

Billiard Buzz

an  publication

vol.3, Issue May 2018

GRABE GRABS WPS TITLE



TREAT YOURSELF

SOFT IN STYLE, LUXURIOUS IN LOOKS.

Introducing Lucasi's New Line of Luxury Soft Cases



Call Today 800 835-7665 For A Dealer Near You or Visit WWW.CUEANDCASE.COM for More Info.

CONTRIBUTORS:

Skip Maloney
Chris Stankovich
Anthony Beeler
Melinda Bailey
Jerry Briesath
David Thomson
Matchroom Sport
Kristin Butterfield
Karl Kantrowitz
North American Pool Tour
American Pool Players
Association

COVER PHOTO:

David Thomson
Mediumpool.com

GRAPHICS AND LAYOUT:

Nebojsa Dolovacki

© 2017, *The Billiards Buzz* is an online only monthly publication. It is published on or around the 30th of each month. All opinions & information expressed herein are exclusively those of the writers or advertisers and do not necessarily reflect those of the AzBilliards. All persons interested in submitting articles and material of interest are invited to do so. Submission of such articles constitutes permission for AzBilliards to use these articles in this publication or online on AzBilliards.com. Article submission or advertisers queries can be sent to us at info@azbilliards.com

FROM THE Head Rail

MIKE HOWERTON

This month, I am going to get back up on my soapbox about something.

We had the World Pool Series event last month, as well as a major added money event at a casino. I have no idea which one was scheduled first, and that isn't what this is about. This is about how we can make sure these problems don't happen in the future. I asked this question on a recent American Billiard Radio podcast (you are listening to all of them at poolpodcasts.com, right?). What can we do to create a central database that is easy to use for room owners/tournament directors, and that helps to avoid the issue of events being scheduled on top of each other?

I know I sound like a broken record on this, but it bothers me. How are we ever going to be soon as a professional sport, with amateurish things like this going on? If you have ideas, email me at azhousepro@gmail.com





GET A CUSTOM CUE WITHOUT THE CUSTOM CUE PRICE TAG



McDermott Cue of the Month

The McDermott Cue of the Month program gives you a chance to own a customized McDermott cue for the same price as the original! Each month, we customize an existing cue with a combination of unique stains, wraps, exotic materials, rings, or a shaft upgrade. The cost to you for these customizations: **\$0**.

Visit mcdermottcue.com/cotm to see this month's cue!



28 COVER FEATURE:

Denis Grabe Takes Down the 2018 Aramith 9-Ball Players Championship



12 Melissa Herndon Interview
Melinda Bailey



24 NAPT Spotlight Player
Brittany Bryant



36 Jasmin Ouschan wins
her 14th Women Euro-
Tour event in Austria

- 6** Shooting Off The Rail
Jerry Briesath
- 8** Incorporate Your Senses
Anthony Beeler
- 10** Develop an eye of the tiger
and dominate the competition
Dr. Chris Stankovich
- 30** Dechaine comes out of
'retirement' to win SBE
Open 10-Ball Pro Players
Championship Skip Maloney
- 32** Corr Recaptures SBE
Diamond Women's Open
9-Ball Pro Championship title
- 34** Kazakis takes his first title at
the Euro-Tour
- 38** Northwest Cup Skip Maloney
- 40** The U.S. International 9-Ball
Open
- 41** Mandalay Bay To Stage US
Open 9-Ball
- 42** Partypoker Continues
Mosconi Cup Title
Sponsorship Until 2020
- 44** Billiard Sports To Be Included
In The 2021 World Games
- 45** BCA Announces 2018 Atlantic
Challenge Cup Location and
Date
- 46** Darting Ahead
- 50** Upcoming Tournaments
- 52** Tourney Results

Shooting Off The Rail



JERRY BRIESATH

Shooting shots with the cue ball on the rail is not high on any player's favorite shot list. There are a few things you can do to be more accurate and not mis-cue then you shoot these shots.



Most novice players elevate the butt of the cue too much, which causes accuracy to go way downhill. Most pros will elevate the butt an inch or an inch and a half higher than normal, but no more.

Another mistake novice players make is dropping their elbow as they follow through the cue ball, which causes the cue tip to slide off the top of the cue ball and miscue. It is very important for every player to learn how to

shoot the cue ball off the rail without dropping the elbow. If the elbow does not drop, the pendulum swing of the arm will go up slightly after striking the cue ball with causes the shaft of the cue to stay connected to the rail.

And last of all, it is best to keep your speed down when shooting off the rail for greatest accuracy.

Line up the balls against the rail on one side of the table and shoot them

in one of the pockets on the other side of the table. When the stroke is finished, freeze in that position. The follow through should be three to four inches past where the cue ball was and the shaft should be touching the rail. Practice this drill and you will find your accuracy goes up and you make a lot more object balls.

Good luck. — Jerry

Iwan Simonis is a registered trademark of Pelzer & Fils S.A.

Give a gift that doesn't suck

The patented Simonis X-1[®] chalk dust removal tool



U.S. patent # D644,704

Iwan Simonis
SIMONIS CLOTH

Authentic. Accurate. Always.

www.simoniscloth.com



800.SIMONIS

INCORPORATE YOUR SENSES

ANTHONY BEELER

Sensory pool is about playing in the present moment and staying connected to the feel of shots— not what happens after the shot is struck or the mechanics of the stroke. This is a far more effective way to play than using mechanical stroke thoughts or thinking about the score of your match.

Most pool players I work with usually have an issue of “thinking too much” while down on the shot. They’re focused solely on the consequences: “if I make this shot then, maybe I’ll win...or if I don’t, I’m going to probably lose!” They can also be pre-occupied by what they think they should do in their stroke. Sensory pool is a good solution to this particular kind of problem.

Billiards isn’t like a lot of other sports where the ball is moving and you don’t have time to react. In fact, there’s plenty of time to plan in pool. But thinking is not usually a good thing when it is related to some sort of sports related physical movement. So

what we focus on during our pre-shot routine is a key part of accessing the best mechanics for the shot we have decided to play.

During the “conscious phase” of the pre-shot routine the player’s mind needs to be switched on. Players need to decide on the angle they have, the speed the shot needs to be struck with, and the spin necessary to attain the desired position for the next shot. Players should be thinking at least 3 shots ahead.

Once a player is down on the shot, the only “thinking” that needs to be done is getting set up properly. Most professional players will aim from a standing position, then aim again and



again during their practice strokes. The final aiming checkpoint is the “set position” where players take one final look to be sure their alignment matches the shot that they’re about to shoot. After this, it’s all about connecting (engaging) with the feel of the shot and focusing on that.

HOW TO PLAY SENSORY POOL

FEEL

During the creative phase of the routine you will have mentally and physically rehearsed the shot. Focusing on “feel” involves imagining the feeling of the shot while over the cue ball.

VISUAL

Seeing the shot as vividly as possible in your mind’s eye – the cue ball and object ball’s action visualized in your mind just like a movie (outcome visualization). Seeing yourself stroke the shot and what the action looks like (process visualization).

SOUND

What will the shot you’re about to shoot sound like? What sound will be made when the tip hits the cue ball and it rolls across the cloth? What will the pocket sound like when the object ball goes in?



WHY IS THIS EFFECTIVE?

Firstly, when you are imagining a sensation (feel), you're keeping your mind free of other possible distractions. You're immersing yourself in the process and not thinking about possible consequences. This is important when you are playing under pressure, when your mind can easily wander and create tension or doubt.

During the engagement phase, you're giving the subconscious mind instructions using sensory pool (what it needs to do to reproduce the perfect stroke). During a fluid stroke, it's your subconscious mind that's the primary catalyst. You're not thinking about how to move your arm, it's moving naturally. Stroking without thinking (playing sensory pool) is always far better than trying to give yourself feedback during your stroke.

SOME EXAMPLES:

As part of my pre-shot routine, after I've made a few rehearsal strokes to finalize the shot line and pace, I "hold on" to that feeling and try to imagine it in my mind, right before I start my stroke. That's when I know I'm ready to shoot. When most players talk about the consistency of their pre-shot routine, they are referring to the time it takes to go through the process. For me, it's about the consistency of the "engagement."

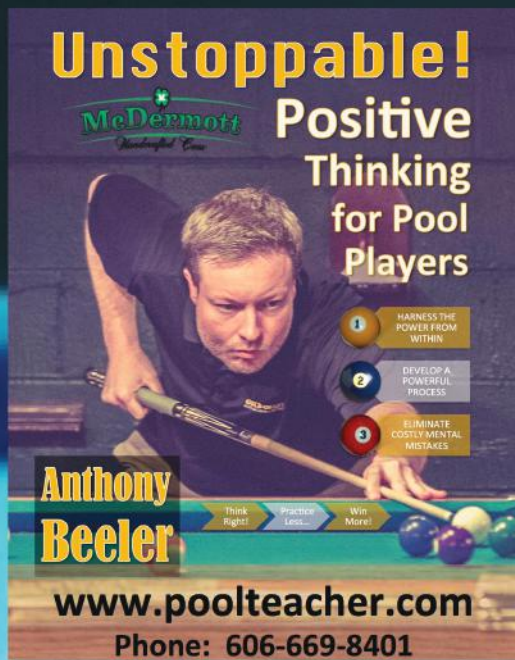
It's far more important for me to feel the tip's interaction with the cue ball before I shoot the shot, and really connect with that feeling just a few seconds before starting my stroke. Other players might prefer the visual or some combination of both. However, feel is very important to me.

During practice sessions work on developing your senses and try to find

out which ones will give you the best results during match play. Make shot engagement one of your "process goals" and incorporate this into your pre-shot process.

Anthony Beeler is the 2017 Pool Instructor of the Year and is a former BCAPL National 9-Ball Champion. He has numerous top 25 national finishes and is one of only 8 ACS Master Instructors in the world. He is the primary author of the *National Billiards Instructors Manual* and 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.

Two great books!



Only \$49.95 Includes Free S/H

One low price!

Author Autographed Limited Editions!

DEVELOP AN EYE OF THE TIGER AND DOMINATE THE COMPETITION

The Sports Doc - Dr. CHRIS STANKOVICH
Drstankovich.com

The Rocky movies from the 80's were motivating to any of us that lived through them, especially when Rocky developed an eye of the tiger and shocked the world by winning the championship against all odds.

Sure, the creation of Rocky was Hollywood magic, but developing an eye of the tiger is something many athletes have acquired, and so can you. Specifically, I am talking about being so committed to your goals that you live with them daily, and are convicted to do whatever you need to do in order to fulfill your goals.

Intrinsic motivation

Psychologists identify two different types of motivation – intrinsic and extrinsic. Intrinsic motivation is when you do things for your own self-satisfaction, like being driven to play pool at your highest level because you love the game. Extrinsic motivation is different in that you are motivated for tangible things, including money and awards. In order to be driven to reach your full potential you will need to dig deep and find what drives your intrinsic motivation, as the motivation of money and awards is often found to be less powerful than when people are driven to be the best from their own internal interest (ala Rocky!).

Be realistic

Athletes who pursue their dreams often accept the fact that there will be



tough times, rough days, and even bad luck. The key is to clearly define what it is you want to do (i.e. be the best player on your pool team, winner of a big tournament, etc.), and then work backwards to set up specific, realistic, controllable daily goals. With



each small victory, confidence increases, and often the fire inside gets stronger (the eye of the tiger!).

Failure is not an option

While it might sound overly confident to say that failure is not an option, sometimes this kind of thinking is needed in order for us to get the most from our abilities. Sure, you might not have the smoothest stroke or the most expensive cue, but you do have the ability to practice, ask mentors questions, and read books/watch videos. You are also in control of your pre-game preparation, improving your focus, and learning how to quickly bounce back from adversity. And finally, you can always outwork the competition – if you want it bad enough.

So cue up the Rocky music and put your game face on, it's time to take a big leap in improving your game!

Dr. Chris Stankovich, known as "The Sports Doc," is a national expert in the field of sport & performance psychology and has been featured on ESPN for his work with elite athletes. His #1 best selling pool video "Mind of Steel: Mental Toughness for Pool Success" has been used by thousands of players to improve focus, increase confidence, and eliminate anxiety. You can learn more about Dr. Stankovich and Mind of Steel by visiting drstankovich.com

SECONDSKIN



THE REVIEWS ARE IN, **THUMBS UP.**

Ultra-Dry Breathable Mesh – Non-Slip Thumb Heel Pad – Double Stitched Construction
Elastic-Velcro Closure – Second-Skin® Low-Friction Surface

PredatorCues.com



©2018 Predator Cues. All rights reserved. Predator is registered trademark of Predator Group.



Melissa Herndon Interview

Melissa Herndon is a top professional pool player from California. She has been on the pro scene for over 20 years. She recently became a brand ambassador of *Jam Up* apparel. Let's find out more about Melissa!

Q: Where did you grow up?

A: The “mean streets” of Thousand Oaks, CA. My family moved me here when I was about 6 years old, and aside from a pair of year-long stints in other cities, I’ve been in Thousand Oaks ever since.

Fun facts about Thousand Oaks:

- There are way more than 1,000 oak trees. Probably closer to 60,000 in the Conejo Valley.
- Thousand Oaks is located in a valley called the Conejo Valley. Conejo means “rabbit” in Spanish.
- In 1925, someone opened a film industry zoo with 5 lions and 7 dogs in Thousand Oaks. After the addition of giraffes, camels, hippos,

tigers and other exotic animals, the park changed its name to Jungland in 1956. It went bankrupt in 1969 and the park’s 1800 animals were sold at a public auction.

- Stars such as Amanda Bynes, Hallee Steinfeld, Colbie Caillat, and Kurt Russell were born in or have made their homes in Thousand Oaks and the surrounding areas.

Q: How and when did you start playing pool?

A: My father was an avid pool player, so I do remember him taking me to the pool room a few times when I was younger. But I didn't take pool as a hobby until I moved to Palmdale at age 18. Palmdale is a desert town about an hour's drive from Thousand Oaks, and I moved there to attend community college and be a nanny for my younger siblings. After a couple of months of living in a town where I knew no one, I started accompanying my dad to the pool room out of sheer boredom. To make a long story short, there was a regular at the pool room who looked like Andrew McCarthy from the Brat Pack. I had an instant crush on him, so I tagged along to the pool room every time my dad went. Within a couple of months, I picked up a cue and started learning to play. I didn't get the guy (he was 10 years older than I was and terrified that my dad wouldn't approve), but I ended with something better...a pretty cool and unique career.

Q: Well, glad you had that crush so it could get you into the game and we could have the honor of seeing you play professional pool! How many siblings do you have and do they play pool?

A: I have 2 half-siblings. They are both incredible human beings...intelligent, caring and interesting...but alas, neither of them ever showed any interest in pool really. Rachel is a graduate student working on bio-geochemistry in arctic ecosystems while earning her master's degree in geology. She is also a talented painter...which is a gene I definitely didn't inherit...LOL. Matthew has a thriving career in Sales and is an incredible father to four young, brilliant children. He also has a passion for fencing, so I guess that love of niche sports runs in the family.



