

Billiards Buzz

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YAPP 3-PEATS

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FROM THE Head Rail

MIKE HOWERTON

Happy December everyone. It was quite a show in St. Augustine last month and I don't think any of the players that were there were disappointed. I do want to point out that wording "that were there".

Going to climb back on my soapbox for a minute here.

The pool world is always full of drama and players have to pick and choose when it comes to what events they are going to support. With that being said though, there have always been events on the pro calendar that rose above that level of drama. Events that the players supported, year after year, without fail. That certainly didn't appear to be the case this year, with half (or more depending on which list you used) of the top players nowhere to be found.

Now I understand that a lot of those players may not have even been alive during the 40+ years that this event's promoter spent supporting this industry, but it should not be forgotten that this sport wouldn't be where it is today without that promoter's support over all of those years.

Oh well, just my opinion.

Until next month,
Mike




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«When I play all the big tournaments around the world, we only use Aramith and Simonis. You know you get 100% high quality. It just makes the game easier to play.»

Jayson Shaw

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Celebrating The 30th Anniversary of PLAY YOUR BEST POOL

In the summer of 1994, while recovering from a dislocated shoulder, I got an idea to do an instructional book on pool that was based on the idea that so much more could be said about position play, 8-Ball, 9-Ball, the mental game, and other topics.

As for the name – *Play Your Best Pool* - it was my first and only choice. And, 30 years later, it continues to serve as a mantra for all serious players.

Work began in earnest in early January, 1995, and by the first week of December, my first shipment of books arrived in time for the bulk of the pool season.

The book earned some great reviews (see the box for a few edited ones) and, thanks to their words of praise, my career in writing and publishing books on pool was off and running.

I wrote several more books before revising *Play Your Best Pool* in 2005. This edition included an introduction to four popular games. A 90 page chapter on position play was broken into four smaller ones. I also bolded key points throughout the book and did a light edit. And the cover was also changed to a bolder look as you can see on this page.

We do love our anniversaries, and December is the 30th for *Play Your Best Pool*. To celebrate this event, I am

presenting a representative sample of the important concepts in the book. These could prompt those of you who own the book to take another look at these ideas and more, and perhaps this feature will encourage non-owners to get your own copy of the book.

As you read these segments, some of you might say, “I know that.” Great. But can you execute it at the table? And a number of you will be exposed to many of these concepts for the first time, just as I was when I was beginning my education in pool.

While I continuously work at learning new things about how to play our great sport, I am also proud to say that what I wrote about playing pool three decades still applies to this day.

I would like to thank everyone, including pool players worldwide, my dealers, and so many others for supporting this book, my other titles, and my columns. You are all much appreciated!

So, let the 30th Anniversary party begin as we travel through highlights drawn from the pages of *Play Your Best Pool*.

Praise for *PLAY YOUR BEST POOL*

This is a book to study and use. You'll love it.
Tom Shaw, Pool & Billiard Magazine

This one is one of those rare books from which you can actually learn something. Highly recommended.
George Fels, Billiards Digest

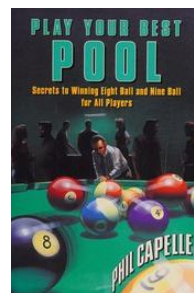
Play Your Best Pool tops all previous 'how to' books.
The National Billiard News

Phil Capelle's knowledge of 8-ball and 9-ball strategy is particularly impressive.
Buddy Hall, 2 Time World Nine Ball Champion

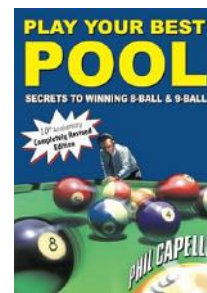
It is a must for all billiard enthusiasts at any level of play.
Allison Fisher, 4 Time World Nine Ball Champion

I came to appreciate his perfectionist nature and attention to detail.
Mike Massey, Member of the BCA Hall of Fame

Thanks for giving poolplayers including myself around the world some hope and inspiration.
Tony Robles, 2004 BCA Champion, Instructor



1995-2005



2005-Today

1 FUNDAMENTALS

A **light grip** allows you to smoothly accelerate the cue through the cue ball in a straight line for accurate shot-making.

The only **moving parts during your backstroke** should be from the elbow on down of your shooting arm.

The **tempo of your stroke** should be as smooth and even as possible.

As the arm swings forward, the **right elbow should drop**. The elbow drop begins at contact with the cue ball or slightly after, but never before contact.

Learn to **vary the speed** of your arm swing and the amount of wrist action.

A new **stroke key** can correct a flaw and produce immediate results in your game.

2 HOW TO AIM

Face each shot directly **down the intended aiming line**.

The **Feel Method** involves **adjusting your aim in small increments** until the shot looks just right.

Learning to aim is simply a matter of creating as many **successful impressions in your mind's eye** as possible.

Lots of practice while paying close attention will enable you to **develop a feel for each shot**.

One reason why I recommend the Feel Method for aiming is that it enables you to learn to **make the necessary adjustments automatically**.

The position of the balls on the table creates a **shot picture**.

3 SHOTMAKING

Knowing the **degree of difficulty on cut shots** can help you select the most probable shots, and to avoid

shots that are nearly impossible or beyond your comfort zone.

Two keys to **pocketing balls in the side pocket** are: 1) stroke speed and, 2) choosing the correct part of the pocket as your target.

Combination shots can be incredibly difficult or ridiculously easy.

Over time you can develop a sense of aim **for bank shots**, just as you would for any other shot.

On a **carom shot** the object ball glances off a second object ball and into the pocket.

On a **billiard shot**, the cue ball is shot directly into an object ball. After glancing off the first ball, the cue ball then makes contact with a second object ball, which is driven into the pocket.

Try **lining up jump shots** with your cue held level. Then raise the buttend up to the proper elevation before shooting.

4 HOW TO USE ENGLISH

Learn to **use english wisely** and always be respectful of the challenge that it brings to the aiming process.

English is sidespin, not topspin or backspin.

The degree of difficulty of aiming rises geometrically the **further off the vertical axis** that you strike the cue ball.

Newer players should **first learn to use outside english**.

Hitting the left side of the cue ball causes it to go slightly to the right, and vice versa. **This is known as deflection**, or squirt.

At least 80 to 90% of all players who **miss shots using inside english** do so because they shoot too hard and fail to allow sufficiently for deflection.

When you know the **various effects of throw, deflection and speed of stroke**, you can begin to make the appropriate adjustments.

5 BASIC POSITION PLAY

You need to know **where you want the cue ball to go**, and how to make it go there.

The cue ball will come to rest precisely at its point of contact with the object ball on a **stop shot**.

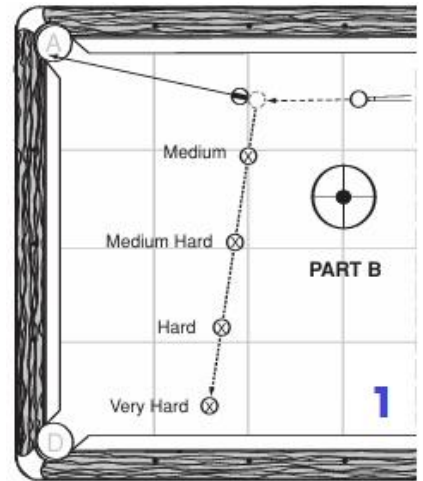


DIAGRAM #1: The cut angle and the speed of stroke determine how far the cue ball will slide sideways.

Stun shots are most effective when the cue ball is within about three feet of the object ball.

A draw shot results when the cue ball is struck with sufficient speed below the cue ball's horizontal axis.

Stroke smoothly, **accelerate through contact**, and follow through completely.

The **stun draw shot** results from the skillful blending of two concepts: the stun shot and the power draw shot.

Most position plays using follow have at least some cut angle, so you need to **understand how the cue ball reacts** immediately after contacting the

object ball.

The secret to the soft follow shot is to **develop a sensitivity for touch.**

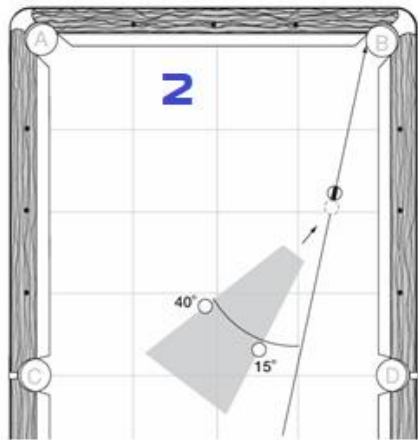
Applying english to a follow shot can make it possible for you to reach a variety of position play objectives.

6 PRINCIPLES OF POSITION PLAY

This chapter contains my 22 Principles of Position Play. The following seven are particularly critical.

#1 Ideal Angle + Correct Distance = Position

You can achieve maximum cue ball control on the majority of your position plays with cut angles that range from 15 to 40 degrees.

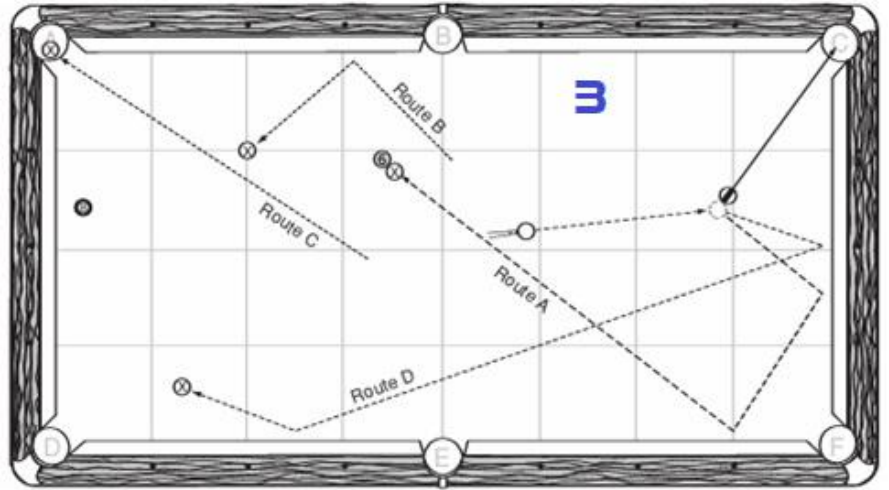


#2 Know the Shape of Position Zones (Diagram 2)

Top players play for zones where they'll have, at worst, adequate position.

#5 Plan Your Route Avoiding Obstructions (Diagram 3) – Just one solitary ball that's planted smack in the middle of your position route can completely mess up your shot.

#7 - Speed Control – Your control of cue ball speed will make or break you as a player.



The 1-10 scale makes it easy for you to visualize the different speeds of stroke.

Professional players confine their stroke speed to levels 3-7 for most shots,

The Spectrum of Speed

1. Extremely Soft
2. Very Soft
3. Soft
4. Medium Soft
5. Medium
6. Medium Hard
7. Hard
8. Very Hard
9. Extremely Hard
10. The Break Shot

#12 Plan for Three Balls at a Time (Diagram 4) – Before shooting the first ball, ask yourself:

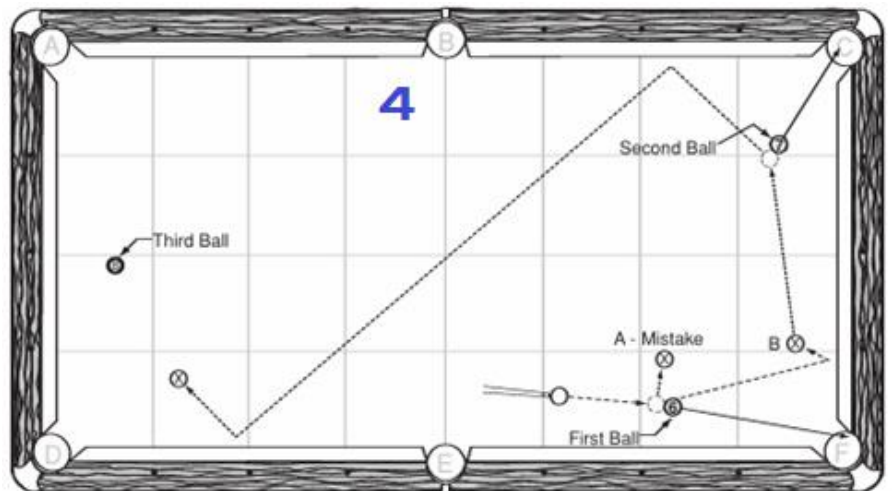
1) How can I make the first ball and play position on the second ball?

2) What position on the second ball will make it possible to play position

on the third ball?

#14 Right Side/Wrong Side: The Master Key (Diagram 5) – Begin to analyze each shot with this thought in mind: which side of the straight in line gives you the easiest position play while also allowing you to avoid hitting other balls.

(NOTE: I have since changed this to Correct Side/Wrong Side)



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Carbon Fiber Shaft Upgrades:
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LX-8W



LX-5

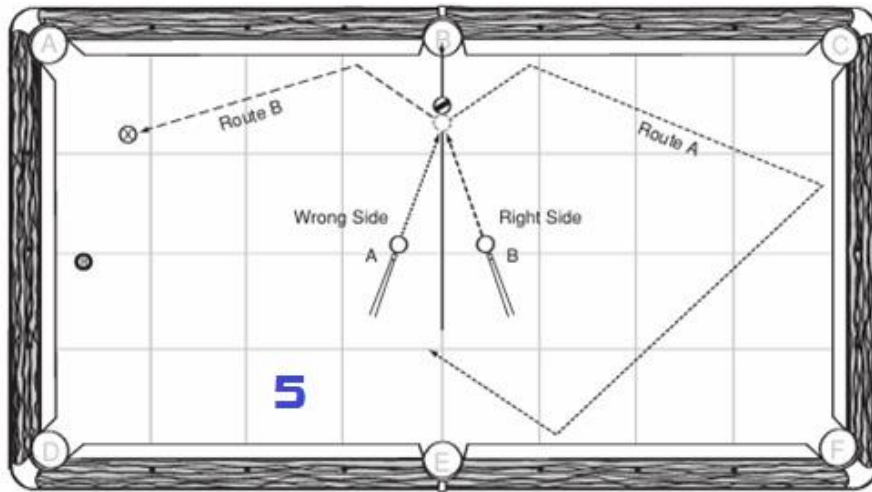


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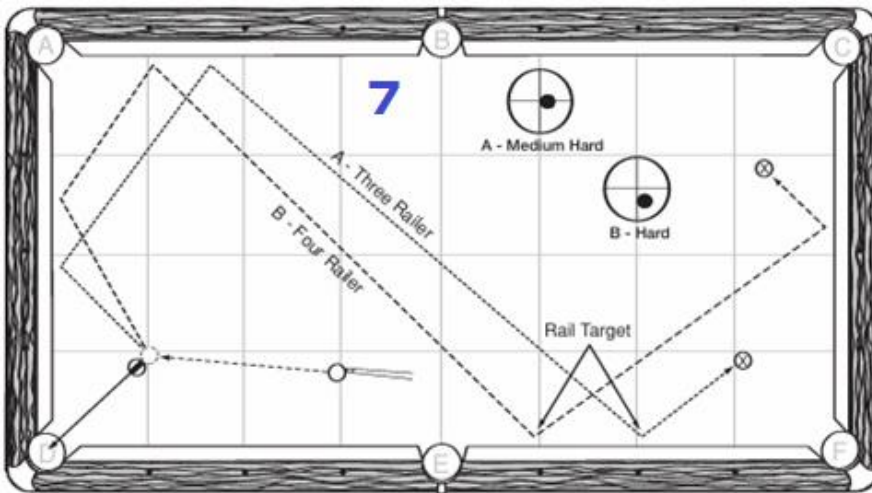
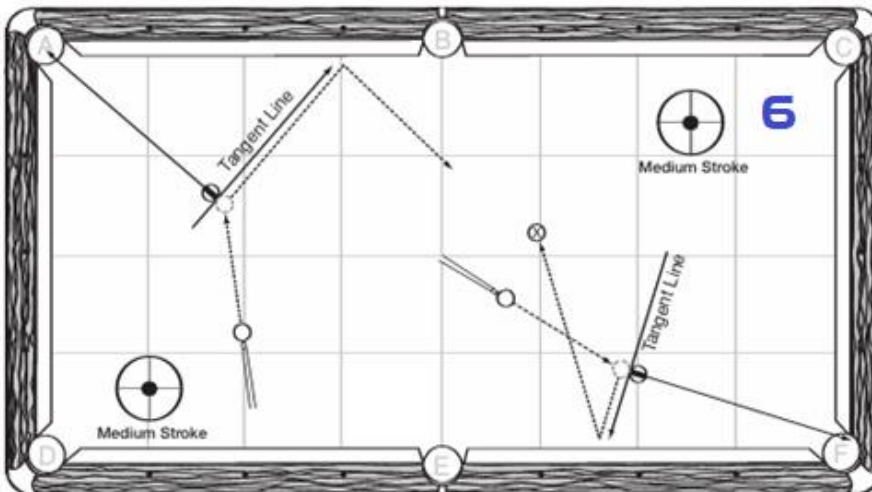
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#17 Allowing for a Margin for Error

Some position zones give you an inviting target that allows for imperfections in your position play. Similarly,

the principle of allowing for a margin for error can provide you with a safety net, which insures that you'll at least have a decent shot on the next object ball.



7 POSITION ROUTES

Where you strike the cue ball has the biggest effect of all on the cue ball's direction.

Slight Angle Pound Shot – Lengthen your bridge for a **longer power stroke** and accelerate smoothly but forcefully through the shot.

You can influence the cue ball's path by **cheating the pocket** to either side.

To play good shape on pocket hangers, pay special attention to the **thickness of the hit** on the object ball.

Multirail position plays require that you understand and use the principles of position discussed in the previous chapter. A few key principles to keep in mind are:

- 1) Speed control, 2) Planning your route, 3) Using rail targets, 4) Avoiding scratches, 5) Natural shape, and 6) Position zones.

Pinpoint Position Using Tangent Lines (Diagram 6) – With a centerball hit and sufficient speed the cue ball will travel down a 90 degree line after contact.

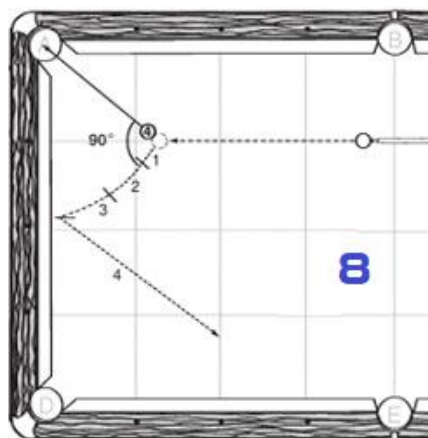
Basic ThreeRail Position (Diagram 7) – Plan to hit the third rail at least a diamond or more up from the corner pocket to insure against a scratch.

8 FINE POINTS OF POSITION PLAY

The Cue Ball's Four Phases **(Diagram 8)**

- 1) Cue ball's traveling down the tangent line after contacting the object ball.
- 2) Cue ball's curving either forward (after follow) or backwards (after draw).
- 3) Cue ball's then traveling in a straight line to the rail.

4) The cue ball's rebound path off the rail is influenced by a number of factors (see above).



Shooting into **either side of the pocket** on thin cut shots can enable you to significantly alter the cue ball's path.

The object on a **lag shot** is to minimize the cue ball's roll after contacting the object ball. When played properly, the ball will topple into the pocket.

Playing Shape off Combinations
- You need to accurately gauge the movement of both the cue ball and your next object ball!

