

# Billiards Buzz

an **A Z B** publication

vol.9, Issue January 2025



# TEAM EUROPE TRIUMPHANT

Brought to you by the team at  
AzBilliards.com

**CONTRIBUTORS:**

Skip Maloney  
Erwin Dionisio  
Phil Capelle  
Anthony Beeler  
Steve Lillis  
Tim Gallagher  
WPBA  
Mary Kenniston  
Jack Mitchell - Matchroom  
Multi Sport  
Taka Wu - Matchroom Multi Sport  
Sandro Menzel  
Emily Duddy  
Pechauer Northeast Womens Tour  
Northwest Women's Pool  
Association  
WPA Artistic Pool Division  
Pool Action TV

**COVER PHOTO:**

Taka Wu - Matchroom Multi Sport

**GRAPHICS AND LAYOUT:**

Natasha Dolovacki  
Nebojsa Dolovacki

© 2017-2025, *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

A GUEST HEAD RAIL FROM SKIP **MALONEY**

Looking ahead to the New Year, I happened to be thinking of the Biblical Serenity Prayer, which is most often associated with Alcoholics Anonymous, but works just as well for the general populace to enlighten each of us on a path to better days. It then occurred to me, that with a slight alteration to its theological roots, it is equally as relevant to the pool community. As we set out on a new year of competition, hoped-for improvement and even some 'return on investment' cash in our pockets, we can turn to the prayer to our benefit.

"May the pool 'gods' grant us the serenity to accept the things we cannot change (random table conditions, room humidity, basic rules, the 'rolls' that don't go our way or the occasional unpleasant/unsportsman-like opponent), the courage to change the things we cannot accept (our approach to shots, our practice routines, our aiming techniques and our own inner struggles versus the occasional frustration of missed shots, games or matches) and, of course, the wisdom to know the difference.

It would appear, through varied lenses, that the pool world is making some major strides towards growth in the professional arena. Talk of making it an Olympic sport has re-surfaced with something of a vengeance. As we enter this new year, there are not really any clear signals that it will be one anytime soon, but the conversation is . . . boisterous and consistent.

There have been struggles between some of the sport's governing bodies and their intersection with the marketing folks (a 'tip of the hat' to Matchroom Sports and digitalpool.com) who have made impressive strides in getting the 'news' out to the general public that pool can be exciting for viewers to watch and profitable for those who create and market major events focused on worldwide, top-notch competition. All of which makes it a bit difficult to determine on which side of the Serenity Prayer each side of all that rests. Is the growth (or lack of) something we should learn to accept because we, individually, cannot change it directly? Or does it require whatever courage is necessary to change it because we cannot accept it, as it is.

Ahh, but for the wisdom to know *that* difference in our world-wide community.

Though aimed at individuals, the Serenity Prayer has a broader target. Every individual who hears it, reads it and attempts to put its central premise to use in their own lives brings a benefit to their own community. The community could be political, artistic, economic or the world of sports, but if more of us in any or all of the above take the Serenity Prayer to heart, we all benefit.

*Wishing you and yours the best  
of all possible New Years!!*



EXCLUSIVE PRODUCTS FOR YOUR: PRO CUES: ORIGINAL ITALIAN LEATHER, NEOPRENE INTERNAL PARTS, LONGONI JACQUARD CANVAS AND MUCH MORE. 4 BUTTS + 8 SHAFTS + SPARES