Q: Tell us about your childhood and how it shaped you into who you are today:

A: My siblings are much younger than I am, so I grew up an only child for the most part. As a result, I think that I was a little spoiled growing up, and I developed some selfish and self-absorbed tendencies that I carried with me into adulthood. Depending on who you ask, I might still have the occasional self-absorbed moment, but I try my hardest to be conscientious of what the people in my life and around me need.

Also, I was nerdy in school. My focus was more academic than social. Instead of trying out for cheerleading or sports, I participated in the Academic Decathlon and speech club. As a result, my ability to pick up on social cues probably wasn't as developed as other people my age. For most of my twenties and even early thirties, I struggled sometimes to fit in with what I called the "normal" crowd. However, through pool, I developed a great deal of confidence in who I am and how I should live my life. I learned not to worry about fitting in and trying

to please people to make friends, and instead I just worked on fostering the friendships that I had in my life.

Q: You work at Dole Foods as a "Supply Chain Planning Analyst." Um, what does that mean you do?

A: It means a steady paycheck...LOL. But actually, that is an interesting question. I started with Dole in December 2005, and I was only supposed to work a 3-month temporary position. My Women's Professional Billiards Association (WPBA) career was just starting to really take off, and I was only looking for a temp job to keep me busy in between tournaments. I had left an office manager position just 6 months prior to starting with Dole...mostly because I wanted to focus solely on pool. And what I discovered in those 6 months was that I needed to work to feel like a contributing member of society. I have admiration for pool players who grind out a living with tournaments and gambling...but I realized quickly that the lifestyle wasn't for me. Except for that six-month stretch, I have literally worked a full-time job for my entire pool career.



Q: Full-time job *and* pro player – that’s tough to accomplish. I love how positive you are all the time on Social Media. Do you make it a point to remain positive online?

A: There is so much negativity and drama right now, both in social media and the real world around us. Because I don’t want to add to the negativity, I make a conscious effort to try and use my social media to post happy, uplifting things. Of course, I’ll share sometimes when I’m having a bad day... because I’m human and life isn’t always rainbows and sunshine. But for the most part, I enjoy sharing my pool adventures, pictures of food, friends and my dogs, or inspiring/uplifting memes. And Star Wars stuff. Because it’s cool and I’m a nerd at heart.

Q: Many women (including myself) are very impressed how many top guys you beat on the Mezz West State Tour (a top tour out of California). Do you get as excited as we do? Or do you not look at it as male versus female?

A: I get excited when I beat a great player *period*...male OR female. When I started in the WPBA, I had a goal to beat each of the higher-ranked & famous female players that dominated

the sport. The only one that I never beat was Karen Corr. She and I went hill-hill once, but I was never able to get across that finish line. Now that I’m competing on the Mezz West State Tour, I look forward to playing the top players and hopefully beating them, too. I’m lucky that I get to compete on a regular basis with players like Oscar & Ernesto Dominguez, Vilmos Foldes, Amar Kang, Sal Butera...just to name a handful.

Q: Wow, that was a pretty cool goal to beat each of the higher-ranked and famous female players! What goals do you have now (on and off the table)?

A: I would eventually like to work for myself, but first I need to find something that I’m passionate about AND that I can make a living at. It’s tough to find a combination of the two things. For example, I’m passionate about animals, but I have yet to come across a job where I can cuddle puppies all day and earn enough to pay my rent...LOL.

I’m getting married this year, so most of my energy is focused on wedding preparation right now. Once I get through my nuptials, I may put some ideas to paper and get started on a side

business that I could hopefully turn into a full-time business eventually.

Q: I read once where you stated, “I gave up my twenties to become a professional pool player.” What did you mean by that exactly?

A: When I graduated high school, I started college like most of my high school friends did. While they did the “right thing” and continued with their higher education, I dropped out of college after discovering pool and winning my first weekly pool tournament. So, throughout my entire twenties, my life revolved around pool. I dated someone from the pool world for 7 years. I worked a full-time job...but only to support my pool habit. I traveled to tournaments instead of going to parties, clubs, concerts and movies. So, when my relationship ended and I had to re-enter the dating pool at age 30, I found that I had zero in common with people from the “real world”. I’d meet someone new and of course they found it interesting that I was on my way to becoming a professional pool player...for about 5 minutes. After that, we didn’t have anything to talk about! Once I realized that there was a great big world outside of pool, I had some catching up to do because I wanted to expand my horizons and experience other things.

Q: Wait, you dropped out of college after winning a weekly tournament? Wasn’t that risky? Lol.

A: Well, I had no aspirations of becoming a pro at that point, but I knew college wasn’t for me, and I knew that I had fallen in love with pool. College bored me. Pool didn’t.

Q: So, you used pool as an excuse to not go to class? We understand ;) What did you do to elevate your game to pro level?

A: The short answer is practice, practice, practice. Drills were nev-

VICTORY II⁺

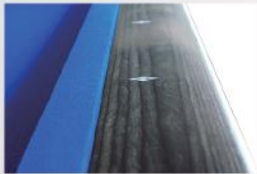


1.Slate



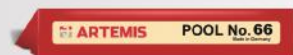
Precision cut 30mm (1.18") with 3/4" thick wood frame 3pc premium RASSON slate, grinded and then sanded flat within a tolerance of less than 0.1mm.

2.Rail



Unique processing technology compresses phenolic resin into precious hardwood veneers, resulting in a luxurious look with an ultra durable finish that is resistant to warping, scratches, moisture, and heat.

3.Cushion



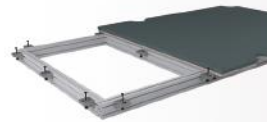
Durable yet precise, Artemis rubber offers the most consistent response and longevity of any billiard cushion.

4.Sights



Sights made of natural mother of pearls that cut in four segments of diamond shape by CNC machine, showing colorful luster of mica and easy to identify.

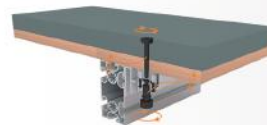
5.Aluminum Alloy Support Beam



Industrial aluminum alloy features a perfect flatness, convenient transportation and installation as well as offers a superior stability and precise foundation for the slate while maintaining consistency in virtually any climate.



6.Slate Leveling System (Patent pending)



Our patent pending LevelBox(TM) Plus system designed to match the runway of aluminum alloy beam, allows for moving across whole cabinet beam to micro adjust the slate for precise installation without the need for shims.

7.Leg Leveling System



Easy to level the table cabinet in accuracy with only a wrench.

8.Pockets (Patent pending)



Combination of aluminum alloy and TPE (Thermo-Plastic-Elastomers) in the ideal density necessary to eliminate scuffing, reduce ball bouncing out and dampen impact noise. Specially designed with our patent pending T-shape slot device offering a precision fit with fast assembly.



er my style though. I liked to spend hours upon hours on the pool table. Just hitting balls, trying to run out. I'd practice with better players or by myself...it didn't matter. And I gambled a little bit, too...which is great seasoning for learning how to play under pressure. I'm not talking hustling here...I'm talking about legitimately matching up against someone in a fair game, and then trying your hardest to be the better player in that session. It's one of the best feelings in the world to win a match when you feel like your opponent is a better player, but you outplayed them on that particular day. Never had a coach or anything, but I picked up a lot of information just hanging around the pool room. I kept my eyes and my mind open. If you simply pay attention to what great players are doing, you will begin to see the patterns and the strokes that the majority of them all use. You can soak up so much knowledge just by watching the game.

Q: Self-taught; love it! You played your first pro event in 2000 at the WPBA Los Angeles Classic. That had to be surreal to be playing among all the pros for the first time. What

were your thoughts and how did you finish in it?

A: It's hard to describe playing in your first pro event. You don't really know what to expect, and the spectacle of it all can be overwhelming. When you are used to playing in pool rooms where everyone knows you and it's comfortable, it's mind-boggling to walk into a roped-off arena with hundreds of fans sitting in bleachers surrounding you. My first match was against Cassie Anderson, another So Cal gal who was playing her very first WPBA event as well. Having to play her was kind of anti-climactic because we were used to competing with one another in local events. I wanted to play a pro...someone new to challenge me...and I know Cassie felt the same way. I won that first match 9-4 or 9-5, I think. And then I lost my next two matches to a gal named Diana (can't recall her last name) and Tiffany Nelson. Tiffany was just a kid, but I remember being in awe because I had never seen a female play as strong as she did. It hit me like a ton of bricks that these WPBA players were on a whole different level, and I needed to elevate my game if I wanted to belong on the WPBA tour.

Q: Where you nervous when you were playing your first WPBA match on ESPN? If so, how did you hold it together?

A: My very first ESPN appearance was at the US Open in 2004. In the final non-televised match of the tournament, I had to go through Allison Fisher to advance to the TV rounds. We were tied hill-hill and I played a safety. She kicked the 5-ball, made the 5-ball, but scratched. I had ball-in-hand with 4 balls on the table, each ball close to a pocket. It was a simple run-out, but my heart was pounding, and I had to take a few deep breaths. I asked myself if I was ready to play a TV match, to accomplish one of my major goals. I'd been close before and choked under the pressure. So, I answered myself, "Yes!," and I steeled my nerves and ran those 4-balls. After I shook Allison's hand, I went to my friend who was waiting in the stands and burst into tears. Mostly tears of joy, but also because I was so overcome with emotion and the crying was a release...a rush of relief. I went on to play Karen Corr on ESPN the next day, and lost 7-5. I'm not sure how I held it together, but I think that my flood of emotions the day before kind of left me drained of nervous energy when we filmed the TV match. I was calm. Watching the match later,



I could see that I didn't play my best. The position play wasn't tight, but I still got out when I needed to.

Q: Okay, tell us about "the foul."

A: When I was playing Karen Corr in that televised match, at 5-5 the Tournament Director (TD) called a foul on me when I banked a ball that was sitting close to another ball. He told me after the match that he immediately regretted calling the foul because it was very close. Even the commentators questioned his call and had to review it in slo-mo several times. Karen ran the rest of that rack and then I think she broke and ran the next game to win the match. I don't recall much of anything else except looking at the TD in disbelief when he yelled "foul." To this day, I'll tease him that he cost me my chance to win the US Open. (But in truth, I think that slo-mo eventually revealed that he had made a good call.)

Q: You have been on ESPN three times. How did you do?

A: I lost every time...hahaha! My father told me that every time he saw one of my matches re-run on ESPN, he would think to himself, "I'm sure she's going to win THIS time!" It became a running joke between us! I have no regrets about losing all my televised



Halloween 2016 with Fiance Chris Helland

matches...because how many people can say that they have been on ESPN? But it would have been icing on the cake to have had a nationally televised win for posterity!

Q: That's hysterical about your Dad! You represented the United States at the World Championships in Austria and Taiwan. What is the difference between pool here versus other countries you played in?

A: My first World Championships was in 2005 in Austria. It didn't feel much different from playing at home, because the tournament was held in a pool room that year. It was a very large and magnificent pool room, but a pool room nonetheless. I loved that trip because it was my first World Championships, and I felt like that was the first time I really connected and developed a kinship with the other WPBA gals. Melissa Little, Monica Webb, Tiffany Nelson...we bonded that trip because we were a team representing our country.

Now in Taiwan in 2006, it was a whole new ballgame. They take it very seriously, and they treat professional players like star athletes. They gave us a reception, had a press conference,

provided referees for each match, and the event was televised everywhere. Even on a giant screen TV on the outside of the building where the tournament was being held! It was so surreal to walk from the venue to our hotel and see a giant screen showing our friends playing their matches. We could even watch from our hotel room as well, because it was broadcast live! It's not a surprise to me that the Asian countries are turning out such incredible players and tournaments. Pool is a mainstream sport over there, and so the pool culture is completely different than it is here in the US.

Q: Your nickname is "The Dragon Lady"? Who gave it to you and do you like it?

A: When I first started playing, there were some older gentlemen who were regulars at the pool room. We became friends, and they used to get a chuckle out of watching me get mad and frustrated that I wasn't playing well or getting better fast enough. After one particular mini-tantrum (I probably slammed my cue on the table or the ground), they dubbed me the "Dragon Lady" because they said I breathed fire when I got mad. I'm sure that my half-Japanese heritage played into

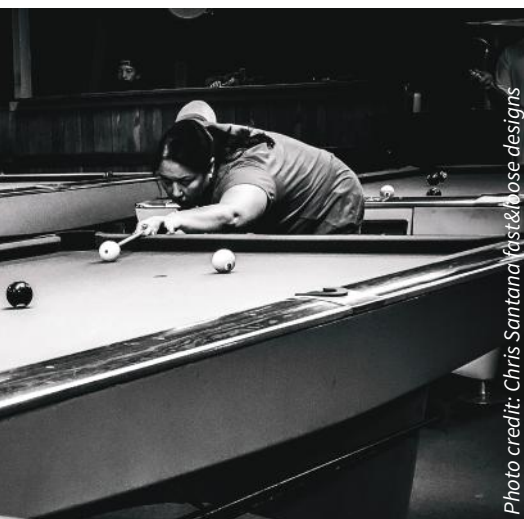


Photo credit: Chris Santana/Fast & Loose designs



their thought process on a subconscious level, too. A few weeks later, one of them gifted me with a cue case that had a dragon and the moniker “Dragon Lady” hand-painted onto the front it. From that day on, I accepted and embraced the nickname.

Q: I always find it fascinating when I hear calm players talk about how the “used to” show their anger and then overcame that. How did you overcome showing anger or being upset?

A: I appreciate how you phrased that question...because it truly is a matter of “not showing the anger” as opposed to “not being angry.” Like every other person in the world, I still get angry and upset sometimes when I’m playing poorly or getting what I perceive to be bad rolls or playing an opponent who is irritating. But time has taught me that negative energy is completely counterproductive, so I do what I can to try and quickly figure out the cause of my anger, and then to work through it using various techniques. Sometimes it’s just deep-breathing exercises if I’m feeling stressed out. Sometimes I have to check my ego if I’m losing a match that I don’t feel I should be losing. For

example, how many times have you overheard this at a pool tournament? “I can’t believe I’m losing to THAT guy! He can get the 7 and bet whatever he wants!” That is pure ego, and it completely blocks us from focusing on what we need to focus on in that moment, so I’ve learned to recognize and ignore it. And other times, when I’m dealing with difficult situations or irritating opponents, I just remind myself that I don’t have to allow their actions to affect me or my focus at the table.

I’m not perfect. I still slip up and allow the occasional snarky comment or chalk slam to creep through. But I’m miles away from where I was in my 20’s!

Q: That’s really great self-awareness to be able to recognize when it’s time to implement calming techniques during a match. We can all learn from that! Now, tell us your connection to the Marine Corps Air Station in Miramar, CA.

A: The WPBA used to have an annual tournament in San Diego, CA. The Marine Corps base at Miramar is close by and they have their own recreation center with some pool tables on base. The WPBA arranged to send some pro

players each year to visit with troops and play challenge matches. Some of the troops were too young to come see the pro event because the venue was at a casino and they did not allow persons under 21 years of age to come inside. So, it was especially meaningful to those younger Marines that we came to *visit with them* since they couldn’t come to us. The men and women of our Armed Forces risk their lives to protect our country. It was a privilege and an honor to meet them and play pool with them.