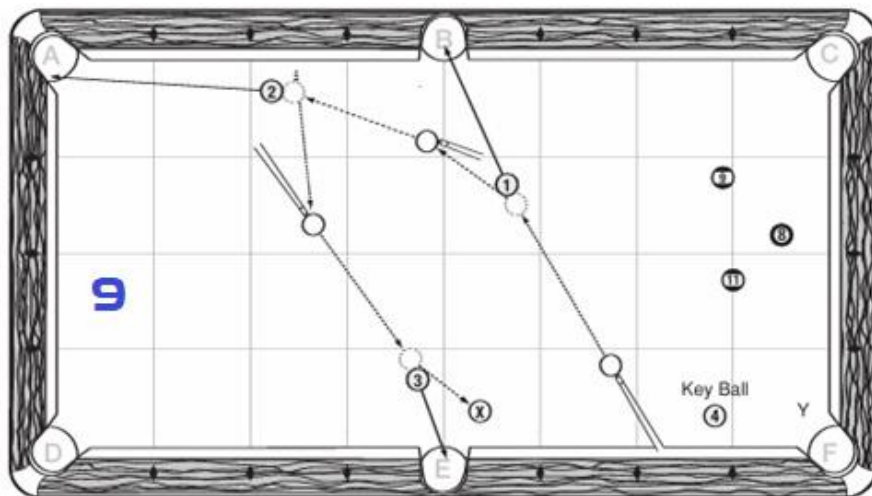
9 EIGHT BALL

Another of my favorite chapters is this one, which presents **60 illustrated lessons** on Eight Ball.

When both groups are easy, your choice ... could be determined by one or two little factors.

It's **the position of the balls that counts** when deciding which group to play, not the number of balls left on the table.

The Biggest Mistake of All: The Failed Runout - A failed runout is an unsuccessful runout attempt that leaves your opponent an open table and an easy win. It must be avoided at all costs.



Never try to runout when there are problems that you are not likely to be able to solve if the failure to runout will lead to an immediate loss of game.

The key ball, as shown in **Diagram 9**, is a critical ball that is your ticket to getting in position for a makeable shot on the 8-ball. It also helps to prevent the dreaded failed runout.

When you are faced with a **problem ball**, patience can be a virtue. Sometimes it can take several shots to get in the proper position to deal with the troublemaker.

Staying in one area and playing short range precision shape in congested quarters is often the solution to running out when your balls are mixed in with your opponent's group.

Try to have alternative shots ready and **be flexible**. If Plan A does not work out, make sure when possible to have a Plan B, and possibly even a Plan C, waiting in the wings.

A cardinal rule of breaking clusters is to have a shot waiting that's not part of the cluster you are breaking apart.

You will increase your runout percentage by learning to **use each ball** to its best possible advantage.

Stake Your Claim, The Play Safe - If neither group can be run, but one still looks better than the other, stake your claim to that group, then play the best available safety.

Avoid pocketing balls that you'll need for various purposes later in the game.

When you make a mistake, **be ready to abandon a run out** and play safe or to look for another viable offensive shot.

When you have complete control of the table, **tighten the screws** by whatever means are available (within the rules, of course).

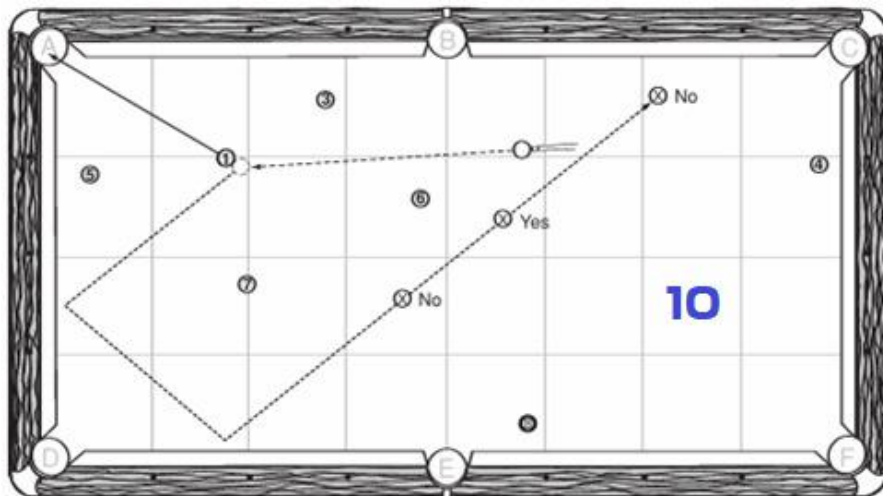
10 NINE BALL

Without **consistent position play** you will never excel at Nine Ball.

Each table breaks differently ... (so) adjust to a particular table.

Weighing the Options: Offense vs. Defense - Often your decisions should be based on how you are shooting, and on your preference for offense or defense.

Do you **play the table**, or do you try to force the issue by **playing unrealistic shots**?



The Importance of Speed Control – A link between your eye, brain, and hand must tell you just how hard to stroke the cue ball to have it wind up at the desired location.

The **correct cut angle** makes it easier to control the cue ball and to send it long distances.

Bear down on the “out shot” like it’s the 9-ball because in many cases this shot is just as important.

The Importance of Speed Control – In **Diagram #10** you can see three results, one good, two poor.

The Importance of the Last Three Balls - You might be surprised at how often pool players of average skill will fail to negotiate the all-important last three balls.

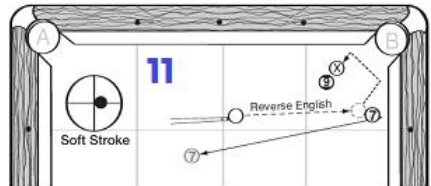
Adjusting to the Competition - This may dictate a change from your normal strategy.

Push Out Strategy - You cannot afford to leave your opponent easy shots or safeties on a push out or they’ll accept the push out and go on to win the game.

Kicking - Sometimes your best strategy is to kick for the lowest numbered ball.

Strategy - You must not hesitate to give up the table to your opponent when the odds of making a shot and getting position are against you.

Inside English Kill Shot – Diagram #11 shows a simple but very effective safety.



The effectiveness of your **hook safeties** depends on your opponent’s ability to jump, curve and kick effectively.

There’s no harm in **running to a hook**. Then, with ball in hand, you complete the runout.

Exercise a little creativity and you just might come up with a game saving kick shot that you can add to your repertoire.

The primary **goal of most kick shots** is to play a safety.

Don’t shoot low percentage kick shots when you have the option of playing a **high percentage safety**.

11 FOUR MORE GREAT GAMES

One of pool’s great appeals is the variety of games the sport offers.

Straight Pool - This is a great game to practice by yourself because it provides you with a concrete method of testing yourself. It’s fun to establish new high runs.

1-Pocket - You need to be skilled at position play, safeties, kick shots, bank shots and reading the table. Each player has one pocket in which they can score a ball.

Develop a Style– Know your game and play to your strengths.

Learn the Moves – 1- Pocket is largely a game of defense. There are 1,001 moves (maybe more), so learn all you can. Knowledge is king.

Learn to run Balls – Master intricate short range position play, bank shots, and other specialty shots. Remember, the strongest move is 8 and out!

Rotation – All 15 balls are used. Each ball is assigned a point value that corresponds to the number on the ball. The total value of the 15 balls is 120 points. The winner in a two handed game is the first player to amass 61 points or more.

Position Play - The ability to alter the cue ball’s path off the rails using various combinations of speed and cueing to avoid obstacles is a vital skill.

Bank Pool – Skill at bank shots can come in handy in every pool game we’ve discussed in this book.

Position Play– Most banks are hit fairly full, which means you must know how to draw and follow for position using a firm stroke. Leave a cut angle on easier banks so you can send the cue ball where needed with precision.



Dear Santa,

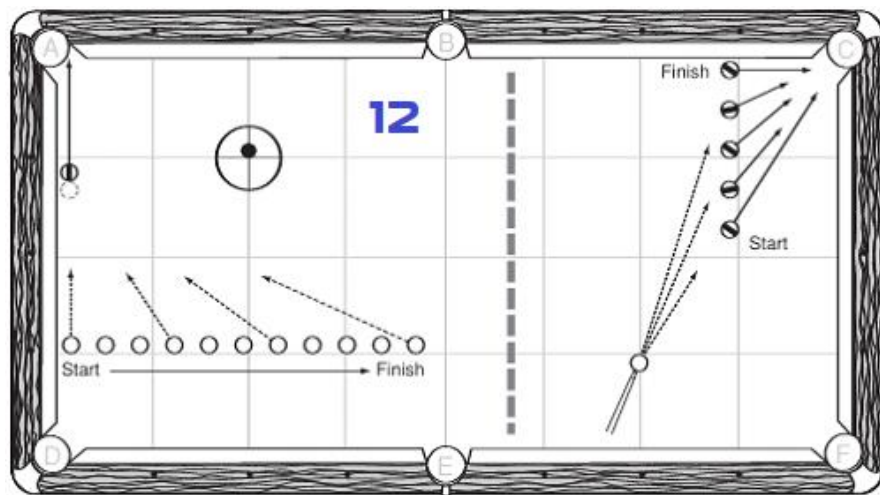
I think I've been good enough this year to deserve a little something. And to make your job easier, I found the perfect gift: *my favourite Becue cue is on sale*, along with some great accessories. They've even created a special **Christmas bundle** featuring the most exciting products of the season.

And there's more: **they're offering their express reindeer service for free**, so your own team can take a well-earned rest. I'd say that should make up for the moments when I may have been just a tiny bit naughty.

P.S. There's also a *little extra surprise*. I can't wait to find my cue under the tree.

Merry Christmas!





Make the Easy Ones– Consistently pocket the banks you are supposed to make. Anyone can miss the harder ones.

12 THE MENTAL GAME

When it comes to playing in competition, **experience** is the best teacher.

Choose the attitudes that will help you play your best.

Concentrate on **your performance**. Follow your routine and give it your best shot.

Your **confidence level** should grow with your skill.

The game, by its very nature, will continually **test your confidence and resolve**.

Sometimes a **hot streak** is really a launching pad to a whole new level of play.

Build on positive experiences and the memories of your successful outings.

On difficult shots, give it your best shot.

Your potential – mental disturbance = **Your ultimate performance**

The great **gift that losing offers** you is the chance to learn more about yourself and your game.

The luck factor enters into every game of pool.

There is a tendency to take **good rolls** for granted.

Learn to enjoy the opportunity to do battle with a **worthy opponent**.

It's your reaction to a **slump** that makes the difference.

13 COMPETITIVE PLAY

Tournament Play – If you play in enough tournaments, the breaks will even out.

In **the long run** it's the quality of your game that matters most.

Work to develop a sense of purpose and the feeling **you can't be beaten**.

Bad starts and big leads can be overcome by playing one game at a time, **one shot at a time**.

Your attitude toward **the hill-hill game** is critical. Tell yourself that you enjoy competing, that you play pool for moments like this.

League Pool - League pool combines the best of an individual sport with the virtues of team play to create a very special and **close-knit team sport**.

It pays to find as perfect a match as possible between you and your league and teammates.

Basic Goals : Help each other improve your games, Learn to play together as a team, Have fun.

Money Games – A friendly wager can help you learn to play under pressure.

You are the best judge of what **your pocketbook** can afford and **your heart** can handle.

Shrewd money management is **no substitute for playing well**.

A great many players prefer the excitement of **playing races**.

Money games with better players should be viewed **as lessons**.

14 HOW TO IMPROVE

Improvements in **the fundamentals** often leads to immediate and sizable gains in the quality of your play.

Master each element in the **proper sequence**.

You need to **stick with the change** until it begins to feel comfortable.

The law of change dictates that **one change often leads to another**.

Accept responsibility for your game.

Build a large storehouse of **knowledge**, and be able to recall that information as needed.

15 PRACTICING POOL

When you **catch yourself doing something right**, jot down your findings in a notebook.

A high **level of awareness** will help you to confirm the things you are doing correctly.

Hold your follow through as if you were **posing for a picture**.

Look for tendencies in your missed shots.

Muster the discipline to **practice safeties**.

Take advantage of the side pockets' naturally small targets to improve your accuracy

Progressive Cut Shots – In Diagram #12 the idea is to raise the bar with thinner and thinner cut angles.

HOW TO STRUCTURE A PRACTICE SESSION

The Start - Take 5-10 minutes to get warmed up and to get your stroke in the groove.

The Heart of Your Session - This might include fundamentals that you want to keep tuned up on a regular basis. Basic position routes that you wish to master and/or new routes.

Specific Skills for Each Session - Pick out a specific skill, shot, or position play from the Champion's Checklist (in PYBP).

Trusting Practice - Practice in a way that most closely resembles how you would play in competition.

End Strongly - End each session on a high note. You want the last shot to leave a positive impression.

I hope you enjoyed this special feature. And I want to thank all of you who have been on this pool journey with me over parts, if not all, of the last 30 years. Finally, always remember that our great sport is more fun when you always strive to **Play Your Best Pool!**

ABOUT PHIL CAPELLE

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

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FEAR IS IN THE IMAGINATION

ANTHONY BEELER

A Pool Player's Guide to Freedom at the Table

If the internal state you're looking for in your next match is calm, confidence, and fearlessness, this article could change the way you compete forever. Over the years, I've watched some players unlock better performance through a shift in mindset. The biggest obstacle most players face is not on the table — it's in their imagination.

Fear doesn't come from the shot you're about to take. It comes from the future you're picturing. When your mind jumps ahead, you start worrying about missing a key ball, losing to someone you think you "should" beat, falling short in a tournament, or being judged by people watching. None of those outcomes exist yet. They live only in your thoughts. But when your body reacts to those thoughts as though they are already real, tension creeps into your stroke and clarity disappears from your decision-making. Fear doesn't change the layout — it changes the player.

THE OUTCOME IS ALWAYS UNCERTAIN

No matter how strong your fundamentals are, you will never have full control over the outcome of a match. Even world-class players misjudge position, rattle balls, scratch, or get kissed by bad rolls. Every rack is influenced by factors you cannot fully command: table conditions, cloth speed, humidity, racking inconsistencies, and even subtle changes in your mindset.

When you try to force certainty into an uncertain game, you create tension. And tension is the enemy of a smooth stroke. Pool requires trust — trust in your mechanics, your decisions, and your process. You can't play freely while trying to control the future.

SURRENDER THE OUTCOME — NOT THE EFFORT

Letting go of results does not mean you stop caring. It means you stop pretending you control what you don't. One of the most powerful adjustments a pool player can make is to walk into a match thinking, "I'll give every shot my best effort — but I don't know how this match will go."

Most pressure doesn't come from competition; it comes from expectation. When you demand that you must play well, every error feels heavier and every rack carries emotional weight.



But when you release that demand, your body responds immediately with looseness, your mind begins to clear, and your stroke becomes straighter.

ACCEPTANCE IS NOT INDIFFERENCE

Some players worry that being accepting will make them passive. The truth is the opposite. Acceptance isn't giving up; it's refusing to fight reality. There is a difference between caring deeply about winning and building your identity around winning. The first produces hunger. The second produces fear.

A fearful player is trying to prove something.

A confident player is simply trying to execute something.



When you stop fighting outcomes, you stop fighting yourself. And when you stop fighting yourself, your true ability surfaces.

YOU ARE NOT YOUR LAST MATCH

You are the same player and the same person whether you win or lose. When you stop needing results to validate you, your performance improves naturally. Emotional security frees you from desperation. And desperation is the quiet killer of consistency.

Players who no longer need to win in order to feel worthy... tend to win more.

GRATITUDE IS A PERFORMANCE ADVANTAGE

Being grateful to play this game is not weakness — it's strength. Gratitude steadies the nervous system

and clears the mind. A grateful player calms faster, analyzes better, and stays solution-focused during adversity.

Mental performance research shows a strong link between gratitude and being "in the zone." When you approach competition with appreciation instead of pressure, you enter a mental state that supports better vision, better judgment, and better execution.

Gratitude doesn't make you less competitive.

It makes you more composed.

EXPECT NOTHING. COMMIT TO EVERYTHING.

The most damaging thought in pool is: "I have to play well tonight."

The most powerful is: "I don't know how tonight will go — and I'm okay with that."

When you stop demanding the future, you reclaim the present. And the present is the only place where great pool is played.

Release expectation.

Commit to the moment.

And play free!

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...



LOVING BUT LEAVING THE BAY AREA...

While I was working for Bucktooth, many players came by the store to see him and hang out. Cole Dickson, Ronnie Allen, Keith McCready, Billy Incardona, Kim Davenport, Chris MacDonald, Tony Annigoni – too many to mention. Invariably, we'd go to dinner after work and it was always a lot of fun – especially listening to the stories!

One afternoon I walked into the store and heard the unmistakable voice of Grady Mathews coming from Tooth's office. I hadn't seen him since Richie Florence's Caesars Tahoe Billiards Classic. He had another couple with him who he introduced to me as "Little Joe" Villalpando and his girlfriend, Kris.

Somehow the conversation got around to Grady's immense appetite and Tooth said that when the store

closed we'd all go to a place in Oakland to grab a bite to eat. Fenton's was known for their massive ice cream desserts and Tooth bet Grady \$200 that he couldn't finish one of their world famous banana splits.

We all piled into the car. On the way into Fenton's, Tooth handed me a twenty, told me to give it to the waitress and ask her to make Grady's banana split a double.

After polishing off some sandwiches, it was time for dessert. Now Grady had seen a few of those huge banana splits go by while we were eating our sandwiches and he had chirped to Tooth that he'd steal that \$200 - it was a hanger. What he didn't count on was Tooth conspiring with the waitress. She set down in front of Grady the biggest banana split I'd ever seen. It

had six softball-sized scoops of ice cream, four bananas and the whipped cream was piled a foot high. Realizing that he'd been trapped, he just dug in, winked at me halfway through, polished off the whole thing and then calmly held out his hand out for two well-earned Benjamins!

After dinner, I headed home and dropped Tooth off. Grady, Kris and Joe hopped on their motorcycles and headed to the pool room - I headed there too.

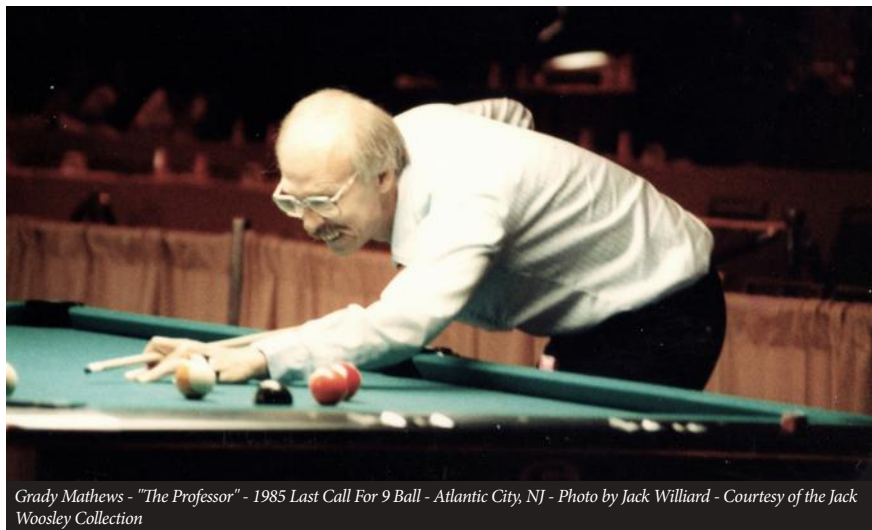
When I got there, the place was empty except the house man and a couple guys sitting at the counter. The next thing I knew, Joe took me aside and asked me if I'd "babysit" his girlfriend for a couple hours as he & Grady were going to hit a couple rough spots to try to make some money.

Well, the last thing I wanted to do was be stuck with someone I didn't know but Joe told me that there was probably nothing going on and they'd be back before I knew it.

Trapped, I reluctantly agreed so I got a rack of balls figuring I'd hit some balls. I told Kris I had an extra cue she could use if she wanted but she told me that she didn't play - Joe wouldn't let her.