**Giotto**  
BILLIART ITALY

EXCLUSIVE LEATHER  
CUE BAGS  
MADE IN ITALY

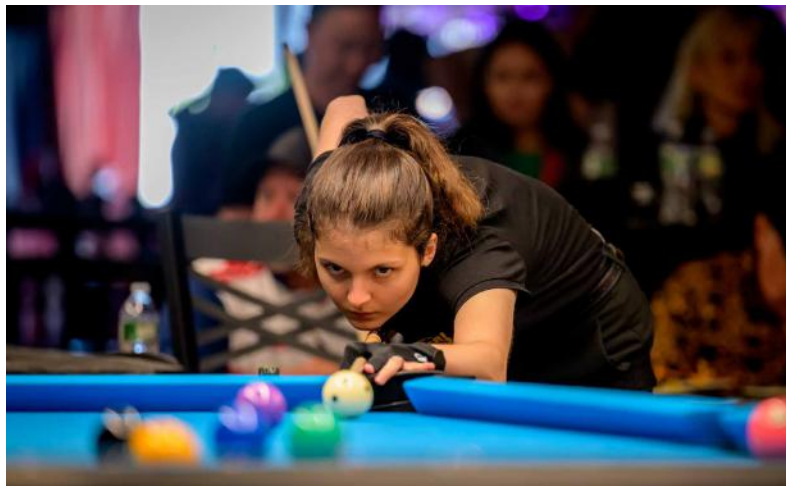
*Sport*

  
**LONGONI**<sup>TM</sup>  
LONGONICASES.COM



## 16 Team Europe Win's Fifth Straight

Story by Jack Mitchell - Matchroom Multi Sport / Photos courtesy Matchroom Multi Sport



## 22 Bojana Saras Wins WPBA Dr. Pool Classic

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

**6 Speeding Up Your Pace of Play**  
Phil Capelle

**10 Precision and Control**  
Anthony Beeler

**12 Gospel Trick Shots**  
Steve Lillis

**26 Johann Chua Wins Marboys Classic**

Story by Jack Mitchell - Matchroom Multi Sport / Photos courtesy Matchroom Multi Sport

**28 Mike Dechaine Wins Maine State 9-Ball Open**

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

**32 Buffalo's Pro Am Classic**

Story by Mary Kenniston / Photos courtesy Pool Action TV

**34 Space City Open XII**

Story by Mary Kenniston / Photos courtesy Pool Action TV

**36 Ashley Benoit Wins JPNEWT Season Finale**

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

**38 Molina Ortiz Wins NWSA Season Finale**

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

**40 Heyball Parasport World Championship**

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

**42 WPA Artistic Pool Announces Hall of Fame Class**

**46 WPA Recognizes Blackball as Official Discipline**

**48 Emily Duddy Renews Jacoby Cues Partnership**

**50 Tournament Results**

**53 Upcoming Events**

**54 AzBilliards Money List**



# Train Smarter. Share the Journey.



Structured practice with real feedback makes every session rewarding. Track progress, improve skills, share drills, and enjoy the journey like never before.



### Track Progress. Measure Your Game.

Visualize your progress with charts, gain insights, and follow tailored recommendations.



### Wear the game.

Your game, always within reach—manage drills and scores from your wrist.



### Tailor & Share your practice

Design custom drills, share them in private or with the community.





# SPEEDING UP YOUR PACE OF PLAY

**Moving into the New Year gives you a chance to start off 2025 with a new plan for developing your game. A big part of that plan could be made up of some time-based exercises – which is what this column is all about.**

## **PRACTICING ON A CLOCK**

You have, no doubt, witnessed the pros playing while “on the clock.” On every shot, once the clock starts running, the pros have 30 seconds to make contact with the cue ball. A warning beeper begins to sound at the 25 second mark. Many knowledgeable observers believe that certain players, especially those who tend to spend a lot of time selecting and planning their shots, are aided by the clock because it prods them into a faster mode of playing – one that actually improves their play.

In previous columns I have talked about amateurs practicing using a clock, and when playing in competition, to act as though they are on one. And who knows, those of you who aspire to become pros may one day find yourself playing in a big pro event with a clock. And, as I have written before, amateurs may someday soon find themselves playing with a clock in amateur events because everyone (but the slowpokes), such as league and tournament players, wants to see the sport played at a faster pace.

## **YOUR 5 SENSES AND THEM SOME**

Your five basic senses include touch, sight, hearing, smell, and taste. But now, so many researchers have discovered that we have so many more

senses than the basic five.