Q: Your family has a history in the armed forces, right?

A: Both of my grandfathers were military men. My maternal grandfather was in the Navy and my paternal grandfather was a chaplain in the Army.

Q: Who has been a big influence in your pool game?

A: In pool, I’ve allowed myself to absorb knowledge from so many players...I couldn’t pick just one as a main influencer. However, I must give a shout-out to my dear friend, Brendan Crockett. Unfortunately, Brendan is no longer with us, but before he left this earth, he helped me find the joy in playing pool again...even though I hadn’t even realized that I had lost it. Brendan was a great gift to our little pool community, and he is missed every single day.

Q: Brendan is mentioned and remembered a lot on social media. How old was he when he passed, what happened, and how has his death affected the pool family in California and beyond? He sounds like a really great guy.

A: Brendan Crockett was 21 years old when both he and his brother, Jeff, were killed in a car accident in June 2016. I could probably do an entire article about Brendan’s story, but I’ll tell

Simonis Cloth and Aramith Balls

play so true,

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

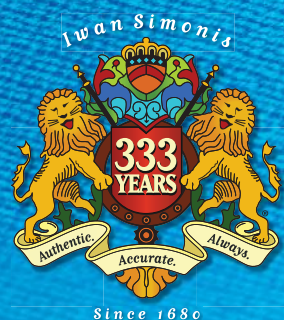


Proud Sponsors



...or against your
equipment?

Simonis
SIMONIS CLOTH
Authentic. Accurate. Always.
simoniscloth.com



...THAT'S HOW I ROLL
aramith
The True Belgian Billiard Balls

aramith.com

The truest playing combination.

Iwan Simonis is a registered trademark of Peltzer & Fils S.A.
A.A.A is a registered trademark of Iwan Simonis, Inc.



the short version. He started playing as a kid and won a Jr National Championship at 14. After high school, he dropped out of the pool world for several years. He came back to the pool world in December 2015 after being inspired by watching the Mosconi Cup with his dad, Bill. Once he decided to start playing again, he was back to practicing almost every day and within a few months he was playing at an exceptionally high level again. He started playing Mezz events and we traveled to tournaments together. He called me his “pool mom.” Everyone in our little pool family knew that we would eventually see Brendan playing the Mosconi Cup and winning titles one day.

Seven months later, he was gone in the blink of an eye, along with his brother. It was devastating to me, to Sal Butera, to the Mezz family. To paraphrase what his father once said to me, “...you can’t catch Brendan’s lightning in a bottle. But when we share memories and stories of him, we capture some of his light before it fades.” I think that is why we see so much on social media about him, even to this day.

To honor Brendan’s memory, a college scholarship has been created in his

name, along with an annual memorial tournament to help raise money to fund the scholarship. The idea was a collaborative effort between myself, Sal Butera, and Oscar & Desiree Dominguez, but the pool world has shown so much love in providing donations for the scholarship. Desiree has to be given the lion’s share of the credit for organizing the scholarship fund, the tournaments, and managing the scholarship applications. She and Oscar loved him as much as the rest of us. People can visit www.brendan-crockett.org to learn more about him and the scholarship.

Q: **Wow, he made such an impact in such a short time on this Earth. Thank you for sharing his story. Who else has been a big influence in your life?**

A: My parents, without question. They have both been unwavering in their support of me and the direction I took in life when I started playing pool. They are kind, intelligent, loving and witty people who gave me the foundation of who I am as a human being.

Q: **What is your most memorable match?**

A: Gosh, there are quite a few to choose from. Memorable doesn’t necessarily mean good, so I think that some lost matches also rank high on the most memorable list. The hill-hill win against Allison Fisher ranks pretty high, because it got me to ESPN for the first time. However, I also clearly remember a mental meltdown that I once had playing Janet Atwell in a WPBA match. I led that match 8-0, race to 9, alternating break. But a couple of bad rolls allowed her to win 2 or 3 games, and I absolutely collapsed. It ranks high on the memorable list because I learned an important lesson that day...to stay in the moment, prepare yourself for the future, and not dwell in the past. I was so stuck in the drama of those bad rolls that I had nothing left to try and focus on still winning the match.

Q: **Ah, good point – “memorable” isn’t necessarily a fantastic win. And, I love the proof that our losses teach us a ton. BTW, what is your favorite event to play in?**

A: Playing in any high-level event is fun. I just love big tournaments. I’d have to say that I really miss the annual BCA pro events that used to run alongside the BCA Nationals at the Riviera in Las Vegas. It was a singularly special event because the men pros and the women pros competed next to each other in one arena. There were also thousands of amateurs at the venue for the bar tables events, so the atmosphere was just pool, pool, pool.

More recently, I have a huge fondness for the Mezz West State Tour. The tournaments draw big fields of talented players, and Desiree Dominguez does a great job running the events. Also, I had the best time competing in the scotch doubles event at the Tornado Open in 2016. I firmly believe that the world needs more scotch doubles tournaments...because they are just so much fun!

Q: Who was your partner and how did y'all do?

A: I was so lucky to have Oscar Dominguez as a partner! Not only is he a world-class player, but he is a close friend, and so we have trust and a connection between us that maybe some other teams didn't have. Actually, we struggled in our first match because we each put too much pressure on ourselves because we didn't want to let the other one down. We lost that first match hill-hill. Afterwards, we promised each other that we would just have fun...and we ended up winning several matches and finishing 9th-12th place. Kelly Fisher/Darren Appleton then knocked us out of the tournament in another hill-hill thriller. I mean, honestly, how can anyone feel bad losing to those two champions? We ended up having a great time and I would play scotch doubles with Oscar every day of the

week if the opportunity presented itself. I learned so much!

Q: When you practice, what do you focus on? Shots, runs, layouts?

A: If I'm struggling with something, I'll always work on that first. I'll hit the same shot over and over until I feel like I'm making it consistently with center ball, and then I'll start to add English to the cue ball and continue to shoot the same shot.

If I'm feeling like everything is pretty much dialed in, then I will just throw out a rack of 10-ball and start shooting. My focus sometimes will be on trying to play pinpoint position. At other times, I try to just freestroke and get a nice rhythm going.

I've got a list of things I'd like to work on someday, but I don't have the time to put in 6-8 hours a day like I did when I was young!

Q: What do you think could help make pool mainstream and more positive?

A: I honestly wish that I had a simple solution to make pool more positive and mainstream. In my opinion, I think part of the problem stems from the fact that pool is not easily accessible to kids. Most pool tables are located in pool rooms and bars that serve alcohol, so the age limit is either 18 or 21...meaning kids don't have a place to learn how to play. To put pool back in the spotlight, someone would have to figure out an effective way to get pool programs (and tables) into schools, or open kid-friendly pool establishments in every community. Top players would then need to dedicate their time and efforts into showing kids what professional level pool looks like. Coaches/trainers would be needed. Equipment would need to be purchased for each school and



Photo credit: Chris Santana fast&loose designs



then properly maintained. Just like any other sport. Kids in high school can play baseball, softball, football, basketball, tennis, etc., as part of their curriculum currently. Some schools even have golf and bowling teams. If we want future generations to take up the sport and make it popular, we need to put it on kids' radars at a younger age. We can't wait for them to become adults and just learn to play while getting drinks with some co-workers during happy hour at their local bar/pub.

Q: Tell us about “Jam Up Apparel.” How did you two get together?

A: I'd like to say it's because Jam Up was looking for a female brand ambassador and they instantly thought of me as their first choice... LOL. But the truth is, I'm great friends with one of the owners. And when I made a comment with a wink-face emoji on a Facebook post about them needing to add a female to the team...it spurred him to contact me to see if I was interested. Once I researched Jam Up Apparel a little bit and got details about what being a part of Team

Jam Up entailed, I was enthusiastically on-board! It's kind of a dream come true, becoming part of a team representing a great brand! And I believe in the product and the company wholeheartedly, so I'm just excited and honored to be a part of the Jam Up brand.

Q: What's your favorite quote or words you live by?

A: “If you're not first, you're last.” – Ricky Bobby from Talladega Nights. I'm kidding of course, but it was the first smart-ass thing that popped into my head. I guess I don't really have a favorite, but I love finding new inspirational quotes and sharing them or writing them on post-it notes for myself at work. There are so many wise people in this world, so I appreciate when I find something particularly astute or poignant. I do think that Nike summed it up quite nicely though when they coined the phrase, “Just Do It.” That pretty much works for a lot of things in life.

Q: Quite opposite of anything related to a “Dragon Lady,” you do volunteer work. A few years ago, you and I (M&M!) did a project together called “30 Days of THANKSGIVE-ing” where we each did one good deed per day for the entire month of November. Gosh that was fun! You volunteer for a LOT of things. Tell us about a few of them and also how you got interested/started in helping others so often.

A: It's going to sound cliched, but I believe that part of living a good life is helping others. In the grand scheme of things, it costs me so little to donate money, clothes and time to people and organizations who can use those things to improve the lives of others. I'm also a ridiculous animal lover, so I also like to help orgs that help animals. One of the reasons that I appreciate Dole as an employer is because they also believe in giving back. Em-

ployees are given several “Volunteer Days” each year so that we can use them to donate our time to different local charities. We work with food banks, local missions, Habitat for Humanity, and foundations that provide care packages to the troops. My personal efforts have included toy drives, clothing drives, and running charity poker events. Eventually I'd like to try my hand at organizing a huge charity golf event...but for right now, I settle for doing things on a much smaller scale. It takes a very small effort to sometimes make a great impact in someone else's life. Maybe that should be my favorite quote!

Q: Tell us about this guy, Chris. How did he propose?

A: I met Chris in the pool room many years ago, through the BCA league. At the time, I was in a long-term relationship with someone else...and Chris was just a friendly acquaintance that we saw once a week at the pool room on league night. My relationship ended in summer 2014, and I wasn't looking to date anyone for a while. In November 2014, I was headed down to a Mezz stop in San Diego, and some friends and I were discussing the trip at the pool room. Chris was there and mentioned that he had never been to San Diego, even though he had lived in CA for 10+ years. I told him he should come down with us and check it out. We drove down together, and about halfway through the weekend, it dawned on me that he was interested. We went on a date the following week, and it just clicked. We moved in together in February 2017, and he proposed in May. There was no elaborate proposal, though. He had suggested in April that we go look at rings...so in my mind, I kind of knew the proposal was coming...I just didn't know when. Because he wanted to surprise me, he just tricked me into going down to the garage one day, and when I turned the corner, he was there on one knee. It

was quiet and intimate and perfect. He really did surprise me.

Q: Tell us why you love all there is about Star Wars.

A: I'm the very definition of a Star Wars super-fan, and I feel like I always have been. Both my parents are avid readers, and there was a lot of sci-fi and fantasy books in my house growing up. I was reading Heinlein, Niven, Herbert, and Tolkien when my peers were reading Sweet Valley High and Flowers in the Attic. My parents have told me that they took me to see Star Wars when it debuted in 1977, but I don't have any memories of that. I just know that I loved it when I did see it, and then I loved Empire Strikes Back, and then I loved Return of the Jedi. And when they released the first prequel in 1999, I was like a kid in a candy store. The whole Star Wars saga is just magic to me. I'm thrilled that these new movies are starting to branch out into the Star Wars universe and tell stories that are related to, but not directly part of, the original trilogy that I grew up with. Not much in this world gets me as excited as Star Wars!

Q: You have played softball, golf, volleyball, bowl and pool. How did you get so involved in sports, since it sounds like you were more a nerd in high school...

A: I still golf regularly, but I gave up softball a couple years back when I injured my shoulder trying to throw the ball too hard. I started playing softball at age 30...during my renaissance and rebirth into the world outside of pool. It was my first team sport, and I enjoyed the heck out of it! Made new friends, learned how to work within a team dynamic, and had tons of fun.

When I was pre-teen, I was a pretty consistent bowler, and I used to spend every day at the bowling alley during summer break. Nowadays, I just play occasionally as a social activity with

friends. And volleyball, again that was a summer activity that I did with my friends at the beach, but we haven't played for a couple summers. I still love the game though. Maybe I'll see if the gang wants to play some this weekend!

Q: What has been your most coveted title or accomplishment?

A: The WPBA Tournament Director's Award. It was awarded annually for "100% professionalism in manner and deed." In my wildest dreams, I never imagined winning that award. I didn't even hope for it, because I just knew that I could be sour and snarky at times...while so many other players were just lovely all the time in my opinion. So the year that I won, I just remember sitting at the awards banquet and talking with my friends while they announced the winner. I wasn't even paying attention because I knew he wouldn't be calling my name. And then he did call my name, but I still didn't notice. So he called my name again, and my friends started laughing and clapping and telling me to go up and get my award. It was such a blur. The TD told me afterwards that he chose me because I had behaved perfectly in public for the entire year. He said that I took extra care to engage with fans, was always on time to matches, never complained, was polite and helpful to the WPBA staff, and that I displayed grace under pressure...even in defeat. He called that year a turning point for me...a change into a true professional...and he wanted to recognize it publicly. It meant the world to me, and it made my parents incredibly proud. (Side-note: He also said that he had heard stories from my roommates about "tantrums" in our hotel rooms...but those incidents didn't count against me because I kept those moments of anger out of the public eye!)

Q: One of the many things I adore about you is your confidence. Are

you as confident on the inside as we see on the outside?

A: Confidence comes from knowing who you are and what you are capable of. I'm proud of the life that I live and the choices I've made and continue to make. Like anyone else, I've made mistakes in my years on this planet, but I have learned from them and allowed them to shape me into the person that I am today. This is where my confidence comes from. The same can be applied to my pool career. I've been called cocky, or even arrogant, many times in the pool world...mainly from people who haven't bothered to get to know me personally. They see a confident female player and automatically assign that cocky label to me. Maybe they feel threatened by a strong woman in what is typically a man's world...but I don't care. I am who I am, and I'll never apologize for that. Long hours of practice and hard work made me the player that I am now...and yes, I have confidence in the skills that I've worked to develop. I don't tout myself as a world-class player, but I know what I can do on a pool table...and I know that I should always hold my head up high...win or lose.

Thank you, Melissa!

Melinda "ak-trigger" Bailey has been in the pool scene as a player and ambassador for pool for over 25 years.



Additionally, she was a Tournament Director for two large tours in Texas for over 15 years. She is a loyal blogger (<http://pooljourney.blogspot.com/>) and holds numerous BCA/ACS Texas State and National titles (singles, doubles, and teams).

NAPT SPOTLIGHT PLAYER BRITTANY BRYANT

Canada's Brittany Bryant is another in a growing list of professional pool players who have opted out of trying to chase prize money all over the landscape. Instead, she, and others (Mike Dechaine, for example), have chosen to pursue alternative sources of income, while keeping their hand (cue) in by carefully selecting a limited set of tournaments at which they compete in any given year.