Astonished, I said, "What do you mean - he won't let you?"

She told me that she wanted to learn but Joe just wanted her to sit there and "look pretty."



Grady Mathews - "The Professor" - 1985 Last Call For 9 Ball - Atlantic City, NJ - Photo by Jack Williard - Courtesy of the Jack Woosley Collection

After supper, I spread all the jewelry out on her dining room table and people started coming in. And they kept coming! Those thirty had brought others with them – all looking for a good deal. They emptied me out as I sold almost everything I had plus I'd taken a few orders besides! It was a good night! After squaring up with Faye, I hit the sack.

The next morning I woke up to find Ronnie – some who consider the greatest hustler who ever lived - sitting in front of the TV watching Oral Roberts! As he watched, he came with a few amens, hallelujahs and a praise the Lord! I tiptoed back to my room until the others woke up.

Back at the store, we were slammed and many people came in with my business cards. Finally, around the second week of January, things calmed down but I had made a killing.

Over the course of the year, a few of the Oakland Raiders had become customers of mine – most buying items for their girlfriends. One of them had envied Tooth's nugget bracelet with an inset band of about fifty or so half carat diamonds. I had him meet me at the store so Tooth could measure his massive wrist and give him a price on



Joe Villalpando - "Little Joe" - Mid '80s - Plush Cue - Cheyenne, WY - Photo courtesy of Linda Trujillo

Well, I took her to a bar table, handed her my cue, showed her how to stand, make an open bridge, how to stroke the cue ball and within a few hours, she was pocketing easier shots and playing basic position. She was a natural.

A couple hours later, the boys walked through the door and Joe saw Kris playing pool. He had a fit and snatched the cue out of her hand.

Never being one to know when to keep my mouth shut, I lit into him.

"What's the matter with you? Don't you realize you're sitting on a gold mine? She's a natural! Most men have never seen a female that can play a little bit, let alone beat them. They trip over each other to play me! Spend some time working with her and you can match her up - she'll win plenty."

Grady winked at me and chimed in saying, "She's right!"

Pissed, I said my goodbyes and headed home.

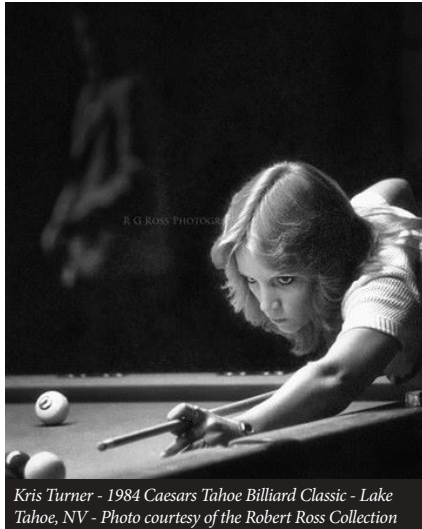
On a side note, Joe taught her well because a few years later, Kris won the 1986 World Open 9 Ball Championship in Moline, IL.

Over the course of the next year or so, I built up a good clientele. Ronnie Allen stopped by and since Christmas was coming, he and Tooth set up a jewelry show later that month at his home in Burbank.

A couple Saturdays later, I flew down to Burbank with that diaper bag stuffed with jewelry. Ronnie's wife, Faye, picked me up at the airport. During the drive to their home, she told me she expected about thirty friends of hers to show up later that night.



Joe Villalpando, John Cash & Kris Turner - Mid '80s - Family Billiards - Las Vegas, NV - Photo courtesy of Andy Hughes



the bracelet. I can't remember how much it cost but it was over \$10,000 but he just couldn't pull the trigger. Tooth saw I was disappointed but he told me he'd be back – he wouldn't be able to get that bracelet out of his head.

Sure enough, a month or so went by and one night when I returned to the store to reload what I'd sold that day, give Tooth his end and collect whatever had come in on the business cards that I'd been relentlessly handing out, he told me that my Raider had come back to give him a down payment on the bracelet. Sweet!

I forgot about it until late one afternoon I was getting gas in Alameda when my Raider pulled up at the opposite pump. He hopped out of his car, saw me and held up his arm to show me that gorgeous bracelet.

"Oh," I said, "Did you just come from the store? You should've called me – we could've met for lunch!"

"No, I picked it up last week! Isn't it gorgeous?"

Well, last week Tooth had gone to Los Angeles on a buying trip and to pick up some custom items so his wife must've given him the bracelet and collected the balance. I'd had prob-

lems a few times previously with her not giving me my end from my customers. I was furious. I was owed several thousand dollars.

I drove back to the store, marched into Tooth's office and closed the door. He looked up in surprise and he could tell by my face I was angry.

"Mare, what's wrong? What's going on?"

"I'll tell you what's wrong! She did it again! And this time it was huge! She didn't give me my end for that nugget bracelet with the diamonds! You want me out there selling for you and I have to trust that I get what's coming to me when I'm not here."

Without a word, he just reached into his pocket and peeled hundreds of dollars off the massive bankroll he always carried around and pushed it across the desk to me.

"She must've forgotten – I know that she's always stressed out when I'm not at the store," he said.

Knowing that this was a lame excuse, I answered, "You've got to talk to her about this – you know it's happened quite a few times before. The only reason I found out about this is I ran into my Raider at the gas station and he showed me his new bracelet!" I said.

He just stared at me for a few seconds and then replied, "Well, she's my wife," and then turned back to what he was doing. I knew the conversation was over.

As I took the money I wondered to myself how much money she'd pocketed that should've been mine that I didn't know about and knew I had a decision to make.

I steamed for the rest of the night and the next day, I decided to remove myself from the situation and take a few days off to fly home. I called my friend in San Jose to ask her if she'd mind if I left Rusty with her while I was gone. Jeannie had several cats and dogs of her own – I'd always brought him along when I visited. He loved playing with her dogs. She told me to drop him off – he'd be fine.

When I got home, I stayed with my family and made the rounds – hitting all the pool rooms, made a little money to cover my trip and saw friends that I hadn't seen since I left a few years before. I enjoyed seeing everyone and while I was there, I decided to tell Tooth I was done.

When I landed in California, I drove straight to Jeannie's to pick up Rusty. I missed him and couldn't wait to see him.

Mary Kenniston - 1984 Caesars Tahoe Billiard Classic - Lake Tahoe, NV - Photo courtesy of the Robert Ross Collection





Rommie Allen - "Fast Eddie" - 1980 Rocky Mountain Open - Colorado Springs, CO - Photo courtesy of Mike Haines & Bill Porter

I pulled up in front of the house and knocked on the door. Jeannie opened it and I saw Rusty just laying there – he barely looked up. As soon as he saw it was me, he rocketed across the room and catapulted himself into my arms – licking my face while his tail wagged furiously.

I looked over at Jeannie and she was laughing. She told me that Rusty had barely moved from that spot since I had left – refusing to eat. Guess he missed me...

We drove home and I grabbed my suitcase from the car and went into the house. I tripped over Rusty constantly as every time I moved, he was up with his tail wagging and ready to go – even if it was just to the bathroom.

It took me a couple days to tell Tooth I was leaving plus calling or making the rounds to say goodbye to some of the people and customers I'd met over the last couple years. The next morning I got my suitcase out of the closet and threw it on the bed to pack. I became so engrossed in what I was doing that I didn't notice that Rusty was nowhere to be found. I walked out the back door and saw Rusty – he had jumped through the open window of my car and was sitting there waiting

for me. He'd seen that suitcase and wasn't going to let me go anywhere without him!

And I guess he stayed in the car all night because the following morning he was still there. I loaded my suitcase and a few boxes into the car and we hit the road back to Los Angeles and the Stagger Inn.

I had some friends there that could help me find a place to live and I looked forward to the next chapter of my life.

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

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AZBilliards presents An International Open production, directed & briefly starring Pat Fleming

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

Yapp three-peats to lead 2025 International Open winners

Based solely on the exuberance of spectator reaction, the most electric moment of the entire International Open Week (Nov. 14-23), hosted by the Renaissance Golf Resort Village in St. Augustine, FL happened during an exhibition 10-ball match on Friday (Nov. 21) that featured four Scotch Doubles teams made up of eight members of the BCA Hall of Fame. Nick Varner and Jeanette Lee teamed up, as did Thorsten Hohmann and Belinda Calhoun, along with a bit of a comedy team with Johnny Archer and Mike Sigel. The last team paired the man responsible for the entire week+, Pat Fleming and “The Kaiser,” Ralf Souquet.

Moments before the Scotch Doubles tournament got underway, Fleming, no doubt remembering the ‘roots’ of this particular group of Hall of Fame All Stars, added a little historical ‘spice’ to it by putting up \$1,000 as a prize for the winning Scotch Doubles team, transforming it from a strictly playful, relatively meaningless exhibition into something of a serious match. Or as serious as a \$1,000 first prize can get. There was amusing banter and laughter within and between the four teams (particularly from Archer and Sigel), but as each player stepped to the table for a shot, their focused concentration, their steady pre-shot routines and ultimately, the

shots themselves spoke of four teams that were seriously engaged in winning the \$1,000; Fleming, of course, likely hoping, though not really caring whether, in consort with Souquet, he could win back half of the money he’d put up.

“Watch out!” said the exhibition’s announcer and referee, Ed Liddawi, “there’s money in it now.”

Following an opening-round win by Varner and Lee, over Hohmann and Calhoun, at the start of the second round of three ‘matches,’ each a single game, Pat Fleming stepped to the table and broke the 10-ball rack, drop-

ping three balls. And if that wasn’t excitement enough, for spectators *and* Fleming himself, he stepped to the table a few shots later, assessing a layout that demanded a table-length jump shot.

It’s a shot technique that’s been around for a long time, though ‘back in the day,’ it was frowned upon and in some cases, illegal in formal play. It was Fleming, who, in the mid-80s, began experimenting with prototype jump cues and fostered the development of a specifically-designed cue for the maneuver, leading to a reputation as “one of the forefathers of the modern jump cue.”



Julian Robertson, Aloysius Yapp and Pat Fleming



Denis Grabe

Fleming stepped to the table, assessed the medium-length distance of the jump itself, the medium-length distance that the cue ball had to travel after the jump *and* the distance the object ball needed to get into its corner pocket; calculations of angle, distance and speed. He aimed, raised the jump cue to its appropriate position and nailed it.

The crowd, as they say, went wild. Nobody was more excited about it than Fleming himself. The assembled spectators gave him a run for his money in the ‘noise’ department (arguably, the loudest, sustained response to any given shot in any of the four main, Simonis Aramith TV Arena events of the International Open), but Fleming was wildly animated, as were the other seven Hall of Fame All Stars. For all the world, acting like someone half his age, Fleming was as excited about it as if he’d just dropped the last ball in a million-dollar-added World tournament. He and Souquet, though, lost the match to Archer and Sigel. Varner and Lee defeated Archer and Sigel in the final.

The entire three-match/single-game, mini-tournament with its eight BCA

Hall of Fame All Stars is available for viewing and owning at accu-stats.com, as are any and all of the matches played in the Simonis Aramith TV Arena during the week+ of the International Open. If it were a movie (not just the televised part), entitled “A Lot of Everything,” with a preview reel narrated by Mike Sigel (who was commenting on a lot of the TV arena matches with Mark Wilson), he’d likely have said, with style and emphasis, “Starring . . . ‘The Yapper,’ Singapore’s Aloisius Yapp.”

It was Sigel’s unofficial nickname for Yapp, which, at one point (among others) he employed when Yapp was taking a little more time than usual to make a shot.

“C’mon, Yapper!” he cried (in the booth, generally inaudible to players at the table), “whack it in there!!”

Interspersed with images of Yapp, bending over, sliding his stick back and forth, leaning in to the table, focusing steely eyes on the straight line between cue and object ball, and stroking, making a shot, Sigel (never at a loss for words) would go on to explain that Yapp won two events

of the 2025 International Open – The ‘Bigfoot’ Invitational 10-Ball Open *and* The International 9-Ball Open.

“And it’s the *third* time in a row he’s won the 9-ball,” Sigel might emphasize, as he went on to list his other accomplishments, *in 2025 alone*. “Winner of the UK Open, Florida Open, US Open 9-Ball, the Formosa Cup, and a member and MVP of the winning Asia Team in the Reyes Cup. He finished in the money in *18 events this year!*”

SCENE 1 – Yapp wins “Bigfoot” Invitational 10-Ball

By nature, Yapp is not a . . . demonstrative player. You’d never be able to tell by watching him at the table or away, in his chair, whether he was winning or losing. Or whether he’d stepped up to the table before or after either a nap or a good night’s sleep. He would generally look as though he was ready for one or the other. He has always exhibited an economy of motion with the task at hand, not given to aimless wandering in search of a shot, chalking up for very long or repeatedly as he considers the one he’s chosen. He is one of the best players in the world in getting the cue ball to go *exactly* where he wants it to be after making a shot or executing a safety, every time. Unforced errors make up a minuscule portion of his match-play records. He’ll miss a few shots when an opponent has put him in a tough position, but that extraordinary cue ball control comes into play when he uses it to return the favor and put his opponent in a bad position.

Yapp got into the 16-entrant, single-elimination finals of the \$8,000-added, ‘Bigfoot’ Invitational with a shutout over Karl Pischinger, a somewhat surprising 10-2 elimination of Lee Vann Corteza and a semifinal, double-hill win over Carlo Biado that featured all the adjectives (thrilling, exciting, nail-biting). Oi joined Yapp

International Open 9-Ball Championship

in the final after defeating Elvis Rodriguez 10-2, Robbie Capito 10-7 and in the semifinal, Arseni Sevastyanov 10-1, which fell into a ‘surprising’ category because Sevastyanov had defeated Fedor Gorst in a double-hill, quarterfinal battle.

The potential for a repeated-tie, final-match thriller lasted four racks, to the point where the score was tied 2-2 and Yapp chalked up five in a row. The quality of play was very high; no repetitive unforced errors, and safety play that was as thrilling to watch as some of the executed shots. It featured a shot-clock violation by Oi and a banked-ball win for Yapp to go ahead by four at 6-2. Even at 7-2, that quality of play elevated interest in the outcome because Oi was demonstrably capable of a five-rack run.

Oi chalked up his third rack in game #10. Yapp negated that mini-surge by winning the next two and reaching the hill. To no one’s surprise, off his own break, Oi then won his fourth game, which was like a dying candle catching a fresh breeze. It caught everyone’s attention because many of those in attendance or watching from home had seen him throughout the event, executing well and keeping the ‘comeback’ possibility alive.



Mickey Krause

The potential euphoria didn’t last. Yapp closed it out.

Asked post-match how he managed to go through the full day of 10-ball matches to include the practice hours he’d spent at the ‘Bigfoot’ table, and maintain such focus, Yapp executed one of his rare smiles at the table as he explained in just a few words (he’s like that) how he managed the tension of it all.

“You have to work hard,” he said, adding the smile, noting, though not saying precisely that it wasn’t his first ‘rodeo,’ then, adding a brief clarification. “You just have to work harder than the rest.”

SCENE 2 - Hohmann collects his first US-based Straight Pool title

In eight of the last 10 years (absent ‘22 and the COVID year), Thorsten Hohmann has cashed in what was originally the Maryland 14.1 Straight Pool Championships, then Peter Burrows’ American Straight Pool Championships 14:1 and is now the International Straight Pool Open. He’s been runner-up twice and been in the semifinals twice. He’s also won the World Tournament of 14:1 four times, beginning in 2011. On Tuesday night, (Nov. 18), Hohmann completed an undefeated run in the \$20,000-added Straight Pool Open to add an American feather to his 14.1 cap.

Following the match, his thoughts ran in the direction of other former and current 14.1 champions and known



Pat Fleming and Aloysius Yapp



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International Open 9-Ball Championship

competitors of 14.1 and other games, some of whom were in attendance.

“I’m humbled,” he said, looking around to notice Jeanette Lee, his countryman Ralf Souquet, Billy Incardona, Johnny Archer and Sammy Jones, along with the defending champion of the event, Mario He (whom he’d defeated in the opening-round of single-elimination play). He looked in the direction of the broadcast booth and gave a shout out to Mike Sigel, himself a three-time World Straight Pool champion.

“I remember, when I was 12 years old, watching Mike Sigel play,” he said.

Asked, out of all the billiards games, what it was about straight pool that made it *his* game, Hohmann reflected on his past.

“Well, I was fortunate enough to grow up where the game was cherished,” he said, “and after so many years of not winning anything, I was finally able to break through.”

‘Breaking through’ on this occasion in a big way, that began with a set of four Round Robin matches that he won by an average score of 125-15. He gave up only three in an opening match

against Jonathan Demet, and in the second round, faced John Schott, who would end up being the Round Robin competitor responsible for edging Hohmann’s average balls-against toward its 15, by chalking up 39 against him. Gary Hale managed eight and in the final round, John Deak got to 10. He ended Stage 1 with the highest ball differential of its 20 competitors; +440, 500-60.

Those ‘days,’ literally and figuratively, were long gone by the time the Straight Pool Open played its first Stage 2 rounds on Monday night. Though no longer in the ‘teens’ of balls-against, and racing to 150, Hohmann’s opponents’ average stayed below 100 in the three matches he played to claim the title. Mario He, the defending champ, got the closest, dropping 109 in the extended race to 150 in the opening round.

Hohmann went on to defeat Wiktor Zielinski 150-77 and in the final, finishing with a 75-ball run, Hohmann defeated Denis Grabe 150-84.

Straight pool pros tend to be aware that races to 125 and 150 are marathons, not sprints, so the amount of downtime, when opponents go onto extended runs, doesn’t phase them

as much your average series of ‘break and runs’ can do in a game of 9-ball, for example. Following Hohmann’s break of the first rack without a ball to show for it. Denis Grabe opened with a run of 43, as Hohmann watched, calmly. He came to the table, behind 43-0 and dropped 14, before Grabe came back and added 18 to his 43. Still no sign that Hohmann was concerned, or even noticed. Near the end of Grabe’s 18, there were a few ‘safety’ point-penalties assessed which lowered the two scores just a bit. More importantly, when Hohmann broke the ‘safety’ logjam, he set out on a 65-ball run, that by the time Grabe got to his feet, he was down by 17 at 76-59.

At the midway point of the race to 150, ahead of a protracted safety battle, a table-full run of 14 brought Grabe within three (76-73), at which point, they went back and forth seven times, before Thorsten made and then, immediately, missed a shot. Gabe stepped up and made 12 more, giving *him* the lead at 84-75. If you’re ‘doing the math,’ there were some safety penalties during the last batch of them that lowered scores down to the 84-75 when Thorsten stepped up and finished the game with the 75-ball run that gave him his first American Straight Pool title.

“I’m happy that I’m still the king of straight pool,” he said after the win. “It’s very special, (straight pool), one of my favorite games and it’s not played enough. I wish there was more recognition of it (and) hope that more players would come and participate.”

In the midst of the post-match interview, Ra Hanna posed a question that seemed to surprise Hohmann in the moment. He considered it for a second before responding with a confident grin.

“Is the ‘Hitman’ back?” Hanna asked him.

“You bet your ass I’m back.”



Tournament Emcee Derrick Keith



Pat Fleming and Thorsten Hohmann

SCENE 3 – One Pocket takes center stage, Gomez comes back from the ‘brink’ to win it

If you're not aware of or have never been a fan of One Pocket as either a competitor or spectator, we recommend that you head on over to AccuStats and hook up with the final match between Justin Hall and Roberto Gomez in the 56-entrant (with buy-back option), \$20,000-added International 1-Pocket Open.

At what proved to be (at the time) *the* most critical juncture in the final match of the \$20,000-added International 1-Pocket Open (with others to come), Justin Hall, in a race to 3, was ‘on the hill’ 2-0 in games, and ahead in balls in the third and potentially, final rack 7-4. It wasn't the first time in the game that he was one shot away from the title and wouldn't be the last. He bent down to shoot the ball that would finish the match; straight-forward, medium-range shot, more-or-less straight into a corner pocket.

