop 18

**May 16 - May 17**

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

## 2026 Arizona Junior 10-Ball State Championship

**May 23 - May 23**

Dozer's Grill  
Mesa, Arizona

## 16th N.E. Pool & Billiard Hall of Fame 9-Ball Open

**May 30 - May 31**

Snookers - Sports Billiards, Bar &  
Grill  
Providence, RI

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THURS 9/3 - MON 9/7

### OPEN 9-BALL

**\$300 ENTRY \$25 GREEN FEE**  
RACES 9/9 MAX 160 PLAYERS  
PLAYER AUCTION 9/3 (THURS) 6:00PM  
PLAY BEGINS 9/4 (FRI) 10:00AM  
3 POINT BREAKS

**\$3,000 ADDED**  
**LADIES 9-BALL**

**\$200 ENTRY \$25 GF**  
RACES 7/7 MAX 32 PLAYERS  
PLAYER AUCTION 9/5 (SAT) 8:00PM  
PLAY BEGINS 9/6 (SUN) 9:00AM

**\$20,000**  
**ADDED**

MON 8/31 - THURS 9/3

### ONE POCKET

**\$1,000 ENTRY \$25 GREEN FEE**  
RACES 4/3 MAX 48 PLAYERS  
PLAYER AUCTION 8/31 (MON) 6:00PM  
PLAY BEGINS IMMEDIATELY AFTER AUCTION

**\$1,000 ADDED**  
**BANKS RING GAME**

**\$100 ENTRY \$10 GREEN FEE**  
MAX 64 PLAYERS 9/2 (WED) 6:00PM

**\$1,000 ADDED**  
**9-BALL MINI**

**\$50 ENTRY \$5 GREEN FEE**  
PLAY BEGINS 9/3 (THURS) 11:00AM  
RACES TO 3 MAX 64 PLAYERS  
SINGLE ELIMINATION

WINNER BREAK - MAGIC RACK - RACK YOUR OWN - 1 ON THE SPOT - 2 IN THE BACK

EVENT PAYOUTS TO BE ANNOUNCED  
PLAYER AUCTIONS ARE 100% PAYOUT  
MUST BE PRESENT FOR ALL PLAYER AUCTIONS



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