The strategy appears to be working to their benefit, because both Bryant and Dechaine were in the finals of their respective tournaments at the Super Billiards Expo in April. Dechaine won the Pro 10-Ball Championships, while Bryant finished as runner-up to Karen Corr in the Women's 9-Ball Championships.

"When you don't have the stress of (needing the prize money), it shows in your performance," said Bryant. "A lot of people play better without that stress."

"Pool is definitely not my priority anymore," she added. "I want to be successful in a business, so that I can go to tournaments, like the SBE, stress-free."

Bryant is the reigning Canadian 9-Ball and 10-Ball Women's Champion. She and Naomi Williams have been in possession of the Canadian Billiards and Snooker Association's (CSBA) 9-Ball championship title for the past 10 years. They began their reign as alternate champions in 2008, when Williams claimed her second CSBA title. For the next four years, they traded places as winner and runner-up, until, beginning in 2011, Bryant claimed four titles in a row, with Williams as runner-up. In 2015, Bryant captured her fifth straight title with someone else (Kayla Jones) as runner-up. In 2016, Williams came back and regained the title with Bry-

ant finishing as runner-up. Last year, Bryant claimed her seventh overall CSBA 9-Ball title, downing Veronique Menard in the finals.

They chalked up much the same sort of record in CSBA's Women's 10-Ball Championships, beginning in 2011. Over the past seven years, the 10-Ball Women's title has never been in the possession of anyone but Bryant or Williams. Williams took the first three, with Bryant as runner-up twice (An-



gela Belding was runner-up in 2013). Bryant claimed the title in 2014 (Angela Belding was runner-up) before Williams came back the following year to best Bryant in a double hill final. Bry-



ant went on to win the next two, with Williams as runner-up.

Bryant and Williams own three of the CSBA's Women's 8-Ball Titles, as well. Williams has won it twice (2008 & 2017, with Veronique Menard as runner-up). Bryant and Williams battled in the finals of the 2009 event at which Bryant claimed her only 8-Ball title. That same year, Bryant claimed the CSBA's Junior 9-Ball (under 19) title in a field that included male and female competitors.

Unlike many prominent pool players, male or female, who, when introduced to the sport, discovered an almost immediate affinity for it, Bryant was initially not interested. Born in 1991 in Guelph, Ontario, about an hour southwest of Toronto, she participated in a few high school sports – baseball, basketball and volleyball – but was primarily interested in the social aspects of the experience.

“It was more about my wanting to join these teams to go on the school trips,” she said. “I wasn’t very competitive.”



It was her Dad who introduced her to pool when she was about 13. She would join him on weekends as scorekeeper for his TAP League team, which played out of Tony's Billiards in Guelph. She was, at first, a reluctant participant in the league's junior division.

“I'd hit a couple of balls at the time, but actually, I didn't want to play at all,” she said. “I think it was because (the league) was male-dominated. There was only one other girl in the Junior teams. It was the league operator who eventually convinced me to play.”

“I played my first game against a boy, won it, and that's how it started,” she added. “Dad and I would set weekly, monthly, and yearly goals in the TAP league.”

In 2006, while pursuing her TAP League goals, she won her first handicapped women's tournament on the since-disbanded Tiger Canadian Women's (TCW) Pool Tour. After meeting and defeating Naomi Williams in the hot seat match, in what was one of their first, though far from being their last encounters, she faced Tapei's Hsin Huang, who had to win twice to claim

the title. The two battled to double hill in the first set, before Huang won it. A second double hill fight led to a rack that never got past the 2-ball. A safety by Bryant forced Huang to kick at that 2-ball in the deciding rack. She hit it, but it exposed a 2-9 combination that Bryant made to claim her first event title at 15 years old.

It was Bryant's first appearance in the AZBilliards' database. The following year, she showed up among the top ten finishers in six stops on the TCW tour, and picked up her second win.

“As soon as I turned 17, I went out on the road,” she said. “I travelled to the Philippines, China (to the Women's World 9-Ball Championships, finishing 17th). Went through all of these experiences so quickly from the time I was 17 until I was 24.”

By the time she was 19, with the earlier-noted CSBA and TCW titles under her belt, she was also qualifying and competing in WPBA events, from Oregon (Pacific Coast Classic; 17th) to Florida (National 9-Ball Championships; 33rd), and from Oklahoma (WPBA US Open 9-Ball; 17th) to Colorado (Colorado Classic; 33rd). In 2010, her best



VINCENT ROCHEFORT

recorded earnings year, she traveled to China a second time and in a field dominated by women from China and Taipei, she finished in the tie for 9th place (Allison Fisher was runner-up that year and was the only women among the top 10 not from China or Taipei). Bryant was the only Canadian. Two months later, in the Philippines, Bryant finished in the tie for 17th place at the Women's World 10-Ball Championships; again, the only Canadian.

For the next five years, she continued to chalk up wins on CSBA and WPBA events, while adding independent tournaments, like the Music City Classic (2011 & 2014), the US BarBox Championships (Women's 9-Ball), and (in a rare appearance) the New England 9-Ball Series (2014; she downed Dan Cintron in the finals). She was also 'cashing' in the normal array of WPBA events (which were dwindling), and showed up at places like Spring, TX, where she finished 3^d in the 2014 Big Tyme Classic Women's 9-Ball

event, and at the Super Billiards Expo, where (same year), she finished in the tie for third (with Dawn Fox), behind winner Karen Corr and runner-up, Allison Fisher.

"I was 24 or 25 when I stopped," she said. "I still travelled, but I wasn't doing long road trips with a bunch of people going to tournaments. I (became) a kind of Lone Ranger."

Though she had not actively pursued a career in anything but pool to this point, she had, on the home front, been working. The business experience she gained, working with her mother in the restaurant business, gave her a perspective on the pool industry, and combined with some personal goals, led her to an understanding that she couldn't maintain the non-stop traveling schedule that had characterized her late-teens/early-20s life.

"As a woman, I want to get married and have kids," she said, "and I'm not

going to be able to do some of these things."

She and her boyfriend, who owns three businesses in Toronto, including what she described as "an upscale pool hall with food" called Roxy on King, are in the early stages of planning to open another business.

"I do exhibitions, lessons and tours for businesses (at Roxy on King)," she said. "They get a lot of corporate events. There's no time frame for this, as yet. Maybe in the next couple of years or so."

These plans, however, have not, as her most recent performance at last month's SBE demonstrated, dulled the edge of her skills, competitive spirit, or the things she ended up liking about the sport; "the feeling the game allows me to have when I'm successful, when I accomplish a goal, win a tournament, or make a good shot."

She's planning on attending The Asian Culture Day event in Las Vegas later this month, as part of Efen Reyes' Retirement Tour, and will be back in Canada to defend her CSBA titles in 8-ball, 9-ball & 10-ball from May 22-28.

"The following month, there'll be two more," she said, "and then, that'll be it for me for the summer."

She continues to set goals for herself, but she finds them to be more limited in scope.

"I don't go to a tournament (like the SBE) thinking that I'm not going to win," she said. "I'm going to put the time in. I set goals of going to different tournaments, but my goals are smaller scale now. I'm no longer setting goals for a World Championship or anything like that."

"I went to the SBE to win it," she said, "and I'm going to continue to compete at the highest level."



Young Brittany Bryant working with kids

Cuetec

Distributed Exclusively by



Brand Used by Professional Player
SHANE VAN BOENING



- 5x** U.S. Open 9-Ball Champion
- 5x** Andy Mercer Memorial Champion
- 4x** U.S. Bar Table 10-Ball Division Champion
- 4x** Derby City Classic 9-Ball Division Champion
- 3x** U.S. Open 10-Ball Champion
- 2x** U.S. Open 8-Ball Champion
- 2x** World Pool Masters Champion
- 2009 Mosconi Cup Champion
- 2008 World Cup of Pool Champion

Shane Van Boening
using Cuetec's R360 Shaft

www.cuetec.com | cuetec@imperialusa.com | (800) 526-6261

Denis Grabe Takes Down the 2018 Aramith 9-Ball Players Championship

Photos courtesy of JP Parmentier - World Pool Series

During the third weekend of April, Alex Kazakis of Greece and Denis Grabe of Estonia squared off in the finals of the Dynamic Billiard Ballazzo Open in Austria, with Kazakis besting his 28-year-old friend in the finals, 9-5.

The following week, the two men moved across the Atlantic and met again in the finals of a tournament – the Aramith 9-Ball Players Championship. This time, it would be Grabe evening the score, using a combination of ball pocketing and stellar safety play to easily defeat the young Greek 17-7 Sunday evening at Astoria's Steinway Billiards.

"I wanted to win because last week we played in an Eurotour event and he beat me. So, this was a sweet revenge," said Grabe, who also lost to Kazakis in the quarterfinals of the Kremlin Cup last year.

The match was nip-and-tuck in the early stages, as Kazakis won the first two games then watched as Grabe sunk the 2-ball on a jump shot following a push out – the first of four consecutive games that he would win to

take a 4-2 lead. Kazakis fought back with three straight wins of his own and had a chance to increase his advantage to 6-4 but missed a 4-9 combination shot.

"The turning point of the match was that. After that it was only in favor of Dennis all of the time," Kazakis said. "I didn't really have a chance to be at the table. I only had tough shots to make and I missed all of the tough shots."

Grabe would tie the match after the missed combination attempt, then use two breaks and runs along with frustrating safety play to win the next seven games and take an 11-5 lead into the 15-minute intermission.

Of Grabe's 17 wins only three were of the break-and-run variety despite not executing a dry break the entire match. With few clear shots after

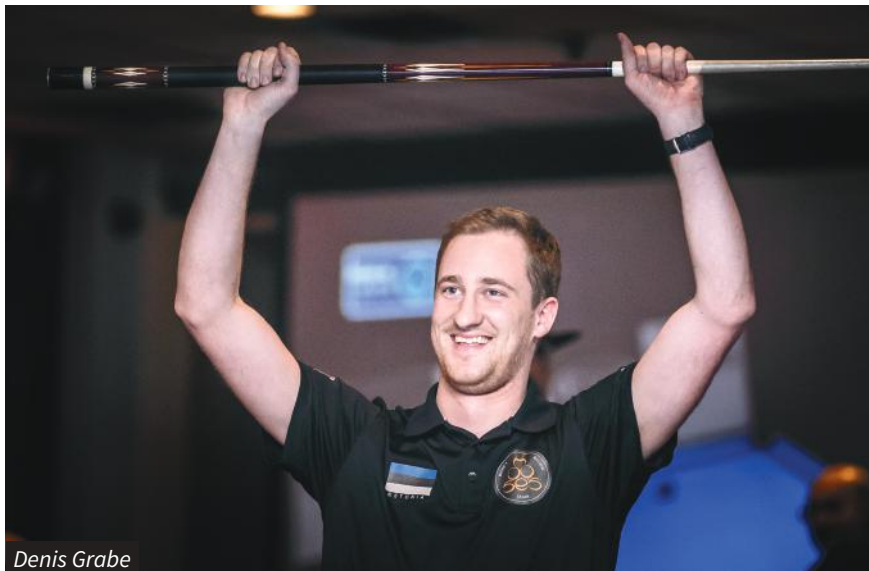
opening the game, Grabe had to focus on tying up his opponent with safety play and then taking advantage of any mistakes, which he did throughout the match.

"When you're breaking and you always have the first shot you always have the advantage," Kazakis said.

After the break in play Kazakis' frustrations continued. Despite Grabe twice relinquishing control of the table after consecutive illegal breaks Kazakis still didn't see a clean shot on an object ball – losing a safety battle in one game and missing a cut shot on the one-ball in the side pocket in the next rack. Meanwhile, Grabe used a 2-9 combo, some more safety play, and another miss by Kazakis on a 3-ball in the 24th game to close out the match.

The Estonian opened the tournament by narrowly escaping Alex Pagulayan 11-10 in the first round then was sent to the one-loss bracket after an 11-9 defeat at the hands of Lee Vann Corteza. Grabe then defeated Ronnie Alcano, Joey Korsiak, and Ruslan Chinnahov on Friday to reach the Saturday quarterfinals and face Petri Makkonen. Grabe ran six straight racks on his way to an easy 13-3 defeat of Makkonen, then took advantage of some mistakes from Dennis Orcollo to win 13-8 and advance to the finals.

"I had a couple of matches where I managed to win when I could have lost but in the final, I was like dominant. The scoreline says it all," Grabe said.



Denis Grabe



Alex Kazakis

icans Tommy Tokoph and Kenney Nguyen in the early rounds, Kaci survived Germany's Joshua Filler 9-6 to reach the finals.

The Aramith 9-Ball Players Championship is the first event of the four-tournament 2018 World Pool Series. This event is being held at Steinway Billiards in Astoria, Queens, New York City from April 19th to 22nd, 2018. The World Pool Series is sponsored by Aramith, Rasson, Predator, Iwan Simonis, Tiger, and Kamui. Our suppliers and partners are Billiards Digest, CueScore, Let's Go Print, On The Wire, Outsville, UpState AI, and the WPA.

For more information on the World Pool Series, please visit www.worldpoolseries.com.

It was a disappointing loss for Kazakis, who had many people in the Greek-owned facility cheering him on. "I'm disappointed that I failed them, but it's okay. One day I will win this event," Kazakis said.

On an adjacent table earlier in the afternoon, Albania's Klenti Kaci defeated Jayson Shaw 11-7 in the Si-

monis 9-Ball Players Challenge, a second-chance event for players previously eliminated from the Aramith event. After easily defeating Amer-

Follow the World Pool Series on social media:

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/worldpoolseries/>

Twitter: @WorldPoolSeries

Instagram: @WorldPoolSeries

A Z B **MARKETPLACE**
The Official Billiard Supply For AZBers

P3 REVO

Powered By **SEYBERTS.COM**
SEYBERTS BILLIARD SUPPLY

DECHAINED COMES OUT OF 'RETIREMENT' TO WIN SBE OPEN 10-BALL PRO PLAYERS CHAMPIONSHIP

Aranas wins 32-entrant, Pro-Am BarBox Championships

He never actually left. Although “Fireball” Mike Dechaine has cut back, way back, on the number of tournaments in which he competes, he’s kept his hand in, so to speak. In fact, he’s won four of the last eight tournaments he’s entered – The Robert Dionne Memorial (NE 9-Ball Series) in January of 2017, the Gotham City Pro Classic in October, the New England 9-Ball Series’ Tour Championships just last month, and now, on the weekend of April 12-15, the \$16,000-added Diamond Open 10-Ball Professional Players Championship, part of the annual Super Billiards Expo at the Greater Philadelphia Expo Center IN Oaks, PA. Dechaine went

undefeated through the field of 64, competing for \$48K in prize money, and in the end, got by, in order, Thorsten Hohmann, Earl Strickland, and Jayson Shaw, before meeting and defeating Danny Olson in the finals.

According to Dechaine, being away from the sport and focused more on a regular job, has allowed him to approach the occasional tournaments in which he now participates with a different, if not downright better attitude. It’s an attitude, he said, that decreases the influence of expectations.