And missed it, the ball bouncing off the short rail, diagonally, hitting the long rail and headed down table. The ‘how did he miss that’ gasp from

spectators was likely heard all over the large exhibition hall with other matches in progress outside the Simonis Aramith TV Arena. Hall gasped a little himself.

Though the back and forth of shots *not* designed to put a ball into a hole can be entertaining for their evidence of superior cue-ball and positional control, they can get just a little tedious, for participants and spectators alike. But by the very nature of the game, a lot of shots in 1-Pocket end up being in a range from just difficult to downright spectacular.



Roberto Gomez

After Hall missed what would have been his match-winning shot, Gomez executed, with one interruption, four shots (of the relatively spectacular kind) that gave him his first rack of the match, from which point, he would go on to win the next two and claim the 1-Pocket title.

Gomez got into the final by winning four games at the outset of the tournament; three shutouts and a 3-1 victory, before he ran into countryman Roland Garcia, who defeated him 3-1. Gomez bought back into the tournament, moving on to defeat Marc Vidal 3-1 and then, Justin Hall, whom he shut out in their first meeting. He moved on to eliminate Sergio Rivas 3-0 and in the event semifinal, Anthony Meglino 3-1.

Hall, in the meantime, had given up a rack to his first opponent, Jerry McWorter and then shut out the next four; Larry Landsman, George Hershman, Kim Davenport, and Sam Harris. He benefited from a rest (bye) in the next round, ahead of losing the next match to Gomez. He bought back in and locked into three straight double-hill matches, downing Roland Garcia in the first one, and in the semifinals, Oliver Ruuger.

From that decisive and momentum-shifting 3rd game in the final, the

match went on to produce other riveting moments of drama. Gomez had gone on to win the fourth game of the final to tie the match score at 2-2 and set the stage for a compelling final rack. They battled back and forth to a 2-2 ball-tie, when Gomez made a move and dropped three. Hall fought back to drop two and draw within a ball at 5-4. They repeated that pattern – two balls for Gomez, two for Hall – and in the second go-round, Gomez came within one ball of the title at 7-4; a mini-hill kind of situation. Hall got the next two to draw back within one at 7-6.

As entertaining as any game of the match, rack #14 came down to two balls, which the two competitors chased around the table, arguably long enough for a spectator to have taken a (short) dinner break. At one point, the two balls were reduced to one when the 8-ball planted itself on the lip of a side pocket, from which it was unlikely to be dislodged without dropping, effectively taking it out of the action, to be spotted for further play, which both were reluctant to do. Gomez took three decent shots at the title-winning ball, which, thanks (all three times) to Hall's leave after taking one of his shots, just refused to drop into its designated hole. Hall made a tactical error in what would prove to be his last shot of the match and gave Gomez his best chance. Gomez lined up a side-to-(his)corner-pocket bank shot, dropped it and the crowd went wild. For a while.

When the applause dissipated, arena announcer Derrick Keith, admitting to not being overly familiar with One Pocket matches, asked Gomez if this was a normal kind of match or whether it was as intense as it had appeared.

"Oh, very intense," said Gomez. "I'm still shaking."

"How," he is asked by Ra Hanna, "do you manage to keep your composure?"



Winner of Back to Back 14.1 Daily High Runs Wiktor Zielinski

"It needs composure," Gomez explained. "You try to be calm, really calm. (You want) to be aggressive, but calm with your strokes. You do the things that you do (and you) can't think negative."

Pool-playing words to live by from the 2025 International 1-Pocket Open champion.

SCENE 4 – Yapp closes out the week by winning his third International 9-Ball Open

Yapp and Spain's Francisco Sanchez-Ruiz (FSR) fought the week's last championship battle in the \$75,000-added International 9-Ball Open, which was, in many ways, anti-climactic. Not that it lacked memorable moments of remarkable play by two remarkable players, it's just that at the end of a very long week, it had been a very long week for players and spectators alike. They'd both spent the last five days engaged in just *getting* to the final, both of them, with opening-round byes, had played three rounds of a double-elimination Stage 1 and four rounds of the single-elimination Stage 2. Both had

gone undefeated to the title match. There was something of a mutual, satisfied exhaustion from a lot of people in the room; a sense that while much gratifying 'work' had been accomplished and witnessed, the unspoken cry of "One Last Time!" was muted.

Sanchez-Ruiz literally got the last balls rolling at around 7:30 p.m. Sunday night (Nov. 30) and promptly scratched on the break. The reigning two-time champion of the event took his first lead. At the end of a double-length bank shot that Yapp attempted in the second game, the 3-ball rattled in its intended hole and Sanchez-Ruiz was able to tie it up for the first of six times. The last of them occurred when both of them had reached 10, at which point, Yapp's AccuStats TPA (total performance average, based on comparisons of total shots, made shots and errors) was at 920 and Sanchez-Ruiz's was at 899.

Midway through the match, with the score tied at 7-7, those TPA figures were at 894 for Yapp and 895 for Sanchez-Ruiz, who'd dropped nine more balls than Yapp (68-59) at that point.

So back and forth they went, making crowd-pleasing shots and safeties,

spectator enthusiasm for which was arguably motivated seeing the occasionally brilliant shots and safeties than the shot or safety itself. “Captain Hook” (Mike Sigel), in the broadcast booth, had been reminding people throughout the live stream that nothing really important was going to happen until one of the players had won 10 of the 13 games required to win the match. As it turned out, there were six games left when that happened, Yapp, advancing to 10-8. There were four by the time the score was knotted at 10-10.

Chasing the 2-ball with safeties, FSR scratched to give Yapp his 6th lead at 11-10 and off his own break, reached the hill. Yapp scratched in rack #23, keeping tension high when FSR drew within one at 12-11.

With 6-balls left in what proved to be the last rack, Yapp was forced to play safe shooting at the 4-ball. FSR, from down-table, was forced into a rail-first bank shot to clear the 4-ball away from the short rail. He hit the 4-ball, but as it moved down-table, the cue-ball hugged the short rail all the way to the corner pocket and dropped in; a shot that would have been next to impossible to plan and even harder to

actually make if you’d set it up with the ‘practice’ idea of scratching. It cost FSR the game and match. With ball in hand, Yapp ran the table to complete an undefeated run to this third straight, International 9-Ball Open title.

SCENE 5 - Cubbage downs Chen to win Int’l SemiPro Open; Hess, Martinez III win junior titles

The \$10,000-added International 9-Ball Semi-Pro Open, which drew the International Open’s largest field of competitors at 105 entrants, was another one of the week’s events which offered a buy-back option into what was basically a single-elimination bracket; sort of an administrative loss-side option of a standard double-elimination bracket. Though runner-up Rhys Chen played one less match, thanks to a forfeit, he and winner, Chris Cubbage went undefeated to the final.

In the 10th round of play, the field had whittled down to eight competitors. Cubbage defeated Adam Granatella 7-5, Chen downed Marco Dy 7-2, Creigh Dumo eliminated Doug John-

son 7-3 and Kody Kelly won a double-hill match against Victor Nau.

In the semifinals, Cubbage gave up just a single rack to Dumo. Chen and Kelly battled to double hill before Chen prevailed to join Cubbage in the Saturday morning (Nov. 22) final.

Cubbage fired the opening ‘shot’ of their race to 7 and Chen shot right back to create the match’s first of four ties. Chen won a second rack to take his first of three leads, at which point, they traded racks back and forth to a 3-3 tie. Chen won two in a row to get ahead by two at 5-3.

Cubbage won the 9th and 10th rack to tie it up again at 5-5, turning the finals of the 192-entrant International Semi-Pro Open into a race to 2. Cubbage won the 11th rack to reach the hill.

Chen broke rack #12 dry, but the good news for *him* was that the 1-ball, originally headed for the side pocket, caromed off and hit a free-rolling 8-ball, which lodged between Cubbage and any shot he might have had. Cubbage was able to see just an edge of the 1-ball and when he hit it successfully and the balls stopped rolling, it was Chen without a shot. Not a good sign for a competitor on the downside of the ‘hill.’

Chen lined up a feasible shot that would need to travel down-table, to the right of the 3-ball, bounce off the side rail, glance the 1-ball as it passed and put it in the corner pocket. Chen stroked it, medium speed, but the cue ball, which made it safely to the rail without touching the 3-ball, kissed it on the bounce and as a result, missed the 1-ball altogether. As the cue ball moved on, hitting the short rail and heading back up-table, it met up with the still free-rolling 3-ball he’d just hit and popped it into the side pocket.

Adding insult to injury, Chen had not only awarded Cubbage a ball in hand by missing the 1-ball, but he’d also



Naoyuki Oi

dropped the rack's first ball for him. Cabbage stepped to the table and connected the dots, to include a 4-ball that took what seemed like an hour to fall off the edge of a corner pocket.

It had been over 17 years since the last time Florida's Chris Cabbage had recorded a cash payout with us here at AZBilliards (one of only two he recorded in '07 and '08, both 5th place finishes on the Viking Tour in Atlanta and Greensboro, NC). He'd begun his quest for the International Semi-Pro Open title on Tues., Nov. 18. Five days and 11 matches later, he'd won his first (recorded) major event, claiming the title he'd set out to win.

Hannah brings former JIC prodigies to Florida and watches two of them win junior titles

There have *always* been junior competitors in pool. Every year, since the Billiards Congress of America (BCA), in the late 80s, began its annual Junior National 9-Ball Championships and later, when the Billiards Education Foundation was founded (1993) and began its annual Junior National Championships, they'd been around.

We just hadn't started hearing about them (really) until Ra Hanna and his On The Wire Creative Media team grabbed the reins of what seemed to be a meandering kind of junior competitor wooden wagon that travelled all over the place without going anywhere. Hanna turned it into a serviceable, modern vehicle - the Junior International Championship series of events that began in 2021 and in partnership with Predator Group launched the Predator Junior American Series just last year.

Hannah 'brought' 24 of his junior competitors to the International Open this year, as some of his former protégés battled with the grown-ups in some of the other International Open events. This year's JIC events drew 8 young women and 16 young men to the tables. They began their separate quests for a title on Friday, Nov. 21 and concluded with back-to-back finals on the Simonis Aramith TV table on Sunday, Nov. 23, just ahead of the semifinals and finals of the International 9-Ball Open.

Skylar Hess went undefeated to the hot seat of the 8-entrant, young women's tournament, a journey she'd begun with a 7-5 win over Courtney Hair-

field. She advanced through Aurora Hestnes, defeating her 7-3 ahead of meeting and defeating Canada's Cedar Gauthier 7-5 to claim the hot seat.

Gauthier travelled to the loss side and ran into Hairfield, who'd followed up her opening-round loss to Hess with four straight wins, to include a 7-5 quarterfinal victory over Tanvee Vallem, who'd also lost her opening match (to Bailey Smith) and then won three straight.

Hairfield eliminated Gauthier in the semifinals 7-4 and got a second shot against Hess, waiting for her in the hot seat. Hess downed Hairfield a second time 9-3 to claim them 2025 Junior International Championship young women's title.

The six competitors (of an original 16) that were left in the young men's tournament on Saturday night (Nov. 23), must have felt like it was a homecoming weekend for the 'old' (if you'll excuse the expression) JIC group that had cut its' teeth on tournaments when the International Open was being held in Norfolk, VA a few years ago.

Jas Makhani had shut out Niko Konkel in a winners' side semifinal and Lazaro Martinez III had defeated Payne McBride 7-3 in the other one. Martinez grabbed the hot seat 7-2 over Makhani.

Makhani moved over to the loss side and in the semifinals, ran into Landon Hollingsworth, who'd just eliminated Niko Konkel 7-2 in the quarterfinals. Hollingsworth and Makhani locked up in a late Saturday night double-hill battle, eventually won by Hollingsworth.

The Sunday matinee that followed the girls' breakfast time final, got underway around noon and became the second JIC young men's double-hill match in a row. Martinez dropped the last 9-ball to claim the title.



Pat Fleming and Roberto Gomez

CLOSING CREDITS

Pat Fleming made the following statement just prior to the final match of the International 9-Ball Open:

First of all, I've received more credit than I deserve this week and but needless to say, it takes a team to create, stage, and fulfill our wishes for a great event. Let me thank that team and my wife Diane.

The Renaissance Resort staff were willing partners in setting up this ballroom. This was a fabulous setup.

Diamond Billiard Products: 8 guys and three trucks with 33 tables drove in from Indiana and installed and leveled these one-piece slate pool tables.

Simonis Cloth and Aramith Balls supplied their products to accommodate those 33 pool tables.

Mike Panozzo brought the Hall of Fame Banquet to this event as a great tribute to Carlo Biado.

And now let me give some credit to our key team members:

Julian Robertson: Production Director

Derrick Keith: Master of Ceremonies

Ed Liddawi: My tournament director who capably handled and resolved any issues.

Ken Shuman: Our outstanding TV Arena Referee

Jose Burgos: He was my right-hand man when it came to scheduling our referees. He had a great refereeteam.

Mike Smith, Dorothy Potkay, Joel Peck, and Josh Bridwell are my devoted camera personnel.

Merlyn Glodek is our master sound engineer.

Hugh Cringle: Managed the Shot Clock. His friend Norra MacFie worked to door.

Tim Traver and Julie Ha: Took care of all of the buy-backs on the Semi-Pro and One-Pocket events

Mike Howerton of Accu-Stats provided the Free Streaming, and the recordings that everyone may see later on YouTube.

Tim Gallagher is our Graphics engineer and he keeps the Accu-Stats statistics like the TPA.

Mark Wilson, Mike Sigel, and Jerry McWorter were our crack staff in the commentary booth.

Patricia St. John, Peg Ledman, and Brandi Fitzgerald graciously took care of our customers at the Registration Desk.

Jacky Moeller and her daughter Tammy took care of all of the marketing and social media

Zach Goldsmith and his company StreamWorks installed monitors and streaming cameras above each table.

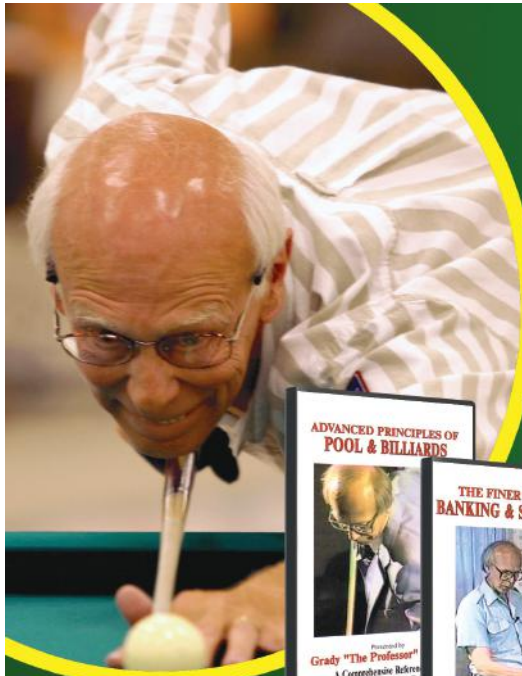
Chris Renfro of Outsville provided all of the rotation game templates.

Carol Whiteside rented headsets and table in after hours.

And last, but not least, Ra Hanna brought in the Junior divisions and handles some of the player interview.

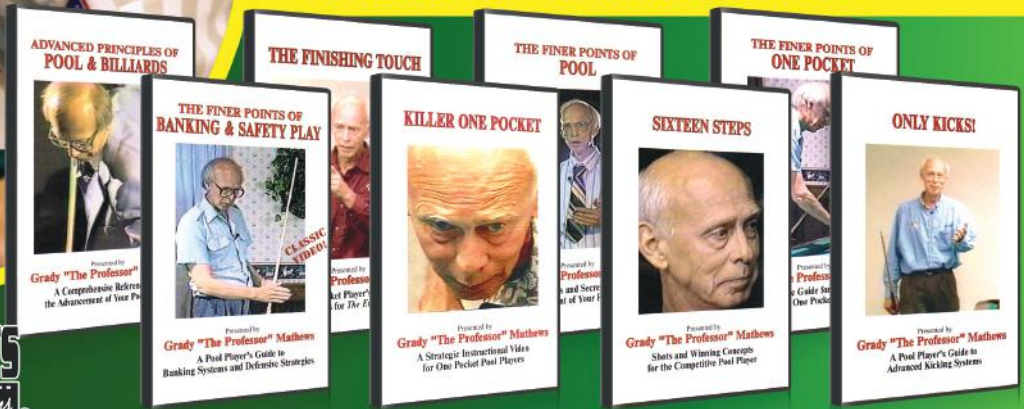
So, on behalf of team, I wish both contestants great play, and much enjoyment for their fans who are attending this evening.

Thank you all and again and the best to Aloysius and FSR.



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International Open Gallery



2025 Hall of Fame Inductee Carlo Biado with his wife and Robbie Capito



Alex Borrukovich



Aloysius Yapp enjoys one of his few moments away from the table



Brandon Shuff



Carlo Biado



Marc Vidal



Definitely The Peanut Gallery



Accu-Stats Camera Personnel Mike Smith and Dorothy Potkay



Aloysius Yapp



Ed Liddawi watches a shot by Shane Wolford



Kim Davenport



Noted fan Stu Mattana with Mario He



Robbie Capito



Roberto Gomez



Roland Garcia



Pat Fleming with Bigfoot 10-Ball Championship Participant

ATENCIO GOES UNDEFEATED

TO CLAIM FIRST (KNOWN) TITLE IN 3 YEARS AT RIVER CITY OPEN'S WNT EVENT

ARTICLE BY SKIP MALONEY - AZB STAFF / PHOTOS COURTESY ERWIN DIONISIO

Venezuela's Jesus Atencio has just chalked up an event victory that has made 2025 his best recorded earnings year since he entered our database in 2018.

This past weekend (Nov. 6-9), at the \$30,000-added River City Open, a World Nineball Tour (WNT) ranking event, hosted by Legends Billiards in Jacksonville, FL, Atencio went undefeated through a field of 49 entrants to claim his first known title since he won NC State's Open Championships during his previous best recorded earnings year in 2022.

Like water in an unvented pressure-cooker, Atencio blew the lid off of his own 'career' pot, earning more money at this single event than he's won in any single, recorded-with-us event in which he's cashed over the past seven years. On his way to the top prize, Atencio defeated, among others, the #2-ranked WNT competitor, who, in 10 days (Nov. 22), will be inducted into the BCA Hall of Fame at an Awards Banquet during **Pat Fleming's** International Open in St. Augustine, FL; **Carlo Biado**, who, at 836, was also the highest FargoRated competitor in the event. Atencio also downed another BCA Hall of Famer, **Thorsten Hohmann**, in the battle for the hot seat.

And heads up for those of you on your way to St. Augustine this weekend, because he's registered to compete in the Pro 9-Ball event, scheduled to begin on Wed., Nov. 19. There are likely to be a lot of 'eyes on' during his matches and the bracket following his progress as he looks to record the second-highest single payout of his career.

Atencio, Biado and Hohmann were three of the 15 entrants who started their River City Open day with an opening-round bye. Atencio advanced to defeat Finland's **Jani Siekkinen** 9-4, **Paul Song** 9-6 and drew Biado in one of the winners' side quarterfinals. Biado had previously sent **Sergio Rivas** (7) and **Brandon Shuff** (3) to the loss side.

Atencio and Biado battled to double hill. Atencio prevailed to draw Canada's **Christopher Tevez** in one of the winners' side semifinals.

Meanwhile, "The Hitman" (aka Thorsten Hohmann), headed out on his journey to the same location, opening with wins over **Oliver Ruuger** (1) and **Gerson Martinez** (6), ahead of bat-

tling to double hill and defeating **Lee Vann Corteza**. Hohmann drew **Tyler Styer** in the other winners' side semi-final.