“I go into every tournament expecting to do well,” he explained, “but I think part of me winning these days is hav-

ing a job now; a foundation (which allows me to approach a tournament without expectations, (other than just to enjoy myself and have fun.”

Aiding and abetting this somewhat new approach for the “Fireball” was an RV in which he and a group of friends were able to travel from Maine to Philadelphia in about six hours, and then, to stay, throughout the course of the weekend.

“The RV belonged to a friend of mine (John),” he said. “The (Greater Philadelphia Expo Center) was about 10 steps outside of the door, so we could come back, relax, take a nap if we wanted to. We had a blast.”



Photo credit: Karl Kantrowitz

The indoor ‘blast’ got underway on Thursday, April 12. For both eventual finalists (Dechaine and Olson) the path to victory went through Thorsten Hohmann. Following a victory over Xavier Libby, Olson faced him in his second match and was sent to the loss side, from which he would eventually emerge as one of the eight loss-side finalists. Hohmann would go on to be among the eight winners’ side finalists. Dechaine, in the meantime, advanced on the winners’ side, defeating Lee Kang and Martin Daigle, before facing Tommy Kennedy, in what he (Dechaine) would describe later as his toughest match of the tournament.

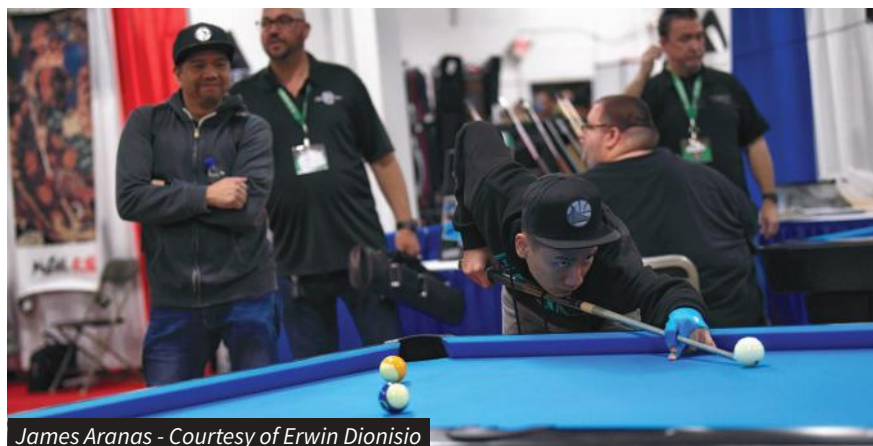
“He played tremendous,” said Dechaine of Kennedy’s double hill effort. “The change was that his break started not working for him. I fought back and got lucky.”

The victory advanced Dechaine into a pool ‘dream team’ of eight final winners’ side competitors, including Shane Van Boening, Jayson Shaw, Skyler Woodward, Mika Immonen, Alex Pagulayan, Earl Strickland, and Hohmann, whom Dechaine met first.

On the losers’ side, Olson, following victories over first, Jorge Rodriguez, then Nick Charrette had to face Johnny Archer for the right to be among the losers’ side final eight. He defeated Archer, and joined Martin Daigle, John Morra, Jonathan Pinegar, Oscar Dominguez, Zion Zvi (who’d just eliminated Tommy Kennedy), Lee Vann Corteza and Roberto Gomez in the single elimination final 16.

Dechaine downed Hohmann 13-6, and then, faced Earl Strickland; a matchup that in bygone days might have seen a few ‘fireworks’ as the “Fireball” met the Pearl. Not this time around, however.

“Earl was a complete gentleman,” said Dechaine later. “It was good to see and it was fun to watch him.”



Dechaine won that match 13-1 and turned to face Jayson Shaw. In the losers’ side bracket, Olson, who’d defeated Daigle 13-5, and Morra 13-3, picked up Oscar Dominguez. Dechaine advanced to the finals with a 13-9 victory over Shaw. Olson joined him after defeating Dominguez 13-10.

Still at work enjoying himself and having fun, Dechaine stepped into his first major event final since last October, when he’d squared off against Yu-Lung Chang in the finals of the Gotham City Pro 9-Ball Classic (aka The Sharon ‘Sam’ Fagnoni Memorial).

“It was nerve-wracking being in the finals, of course,” he said, “but I was just trying to push through and play the best that I could.”

“Danny (Olson),” he added, “is an up-and-comer, and he’s going to be around for a while.”

Dechaine completed his undefeated run with a 13-10 victory over Olson. As he ponders his participation in future events, he is cognizant of the degree to which his somewhat lowered expectations have provided him with a key that might lead to further success.

“Focusing on one shot at a time,” he said. “Being the best that I can be.”

Pros and Amateurs mixed in Pro-Am Bar Box Tournament, won by Zoren James Aranas

“How good do you really think you are?” was the question posed on the Super Billiards Expo’s Web site Details and Registration page for the Pro-Am Barbox Championships.

“Take your best shot in this challenging 32-player event,” it suggested further.

And so they did. Though invited, there were no women among the single-elimination event’s 32-entrants. At stake was \$10K in total prize money.

Zoren James Aranas went undefeated through five opponents to claim this event’s title, downing Jorge Rodriguez in the finals. Aranas got by Justin Martin, Shaun Wilkie and Benjamin Warblan to face Nathan Rose in the event semifinals. Rodriguez, in the meantime, had downed Cory Young, Jeff Jones and Nick Cipiti to draw Dee Adkins in the other semifinal.

In races to 6, best 2 out of 3 sets, Aranas advanced to the finals in two sets; 6-3, 6-1, over Rose. He was joined by Rodriguez, who’d been tested in his first match against Adkins, but hung on to win 6-5, and then eliminated him 6-4 in the second set.

Aranas won the first set of the finals 6-2. Rodriguez fought back in the second set to double hill. Aranas completed his undefeated run by finishing it.

Corr Recaptures SBE Diamond Women's Open 9-Ball Pro Championship title

Ireland's Karen Corr went undefeated through a field of 56 women who competed in the \$8,350-added Diamond Women's Open 9-Ball Pro Championships, held as part of the Super Billiards Expo on the long weekend of April 12-15, and sanctioned by the North American Pool Tour.

It was her third SBE Women's Pro Championship title, which she won, as well, in 2016, and 2014. It was her first win in 2018.

In the field that was vying for \$26K in prize money and included anyone's list of the top women in the sport, the top 16 were seeded at the beginning of the initial, double elimination bracket. When that bracket came down to the final eight on each side, those 16 women entered a single elimination

phase that was not seeded. Corr, after defeating Sonya Chbeeb, Rachel Lang and Veronique Menard to secure her spot on the winners' side Final Eight bracket, got by Janet Atwell 11-8, and Vivian Villareal 11-9 to face Allison Fisher in the semifinals of that winners' side Final Eight.

Brittany Bryant, in the meantime, who'd lost an opening round match to Kim Whitman, won four on the loss side, against Krista Walsh, Ada Lio, Stephanie Goens, and Dawn Hopkins

to claim a spot on the losers' side Final Eight. In the single elimination phase, Bryant downed Bernie Store 11-7, and April Larson 11-9 to face Jia Li in the semifinals of the losers' side Final Eight.

Long-time adversaries at the table (and friends, off the table), Corr and Fisher battled in what arguably should have been the event final (a seeded single elimination phase might have kept them apart until the finals). Corr won it, 11-8, and advanced to the finals. Byrant joined her, after downing Li 11-9. Corr took the final 11-6 to chalk up her third SBE title.



Photo credit: Karl Kantrowitz

Introducing the NEW
TIGER



So.. Sneaky!

Made in USA



www.tigerproducts.com

TH-3

TH-4

TH-5

TH-6

Kazakis takes his first title at the Euro-Tour

In a dominating final match against Denis Grabe (EST), Alexander Kazakis (GRE) has won the Dynamic Billard Sankt Johann im Pongau Open 2018.

Kazakis' path to the final match against Grabe was not an easy one, as he found himself on the one loss side early after a 9-6 loss to Edmond Zaja (ALB). He had a long road in front of him on the one loss side, and it looked like it might be too much for him as he trailed Mieszko Fortunski (POL) 8-4 in his next match. Kazakis fought back though, and stayed alive in the tournament with a 9-8 win. Sometimes a comeback win

like that is all a player needs to find that spark, and that appeared to be the case with Kazakis as he went on to score wins against Oliver Szolnoki (HUN) 9-4, Ruslan Chinakhov (RUS) 9-1, Abdullah Alshammari (KSA) 9-2 and finally 9-5 over Eklent Kaci (ALB), the winner of the last Euro-Tour event in Treviso.

The final match with Grabe started out close and Kazakis held a small

lead at 5-4 after 9 racks. After both players took a quick time-out, Kazakis came back a lot fresher and the balls seemed to be cooperating with him more, with better layouts after his break shot than they did for Grabe. Grabe played some poor safety shots which Kazakis quickly converted to wins and Kazakis' consistent break shot and his structured performance brought Kazakis to the hill at 8-4. In rack 13, Grabe pocketed a 2-9 combi-





Denis Grabe

"I'm playing the Euro-Tour for four or five years now", stated Kazakis after the award ceremony, "I lost the final twice and once I finished third. those were my best results so far. This time I won it, so of course I am very happy". "When I started the tournament I was not feeling comfortable at the table. I had hard times making the balls", Kazakis added, "for whatever reason I don't know. I have prepared well for this tournament and practiced hard but somehow I was thinking other things so I was not focused on the table." "When I was 8-4 down to Fortunski I thought to myself, just play pool now and don't think too much about other things' which I did and it seemed to help me. Of course, I was also lucky in that match. When you are 8-4 down in a match, you need luck if you still want to win it." "After that match it seemed as if the holy spirit came inside me. I played much better and felt much more comfortable at the table".

nation to get back within three racks at 8:5 with Kazakis' breaking in the alternating format. The likable Greek fired his break shot and pocketed the

1-ball, 5-ball and 6-ball, leaving a nice and easy layout in front of him. Kazakis ran the rack flawlessly, winning the match and the tournament 9:5.



Changing the World of Pool...For Good!

Whether it's via 160+ hours of Television, Vimeo On Demand, Home Theater, Streaming Video, or High Definition DVDs Accu-Stats delivers your message to the World

ACCU-STATS
On-Line
Subscription
Service

**UNLIMITED
ACCESS**

When you experience Vimeo's superior resolution over DVD, we invite you to join the online subscription revolution and enjoy:

The complete 2016 & 17: US Open 9-Ball, "Make It Happen" and Derby City Classic series DGC 2018, soon

Only \$12.95 per month!

That's right, view our complete collection for less than one DVD!

For a **FREE** Printed Catalog Featuring
25+ years of Pro Tournament Matches

Call **800.828.0397**
or download at **accu-stats.com**



Action Photography ©mediumpool.com

Jasmin Ouschan wins her 14th Women Euro-Tour event in Austria

Austrian superstar Jasmin Ouschan won the EPBF Ballazzo Women Open in Sankt Johann im Pongau, Austria, with an impressive 7:2 victory over #1 ranked player Marharyta Fefilava (BLR).

The day did not start off well for Ouschan. In her first match against Christine Steinlage (GER), she committed several uncharacteristic errors and only won the match because Steinlage also struggled at the table. Ouschan had to know that her play would need to improve drastically if she was going to have any chance to hoist the final trophy.

In the final round of eight players, Ouschan would have to deal with Kateryna Polovinchuk (UKR). The Ukrainian had performed very well in this event, but Ouschan played much better than in the previous match. With a 7-4 win, Ouschan advanced into the semi-final against Kristina Tkach (RUS) who is one of the few women in Europe that are really a huge challenge for Ouschan. Ouschan stepped her game

up once again though, and Tkach suffered from some bad break shots, leading to a 7-2 Ouschan win to put her in the finals.

Ouschan's final test in this event would be the current #1 ranked player in Europe, young Marharyta Fefilava (BLR). As is usual for her in the finals of an event, Ouschan was very focused and dominant in the final match. She



gave Fefilava no real chances and the young lady from Belarus committed a few errors attempting to pocket balls. Ouschan was quick to punish Fefilava for those errors. In the end, Ouschan stood tall and won the final match 7-3. This event was Ouschan's 21st appearance in a women's Euro-Tour event and her 14th win. That is an impressive quota.

When asked, what her secret was, Ouschan answered: "I wish I knew. Just like all the other women, I practice very hard and I am very thankful to be in that position". "I've done a lot for this victory but I also know that I needed a lot of luck to win in the end." "I would like to congratulate Marharyta for her second place. I have played her a couple of times now and it is simply amazing how much better she got in the past years." "So many young players are coming and playing really good pool now. It is really great to see this development in our sport."



A PICTURE SAYS A THOUSAND TITLES!

NOW AVAILABLE!

Commemorative Photo from the 2017 Billiard Congress of America Hall of Fame 50 Gala.

This beautiful 8 x 10 photo, printed on metallic paper, captures the historic gathering of 22 living BCA Hall of Famers!

Proceeds benefit the BCA Hall of Fame Fund for future Hall of Fame banquets.

\$20

(Includes shipping and handling)



Available exclusively from the United States Billiard Media Association

Order today at usmba.com • Or call 312-341-1110 ext 2004

NORTHWEST CUP

In what might be a harbinger of things to come, two pool teams from the northwest corner of the country got together to play a Mosconi-Cup-style team tournament in Auburn, WA last weekend (April 7-8).

According to Washington State's captain, Damian Pongpanik, the event, won by his team 11-5 over Oregon, is likely to be the first of many more to come.

"I've played singles pool for a long time, and I've never seen an atmosphere like this," said Pongpanik. "This kind of event is the kind of thing that is eventually going to drive players, fans and sponsors to the game."

"It creates an exciting atmosphere that people can really rally behind," he added.

This 1st Northwest Cup competition had a predecessor. Three months ago, a team from Las Vegas faced off against a team from Phoenix, AZ in what was

labeled The Desert Cup. Organized by CSI General Manager Ozzy Reynolds, following up on a brainstorming idea generated by CSI staffer Jack Murray and an Arizona friend of his, Junior Flores, they selected teams, "anointed" Reynolds as the Las Vegas team captain and determined at the start that each team's total FargoRate be capped at 3,900 points (a practice repeated in the Northwest Cup event).

"I actually argued that there shouldn't be a cap at all," said Reynolds, "but the guys in Arizona at the time felt that there was no way that they could compete against the quality of players here in Vegas."