Between them, Atencio and Hohmann gave up just a single rack to Tevez and Styer, respectively; Atencio giving up the one to Tevez, as Hohmann was at work shutting out Styer. With the race extended to 11 for the hot seat match, Atencio sent Hohmann packing to the semifinals 11-8.

Tevez and Styer moved on over to the loss side and ran into competitors who'd been defeated in their respective winners' side quarterfinals. Tevez drew Vann Corteza, who'd followed his loss to Hohmann with victories over Brandon Shuff 9-2 and **Roland**



Garcia 9-5. Styer picked up Biado, who'd followed his loss to Atencio by eliminating Gerson Martinez 9-4 and **Anthony Meglino** 9-5.

"May the odds be ever in your favor," Effie Trinket used to say during Reaping ceremonies in The Hunger Games to the crowd of 'tributes,' for whom the odds were almost never in favor. Bearing in mind that FargoRate calculations do not directly refer to the odds of a single match between rated opponents, but the potential outcome of 100 matches between those opponents. Tevez defied the FargoRate odds against him in his battle versus Vann Corteza. Given only a 31% chance of defeating Vann Corteza (818) in a race to 9, Tevez (785) advanced to the quarterfinals, sending Vann Corteza to the proverbial showers 9-6. Styer (798), according to FargoRate calculations, stood less than a 30% chance (29.1) of getting by Biado (836) and he didn't. Biado advanced

9-5 over Styer to join Tevez in the quarterfinals.

Then, Tevez not only defied the odds a second time, but went on to do it a third time. Given a 20% chance versus Biado in an extended race-to-11 quarterfinal, Tevez downed him 11-4. He advanced to take on "The Hitman" in the (also race to 11) semifinals, where the odds were relatively even, though slightly better for Hohmann (54.5% - 45.5%). Tevez eliminated him 11-6.

In the extended race-to-13 in the final, Atencio and Tevez were separated by a single, FargoRate point; advantage to Atencio, at 786, Tevez at 785. The FargoRate calculations separated them by decimal points; 50.7% to 49.3%. A

coin toss. Won by Atencio, 13-9, allowing him to claim the biggest (recorded with us) payday of his career.

Event director and Legends' General Manager, Marianne Raulerson, who is also the founder and owner of Marianne's Tourament, under whose auspices the event was held, thanked Legends' owners Tim Karst and **Butch Croft**, and members of the facility's staff, along with Jimmy Garcia, Ian Stichon, Justin Rigsby, Justin Lamont, Suzie Pennington, Becky Alamo and Jessica Steenson. She also thanked sponsors Van Ooy Billiards Supplies, Dynaspheres, DigitalPool, Koda, No Quit Apparel, Rasson Billiards, Go Cloth and On Board.

“ THE FARGORATE CALCULATIONS SEPARATED THEM BY DECIMAL POINTS, 50.7% TO 49.3%. WON BY ATENCIO, 13-9, ALLOWING HIM TO CLAIM THE BIGGEST PAYDAY OF HIS CAREER. ”



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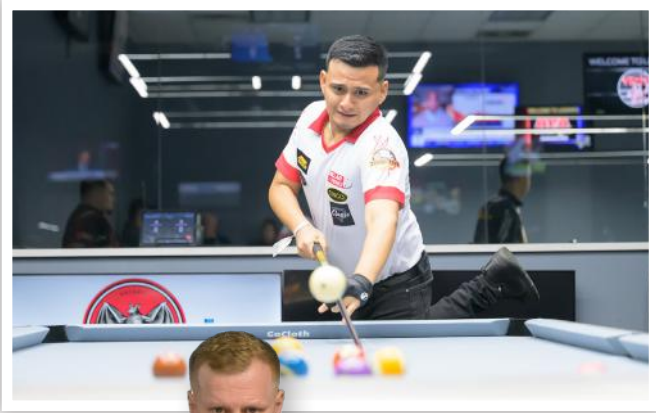
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River City Open Gallery





FISHER COMES FROM THE LOSS SIDE TO WIN WPBA'S 2025 DR. POOL JACOBY TOUR CHAMPIONSHIP

Article Skip Maloney - AzB Staff / Photos courtesy WPBA

She lost a single match. And as though it were a mistake that she flat refused to make again, she later faced that opponent (Pia Filler) a second time, defeating her in the finals of the \$30,000-added, WPBA 2025 Dr. Pool Jacoby Tour Championships that drew 77 entrants to the Central Wisconsin Convention Center in Rothschild, WI on the weekend of Nov. 14-16.

Kelly Fisher was, in a manner of speaking, back. She'd never actually gone anywhere, but it was her first WPBA win since she'd battled **Kristina Tkach** twice and won the Borderline Brunswick Invitational at **Janet Atwell**'s room in May of 2024. The Dr. Pool Jacoby Tour Championship win was her first in 2025, with the exception of a win she shared with Greece's Alex Kazakis at a Mixed Dou-

bles event on the Predator Pro Billiard Series in Las Vegas last February.

She'd competed in the WPBA's Iron City Invitational V back in May of this year and the 2025 WPBA Soaring Eagles Masters event a month later, finishing 4th and 7th, respectively. Her recorded earnings (reported to us here

at AZBilliards) reached their height three years ago when she moved up to #8 on the AZBilliards' Money Leaderboard, winning five WPBA events. She cashed in four others and overall, finished 'in the money' 17 times. This past weekend's victory in Wisconsin was just her 9th (reported to us) cash finish of this year.



The event played out on two separate, double-elimination brackets. Fisher was one of 32 competitors seeded into a Stage 2 bracket, awaiting the results of a 45-entrant Stage 1 bracket which played out until eight competitors from each side of the bracket qualified for Stage 2.

Advancing from the winners' side of the Stage 1 bracket were **Tracy Cantrell, Laura Smith, April Larson, Bonnie Arnold**, Eylul Kibaroglu, Emily Callado, **Michell Monk** and **Olivia Cheng**. From the loss side, WPBA tour veteran **Billie Billing, Briana Miller, Pam Kelly, Tina Larsen, Beth Fondell, Kim Housman, Julie Cone** and **Krystal DePelsmaeker** advanced.

Fisher, after an opening-round bye, locked up in an almost-double-hill battle right out of the gate in Stage 2 against **Chihiro Kawahara**, defeating her 8-6 and advancing to defeat junior competitor **Savannah Easton** and Margarita Fefilova, both 8-3. In the third-round, winners' side semifinal, she played her first match against Pia Filler, who'd shut out **Stephanie Mitchell**, and defeated **Miina Tani** and **Monica Webb**, both 8-5 to reach her. Filler sent Fisher to the loss side 8-4 and advanced to the hot seat match.

From the other end of the bracket, **Jasmin Ouschan** got by **Alice Adams** (1), **Tzu-Chien Wei** (3), **Bojana Sarac** and Eylul Kibaroglu (both 8-4) and in the other winners' side semifinal, downed **Kaylee McIntosh** 8-2. Filler claimed the hot seat over Ouschan 8-4.

As they hopped on to the loss-side 'bus,' the two 'K's' (Kaylee McIntosh and Kelly Fisher) ran into Margarita Fefilova and Kristina Tkach, respectively. Fefilova had followed her winners' side loss to Fisher with victories over **Elise Qiu** (3) and **Sofia Mast** (5). Tkach, who'd lost her winners' side quarterfinal to McIntosh 8-5, followed



Pia Filler and Kelly Fisher

up with wins over **Kristina Zlateva** (3) and survived a double-hill match against Kibaroglu.

Fefilova eliminated McIntosh 8-5, as the two rivals who've come to know each other quite well over the past few years, worked their way to almost-double-hill. Fisher prevailed over Tkach 8-6.

Fisher and Fefilova did get to double hill in their quarterfinal match-up. Fisher prevailed again and eliminated Ouschan in the semifinal 8-4 (much harder, score notwithstanding, than it looked).

The Fisher/Kelly final was as entertaining a match as spectators in the arena or those watching the live stream could have asked for. The matches are available through the WPBA's YouTube Channel.

Fisher and Filler traded racks to a 1-1 tie (the first of five) before each of them chalked up two in a row to a 3-3 tie. And then, it was back and forth, one rack a time, to 5-5. Fisher took rack #11 for her first lead and winning the 12th rack, moved ahead by two.

Filler came back with two to tie it at 7-7.

Fisher won the next two and reached the hill first at 9-7. Filler got back within one and came within a ball and/or roll or two of tying things up, but Fisher closed it out with a 6-9 combo to win the 2025 WPBA Dr. Pool Jacoby Tour Championships.

Tour representatives thanked the ownership and staff at the Central Wisconsin Convention Center, along with Presenting sponsors Olhausen, Taom, Jacoby Custom Cues, Brunswick, Diamond Billiard Products; Titanium Sponsors Aramith, Kamui, Fort Worth Billiards Superstore and On the Hill Billiards Club in Mosinee, WI; and Platinum sponsors Simonis, How Tips and Professional Cues, Big Family Custom Creations, ICA Training, Classic Billiards, DigitalPool and Castillo Leather Products.

The first scheduled WPBA of 2026 will be the \$25,000-added Iron City Invitational VI, scheduled for the weekend of Jan. 16-18 at Iron City Billiards in Birmingham, AL.

HOME GLORY FOR SUPER SANCHEZ

ARTICLE AND PHOTO COURTESY PREDATOR PRO BILLIARD SERIES

THERE WAS A dream ending to the LITTLE MONSTER Men's International Open as Spain's Francisco Sanchez Ruiz swept to the title, defeating Dennis Grabe (EST) two-sets-to-zero.

Cheered on by a raucous crowd in Gandia, in the south-east part of Spain from where he originates, Sanchez-Ruiz powered through the match winning 4-2, 4-3. Grabe came to play but was edged out despite giving an impressive performance himself.

Commented Francisco, "Amazing! To be honest, those fans helped me a lot. I had all the crowd with me and I'm really happy, it was a great week for me. I hadn't played such a big event in Spain and I'm around the world playing in everything so it's special winning this event in my home. It's going to be the last event for me till the end of the year so time to take some rest."

Sanchez Ruiz put paid to the hopes of players of the quality of **Mario He**, **Oliver Szolnoki** and **Wojciech Szewczyk** on his route to the final and seemed destined for the win given the location and battery of enthusiastic supporters willing his every shot.

The final itself was high-quality with little in the way of errors as both players played near their best. In the end it was small margins which determined the outcome, but both players could be proud of their achievements.

Sanchez-Ruiz added, "I played very good through the tournament. I didn't miss many balls this week but I played very smart because it's a short race and every rack counts. I just tried to play my best every single round and it was a great week for me here. I can't wait to celebrate with the people here – it's going to be a very long night!"

For Grabe, it wasn't the result he was after but on reflection, he was very happy with his efforts in Gandia.

He said, "I played quite good in the final. The second set I didn't make any mistakes and I just made one in the first set but Fran played really well so I think he deserves to win. Obviously, I want to win the final but still a good

week for me. I have to take the positives, second place in such a tough field is always a good result.

"2025 has been the best year in my career and I'm looking forward to see what the future brings and I hope I can win many more titles. I beat many good players here and played a lot of matches so I'm a little bit tired so a few days rest and then keep going again on the Euro Tour," he concluded.

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Francisco Sanchez-Ruiz and Predator's Vincent Rochefort

SUPER SEOA SEALS SPANISH DEAL

ARTICLE AND PHOTO COURTESY PREDATOR PRO BILLIARD SERIES

SEO SEOA is the LITTLE MONSTER Women's International Open Champion as she took down Kelly Fisher by two sets to zero in a high-quality final that hinged on a few small positional errors.

The Korean lady ran undefeated through the tournament and can claim a winner's cheque for \$22,500 for her stellar efforts.

A winner of the Predator PBS Indonesia International Women's Open back in July; Seoa can look forward to the Kamui WPA Women's 9-Ball World Championship in Jacksonville next month with sky-high confidence. Both sets were won by 4-3 indicating the closeness but it was Fisher who gave the most away.

Commented Seoa, "I'm so happy now as it felt such a long day. At the start I played not so well but I'm trying to do my best. The second set I think I played better than the first and also, I was a little lucky because Kelly missed a 9-ball and then I had a chance to win the match.

"I was always working hard and practicing every day and there's one more

tournament the World 9-ball Championship and I'll do my best in that tournament too. I'll be eating dinner with the Korean team as they've supported me a lot so I'll buy them a good dinner!" she added.

For Fisher, it was always disappointing to lose a big final but she felt that her game is trending in the right direction; "Potting-wise, I didn't miss but my safeties weren't there. Either too thick, too thin, overrunning. I did kind of run out but missed position on an 8 or a 9 and then didn't do a good safe to back it up and I lost racks that I shouldn't have lost.

"I really felt like I lost three of four racks that I shouldn't have lost. However, Seoa punishes you and that's what she's there to do and she's good at that and cleared the table each

time or put me in a better snooker. Great player, great opponent so congratulations to her. But it could have gone either way but a few shots kind of killed it for me."

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Seo Seoa

SZOLNOKI & ZHANG ARE LITTLE MONSTER DOUBLES CHAMPS

ARTICLE AND PHOTO COURTESY PREDATOR PRO BILLIARD SERIES

OLIVER SZOLNOKI AND Zhang Mu-Yan are the LITTLE MONSTER Mixed Doubles champions after a pitch-perfect performance to take the honours in a straight-sets victory over Marco Teutscher (Netherlands) and Wang Wan-Ling of Chinese Taipei.

After the semi-final shoot-out drama, it was plain sailing for the Hungarian/Chinese duo as they ran out comfortable winners by 4-2 and 4-0.

Teutscher and Wang couldn't conjure up the heroics of the previous day as the match drifted away from them from the mid-point of the opening set. Some uncharacteristic misses handed their opponents great opportunities and they didn't shy away from converting them. Szolnoki and Zhang looked as if they had been playing together for years, but they agreed to pair up after meeting at a heyball event in China and then enjoyed just a brief practice session, pre-tournament.

Szolnoki was thrilled with the win and underlined Zhang's peerless play throughout. "I'm extremely happy especially because I was knocked out in the last 16 in the men's event so this was my last chance to get a title here. I'm very happy that we managed to do it and Mu-Yan didn't travel all the way from China to go home without a win.

"I'm speechless at the way Zhang plays. There are so many shots that she pockets with ease that I don't even think about going for. I'm thinking we should play safe but she just looks at me, smiles and she's OK, I'll go for it. In the first matches, when I didn't know her so well, I was trying to convince her to play safety but after seeing some of her pots, I thought, OK, I'll just sit down and watch and it worked out very well!

"It's a very good start for our mixed doubles career and I hope we can play a lot more events in the future because it really is a pleasure to play alongside her," he concluded. The winning pair split \$40,000 between them.

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Zhang Mu-Yan and Oliver Szolnoki



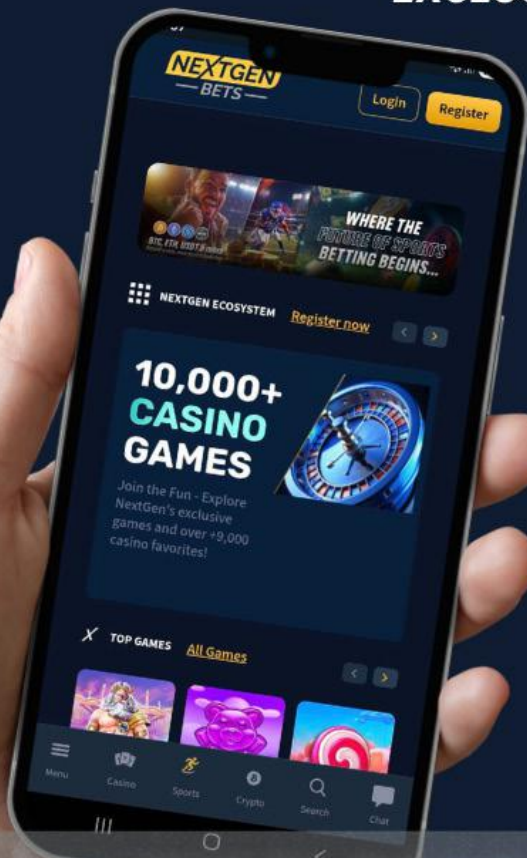
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JONAS RUGA MAGPANTAY WINS QATAR WORLD CUP

The little kid from Bansud, Oriental Mindoro, has conquered the world. The Barangay Kaunlaran, Cubao, Quezon City resident **Jonas Ruga Magpantay** has waited patiently for this—his chance to shine, the reward for all his sacrifices, and the culmination of a journey that started over two decades ago.

Two decades. The wait was worth it.

The 31 years old Magpantay etched his name into the history books, defeating **Szymon Kural** of Poland, 13-9, in the final to claim the Qatar World Cup 10 Ball title was held at the Ezdan Palace in Doha , Qatar on Sunday, November 2,2025.

Thus, Magpantay earn US\$100,000 for his efforts. Kural, on the other hand receives the runner-up prize of US\$40,000.

On the road to the finals, Magpantay beat countryman **Carlo Biado**, 11-8, in the last 32, two-time European Pool champion **Wojciech Szewczyk** of Poland, 11-5, in the last 16, **Niels Feijen** of the Netherlands, 11-7, in the quarter final round before beating two-time Junior World 9 ball title holder **Moritz Neuhausen** of Germany, 11-6, in the semi final round.

Magpantay highlighted his huge wins against Qatar's Arab Team Champion Abdullatif Alfawal, 9-0, Japan's top cue artist **Naoyuki Oi**, 9-6, and World Games gold medalist **Oliver Szolnoki** of Hungary, 11-7.

Sportsman Christopher”Dong” Cheng congratulated Jonas in his latest achievement. “Congratulations, Champ! Barangay Kaunlaran is proud of Jonas Magpantay for winning the Qatar World Cup 2025! You are truly an inspiration to us all! ” Said Cheng, who is also the chairman of Barangay Kaunlaran, Cubao, Quezon City.



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THE ULTIMATE POOL USA GRAND FINALS ARE IN THE BOOKS

ARTICLE BY MARY KENNISTON / PHOTOS COURTESY ULTIMATE POOL USA

Harrah's Cherokee Casino Resort in Cherokee, NC was ground zero for an entire week of world class pool action!

Played on Brunswick seven foot tables and with hundreds of players, the tournament featured the League Eight and Ten Ball Finals, the National Shootout, the Women's and Junior Opens, National Pairs and Mixed Pairs, the Brunswick Legends, Seniors and League Showdowns, the Tri Series and NSL events.

Welcoming players and fans to the event was a short film produced by Ultimate Pool USA featuring and narrated by the legendary **David Matlock** who is the first player to be inducted into the Ultimate Pool USA Hall of Fame. Below is the link:

The tournament opened on November 10th with the eight player Brunswick Legends Shootout. The final match came down to '90s Player of the Decade and BCA Hall of Famer **Johnny Archer** and the always tough **Dennis Hatch**. Proving once again why he's one of the greats, Hatch took the title!

The next event was the League Showdown with three player teams from eight different parts of the country. Charlotte Metro showed heart as they rebounded from a 2-0 deficit to win five in a row to roar into the finals as Kansas City snatched victory from the jaws of defeat coming back from a 3-1 deficit to squeak through 4-3. After a heart thumping series of games in the final, the score was tied with a buzzer beater by Kansas City's Kieran Hall resulting in the first ever Six Player Six



Dennis Hatch – Brunswick Legends Shootout Champ

Ball Shootout. After a couple of misses, the clock tightened and the final ball was pocketed resulting in a wild Charlotte Metro victory celebration!

The National Shootout was up next and with several days of phenomenal play, it came down to the final four. **Declan Brennan** defeated Johnny Archer, **Craig Waddingham** downed **Joe Prince**, **Justin Bergman** eliminated Tyler Styler and **Rodney Morris** beat Dennis Hatch. Marching into the finals was Justin Bergman who won over Rodney Morris and Craig Waddingham was the victor of his match with Declan Brennan.

Although Bergman played nearly perfect pool in the semi-final and final,

Waddingham did the same and mid-match during the finals, he made an incredible kick shot and then ran out



*Joe Prince & Mary Talbot – National Mixed Pairs champs*

The NSL Class C/D Division finalists were Robert Conrad and Dave Sherburne with Conrad taking the title! The NSL SP A/B Division saw **Justin Richard** secure the title over David Wesphal!

Capping off the UPL pool leagues portion of the event was the National 8 Ball Team Grand Final with a \$100,000 first prize! Vying for the cash were two Missouri teams – Action Central out of St. Louis and 8 Runner Southbound from Springfield.

Action Central got off to a great start after Dave Christianer defeated Kyle Byrne 2-0 in the first match, securing the five point bonus and leading the match 7-0 right from the start. Mike Schleuter came with a great finish to close out Calvin Eugene giving his team a 13-0 lead.

8 Runners Southbound as Ronnie Jones eked out as 3-2 victory plus the five point bonus with his win over LT Blackwood – score 15-8.

A heartbreaking miss on an eight ball by Robert Conrad in the final seconds turned Match 4 into a tie as he and Jamie Hess finished even. That meant that everything came down to the final match of the Ultimate Pool League 8-Ball Grand Final!

on after a dry break by Bergman. Waddingham then ran out the final game to take the title!

Next was the Tri Series Championship and after an amazing tear through the bracket, The USA Juniors were finally defeated by the UPL for the title!

This was followed by the National Mixed Pairs Championship. The winners of this event were Joe Prince and Mary Talbot after wins over Declan Brennan and **Nicole Obarowski** in the semis and **Lukas Fracasso-Verner** and **Erica Testa** in the finals!

And next it was the three man team Seniors Shootout! Two powerhouse teams marked the final match with a fantastic showcase of experience, shot-making and class. Rodney Morris, Dennis Hatch and David Matlock defeated Johnny Archer, **Tommy Kennedy** and **Nick Varner** to take the title!

Next up was the UPL 10-Ball National Championship. **Jeffrey Tonahill** won the final match defeating **Jesus Sorto** of the team Carolina or Bust to clinch the title for Chase's Baggage!

After days of exceptional play, the National Pairs Championship came to a

close. Reaching the semi-finals were **Shane Van Boening** and **Tom Cousins** after defeating Johnny Archer and Tommy Kennedy. The other berth was filled by Dennis Hatch and Craig Waddingham who eliminated Rodney Morris and **Chris Reinhold**. Hatch and Waddingham secured their spot in the finals as did Van Boening and Cousins.

The final was tense, tight and filled with top notch play. Dennis Hatch and Craig Waddingham held their nerve to defeat Shane Van Boening and Tom Cousins claiming the National Pairs title!

*Jordan Helfery – Women's Open champ*



Rodney Morris, Dennis Hatch & David Matlock – Seniors Shootout champs

Casey Cork was the winner of the National Women's Open 2nd Chance Open after defeating Alexis Snyder 4-1 in the finals.

This was followed by the National Junior Open where **Hayden Ernst** defeated **Peyton Lynch** to claim his first national title!

Dominic Daniels was the winner of the National Junior 2nd Chance Open after he defeated Jax Pongpanik 4-1 in the finals.

Capping this extraordinary event was the CPBA National Open Championship – with 480 players! Showing eight ball at its finest were finalists Shane Van Boening and Justin Bergman. Although Bergman pushed the final to the limit, it was Van Boening who sunk the winning eight ball and added another major title to his legendary career!

Timmy Bly won the CPBA National 2nd Chance Open after delivering a dominant 5-0 performance against Charles Matiyasic to take the title!

What a year! With events all over the country culminating in this past week's Grand Finals, Ultimate Pool USA has definitely made a splash here in the United States and we can't wait until next year!

The title-deciding scenarios were Action Central needed to win by one game or more to win the championship. 8 Runners Southbound had to win the match by three games or more to take the title.

A two game victory would tie the overall match and force a Six Ball Shootout for the \$100,000 championship! Talk about pressure!

8 Runners Southbound stormed back by winning the final three matches to overturn the deficit and capture the National Championship! What an unbelievable ending to the UPL 8-Ball Grand Final!

Action Central put on an outstanding performance throughout the event but the night belonged to the 8 Runners Southbound who took home the title and a check for \$100,000!

On the final evening of the event, David Matlock was inducted into the Ultimate Pool USA Hall of Fame. He was introduced by his longtime friend and fellow pro, Dennis Hatch. A short video was shown filled with accolades from fellow players, photos of David throughout the years and accom-

panied by a song entitled "One More Game," which was written and performed by David's wife, Peggy.

Here's the link to the video:

A short time later, teenage superstar Jordan Helfery was crowned the National Women's Open champion after her victory over **Liz Lovely**. In a special moment, Jordan was presented the trophy by her mentor — and newly inducted Hall of Famer — David Matlock.



Robert Conrad – NSL Class C/D champ

AMERICANS SHINE AT 2025 WORLD JUNIOR CHAMPIONSHIPS

ARTICLE AND PHOTO COURTESY BILLIARD EDUCATION FOUNDATION

Savannah Easton Claims Silver; Jordan Helfrey and Eddie Vonderau Earn Bronze Finishes.

GANDÍA, Spain — December 2, 2025, Team USA turned heads on the international stage this week, delivering standout performances at the 2025 Predator WPA World Junior 10-Ball Championships held November 28–December 2 in Gandía, Spain. Competing against the strongest junior talent from more than 30 countries, three American junior-athletes earned podium finishes and reinforced the rising strength of U.S.A junior cue sport athletes.

Leading the way was Savannah Easton, who captured an impressive 2nd place in the highly competitive U19 Girls Division for the second year in a row. Easton's composure combined with her fearless shot-making carried her through a demanding international field. Her remarkable world championship performance cements her status as one of the sport's most promising young American stars.

[Click here](#) to watch the finals match between Savannah Easton and Chinese Taipei's Ming-Ling Wing.

Joining her on the U19 Girls podium, Jordan Helfrey delivered a powerful run of her own, claiming 3rd place after a series of sensational wins. Helfrey's inaugural semifinal appearance showcased her growing maturity on the table and highlights the depth of emerging female talent across the United States.

In the U19 Boys Division, Eddie Vonderau secured a strong 3rd place finish, demonstrating the elite-level dis-

cipline and decision-making thought process it takes to have success at this level of competition. Vonderau's performance against several of the world's top juniors continues to signal that American talent will continue to remain a threat on the international stage.

Collectively, these podium finishes reflect the growing development of the Billiard Education Foundation, the talent of American junior pool players, and the strength of the pipeline supported by coaches, and families.

As the 2025 championship concludes, Team USA returns home with renewed confidence and international recognition. The Billiard Congress of America congratulates all U.S. athletes for their exceptional performances and sportsmanship this year Gandía, Spain.

About Billiard Congress of America

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



Jordan Helfrey, Eddie Vonderau and Savannah Easton

WINTERS TAKES INAUGURAL MAKING IT IN AMERICA ONE POCKET CHAMPIONSHIP

ARTICLE BY MARY KENNISTON / PHOTOS COURTESY POOL ACTION TV



Billiard Breakdown in Greece, NY – a suburb of Rochester – was the inaugural stop of the \$4,500 added Making It In America One Pocket Tour.

Presented by Billiard Breakdown and PoolActionTV.com, the title sponsors included both attorney Joseph J. Long and Joss Cues who donated a beautiful cue.

The entry fees for the one pocket championship were modified according to each player's FargoRate – \$450 for 740 and over, \$300 for 620-739 and \$150 for 619 and below.

Players received 1,000 points for attending plus ten points for every dollar earned. All winners side matches received 20% of the lowest tier entry fee which was \$30 in this case plus closest to 25% of the field received additional payouts.

The event opened on Thursday night with ten players in the \$500 added Mini 9 Ball. This double elimination \$100 entry event was races to seven and winner breaks. After several rounds, it came down **Sean Zeng** and **Dave Grau** in the finals with Zeng taking it down.

Friday evening, the \$4,000 added Billiard Breakdown One Pocket Championship began. Following the auction and players meeting, the first round matches began.

Robert Madenjian, recent winner of the Senior One Pocket Classic's One Ball One Pocket mini, shot out of the gate defeating Eric Downer 3-2, David Powls and Tee Tham with both scores being 3-0.

In the fourth round, Madenjian ran into Redgie Cutler who had previously received a bye and then went on to beat **Dan Sharlow** 3-0 and James Gauthier 3-1. Cutler then sliced through Madenjian 3-0 and found himself in the hot seat match.

“
BACK FOR A REMATCH AGAINST SHANE WINTERS IN THE EXTENDED RACE TO FOUR FINALS, IT WAS ALL SHANE AS HE CRUISED TO A 4-1 WIN AND TOOK THE TITLE!
”

Shane Winters

In the lower portion of the bracket, Carlo Burgio received a bye and then followed that with wins over **Nick Coppola** 3-1 and **Paul Spaanstra** 3-2 to meet **Shane Winters** in the fourth round.

Winters had also received a first round bye and went on to smoke both **Kirk Foley** and Dave Grau 3-0. Burgio fared slightly better but also lost 3-1. Winters moved into the hot seat match to face Cutler.

And it was all Winters as he spanked Cutler 3-0 in the semi-finals and sent him went to await an opponent.

That opponent was Dave Grau who after a fourth round loss, went through Spaanstra 3-2, Madenjian 3-0 and **Aaron Greenwood** 3-2 but was finally eliminated by Cutler 3-1. Dave finished in a well deserved third place.

Back for a rematch against Shane Winters in the extended race to four finals, it was all Shane as he cruised to a 4-1 win and took the title!

Congratulations, Shane! Well done, Redgie!

We can't wait until next year!



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THE "PINK DAGGER"

GOES UNDEFEATED TO WIN 3RD ANNUAL PA STATE/JPNEWT 9-BALL CHAMPIONSHIPS

ARTICLE BY SKIP MALONEY - AZB STAFF / PHOTOS COURTESY FRANK MAIALETTI

Chances are that if you were to have looked at the field that signed on to compete in the \$5,000-added, 3rd Annual PA State Women's 9-Ball Championships that drew 70 entrants to Bluegrass Billiards in Philadelphia this past weekend (Oct. 25-26), you might have paid particular attention to an ongoing, somewhat regional rivalry between a pair of WPBA competitors, **Ashley Benoit** and **Briana Miller**, who've been squaring off against each other at various times on the J. Pechauer Northeast Women's Tour (JPNEWT) and elsewhere over the past two years. The event was held under the combined auspices of the JPNEWT and Billiards Sports Network.

Not counting the number of times they've been scheduled to meet and opted out of a JPNEWT event final to split the top two prizes (4) during that time, Benoit is ahead 2-1 in claiming a tour stop title when they have played a final match. Hard to tell how many times, in total, they've competed in hot seat matches, finals and elsewhere in a bracket, including on the WPBA circuit, because searchable tournament archives are not as comprehensive as they arguably could be, though we've recorded at least 11 meetings.

All of which is to say that one might have expected the two of them to show up in the finals in Philadelphia this past weekend. They did not. The bracket draw had set them on a course for a potential meetup in a winners' side semifinal, but Benoit was shut out by **Rachel Walters** in a winners'

side quarterfinal and instead, it was Walters who advanced to meet Miller, who'd eventually battle for the hot seat.

The young woman they (and everybody else) needed to be watching out for, who would eventually claim the event title, was Florida's 17-year-old **Sofia Mast**, known as the Pink Dagger, who, thanks to the bracket draw, would not have been scheduled to meet either of them on the winners' side until the hot seat match. That's where Mast ran into Miller, sending her to a matchup versus Benoit in the semifinals, from which Benoit advanced to face and lose to Mast in the finals.

So, the 3rd Annual PA State Women's 9-Ball Championships came down to, in order, the #9 (Mast), #19 (Benoit) and #30 (Miller) women on the WPBA's current ranking list. There were four more of the WPBA's Top 50-ranked competitors at the event; Joann Mason Parker (#49, 5th/6th) and the soon-to-be-inducted-into-the-WPBA-Hall-of-Fame **Billie Billing** (#50, 7th/8th), along with **Ada Lio** (#43) and **Janet Atwell** (#14), both of whom fell short of the first money round by a single match, finishing in the tie for 17th/24th.

Anecdotally, from the mouths of varied female competitors who've encountered the Pink Dagger in a tournament, it's been said, often, that

she just "doesn't miss." Of course, she does, on occasion. She doesn't make every shot, win every game, match and tournament, but her performance seems to leave a lot of her opponents with the perception that she doesn't, which says a lot.

In straight-up races to 6 on the winners' side of the bracket, Mast got into the hot seat match by sending five opponents to the loss side, by an average score of 6-2. Only one of those five opponents came to the event



Sofia Mast



Frank Maialetti, Sofia Mast and Briana Miller

with a FargoRate higher than Mast's 653 (Joann Mason Parker, 659). Mast gave up just a single rack to her in one of the winners' side semifinals. Her two strongest (in terms of score) opponents among the first five were Ada Lio (526) and Sophia Balter (347), who, in the second and third round, chalked up three racks against her. Getting close to the hot seat match, she gave up one each to **Kaley Sullivan** in a winners' side quarterfinal and Joann Mason Parker in the winners' side semifinal.

Miller, in the meantime, on her way to the hot seat match, sent five opponents to the loss side by an average score of 6-3. Her toughest opponent (again, by score alone) proved to be Rachel Walters with whom she battled to double hill and defeated in the other winners' side semifinal. She'd won the three matches before that, against **Giovanna Napolitano**, **Mindy Maialetti** and **Dani Casper** by her average score of 6-3. Mast claimed the hot seat over Miller 6-4.

It was Parker in her first loss-side match that drew Benoit, who'd followed her loss to Miller with racing-to-5 victories over **Christy Norris** (3) and shut out the soon-to-be-inducted-into-the-WPBA-Hall-of-Fame

competitor, **Billie Billing**. Walters came over to the loss side and picked up a rematch versus Tina Malm, whom she'd defeated in the third round 6-1. Malm had faced four, loss-side opponents and beat them by an aggregate game score of 20-4, shutting out two and defeating the other two 5-2.

Benoit defeated Parker 5-3, as Walters was busy winning her rematch versus Malm 5-2. This set up another rematch in the quarterfinal; Walters vs. Benoit. Benoit had been shut out in their winners' side quarterfinal, and she didn't let that happen again, defeating her 5-3.

This set up the East Coast rivalry match between Benoit and Miller in the semifinal. Benoit won it 5-3 to earn her shot against Mast, waiting for her in the hot seat.

It wasn't really a multi-generational final. Benoit is the elder of the two, though not-quite elder enough to qualify as another generation. The younger Mast has been recording her exploits at the table with us since 2021, while Benoit, who 'officially' turned Pro just last year, joined our database a year later. Mast recorded her best earnings year in 2024. Benoit's best has been this year and she's

ahead of Mast in (reported) 2025 earnings, though not by much. Together, they've cashed in 60 (reported) events over the past two years. They've won a combined total of 18 events in those two years; Benoit with the edge over Mast in that department (11-7). Among Mast's seven wins was her acquisition of a gold medal in September 2024 at the Predator World Junior Championships in New Zealand, where she defeated fellow American **Savannah Easton** in the final to become the first American female gold medalist since Mary (Rakin) Tam earned one twice in '06 and '07.

So, immediate visual access to two of the country's best female pool players, both evidence of a bright future for women's pool in general, doing battle in the finals of a major event. Thanks to Billiard Sports Network's stream of the final match, it can now be viewed at https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_I2NFDQ0IYE. The recording will begin with earlier matches and work their way up to the final. You'll also get to see Miller and Benoit in the semifinal.

If you've gotten this far, the headline for this report has already been a spoiler, which in no way interferes with the joy of watching that final match. Neither does this: In the extended race-to-9 final, Mast got out to an early lead, though at 6-2, Benoit started narrowing the gap by winning two in a row. Mast came back with two of her own to reach the hill. Shooting and making the 5-ball in rack #13, Benoit scratched. Mast picked up the cue ball, placed it appropriately and ran out to claim the event title.

Tour director Frank Maialetti of Billiards Sports Network thanked the ownership and staff at Bluegrass Billiards, as well as sponsors Marty McGee's Irish Pub, Classic Billiards, Get Your Game On, Integrity Cues, Black Blade Carbon, Trophy Smack and the Billiards Sports Network.

CHEZKA “THE FLASH” CENTENO JOINS THE CUETEC PRO TEAM

Cuetec is excited to announce the signing of reigning World Ten-Ball Champion Chezka Centeno as the newest member of their Pro Team. One of the most electrifying and accomplished players in women’s professional pool, Centeno joins as a dominant force set to represent Cuetec globally.

Hailing from the Philippines, Centeno has earned global recognition for her speed around the table, shot-making ability, and fearless competitive nature. Nicknamed “The Flash,” she is one of only two women in billiards history to win the WPA World Ten-ball Championship twice, securing titles in 2023 and 2025.

Centeno’s rise has been remarkable. By age eleven, she was already recognized as a prodigy, displaying skill, discipline, and competitive maturity that foreshadowed her ascent to the world stage.

“Cuetec has built a strong reputation over the years, and everyone I’ve met has been welcoming and supportive. I’m honored to represent the brand and excited to begin this new chapter,” Centeno said. “I’ve always admired Cuetec and respected the players on this team, so joining them feels truly surreal and special.”

On using Cuetec equipment, she added, “I’ve been using the Cynergy True Wood cue for a couple of weeks, and it’s blown me away. I love the feel, the technology behind it, and the consistency it has shown me so far. It even changed my mind about using a carbon-fiber shaft in general, and I’m excited to start competing with it.”

“Chezka embodies everything we value in a Cuetec pro player—skill, dedication, authenticity, and a relentless

commitment to excel,” said Cuetec President Jones Chang. “We are honored to support her continued pursuit of championship success. Chezka’s presence elevates the sport, and our team. We believe her best years are ahead of her and there is no ceiling on what she can accomplish.”

As part of the Cuetec Pro Team, Centeno will compete using the Cynergy carbon-fiber composite shaft, showcasing its accuracy, feel, and consistency while representing the brand on the women’s professional stage.

See Chezka in action with her Cuetec equipment at the WPA Women’s World 9Ball Championship, December 18–21 in Jacksonville, Florida.

ABOUT CUETEC

Cuetec burst onto the billiard scene in 1989, developing the first composite cue. Today, Cuetec prides itself in offering the most technologically advanced high-performance playing equipment. From Cuetec’s AVID line to the it’s World Championship winning carbon fiber Cynergy line, every product is designed and engineered to give competitors the ultimate in performance and value. For more information, please visit www.cuetec.com. Follow us on Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/CuetecUSA>



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Celebrating the era that inspired *The Color of Money*, this special event honours the legends who helped define pool's golden age.

Staged in partnership with **Puyat Sports** from **22–24 January 2026** in **Manila, Philippines** WNT Legends will feature a historic clash between four titans of the game:

- **Efren “Bata” Reyes**
- **Earl “The Pearl” Strickland**
- **Francisco “Django” Bustamante**
- **Ralf “The Kaiser” Souquet**

For the first time, these legendary names come together under the World Nineball Tour banner for a four-day spectacle designed to honour their legacy, rekindle iconic rivalries, and give fans an unforgettable look at the champions who defined an era — the very era that inspired *The Color of Money* and helped ignite pool's global rise.

Broadcast live across the Philippines on One Sports and the Pilipinas Live App, WNT Legends will also be shown exclusively on WNT TV around the world in a first time a global PPV show, with full details on the venue, format, tickets and PPV information to be announced soon.