As it turned out, Phoenix didn't have a lot to worry about, as they went on to defeat the Las Vegas team 11-3 in the 1st Desert Cup. As it also turned out,

“ I ACTUALLY ARGUED THAT THERE SHOULDN'T BE A CAP AT ALL, BUT THE GUYS IN ARIZONA AT THE TIME FELT THAT THERE WAS NO WAY THAT THEY COULD COMPETE AGAINST THE QUALITY OF PLAYERS HERE IN VEGAS. – OZZY REYNOLDS ”

TEAM OREGON
Team Fargo: 3852

TEAM CAPTAIN
Mall Marins

Pete Gates - 677
Mike Detchman - 673
Bob Zack - 670
Darin Waking - 635
Stephanie Helmer - 540
Paul Marquez - 657

TEAM WASHINGTON
Team Fargo: 3898

TEAM CAPTAIN
Damian Pongpanik

Damian Pongpanik - 718
James Davee - 662
Eddie Mataya - 663
Ed Hobbs - 615
Cindy Silva - 589
Tim Tweedell - 651

Big Ern Billiards Productions & Events Proudly Presents
THE NORTHWEST CUP
in association with JamUp Apparel, Rail2Rail TV and OB Cues
MOSCONI - STYLE TEAM FORMAT

April 7th - 8th 2018
15th Street Grill
1525 A St NE Auburn, Washington 98002
3,900 Team Fargo Cap • First team to 11

OB Cues
JamUp Apparel
Official Clothing Provider
RAIL2RAIL PRODUCTIONS

the defeated Oregon team, the day after the Northwest Cup, reached out to Reynolds to determine interest in an Oregon/Las Vegas matchup sometime in the near future, perhaps within the next month or so. At the end of the live stream of the Northwest Cup, a commentator said “Congratulations to Team Washington,” and then, speaking unofficially for Team Arizona, called the hypothetical coin toss for a future match (Tails). As a CSI Executive, the event model is of interest to Reynolds.

“I’m a huge fan of the concept,” said Reynolds. “I could see it as something that CSI could get behind.”

There are, Reynolds noted, a “few flaws” in the concept as it is playing out at the moment, but he is already working on ways to fine tune it. He describes CSI’s current interest as being at “the concept stage of building a viable model” for such competitions.

The 1st Northwest Cup drew two teams of six players from each of the two states. Oregon had a seventh, non-playing captain, Matthew McInnis, whose company, Big Ern Billiards Productions and Events, along with Pongpanik’s firm, Jam Up Apparel, sponsored the event. An entry fee of \$200 per player was supplemented by \$1,200 of added money, contributed by Big Ern, Jam Up Apparel and the venue, The 15th St. Grill, in Auburn, WA. The winner-take-all prize purse was \$3,600.

Playing for Washington (with FargoRates in parentheses) were Pongpanik (718), Eddie Mataya (663), James Davee (662), Tim Tweedell (651), Ed Hobbs (615), and Cindy Sliva (589).



Playing for Oregon were Peter Gates (677), Mike Deitchman (673), Bob Zack (670), Paul Marquez (657), Darin Walding (635) and Stephanie Hefner (540). Team Washington had an overall 46-point FargoRate advantage in the matchup.

Formatted, like the Mosconi Cup, as a race to eleven team wins, with a variety of individual match formats from full-team, to Scotch doubles and singles, the event opened on Saturday with what seemed like an interminable match between all of the players on both of the teams, playing one right after another, in a 9-ball race to 7 (all other matches were races to 5). It was a back-and-forth opening session that stretched beyond two hours of what turned out to be 11 hours of broadcast time by Rail2Rail Productions (available on YouTube at https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=u_BG-cDnWPu0). Oregon pulled out ahead at the end to win the opening team match.

The Washington Scotch Doubles Team of Pongpanik and Davee then took the first of three straight for their team 5-2. Davee won a singles match

against Dietzman 5-3, before Hobbs and Silva chalked up third straight win 5-3 against Zack/Marquez. Zack won Oregon’s second, 5-2, in a singles match against Mataya.

A Scotch Doubles win for Tweedell/Davee against Oregon’s Gates/Walding was followed by a shutout singles win by Pongpanik over Walding. The Oregon Scotch Doubles team of Marquez/Hefner won that team’s final match of the opening day 5-3 over Washington’s Davee/Mataya. Two straight Scotch Doubles wins for Washington ended the day, with Washington ahead 8-3 in the race to 11.

Marquez opened Day Two with one of Oregon’s two remaining victories, downing Tweedell 5-3. Washington took the next two, putting them on the hill, ahead by six, 10-4. Oregon’s Bob Zack won his team’s last match, double hill, over Pongpanik, before Washington’s Davee closed the proceedings with a 5-2 win over Oregon’s Darin Walding.

“You know,” said Pongpanik the day after the victory, “I’ve played in front of a lot of people, in a lot of (event) finals, and this was a pressure, unlike anything I’ve ever felt.

“It’s a different kind of pressure when you’re representing your state or city,” he added, “and pool could use something like this, to be honest.”

“ YOU KNOW, I’VE PLAYED IN FRONT OF A LOT OF PEOPLE, IN A LOT OF (EVENT) FINALS, AND THIS WAS A PRESSURE, UNLIKE ANYTHING I’VE EVER FELT. – DAMIAN PONGPANIK

”

The U.S. International 9-Ball Open

Norfolk, Virginia

October 21-27, 2018

Pat Fleming takes immense pride in officially announcing the U.S. International 9-Ball Open!

It will be staged at the Sheraton Waterside Hotel in Norfolk, Virginia.

This will be the fourth straight year that the Sheraton will be hosting a major global 9-Ball event.

As in the past, the Sheraton will provide all of the creature comforts that you would expect from a world class hotel. Discounted rates on hotel rooms are offered for spectators as well as for contestants. An assortment of meal options will be available including food stations in the ballroom and full course menus in their City Dock Norfolk restaurant.

The U.S. Open 9-Ball Championships was an annual event that will skip 2018 and continue in Las Vegas, Nevada in 2019 under the auspices of Matchroom Sports.

Quick U.S. International 9-Ball Open Details

- Play Dates: October 21-27, 2018 (Sunday thru Saturday)
- Size of Field: 128 players
- Entry Fee: \$1,000
- Added Money: \$50,000
- First Prize: \$40,000. Pays 32 places.
- Format: Double Elimination, Race to 11. Finals to 13.
- Site: Sheraton Norfolk Waterside Hotel
- Discounted Hotel Room Rate: \$105.00 plus tax for a single or double
- Where: Norfolk, Virginia, USA
- Vendor Booths on site for your billiard supply needs
- Sanctioned by: World Pool Association (WPA)



- Pay-Per-View by Accu-Stats Video Productions
- Fox Sports International for TV exposure
- Live Scoring by AZ Billiards
- Major Sponsors: Diamond Billiard Products, Simonis Cloth, and Aramith Balls
- Tournament Websites: www.USIO9.com and www.accu-stats.com

As the tournament producer, Fleming will be responsible for every aspect of the event, including entry fees, added money, and prize money.

The Behrman's Q-Master Billiards is a short distance away and will accommodate attendees with yet another option for pool tables and restaurants.

The \$50,000 in added money insures that the event will be sanctioned by the WPA as a Tier 3 event awarding WPA points to the high finishers. The projected \$162,000 in prize money will be deposited into a Bank of America account in Norfolk, VA. This Bank of America (walking distance) will gladly cash prize money checks provided proper identification is presented.

ENTER AS A CONTESTANT NOW:

<http://bit.ly/USIOEntryfees>

There are several ways to pay your \$1,000 entry fee. They are:

- Mail check or money order payable to U.S. International Open, LLC and mail to: U.S. International Open, PO Box 299, Bloomingdale, New Jersey 07403
- Pay online with a debit/credit card or PayPal.
- Pay on site with money order or cash (only if the field is not full).

RESERVE YOUR HOTEL ROOM NOW (\$105 Discount Rate, single/double):

<http://bit.ly/Sheratonrooms2018>

RESERVE TV ARENA SEATS (Starting April 16):

<http://bit.ly/dailyseats>

Any Questions? Contact:

Pat Fleming

U.S. International 9-Ball Open
PO Box 299, Bloomingdale, NJ 07403
973-838-7089
pat.fleming@usio9.com



US OPEN

9-BALL CHAMPIONSHIP

MANDALAY BAY®
RESORT AND CASINO, LAS VEGAS

MANDALAY BAY TO STAGE US OPEN 9-BALL

The 43rd US Open 9-Ball Championship will take place at Mandalay Bay Resort and Casino, Las Vegas from Sunday, April 21 until Friday, April 26, 2019.

Matchroom Multi Sport acquired full ownership of the US Open 9-Ball Championship in a ground-breaking agreement last month and the tournament will move to Las Vegas for its 43rd staging as part of a long-term goal to take the event into the sporting mainstream. The prize fund will be set at a guaranteed \$300,000, the biggest ever for the event.

Matchroom Sport Chairman Barry Hearn commented, "I am delighted that we will be partnering with Mandalay Bay in delivering this new era for the US Open 9-Ball Championship. This is going to be a must-see event for every pool fan in America and we also hope to bring new fans into the game.

"Mandalay Bay was an exemplary host of the Mosconi Cup last year and we are thrilled that they will again host one of pool's biggest events, the US Open. We are busy working hard to deliver a bril-

liant tournament next April and will have more news about the US Open in coming weeks."

Ticket details for fans and entry details for players will be made available shortly. The format will be double elimination on a multi-table set up down to the last eight on the winners and losers sides. The final stages will feature the last 16 players in straight knockout on a single table in a huge arena. All matches will be races to 11 with the exception of the final.

Players and fans wishing to book accommodation at Mandalay Bay for the US Open will be able to take advantage of exclusive rates once tickets are on sale.

For more information on the US Open please visit www.matchroompool.com/usopen9ball



PARTYPOKER CONTINUES MOSCONI CUP TITLE SPONSORSHIP UNTIL 2020

Matchroom Multi Sport is delighted to announce a new long-term agreement which sees partypoker remain as title sponsors of the Mosconi Cup until at least 2020.

partypoker.com is one of the oldest, most recognised and trusted online poker brands. Launched in August 2001, partypoker.com is one of the pioneers of the online poker industry.

The partypoker Mosconi Cup returns to London's Alexandra Palace this December 4-7 as Europe look to inflict an unprecedented ninth consecutive defeat on Team USA, who have regrouped and are determined to reclaim the famous trophy.

The 2018 partypoker Mosconi Cup will be played in front of its largest auditorium ever, with record ticket sales already experienced for the December showdown.

partypoker Managing Director Tom Waters said: "We are delighted to be

sponsoring the Mosconi Cup for the next three years. It's a great event that is enjoyed by thousands of fans and spectators who can look forward to a number of partypoker offers in the coming months."

Matchroom Sport Chairman Barry Hearn commented: "I am thrilled that partypoker will continue their long association with the Mosconi Cup for at least a further three years. Matchroom Sport and partypoker have a long-standing relationship working

together across a number of major sporting events and I'm delighted that we have extended that partnership.

"The partypoker Mosconi Cup is 9-ball's biggest brand and is a must-attend event for fans from both sides of the Atlantic and this year more than ever will witness the event live. In addition, the partypoker Mosconi Cup will be broadcast live on Sky Sports and will once again have a huge international TV reach thanks to our broadcast partners around the world."

Tickets for Mosconi Cup XXV are on sale now priced from £25 per session, with season tickets available priced £90. Premium seating in rows 4-7 is available at £49 per session or £175 for a season ticket, with VIP Hospitality packages from £155 per person per session with a season ticket priced at £549.

Feel the RUSH *of* WINNING

— *Introducing* —
LUCASI'S LUXURY CAROM LINE

▼ LCR51 \$1,299.00



▲ LCR50 \$1,299.00

AVAILABLE NOW

Call (800) 835-7665 or visit www.cueandcase.com for more info.



PRESS RELEASE

BILLIARD SPORTS TO BE INCLUDED IN THE 2021 WORLD GAMES

There's good news for the world's best practitioners of billiards sports and the tens of millions of fans around the globe who follow pool, snooker and carom.

The World Confederation of Billiards Sports (WCBS) can now announce that pool, snooker, and carom will be included in the 2021 World Games to be hosted in the US city of Birmingham, Alabama, July 15 - 25.

The announcement was made during the recently held SportAccord General Assembly held in Bangkok, Thailand.

The World Games, first held in 1981, are an international multi-sport event that showcases sports that are not contested in the Olympic Games, but are under the Olympic umbrella. The World Games are organized and governed by the International World Games

Association (IWGA), and recognized by the International Olympic Committee (IOC). The World Games are held every four years, one year after the Summer Olympic Games.



The World Games 2021 BIRMINGHAM, USA

Some of the other sports that are held at The World Games are acrobatic gymnastics, ultimate Frisbee, karate,

powerlifting, finswimming, squash, korfball, billiards, water skiing, and dance sport.

The World Games often serve as a spring board for certain sports to eventually be chosen to participate in the Olympic Games. Sports that began in the World Games that are now regularly contested in the Olympic Games include badminton, beach volleyball, trampoline, rugby sevens, taekwondo, triathlon, and women's weightlifting.

The billiard disciplines of Carom, Pool and Snooker have been part of the program of every World Games since the 2001 Games in Akita Japan.

***The World Confederation of Billiards Sports is the international umbrella organization that represents the major cue sports, including carom billiards, pool games of several varieties, and snooker. For more information regarding the WCBS, please visit <http://www.wcbs-billiards.org/>.**



BCA Announces 2018 Atlantic Challenge Cup Location and Date



The Billiard Congress of America today announced the fourth annual Atlantic Challenge Cup will be held in Las Vegas, November 29 - December 1 at the South Point Hotel & Casino. Specific match times will be announced at a later date.

"I would like to thank our European partners, event sponsors, South Point and everyone involved in the ACC for their patience as we made the difficult decision to move the location and time of this terrific event to Las Vegas in November," said BCA Chief Executive Officer Rob Johnson. "While we would like to have staged the event in conjunction with the 2018 BCA Expo, logistical issues with a city-wide event taking place during the previously announced dates in New Orleans prevented us from making this possible. We have worked with our event stakeholders and determined the best location and date for this event is this fall in Las Vegas."

"The United States and BCA will be a great host for the 2018 Atlantic Challenge Cup," said EPBF President Gre Leenders. "We are very proud to have won the first three editions of the event, but know America is capable of presenting a very capable team to compete against what we believe will be a very competitive contingent from Europe."

Event sponsors, teams and team captains will be announced in the coming weeks.

Launched by the Billiard Congress of America and European Pocket Billiard Federation in 2015, the Atlantic Challenge Cup pits the best of youth from Europe and America in a Mosconi Cup style event in a race to 11 with a possible 21 total matches. Six players on each team, four boys and two girls, will battle it out to see who will have the bragging rights across the Atlantic. Europe has captured the 2015, 2016 and 2017 titles.

More information can be found at AtlanticChallengeCup.com.





Shot Darts designer hand drawing flights

Darting Ahead

Shot Darts has been a permanent fixture on the world darts stage for almost 50 years. How do they do it and what's the secret to their success?

Managing Director Peter McCormick says it's their focus on doing things better, pushing boundaries and, perhaps most importantly, their passion.

Their story begins almost 50 years ago in Katikati, New Zealand, with the es-

tablishment of Puma Dart Products. Mr McCormick's father John set-out to make darts more accurate, accessible and fun.

It was a notion that appealed to darts players and the successes came thick and fast. The company was respon-

sible for the world's first bladed dart board – The Bandit – which is officially recognised for tournament and competition play by the World Dart Federation.

In 2009, Puma Darts saw an opportunity to maximise its impact on the world stage with a high-quality, precision dart brand that would resonate with a global audience, and the Shot Darts brand was born.

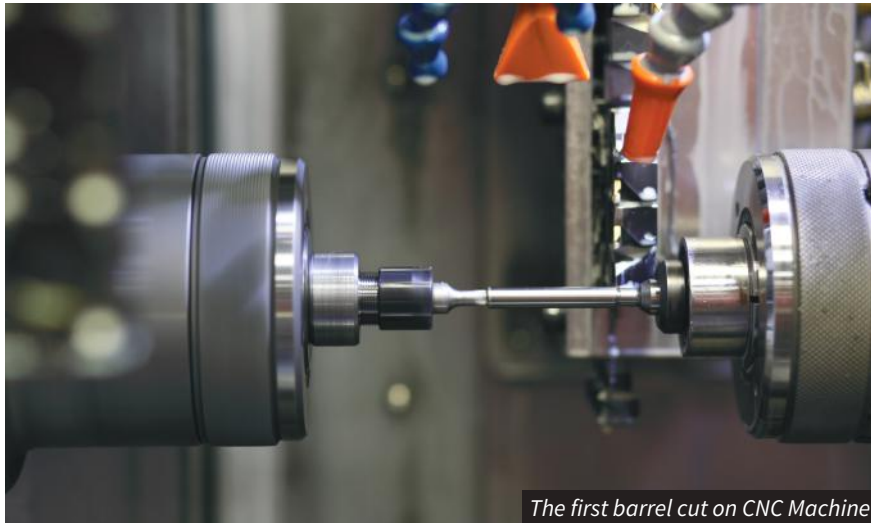
Shot Darts has since gone from strength to strength. Its reputation for contract design and manufacturing excellence is unparalleled, which has led to opportunities such as manufacturing dart ranges for current world number one Michael van Gerwen and World Youth Champion, German player Max Hopp, of whom Shot Darts also co-sponsors.

And while Shot Darts can lay claim to an impressive history, it's also leading

the way in creating an exciting future for darts.

Making the world's best darts

Today, much of the team's effort goes into creating the perfect dart and, as Mr McCormick says, "darts are a very personal thing, so we make a lot of perfect darts."



The first barrel cut on CNC Machine

The production and design team has more than 150 years' combined experience. Several of the staff have been with the company for between 20 and 30 years, something Mr. McCormick says speaks to the pride the team takes in their work.

"You've got to be proud of what you're doing to stay with a company that long,

and everyone here takes immense pride in their part of the process."

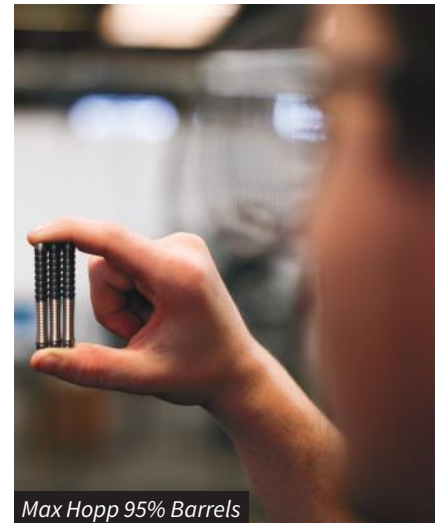
Each dart from the higher end Tungsten ranges is designed, sampled and manufactured in-house. Original concepts are hand-drawn and then transferred to CAD (Computer Aided Design) software. The software identifies the cuts and grooves to be applied to the dart and determines the weight,

balance point, length and tungsten percentage.

Tungsten is used in darts production because of its high weight to volume ratio. It resists wear and allows barrels to be slimmer, for tighter groupings, while maintaining the weight of the dart. It has the highest melting point of all metals, is more resistant to frac-

turing than diamond and much harder than steel. It is often sintered together with other metals, such as iron and nickel but, simply put, the higher the percentage of tungsten, the better the dart.

Each dart starts in tungsten billet form, before being threaded and drilled, to ensure it's the right length and weight. It's then put through a CNC machine to profile cut the body. This can take up to 10 minutes for a more complicated, higher end barrel - or half an hour per set.



Max Hopp 95% Barrels

From here, the barrel might be coated in either titanium nitrate or Shot's own PCT coating, which determines its colour, re-machined for additional profiling, and then laser etched before being pointed and packed.

"Some of our more complex darts might go through eight or nine different processes", says Mr McCormick.

Given this attention to quality and detail, it's unsurprising the company stands behind every tungsten dart with a lifetime barrel guarantee.

Each set is then hand packed with their distinctive flights, featuring stand out graphics that echo the story behind each dart. This represents the last quality control check before they end up in the hands of players.



New Ronin Yu barrel in the CAD software

The barrels are match-weighted, by hand, and grouped to within +/- .05gm of the other barrels in the set. A small hand-written note identifying the weight is included in each set.

Pushing the boundaries and the future of darts

Staying at the top of the game requires more than luck.

The Shot Darts team collaborates with players and spends a lot of time in market at tournaments and trade shows to gather player insights and stay ahead of trends. A recent visit to the factory by North American Champion Shot sponsored player Chris White led to the design and manufacture of his latest Great White Dart signature dart and conversion point.

Chris says it was a great experience to be part of.

“The Shot Darts team’s innovative design process allowed me to have hands-on input and test the ideas I had to improve the dart’s performance characteristics. I’m using the dart, it’s improved my game, and other players I meet comment on its killer looks.”

Shot Darts’ focus on the future of the game is also evident through its ‘Young Guns’ sponsorship programme for talented players under the age of 18. This has so far included players from USA, Canada, Australia, New Zealand, Thailand and Hong Kong.

The company has recently been through a significant design revolution, inspired in part by their experience with the New Zealand Trade and Enterprise Better by Design programme, which focuses on inspiring and enabling a customer-centric approach to market development. They also run an annual design challenge with New Zealand’s Massey Design School to develop original designs and new product for the darts market.



In house quality control, Ronin Rei barrel

“With a sport so rich in tradition, we’ve got to look at how we can push the boundaries. Everything we’re bringing out has a point of difference,” Mr McCormick says.

Shot Darts’ latest range, Ronin, which features three premium darts: the Ronin Yu, Rei and Makoto, is an example of balancing aesthetic appeal and enhanced performance with the timeless quality Shot Darts is famed for. It also showcases the company’s commitment to the philosophy that every dart has its own story.

Mr McCormick says the Ronin is a range for the skilful dart player.

“Much like dart players, Ronin lived by a code of discipline known as the Bushido, which outlines eight virtues: Rectitude or Justice; Courage; Mercy; Politeness; Honesty and Sincerity;

Honour; Loyalty; and Character or Self Control. We see these virtues as having relevance on the oche and we’ve captured these values in our design.”

Particularly impressive is the Ronin range’s new dart grips. Ronin Yu features more than 400 multi directional contact points across axial and radial cuts, creating a superior grip profile that takes flight on command, releasing smoothly for velocity and accuracy.

Mr McCormick says darts is taking off around the world, as players from across generations and around the world discover, re-discover and embrace the game.

“We are at the fore of a bright future for darts, with endless possibility for innovation. We can’t be afraid to try something new. That’s where we’ll find the biggest success.”



A family business. Peter McCormick and son Ryan

PLAY THE COMPETITION LIKE A FINELY TUNED INSTRUMENT.

Maestro²

Introducing the latest Maestro Special Editions by K. Miki. Each of these 100 hand-crafted and signed cues pays tribute to the artisan roots of today's custom cue composers. Featuring Predator's patented technology, every Maestro cue stands ready to propel you to your next standing ovation.



PredatorCues.com

©2018 Predator Cues. All Rights Reserved. Predator is a registered trademark of Predator Group.

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.

MAY 01 - JUNE 24

Carom Room Spring Classic 2018

05/02 - 05/06

The Carom Room
Beloit, WI

Jason Owen Open

05/04 - 05/06

Players Pool and Snooker Lounge
Newcastle, UK

Garden State Pool Tour Amateur Spring 9-Ball Classic

05/05 - 05/06

Clifton Billiards
Clifton, New Jersey

AllOutPool Tour 2018 Stop 4

05/12 - 05/13

Premier Billiards
Coral Springs, Florida

Falcon Cues Quebec Tour Top 16

05/12 - 05/13

La Maison Blanche
Dolbeau-Mistassini, Quebec
Website: <http://www.falconcuesquebectour.com/>

World Cup of Pool

05/15 - 05/20

Shanghai
Shanghai
Website: <http://www.matchroompool.com/page/WorldCupofPool/Home>

DFW 9-Ball Tour Stop

05/19 - 05/20

Rusty's Billiards
Fort Worth, Texas
Website: <https://dfw9bt.com>

New England 9-Ball Tour Stop #25

05/19 - 05/19

Buster's Billiards
Somersworth, NH
Website: <http://mdpromotions.com/>

Florida Pool Tour 2018 Stop 5

05/19 - 05/20

Cue-Phoria 2
Sanford, Florida
Website: <http://uspoisontour.com/>

Diamond Pool Tour 2018 Stop 2

05/19 - 05/20

Pockets Billiards
Tucson, AZ
Website: <http://www.diamond-pooltour.com>

Gulf Coast Women's Regional Tour 2018 Stop 3

05/26 - 05/27

Fat Racks Billiards and Sports Lounge
San Antonio, Texas
Website: <http://gulfcoastregionaltour.com>

Joss Tour 2017-2018 Stop 15

06/02 - 06/03

Snookers - Sports Billiards, Bar & Grill
Providence, RI
Website: <http://www.joss9balltour.com/>

Sunshine State Pro Am Tour 2018 Stop

06/02 - 06/02

C.M.'s Place
Seminole, FL
Website: <http://www.sunshinestate-proamtour.com/>

New England 9-Ball Tour Stop #26

06/02 - 06/02

Workmen's Hall
Norwood, Ma
Website: <http://mdpromotions.com/>

Arizona Women's Billiards Tour 2018 Stop 3

06/02 - 06/03

Kolby's Corner Pocket
Tempe, AZ
Website: <http://www.awbt.net>

Florida Pool Tour 2018 Stop 6

06/09 - 06/09

Uncle Waldo's Billiards
Daytona Beach, FL
Website: <http://uspoisontour.com/>

Lone Star Billiards Tour 2018 Stop 5

06/09 - 06/10

Bogies Billiards & Games
Houston, TX
Website: <http://www.lonestarbilliardstour.com/>

Diamond Pool Tour 2018 Stop 3

06/09 - 06/10

Freezer's Ice House
Tempe, Az
Website: <http://www.diamond-pooltour.com>

Sunshine State Pro Am Tour 2018 Stop

06/23 - 06/23

Boulevard Billiards
Ocala, FL
Website: <http://www.sunshinestate-proamtour.com/>

DFW 9-Ball Tour Stop

06/23 - 06/24

Click's Billiards
Arlington, Texas
Website: <https://dfw9bt.com>

ATTENTION POOL PLAYERS

ATTENTION POOL PLAYERS

ATTENTION POOL PLAYERS

NO EXCUSE PROGRAM

7' SMART TABLE PACKAGE
\$4.00 OR LESS PER DAY

9' SMART TABLE PACKAGE
\$5.00 OR LESS PER DAY

1. IF AN OPERATOR OWNS THE POOL TABLES, TELL THE BAR OWNER TO HAVE THE OPERATOR CONTACT DIAMOND DIRECTLY. DIAMOND OFFERS SPECIAL PROGRAMS FOR OPERATORS.
2. IF THE BAR OWNER OWNS THE POOL TABLES, HAVE THE BAR OWNER CONTACT DIAMOND. DIAMOND HAS A SPECIAL PROGRAM FOR BAR OWNERS.
3. IF (1 & 2) ARE NOT INTERESTED, DIAMOND HAS A SPECIAL PLAN FOR LEAGUE OPERATORS. (ALL LEAGUES)
4. IF (1, 2, & 3) ARE NOT INTERESTED, DIAMOND WILL PUT THE EQUIPMENT IN!

WHAT WE ARE TRYING TO SAY IS... DIAMOND HAS A SMART TABLE PROGRAM FOR EVERYONE!

PLAYERS CALL US WITH LOCATIONS THAT NEED DIAMOND SMART TABLES AND ACCESSORIES!
(812) 288-7665.



◆ DIAMOND ◆
SMART TABLE
"PREFERRED LEAGUE EQUIPMENT"

WWW.DIAMONDBILLIARDS.COM

Tourney Results

03/29 - 04/01

2018 Interpool Open

Sweden

- 1 Joshua Filler \$3,011
- 2 Thomas Larsson \$1,445
- 3 Darren Appleton \$602
- 3 Ivo Aarts \$602
- 5 Markus Leppiaho \$301
- 5 Jan Kjetil Nordrum \$301
- 5 Henrik Olsson \$301
- 5 Daniel Tangudd \$301
- 9 Jani Uski \$180
- 9 Tony Aberg \$180
- 9 Mika Immonen \$180
- 9 Bjorn Odelbrink \$180
- 9 Adrian Weiss \$180
- 9 Mats B. Schjetne \$180
- 9 Tim Jonkman \$180
- 9 Tim De Ruyter \$180

03/29 - 04/01

2018 Interpool Open 10-Ball Challenge

Sweden

- 1 Joshua Filler \$1,686
- 2 Thomas Larsson \$963
- 3 Marcus Chamat \$602
- 4 Mika Immonen \$602

03/31 - 04/01

38th Annual Midwest Bar Table Classic

John Wayne's Pub

- Indianapolis, Indiana
- 1 Shane McMinn \$2,500
- 2 Justin Bergman \$1,800
- 3 Shane Winters \$1,300
- 4 Louis Demarco \$1,000
- 5 Dennis Hatch \$700
- 5 Josh Franklin \$700
- 7 DaWayne Pearson \$500
- 7 Jason Klatt \$500
- 9 Taylor Anderson \$400
- 9 Bob Hendrix \$400
- 9 Shannon Murphy \$400
- 9 Eddie Balderas \$400

- 13 Eric Durbin \$300
- 13 Alex Olinger \$300
- 13 Steve Warwick \$300
- 13 Houston Rodriguez \$300
- 17 Randy Montgomery \$200
- 17 Brandon Thomas \$200
- 17 Abrin Schaad \$200
- 17 Tom Karabatsos \$200
- 17 Andreas Madsen \$200
- 17 Ted Reeves \$200
- 17 Martin Zavala, Jr. \$200
- 17 Tommy Stevenson \$200
- 25 Jim Knifley \$150
- 25 Mark Wissman \$150
- 25 Matt Carman \$150
- 25 Brian Myung \$150
- 25 Dave Grau \$150
- 25 Molly Bontrager \$150
- 25 Daniel Scranton \$150
- 25 Ike Runnels \$150