Efren Reyes said: “I never expected something like this to happen at this stage of my career. To play again in front of the Filipino fans, with my friends and rivals from all over the world, is very special. This event will be full of memories — old ones and new ones — and I’m excited to be part of it.”

Francisco Bustamante commented: “Manila has always been the heart of my pool journey. To compete in an event that celebrates our history, our battles, and what we’ve brought to the sport — it’s an honour. The fans will love this. It will feel like the old days again.”

Earl Strickland said: “I’ve played these guys for decades, and every match has a story. This is a chance to show the world what real legends look like — the intensity, the skill, the personality. I’m coming to Manila ready to put on a show.”

Ralf Souquet added: “The four of us have shared so many incredible moments in this sport, and to reunite for an event of this magnitude is something truly unique. I’m grateful for the invitation and excited to compete once again at the highest level, in front of fans who appreciate the history of the game.”

Mr Aristeo “Putch” Puyat, said: “This is a proud moment for Philippine billiards. To host an event that brings together these legendary champions is something fans here have dreamed of for many years. Efren and Django are icons in our country, and Earl and Ralf are giants of the global game. WNT Legends will be a celebration of history, respect, and the magic of pool — all happening right here in Manila.”

Full broadcast timings, format information, and event scheduling will follow soon — but one thing is certain: WNT Legends will be a celebration of greatness unlike anything the sport has seen.



NEW

VANQUISH VQ1

CARBON FIBER PLAYING CUE

The Vanquish VQ1 takes carbon fiber further than ever before—built entirely from carbon fiber for unmatched consistency, stability, and performance. Paired with our patented Variable Balance Point (VBP) system, it lets you fine-tune weight and balance to match your game. Available with your choice of 12mm, 12.5mm, or 13mm Defy shaft.

Engineered to perform. Built to adapt.




McDermott

Handcrafted Cues

mcdermottcue.com/VQ1



HOLIDAY BUYER'S GUIDE



FORTIS CARBON FIBER SHAFTS

The Fortis Carbon Fiber Shaft delivers unmatched power and precision—available in Pro 12mm, LD 12.5mm, X 13mm, and BRK 13mm. Engineered for elite performance.

\$600,00

<https://tigerproducts.com/collections/fortis-carbon-fiber-shafts>



NAKED BREAK

Don't be fooled by its simplicity. Naked Break, crafted fully in carbon fiber, redefines power and control on every break.

\$669,00

<https://www.becueofficial.com>



DIAMOND PROFESSIONAL LIGHT

This table light is designed to enhance your gaming experience without being overpowering. The focus is on the playing surface, creating an ambiance of functional elegance that's ideal for any room.

\$1515,00

<https://diamondbilliards.com/products/diamond-9-professional-led-panel-table-lights-square-corners-copy?variant=49544832614706>



CUETEC CYNERGY SVB GENERATION 2 CUES

The Nineball Series brings together Cuetec's cutting-edge innovation and Matchroom's arena-level energy. Featuring the tour-proven Cynergy carbon fiber shaft and inspired by events like the Mosconi Cup and World Pool Championship, it's built to perform under pressure and shine on the biggest stages.

\$1049,00

<https://www.cuetec.com>



LONGONI TOURNAMENT CASE

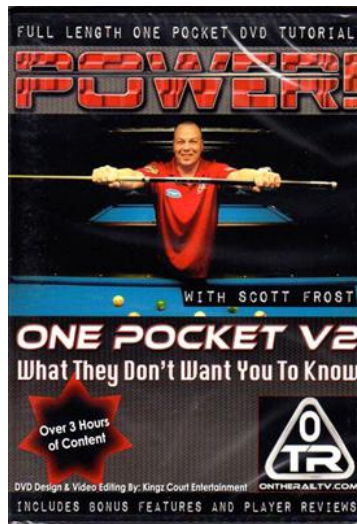
The "Tournament" case was designed in collaboration with professional pool players to meet the specific needs of the game. Made from genuine high-resistance Cordura®, it can hold up to 3 butts and 5 shafts (29 inches). A spacious main pocket accommodates accessories and jump butts. Compact and lightweight (2.6 kg), it offers versatile portability with both a shoulder strap and backpack system. Designed to be expandable, the Tournament case allows you to carry clothing when needed, eliminating the need for additional bags.

\$250,00

https://www.longonicases.com/?page_id=25917

POWER ONE POCKET VOL 2

In Racking and Breaking Scott Frost will show you how to rack and break to keep control. In Returning the Break you will learn how to turn the tables on your opponent's break. In Banks you will learn the advanced techniques and tricks to help you master the use of banks which is a huge part of a powerful one pocket game. In Takeouts you will learn how to dig and knock balls out without giving up position. Throw is an important part of One Pocket and in this section you will start seeing and using the 'throw shots' that will give you more shot selections. In The End Game you will learn the secrets to a killer end game! In the 15 Ball Run Out Scott explains every shot. Risk vs. Reward covers some powerful scenarios that will help you make confident decisions. Preparing to Play will show you how to get your mind right prior to matching up. You will learn key mental tips to be confident and have an edge on your opponent. Also Road Stories, Shot Stories and Player Match Reviews.



\$39,95

<https://www.bebobpublishing.com/product-p/pop2.htm>



TG GLOVES

Experience unmatched precision and comfort with the reimagined Tiger TG Glove—improved fit, player-driven design, and premium performance. The best billiard glove. Now available in three colors.

\$30,00

<https://tigerproducts.com/products/tg-tiger-billiard-glove-new>



ARAX CASE

With its waterproof, scratch-resistant material and 4x8 capacity, Arax is not only the lightest case but also the most protective.

\$269,00

<https://www.becueofficial.com>

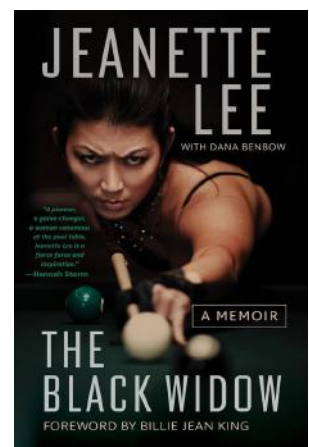
THE BLACK WIDOW - A MEMOIR

Jeanette Lee was 18 years old when she walked into a New York City pool hall and became enamored by the elegant geometry of the game. Before long, she was an unmistakable figure on the international competition circuit, dressed head-to-toe in black, stalking the billiards table and gazing down her cue as if tracking her prey.

In this new memoir, the woman nicknamed 'The Black Widow' opens up about her legendary career and the rich, unpredictable life she's woven around it. Lee details her upbringing in a Korean-American household in Brooklyn, her single-minded drive to reach the pinnacle of her sport, and her unlikely entry into the realm of mainstream celebrity in an era where female athletes rarely got their share of the limelight.

Lee also reflects on her lifelong struggle with scoliosis, which necessitated over twenty operations during her playing career; her public battle with Stage 4 ovarian cancer; and the communities that gave her strength throughout.

Written with warmth and candor, this is the definitive story of a true icon.



\$30,00

<https://store.accu-stats.com/the-black-widow-a-memoir/>



DIAMOND ZEBRA WOOD TRIANGLE BALL RACK

Personalize your game room with this Zebra wood Diamond Ball Rack. Each rack features a box joint and dowelled corners, outside finger grooves, head ball diamond inlay, and a squaring line on the backside of the rack.

\$100,00

<https://diamondbilliards.com/products/diamond-zebra-wood-8-ball-rack?variant=50412845793586>



CUETEC CYNERGY SVB GENERATION 2 CUES

The completely reimagined second generation of the Cynergy SVB Series has arrived and was designed under the direction of the legend himself. Featuring an updated construction, full-grain leather wrap, precision-cut rings inlaid with genuine Abalone, and a new ten-point crown design — a fitting tribute to the King of American Pool.

\$1049,00

<https://www.cuetec.com>



LX SERIES CUES

Discover the LX Series—eight wrap and wrapless models crafted from premium exotic woods, paired with a Tiger Shaft and optional Fortis upgrade. Luxury design meets elite performance.

\$2100-\$3400 (Add \$300 to upgrade with a Fortis Carbon Fiber Shaft)

<https://tigerproducts.com/collections/lx-series-cues>



CUETEC AXIS BILLIARD GLOVES

Breathable comfort from any angle. Axis Gloves feature a durable, ultra-low-friction surface paired with cool-flow breathable mesh that is reinforced with double stitching to provide players with a smoother and more consistent stroke. The result is a better foundation to give your game the X-factor. Available in four different sizes.

\$28,00

<https://www.cuetec.com>

SET OF EIGHT GRADY MATHEWS DVDS

These eight DVDs are packaged into two four-DVD albums. The "Grady on Pool" four-pack contains: Advanced Principles of Pool & Billiards (a classic video), The Finer Points of Pool (a classic video), The Finer Points of Banking & Safety Play (a classic video), and Sixteen Steps. The titles in the "Grady on One Pocket" four-pack are: The Finer Points of One Pocket (a classic video), Only Kicks, The Finishing Touch, and Killer One Pocket. The first three are exclusive to One Pocket and the last one, "Only Kicks," is great for all pool games.

\$169,95

<https://www.bebobpublishing.com/product-p/gm8.htm>

Grady on:
POOL & BILLIARDS!
Professional Instruction for Pool Players

Four Timeless DVDs - One Great Package!
Grady "The Professor" Mathews

Grady on:
ONE POCKET!
Expert Instruction for Pool Players

Four Timeless DVDs - One Great Package!
Grady "The Professor" Mathews



SKYLAR WOODWARD'S

PROOF

AGED TO PERFECTION IN THE HEART OF KENTUCKY

110% Pure Avid Performance by Volume

GREATNESS FROM HUMBLE BEGINNINGS | CUETEC.COM

CUETEC

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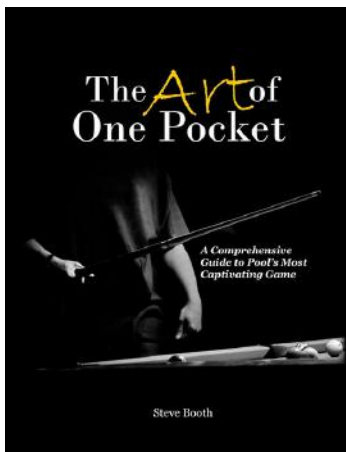
THE ART OF ONE POCKET BY STEVE BOOTH

A comprehensive guide to pool's most captivating game

OnePocket.org is pleased to introduce the publication of a new book, *The Art of One Pocket*, by Steve Booth, the founder of OnePocket.org. The book covers all aspects of the game from basics like choosing your pocket to nuances from the game's mental side. Twenty years in the making, the book is infused with love for the game in an organized approach to learning. There is something for everyone here, from the casual fan to the seasoned pro.

Between each chapter/section there are dramatic black and white photos from Steve Booth's many years of pool photography, lending a visual ambience of One Pocket in action.

- 294 pages
- 208 diagrams
- Countless highlighted "rules of thumb"
- 36 of the author's player photos
- Complete official rules
- A lexicon of One Pocket terms



\$69,00

<https://store.accu-stats.com/the-art-of-one-pocket-by-steve-booth/>

ibecue



MAZE 2

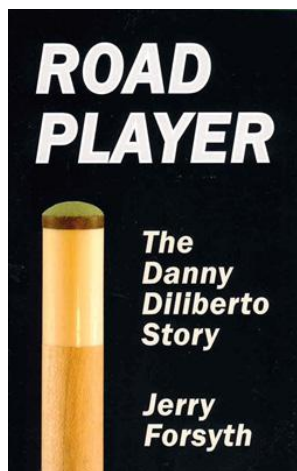
Every game has a way out, just like a labyrinth. Maze 2 is the inlaid carbon fiber cue built for players who know that every move matters.

\$1339,00

<https://www.becueofficial.com>

ROAD PLAYER - THE DANNY DILIBERTO STORY

This book by Jerry Forsyth is a lifetime of stories from the vibrant memory of Danny Diliberto, one of Pool's most popular commentators. Beginning with the Hustler's Tournaments in Johnston City, Diliberto was one of the fabled road players. He excelled at baseball, bowling, boxing, and pool.



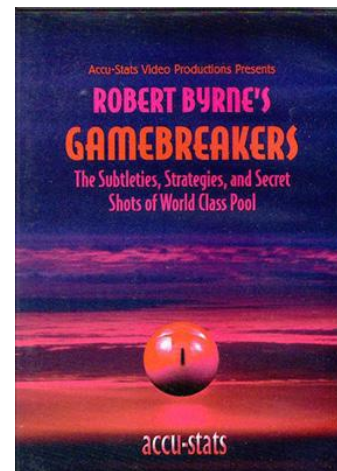
Boxing was his first love, but his own hands could not stand the power of his blows. Pool gave him his greatest fame and any devotee of the game will be fascinated with his story. From Vegas to Hollywood to the smallest towns on the most distant highways, this is the life of the roadman. A gambler's tale in his own words

\$17,95

<https://www.bebobpublishing.com/product-p/rp.htm>

ROBERT BYRNE'S GAMEBREAKERS

This DVD by Robert Byrne is about the subtleties, strategies and secret shots of world class pool. It is a collection of shots that don't come up too often, but when they do, they are game winners. If you practice the shots in this video you will learn to execute surprising caroms, follows, draws, and close-quarter cuts. You will also learn special uses for banks, rail-first shots, stun run-thru shots, and a lot more. An interesting DVD.



\$29,95

<https://www.bebobpublishing.com/product-p/gbd.htm>



NITRO LAMINATED CUE TIP

Elevate your game with the NITRO Laminated Cue Tip—crafted in collaboration with World Champion Darren Appleton for unmatched consistency, control, power, and precision. Power in every Layer.

\$27,00

<https://tigerproducts.com/collections/cue-tips/products/new-nitro-laminated-cue-tip-darren-appleton-edition>

becue

PRIME



PRIME II

The feel of wood and the performance of carbon fiber meet in the Prime II, truly making this shaft the best of both worlds.

\$499,00

<https://www.becueofficial.com>



DIAMOND BALL POLISHER

The Diamond Single Ball Polisher is the only one in the world that features a spinning platter that spiral the balls as they spin. With the platters lined with specialized carpet and free-floating sprockets, your balls won't bang together as they rotate, ensuring a smooth and effective polishing process.

\$650,00

<https://diamondbilliards.com/products/diamond-8-ball-polisher?variant=49543259783474>



CHALK HOLDER LONGONI ALTER EGO SQUARED

The “Alter Ego Chalk Holder” by Longoni features an innovative dual-super-magnet fastening system to securely hold your chalk in place. It includes a custom-branded silicone cover that prevents chalk dust from soiling your cue case. Designed to accommodate square-shaped chinks, it is crafted for comfort, lightness, and maximum practicality. Built for all billiard disciplines and made in Italy. 1 Blue Diamond chalk included.

\$30,00

<https://www.longonicues.com/longoni-cues-accessories?view=article&id=1107:alter-ego-chalk-holder&catid=32:longoni-accessories>



TIGER CUE HOLDER (DELUXE EDITION)

Meet the new and improved TIGER Cue Holder Deluxe Edition—sleeker, stronger, and smarter. Premium aluminum, brass core, soft pads. Available for 3 or 5 cues. Unbeatable, on-the-go protection.

3 Cues (\$70) 5 Cues (\$85)

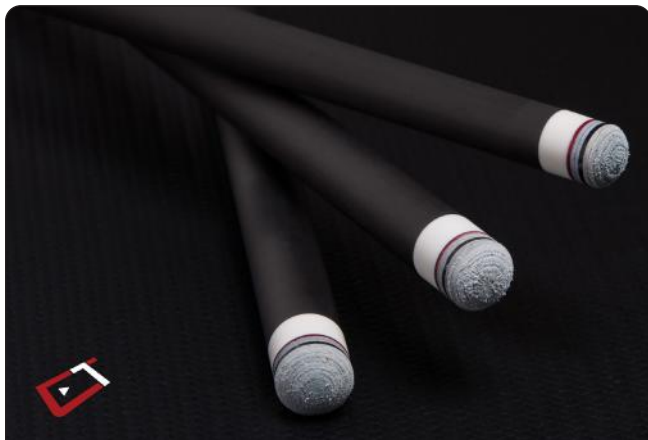
<https://tigerproducts.com/collections/accessories/products/tiger-cue-holder-deluxe-edition-new-1>

MASAI CYAN CUE

The Masai is a classic among the high-end models in the Longoni range. In the Masai Cyan version, it features the highly sought-after Karelia birch, which lends charm and elegance while maintaining the famous diamond pattern on the handle that made it iconic. The inlays are made of Juma Gem, birch, and bokote. It also features the graphite HexaCore and Titanium VP2 joint. A Silver version is also available, representing the flagship model of the Longoni pool cue range.

\$4300 - \$6350

<https://www.longonicues.com/longoni-cues/longoni-pool/cues?view=article&id=1054:masai-silver-pool&catid=4:longoni-longoni-pool-cues>



CUETEC CYNERGY SHAFTS

Cuetec Cynergy Shafts stand at the forefront of carbon fiber billiards technology. Focusing on more than the singular aspect of deflection, Cynergy shafts provide low-deflection consistent accuracy, without sacrificing the all-important feel and feedback players demand to take their game to the next level. Enhance your game with Cynergy.

\$499,00

<https://www.cuetec.com>



MERCURY JUMP

Mercury makes every jump effortless. With its 13mm tip, optimized stiffness, and 29" assembled length, it's built for every jump. And for the first time, it's compatible with the innovative Leonardo Balance System.

\$469,00

<https://www.becueofficial.com>



DIAMOND BALL POLISHER COVER

The Diamond Polisher Covers are crafted from heavy-duty, double-stitched, cotton-lined vinyl for superior durability and protection.

Designed to safeguard your investment, this cover helps maintain the longevity of your ball polisher while keeping your space looking polished and professional.

\$70,00

<https://diamondbilliards.com/products/diamond-ball-polisher-covers?variant=49837777387826>



CUETEC PRO LINE CASES

Pro Line Cases set a new standard for intelligent case design. Developed to meet the exceeding demands of the game's road-warriors and champions, each case is packed with purposeful-features to ensure your equipment and accessories remain protected for your next match today, and for many years to come.

\$389-\$409

<https://www.cuetec.com>

MEUCCICUES.COM



50 YEARS • *Meucci* 1975-2025

LEGENDARY PERFORMANCE MADE IN THE USA



Tourney Results

Nov 01 - Nov 02

Joss Tour 2025-2026 Stop 8

The Golden Cue Billiard Lounge

Albany, NY

- 1 Jeremy Sossei \$1,100
- 2 Damon Sobers \$800
- 3 Nate Marshall \$650
- 4 Bucky Souvanthong \$500
- 5 JoAnn Mason Parker \$350
- 5 Omar Ashiq \$350
- 7 Dave Mills \$200
- 7 Nick Antonakis \$200
- 9 Eric Hamel \$150
- 9 Jake Jackson \$150
- 9 James Gugenberger \$150
- 9 Jody Amundson \$150
- 13 Chris Tiru \$100
- 13 Dave Pinkston \$100
- 13 Mike Rash \$100
- 13 Nick Coppola \$100

Nov 01 - Nov 02

Joss Tour 2026-2026 Stop 8 Second Chance

The Golden Cue Billiard Lounge

Albany, NY

- 1 Joe Darigis \$340
- 2 Corey Payne \$240
- 3 Bud Robideau \$160
- 4 Chris Tiru \$120
- 5 Kiet Mieu \$60
- 5 Nick Coppola \$60

Nov 01 - Nov 02

2nd Savannah Easton Invitational 9-Ball Open

Aloha Family Billiards

Buena Park, Ca

- 1 Jose Parica \$1,760

- 2 Savannah Easton \$920
- 3 Larry Easton \$560
- 4 Tony Garcia \$380
- 5 David Nichols \$290
- 5 Thai Nguyen \$290
- 7 James Cabal \$200
- 7 Julius Argumedo \$200

Nov 06 - Nov 09

2025 River City Open

Legends Billiards

Jacksonville, FL

- 1 Jesus Atencio \$13,000
- 2 Christopher Tevez \$9,600
- 3 Thorsten Hohmann \$7,150
- 4 Carlo Biado \$3,750
- 5 Lee Vann Corteza \$2,000
- 5 Tyler Styer \$2,000
- 7 Anthony Meglino \$1,000
- 7 Roland Garcia \$1,000
- 9 Georgi Georgiev \$600
- 9 Gerson Martinez \$600
- 9 Jonathan Pinegar \$600
- 9 Sergio Rivas \$600

Nov 08 - Nov 09

Joss Tour 2025-2026 Stop 9

Raxx Pool Room, Sports Bar & Grill

West Hempstead, NY

- 1 Lukas Fracasso-Verner \$1,100
- 2 Ernesto Gjoni \$800
- 3 Mhet Vergara \$600
- 4 Duc Lam \$450
- 5 Brian Vu \$275
- 5 Marco Dy \$275
- 7 Bredan Ince \$150
- 7 Del Sim \$150

Nov 08 - Nov 09

Joss Tour 2026-2026 Stop 9 Second Chance

Raxx Pool Room, Sports Bar & Grill

West Hempstead, NY

- 1 Christian Cabera \$300
- 2 Perry Leung \$200
- 3 Steve Kallou \$140

Nov 08 - Nov 09

Making It In America One Pocket Tour Stop

Billiard Breakdown

Rochester, NY

- 1 Shane Winters \$3,000
- 2 Reggie Cutler \$2,060
- 3 Dave Grau \$1,300
- 4 Aaron Greenwood \$700

Nov 12 - Nov 16

2025 WPBA Aramith / Dr Pool Classic

Central Wisconsin Convention and Expo Center

Rothschild, Wisconsin

- 1 Kelly Fisher \$14,000
- 2 Pia Filler \$9,000
- 3 Jasmin Ouschan \$6,500
- 4 Marharyta Fefilava \$4,500
- 5 Kaylee McIntosh \$3,500
- 5 Kristina Tkach \$3,500
- 7 Eylul Kybaroglu \$2,500
- 7 Sofia Mast \$2,500
- 9 Elise Qiu \$1,800
- 9 Kristina Zlateva \$1,800
- 9 Meng-Hsia Hung \$1,800
- 9 Monica Webb \$1,800
- 13 April Larson \$1,500

13 Briana Miller \$1,500
13 Maria Teresa Roper Garcia \$1,500
13 Savannah Easton \$1,500
17 Aleksandra Guleikova \$1,100
17 Ashley Rice \$1,100
17 Bojana Sarac \$1,100
17 Miina Tani \$1,100
17 Samia Konishi \$1,100
17 Tina Larsen \$1,100
17 Tzu-Chien Wei \$1,100
17 Veronique Menard \$1,100
25 Allison Fisher \$600
25 Alyssa Solt \$600
25 April Gonzales \$600
25 Betsy Sundholm \$600
25 Caroline Pao \$600
25 Joanne Ashton \$600
25 Loree Jon Hasson \$600
25 Susan Williams \$600

Nov 14 - Nov 23

2025 International 9-Ball Open

World Golf Village Renaissance

St. Augustine, FL

1 Aloysius Yapp \$35,000
2 Francisco Sanchez-Ruiz \$23,000
3 Jonas Souto Comino \$14,000
3 Wiktor Zielinski \$14,000
5 Jesus Atencio \$6,400
5 Sergio Rivas \$6,400
5 Skyler Woodward \$6,400
5 Thorsten Hohmann \$6,400
9 Alexandros Kazakis \$3,020
9 Denis Grabe \$3,020
9 Dimitris Loukatos \$3,020
9 Fedor Gorst \$3,020
9 Gerson Martinez \$3,020
9 Mickey Krause \$3,020
9 Naoyuki Oi \$3,020
9 Tyler Styer \$3,020
17 Anthony Meglino \$1,500
17 Carlo Biado \$1,500
17 Eric Roberts \$1,500
17 Lee Vann Corteza \$1,500
17 Lukas Fracasso-Verner \$1,500
17 Shane Van Boening \$1,500
17 Vitaliy Patsura \$1,500

17 Yannick Pongers \$1,500
25 BJ Ussery \$750
25 Brandon Shuff \$750
25 Georgi Georgiev \$750
25 Gregorio Sanchez \$750
25 Landon Hollingsworth \$750
25 Mario He \$750
25 Roland Garcia \$750
25 Sam Henderson \$750

Nov 14 - Nov 17

2025 International Open Bigfoot Invitational

World Golf Village Renaissance

St. Augustine, FL

1 Aloysius Yapp \$8,000
2 Naoyuki Oi \$4,000
3 Arseny Sevastyanov \$2,000
3 Carlo Biado \$2,000

Nov 14 - Nov 18

2025 International Open Straight Pool Championship

World Golf Village Renaissance

St. Augustine, FL

1 Thorsten Hohmann \$7,000
2 Denis Grabe \$4,500
3 Wiktor Zielinski \$2,500
3 Yannick Pongers \$2,500
5 Bob Keller \$1,500
5 Jani Siekkinen \$1,500
5 John Schott \$1,500
5 Mario He \$1,500
9 Bob Mendenjian \$1,000
9 John Deak \$1,000
9 Jonathon Demet \$1,000
9 Michael Yednak \$1,000
13 Don Feeney \$200
13 Don Wardell \$200
13 Ed Culhane \$200
13 Gary Hale \$200
13 Jonathan Smith \$200
13 Pascal Dufresne \$200
13 Rick Funk \$200
13 Tommy Farrow \$200

Nov 14 - Nov 18

2026 International Open One Pocket Championship

World Golf Village Renaissance

St. Augustine, FL

1 Roberto Gomez \$6,000
2 Justin Hall \$4,000
3 Anthony Meglino \$3,000
3 Oliver Ruuger \$3,000
5 Roland Garcia \$2,000
5 Sergio Rivas \$2,000
7 Josh Roberts \$1,500
7 Marco Vidal \$1,500
9 Devin Poteet \$1,100
9 John Morra \$1,100
9 Sam Harris \$1,100
12 Ian Jones \$820
12 Kim Davenport \$820
12 Lou Figueroa \$820
12 Paul Marquez \$820
12 Rick Moreno \$820

Nov 15 - Nov 16

37th Ocean State 9-Ball Championship

Snookers - Sports Billiards, Bar & Grill

Providence, RI

1 Curtis Wright \$2,800
2 Suad Kantaravic \$1,800
3 Barry Hetherington \$1,400
4 Bucky Souvanthong \$1,000
5 Francisco Cabral \$800
5 Vincent Beurivage \$800
7 Jake Jackson \$600
7 Nate Marshall \$600
9 Harold Rousseau \$400
9 Ivaylo Petrov \$400
9 Keith Trafton \$400
9 Nate Sena \$400
13 Beau Powers \$250
13 Denys Zbikowski \$250
13 Frankie Hernandez \$250
13 JoAnn Mason Parker \$250

Nov 22 - Nov 23

JPNEWT Tour 2025 Stop #7

Racks Billiards & Bar

- Vernon, Connecticut
- 1 Sandy Cheng \$660
 - 2 Giovanna Napolitano \$540
 - 3 Tracey Duffin \$400
 - 4 Amanda Laverriere \$275
 - 5 Carol Borja Montanez \$135
 - 5 Dawn Luz \$135
 - 7 Jane Im \$75
 - 7 Jocelyn Hurley \$75

Nov 25 - Nov 28

Little Monster Women's International Open

Gandia Palace Hotel

- Gandia, Valencia
- 1 Seo Seoa \$22,500
 - 2 Kelly Fisher \$13,125
 - 3 Jasmin Ouschan \$6,565
 - 3 Tzu-Chien Wei \$6,565
 - 5 Chieh-Yu Chou \$3,280
 - 5 Han Yu \$3,280
 - 5 Pia Filler \$3,280
 - 5 Wan-Ling Wang \$3,280
 - 9 Chia Hua Chen \$1,645
 - 9 Kristina Grim \$1,645
 - 9 Kristina Zlateva \$1,645
 - 9 Meng-Hsia Hung \$1,645
 - 9 Pei-Chun Tsai \$1,645
 - 9 Sha Sha Liu \$1,645
 - 9 Sofia Mast \$1,645
 - 9 Yvonne Hybler \$1,645

Nov 26 - Nov 30

Little Monster Mixed Doubles Open

Gandia Palace Hotel

- Gandia, Valencia
- 1 Mu Yan Zhang \$20,000
 - 1 Oliver Szolnoki \$20,000
 - 2 Marco Teutscher \$10,000
 - 2 Wan-Ling Wang \$10,000
 - 3 Albin Ouschan \$5,000

- 3 Alexandros Kazakis \$5,000
- 3 Jasmin Ouschan \$5,000
- 3 Kelly Fisher \$5,000
- 5 Ali Al Obaidly \$2,500
- 5 Chia Hua Chen \$2,500
- 5 Daniel Maciol \$2,500
- 5 Jonas Souto Comino \$2,500
- 5 Savannah Easton \$2,500
- 5 Seo Seoa \$2,500
- 5 Soledad Ayala \$2,500
- 5 Wiktor Zielinski \$2,500

Nov 27 - Dec 02

Little Monster Men's International Open

Gandia Palace Hotel

- Gandia, Valencia
- 1 Francisco Sanchez-Ruiz \$30,000
 - 2 Denis Grabe \$14,000
 - 3 Bader Al Awadi \$7,000
 - 3 Daniel Maciol \$7,000
 - 5 Karl Gnadeberg \$3,500
 - 5 Konrad Juszczyszyn \$3,500
 - 5 Marco Teutscher \$3,500
 - 5 Wojciech Szewczyk \$3,500
 - 9 Albin Ouschan \$1,750
 - 9 Alexandros Kazakis \$1,750
 - 9 Casper Matikainen \$1,750
 - 9 Fernandes Soares Diogo Felipe \$1,750
 - 9 Jonas Souto Comino \$1,750
 - 9 Oliver Szolnoki \$1,750
 - 9 Sanjin Pehlivanovic \$1,750
 - 9 Szymon Kural \$1,750
 - 17 Che-Wei Fu \$875
 - 17 Eklent Kaci \$875
 - 17 Fraser Patrick \$875
 - 17 Hubert Lopotko \$875
 - 17 Joao Grilo \$875
 - 17 Juan Carlos Exposito \$875
 - 17 Kledio Kaci \$875
 - 17 Mario He \$875
 - 17 Marius Skoneczny \$875
 - 17 Mateusz Sniegocki \$875
 - 17 Maximilian Lechner \$875
 - 17 Mieszko Fortunski \$875

- 17 Miguel Silva \$875
- 17 Roberto Bartol \$875
- 17 Sun Yi Hsuan \$875
- 17 Wiktor Zielinski \$875

Nov 29 - Nov 30

2025 Bob Stocks Memorial 9-Ball

On Cue Sports Bar & Grill

- Front Royal, Virginia
- 1 Lee Vann Corteza \$2,300
 - 2 Brandon Shuff \$1,175
 - 3 Matt Clatterbuck \$750
 - 3 Roland Garcia \$750
 - 5 BJ Ussery \$400
 - 5 Brandon Gordon \$400
 - 5 Chris Hansen \$400
 - 5 Kevin West \$400

Nov 29 - Nov 30

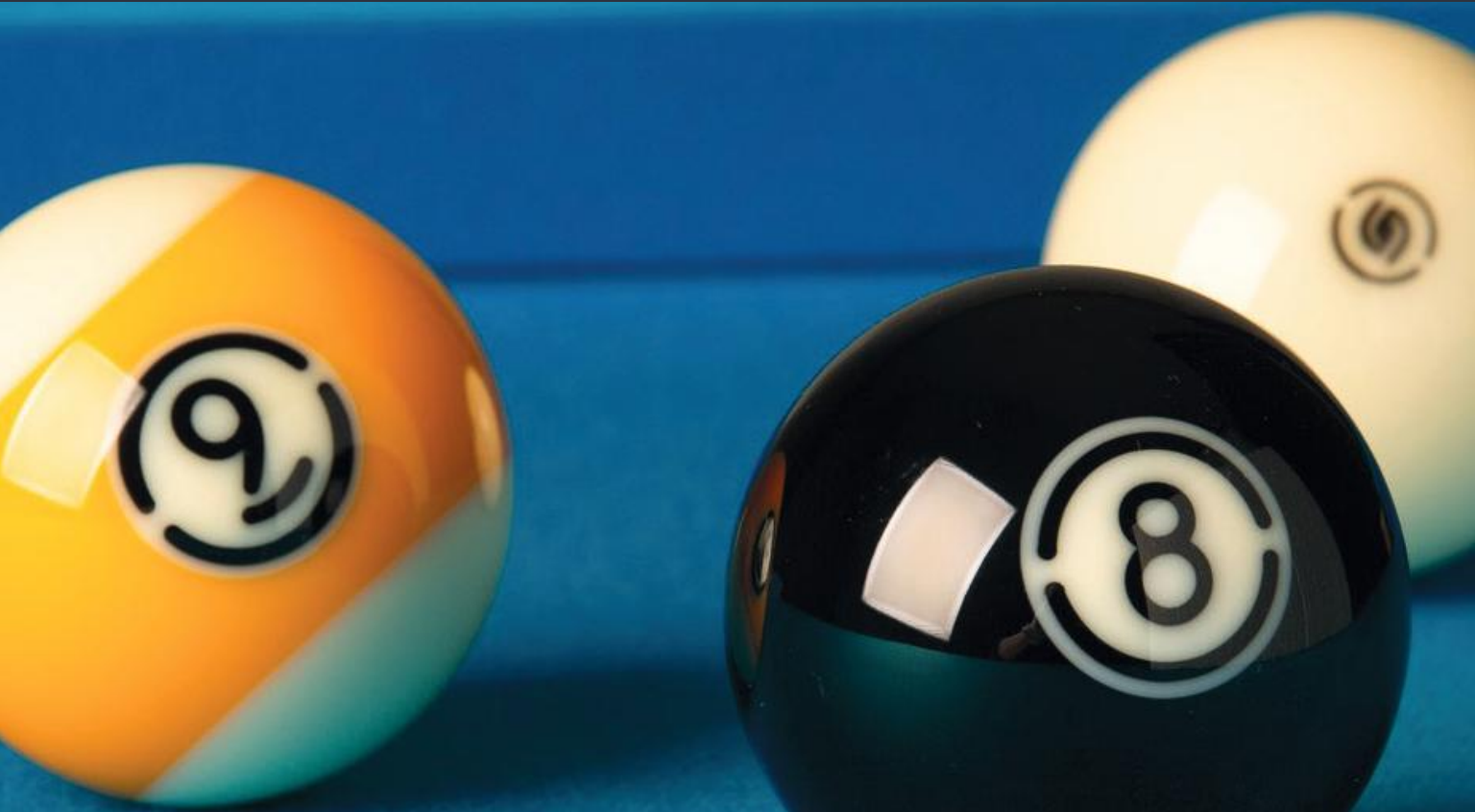
State of Maine 9-Ball Open

Forest City Billiards

- Portland, ME
- 1 Lukas Fracasso-Verner \$6,000
 - 2 Mhet Vergara \$3,700
 - 3 Cody Francis \$2,400
 - 4 Kevin Hall \$1,700
 - 5 Can Salim \$1,300
 - 5 Joey Cicero \$1,300
 - 7 Danny Hewitt \$800
 - 7 Mike Dechaine \$800
 - 9 Bob Mandenjian \$475
 - 9 Charles Vergara \$475
 - 9 Joe Dupuis \$475
 - 9 Kyle Pepin \$475
 - 13 Drew Herbert \$250
 - 13 Edison Bao \$250
 - 13 Nicolas Charette \$250
 - 13 Suad Kantaravic \$250
 - 17 Clayton Dennis \$150
 - 17 Denys Zbikowski \$150
 - 17 Derrick Burnham \$150
 - 17 Dillon Nickerson \$150
 - 17 Evan Moreau \$150
 - 17 Rich Minichello \$150
 - 17 Rob James \$150
 - 17 Vincent Beurivage \$150

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AZBILLIARDS MONEY LIST

	NAME	COUNTRY	\$ AMOUNT	
	Carlo Biado	 PHI	323.000,00 US\$	
	Aloysius Yapp	 SIN	294.450,00 US\$	↑
	Fedor Gorst	 USA	264.220,00 US\$	↓
	Joshua Filler	 GER	204.116,00 US\$	
	Shane Van Boening	 ALB	159.775,00 US\$	
	Moritz Neuhausen	 GER	138.838,00 US\$	
	Alex Kazakis	 GRE	138.641,00 US\$	↑
	Ko Ping Chung	 TPE	136.000,00 US\$	↓
	Francisco Sanchez-Ruiz	 ESP	135.700,00 US\$	↑
	Jonas Magpantay	 PHI	106.750,00 US\$	↓

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.

DECEMBER/JANUARY

Mosconi Cup XXXII

Dec 03 - Dec 06

Alexandra Palace
London,

Predator Spanish Open 2025

Dec 04 - Dec 07

Gandia Palace Hotel
Gandia, Valencia

NWPA Tour 2025 Stop 7

Dec 06 - Dec 07

Scratch Pizza and Billiards
Fife, Washington

Turning Stone Classic XLI

Jan 08 - Jan 11

Turning Stone Casino
Verona, NY

WNT Legends

Jan 22 - Jan 24

Manila
Manila,

Derby City Classic 2026

Jan 23 - Feb 01

Horseshoe Southern Indiana
Elizabeth, IN



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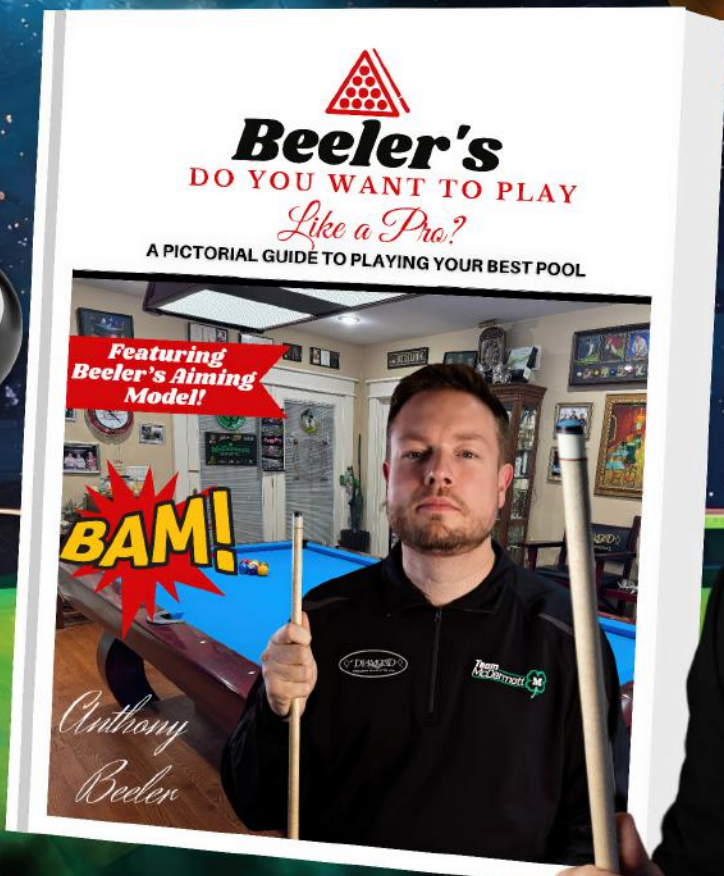
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