03/31 - 04/01

Q City 9-Ball Tour Stop

Randolph's Billiards

- Hickory, NC
- 1 Jason Brattain \$450
- 2 Mike Bumgarner \$275
- 3 Collin Hall \$175
- 4 Steve Hughes \$100
- 5 Jerry Hilton \$50
- 5 Randall Bowman \$50

04/07 - 04/08

Joss Tour 2017-2018 Stop 13

Union Station Billiards

- Portland, Maine
- 1 Dany Normandin \$1,000
- 2 Michael Yednak \$650
- 3 Ivaylo Petrov \$500
- 4 Kyle Pepin \$350
- 5 Josh Rupard \$200
- 5 Samoth Sam \$200

04/07 - 04/08

Northwest Cup

15th Street Grill

- Auburn, Washington

- 1 Damion Pongpanik \$600
- 1 Eddie Mataya \$600
- 1 James Davee \$600
- 1 Tim Tweedell \$600
- 1 Ed Hobbs \$600
- 1 Cindy Sliva \$600

04/07 - 04/08

12th Annual Bob Stocks Memorial

First Break Cafe

- Sterling, VA
- 1 Zoren James Aranas \$850
- 2 Dennis Orcollo \$500
- 3 Steve Fleming \$325
- 4 Shaun Wilkie \$225
- 5 Rich Glasscock \$150
- 5 Tom Zippler \$150
- 7 Doug Whiting \$100
- 7 Thomas Haas \$100
- 9 Steven Alsobrooks \$60
- 9 Rob Cord \$60
- 9 Jason Trigo \$60
- 9 Bruce Choyce \$60

04/07 - 04/08

Predator Pro-Am Tour 2018 Amateur

Steinway Billiards

- Astoria, NY
- 1 Alex Osipov \$1,300
- 2 Abel Barriento \$1,000
- 3 Paul Carpenter \$650
- 4 Luis Carrasco \$475
- 5 Gary Bozigian \$280
- 5 Greg Matos \$280
- 7 Corey Avallone \$200
- 7 Eugene Ok \$200
- 9 Jose Mendez \$150
- 9 Paul Everton \$150
- 9 Ramilo Tanglao \$150
- 9 Ryan Dayrit \$150
- 13 Jason Goberdhan \$125
- 13 Tony Liang \$125
- 13 Paul Lyons \$125
- 13 Philip Pearce \$125

04/07 - 04/08

Predator Pro-Am Tour 2018 Open Pro

Steinway Billiards

Astoria, NY

- 1 Lee Vann Corteza \$700
- 2 Jorge Rodriguez \$400
- 3 Hunter Lombardo \$250
- 4 Zion Zvi \$100

04/07 - 04/08

Q City 9-Ball Tour Stop

Carolina Billiards

Garner, North Carolina

- 1 Mike Hancock \$600
- 2 Joshua Padron \$375
- 3 JT Ringgold \$250
- 4 Duane Wade \$120
- 5 Donnie Stewart \$50
- 5 Jonathan Williams \$50

04/07 - 04/08

Joss Tour 2017-2018 Stop 13 Second Chance

Union Station Billiards

Portland, Maine

- 1 Ross Webster \$300
- 2 Gary Bryant \$200
- 3 Xavier Libby \$110
- 4 Rick Beaulieu \$50

04/07 - 04/08

BWPPA 2018 Stop 1

Wheelchair Cue Sport Academy

Stoke, Mandeville

- 1 Daniel Lee \$355
- 2 Roy Kimberley \$177
- 3 Dave Beaumont \$85
- 3 Tony Southern \$85
- 5 Craig Welsh \$35
- 5 Danny Luton \$35
- 5 Darren Taylor \$35
- 5 Gary Swift \$35

04/08 - 04/08

New England 9-Ball Tour Stop #22 Partners Tournament

Snookers - Sports Billiards, Bar & Grill

Providence, RI

- 1 Francisco Cabral \$400
- 1 Jessie Murphy \$400

- 2 Ben Benson \$250
- 2 Matt Eline \$250
- 3 Lida Mullendore \$150
- 3 Ned McConnell \$150
- 4 Lance Lisciotti \$113
- 4 Sal Midolo \$112
- 5 Josh Gormly \$75
- 5 Ted Psarros \$75
- 5 Rob Diehl \$75
- 5 Austin Ross \$75
- 7 Mike Nigrelli \$55
- 7 Charlie Matarazo \$55
- 7 Stan McLean \$55
- 7 Keith Platt \$55
- 9 Carlton Gagnon \$40
- 9 Kyle Trammell \$40
- 9 Brittany Reed \$40
- 9 Jeff Harnois \$40
- 9 Fred Soulliere \$40
- 9 Steve Bergin \$40
- 9 Ken Ludy \$40
- 9 Mike Olcott \$40

04/08 - 04/08

Tri State Tour 2017-2018 Stop

Shooter's Family Billiards

Wayne, NJ

- 1 Jowen Pichardo \$425
- 2 Jason Decker \$215
- 3 Mac Jankov \$125
- 4 Michelle Brottons \$85

04/12 - 04/15

Super Billiards Expo 2018 Players Championship

Greater Philadelphia Expo Center at Oaks

Oaks, PA

- 1 Mike Dechaine \$10,000
- 2 Danny Olson \$5,000
- 3 Jayson Shaw \$4,000
- 3 Oscar Dominguez \$3,000
- 5 Earl Strickland \$2,750
- 5 Skyler Woodward \$2,750
- 7 John Morra \$2,250
- 7 Lee Vann Corteza \$2,250
- 9 Thorsten Hohmann \$2,200
- 9 Shane Van Boening \$2,200
- 9 Mika Immonen \$2,200
- 9 Alex Pagulayan \$2,200
- 13 Zion Zvi \$1,800
- 13 Jonathan Pinegar \$1,800
- 13 Roberto Gomez \$1,800
- 13 Martin Daigle \$1,800

04/12 - 04/15

Super Billiards Expo 2018 Women Players Championship

Greater Philadelphia Expo Center at Oaks

Oaks, PA

- 1 Karen Corr \$5,000
- 2 Brittany Bryant \$2,800
- 3 Allison Fisher \$2,250
- 4 Jia Li \$1,800
- 5 Denise Belanger \$1,500
- 5 Vivian Villarreal \$1,500
- 7 April Larson \$1,250
- 7 Jennifer Barretta \$1,250
- 9 Kaylin Wikoff \$1,050
- 9 Briana Miller \$1,050
- 9 Heather Cortez \$1,050
- 9 Janet Atwell \$1,050
- 13 Veronique Menard \$900
- 13 Bernie Store \$900
- 13 Amu Yue Yu \$900
- 13 Annie Flores \$900

04/12 - 04/15

Super Billiards Expo 2018 Pro-Am Barbox Championship

Greater Philadelphia Expo Center at Oaks

Oaks, PA

- 1 Zoren James Aranas \$4,000
- 2 Jorge Rodriguez \$2,000
- 3 Nathan Rose \$1,000
- 5 Keith Christman \$500
- 5 Reymart Lim \$500
- 5 Ben Werblow \$500
- 5 Nick Cipiti \$500

04/14 - 04/15

2018 Dynamic Billard Ballazzo Open

Alpina Sport und Wellnesshotel

St. Johann im Pongau,

- 1 Alexandros Kazakis \$5,572
- 2 Denis Grabe \$3,714
- 3 Eklent Kaci \$2,166
- 3 Mario He \$2,166
- 5 Roman Hybler \$1,547
- 5 Wiktor Zielinski \$1,547
- 5 Joshua Filler \$1,547
- 5 Abdullah Al Shammari \$1,547
- 9 Wojciech Szewczyk \$1,238
- 9 Markus Buck \$1,238

- 9 Marc Bijsterbosch \$1,238
- 9 Maximilian Lechner \$1,238
- 9 Niels Feijen \$1,238
- 9 Ralf Souquet \$1,238
- 9 Ruslan Chinakhov \$1,238
- 9 Vangelis Vettas \$1,238
- 17 Mateusz Sniegocki \$619
- 17 Sergey Lutsker \$619
- 17 Henrique Correia \$619
- 17 Karol Skowerski \$619
- 17 Ivar Saris \$619
- 17 Fedor Gorst \$619
- 17 Radoslaw Babica \$619
- 17 Marck Kudlik \$619
- 17 Abdullah Al-Enezi \$619
- 17 Edmond Zaja \$619
- 17 Sanjin Pehlivanovic \$619
- 17 Oliver Szolnoki \$619
- 17 Nick Malai \$619
- 17 Stephan Cohen \$619
- 17 David Alcaide \$619
- 17 Tomasz Kaplan \$619
- 33 Wojciech Sroczynski \$309
- 33 Bartosz Rozwadowski \$309
- 33 Mark Gray \$309
- 33 Miguel Silva \$309

- 33 Petri Makkonen \$309
- 33 Cliff Castelein \$309
- 33 Nicolas Rimbot \$309
- 33 Jani Uski \$309
- 33 Oliver Ortmann \$309
- 33 Francisco Sanchez-Ruiz \$309
- 33 Mark Magi \$309
- 33 Jakub Koniar \$309
- 33 Daniele Corrieri \$309
- 33 Albin Ouschan \$309
- 33 Mieszko Fortunski \$309
- 33 Marius Skoneczny \$309

04/14 - 04/15

2018 Dynamic Billard Ballazzo Open Ladies Division

Alpina Sport und Wellnesshotel

- St. Johann im Pongau,
 1 Jasmin Ouschan \$1,237
 2 Marharyta Fefilava \$866
 3 Kristina Tkach \$494
 3 Ina Kaplan \$494
 5 Amalia Matas \$247
 5 Oliwia Czuprynska \$247
 5 Kateryna Polovinchuk \$247
 5 Eylul Kybaroglu \$247

04/14 - 04/15

Q City 9-Ball Tour Stop

Mickey Milligan's Sports Bar

- New Bern, NC
 1 Frank Owens \$500
 2 Zack Leonard \$300
 3 JT Ringgold \$175
 4 Jack Whitfield \$75

04/19 - 04/22

9-Ball Players Championship

Steinway Billiards

- Astoria, NY
 1 Denis Grabe \$7,500
 2 Alexandros Kazakis \$4,500
 3 Chris Melling \$3,000
 3 Dennis Orcollo \$3,000
 5 Fedor Gorst \$2,000
 5 Jason Klatt \$2,000
 5 John Morra \$2,000
 5 Petri Makkonen \$2,000
 9 Mika Immonen \$750
 9 Lee Vann Corteza \$750
 9 Eklent Kaci \$750
 9 Ruslan Chinakhov \$750

advanced HUMAN PERFORMANCE systems

MIND OF STEEL
MENTAL TOUGHNESS
FOR POOL SUCCESS

Dr. Chris Stankovich
www.DRSTANKOVICH.COM

RACK LIKE THE PROS
 WITH DELTA-13

DON'T WAIT. BE GREAT.

Available in different colors.
 Order your rack today
 at www.delta-13.com.

Delta-13
 10332 S. Dransfeldt Rd.
 Unit 103
 Parker, Co 80134
 866-915-2058

13
 Delta-13.com
 THE TRUE TRIANGLE

- 13 Nick Malai \$500
- 13 Radoslaw Babica \$500
- 13 Joe Korsiak \$500
- 13 Thorsten Hohmann \$500

04/21 - 04/21

New England 9-Ball Tour Stop #23

Yale Billiards

- Wallingford, Connecticut
- 1 Derrick Burnham \$500
 - 2 Lukas Fracasso-Verner \$300
 - 3 Steven Romann \$175
 - 4 Kelly Hodder \$125
 - 5 Bobby Hilton \$100
 - 5 Sheikh Ahmed \$100
 - 7 Ryan Urso \$60
 - 7 Mike Marzik \$60

04/21 - 04/22

Q City 9-Ball Tour Stop

Gate City Billiards Club

- Greensboro, NC
- 1 Cameron Lawhorne \$650
 - 2 Don Lilly \$425

- 3 Mark Tademy \$250
- 4 Donald Williams \$125
- 5 Tyson Key \$100
- 5 Danny Jones \$100

04/21 - 04/22

2nd Annual Barry Behrman Memorial

Q-Master Billiards

- Virginia Beach, VA
- 1 Zoren James Aranas \$1,500
 - 2 Brandon Shuff \$1,050
 - 3 Tim Colvin \$800
 - 4 Nil Lim \$550
 - 5 Eric Moore \$350
 - 5 Bernard Andico \$350
 - 7 Kelly Farrar \$200
 - 7 Mike Davis \$200

04/22 - 04/22

Tri State Tour 2017-2018 Stop

Clifton Billiards

- Clifton, New Jersey
- 1 Shivam Gupta \$500
 - 2 Jaydev Zaveri \$280

- 3 Allison LaFleur \$180
- 4 Michelle Brotons \$110
- 5 Eli Trajceski \$70
- 5 Mark Lamberti \$70

04/28 - 04/29

Arizona Women's Billiards Tour 2018 Stop 2

Freezer's Ice House

- Tempe, Az
- 1 Amanda Pulley \$450
 - 2 Justine Bishop \$350
 - 3 Pearl Ortiz \$250
 - 4 Susan Williams \$200
 - 5 Heather Cortez \$125
 - 5 Kristi St Ange \$125
 - 7 Tracie Hamman \$80
 - 7 Claudia Justus \$80
 - 9 Katie Gray \$60
 - 9 Sandi Wilson \$60
 - 9 Rae Evans \$60
 - 9 Joy Thurman \$60
 - 13 Mary Coffman \$40
 - 13 Deby Welfringer \$40
 - 13 Tonya Kurtz \$40
 - 13 Tory Conley \$40

This is the most comprehensive, informative & beneficial billiards lesson DVD on the market today!

More Than 4½ Hours of Instruction! **BRAND NEW 3 DVD Set!**

A Pool Lesson with Jerry Briesath

Set of 3 DVDs loaded with Jerry's infinite expertise!

"Jerry is the greatest teacher I've ever met. He teaches with patience and passion. His depth of knowledge and enthusiasm are inspirational. He understands the stroke fundamentals like no other. I love Jerry! He's my 'go to' guy for sure."

- Jeanette "The Black Widow" Lee

Over 50 Topics!

A Pool Lesson with Jerry Briesath

Available now at thepoolschool.com
Coming soon to all Internet suppliers!



POOL PODCASTS

www.poolpodcasts.com

WEST STATE BILLIARDS & POV POOL PRESENT

WCS '18

6TH ANNUAL

COLE DICKSON MEMORIAL

FAMILY



\$3,000 ADDED

9-BALL TOURNAMENT

JUNE 30 - JULY 1

ENTRY* PRO \$125 | AM \$75**

RACE 8/6 OPEN TO 96 PLAYERS

\$25 LATE FEE ASSESSED AFTER JUNE 23RD

** PRO ENTRY BASED ON A 720 FARGO RATING

FAMILY BILLIARDS

2807 GEARY BLVD.

SAN FRANCISCO, CA

(415) 931-1115

Live Stream Presented by P.O.V. Pool



www.POVPOOL.com



www.WESTSTATEBILLIARDS.COM



JB CASES