Indeed, I submit that pool uses at least three more: 1) a sense of time, 2) a sense of your speed of stroke, and 3) a sense of space. This last one is best known as proprioception – a special sense which monitors the place we are occupying in the world. This sense is what makes our eye/brain/hand coordination work to near perfection, which is a must if we are to consistently pocket balls where the margin for error is small to microscopic.

As an analogy, top chefs, food critics, and wine tasters pay extra close attention to the taste of food or drink, thereby developing their sense of taste. This could also include their sense of timing, which tells them a meal is finished, and when it is time to serve it. This is analogous to the practice of shooting a shot once you know you have completed your WUS and are in a state of maximum readiness.

So, I am proposing that this exercise will sharpen your sense of time over short intervals. When you have sharpened this sense, you will do what is needed to plan, prepare, and play your shots in the allotted time, and you will be able to pull the trigger when you are good and ready, providing, of course, that you still have time on the clock.

## **CLOCK PRACTICE WITH A PARTNER**

One of the best and most practical ways to improve your pace of play is to practice using a clock with a partner. You could also alternate your clock practices among 2-3 partners.

The allotted time to play each shot can be set at various lengths of time. The ideal times depend on each player's level of skill. Newer players and C players need a little more time to think through their shots and to go through the execution phase of The Shot Cycle (TSC) – so, a 40 second time might be right for these players. For good players, say between the B- to B+ levels, 35 seconds could be ideal. And for A-players and above, use a 30 second clock just like the pros.

The clock starts the moment all balls come to a stop. When the other player is going to take the table, there could be a 5-10 second period after one player is about to depart the table when the clock stops running. The partner who is not at the table acts as the timekeeper.

You and your partner could also have one extension per rack of 9-Ball, as is done with the pros. The extension could be matched to the time the player gets for playing a shot. If you feel that you need to exceed the limit, your sharpened sense of time will enable you to take your extension before incurring a time violation.

## WHAT TO LOOK FOR

While one player is in the timekeeper mode, which could last for one to several shots or an entire rack, one of their additional duties could be to watch their partner as they proceed through TSC.

The timekeeper could be on the lookout for certain flaws in the shooter's routine, and they could also be looking for the things their partner is doing correctly, such as playing a position route with great speed control, as this will reinforce the positives in their partner's games. And, identifying these strengths could keep them from violating the law which states: If It Ain't Broke Don't Fix It.

## ABOUT THE WARNING SOUND

In the pro game a beeper will go off at the 25 second mark as I mentioned above. In our method of practicing while on the clock, I recommend that there be NO warning sound. By practicing this way, a player will further develop their sense for how much time they are taking on all facets of a shot.

On a typical shot, it could work like this: during the beginning stages of each shot, a player may feel like they have plenty of time to plan and execute the shot. At some point, their sense of time spent will push them into making a firm decision. They might then feel as if they have more than enough time to complete their usual execution cycle – still, they do need to get on with it. The execution cycle includes: standing on the line-of-aim (LOA), landing precisely, adjusting, taking enough WUS to get to maximum readiness, and making a relaxed and authoritative stroke into contact.

Since you are not using a warning beeper, there is a chance that you will incur a clock violation since you don't

have its super annoying noise to push you into shooting quickly at the end of your routine.

When you do commit a clock violation (which is ok because this is practice), stop the clock and take a moment to think about what caused the violation. Have your partner tell you where they think you went astray. Did you take too much time planning, or in the execution mode? Did a walkover (which is not recommended) cause you to exceed the limit? As you pile up the number of practice shots you will, with help from your partner, begin to see how you spend your time during all phases of TSC.

## RECORDING YOUR MOVES AND TIMES

A shot might take just a few seconds if it is simple to execute and requires little planning, such as a preplanned stop shot. On shots that take more time, say 20-22+ seconds, have your partner write down the time you went into execution mode. This part of TSC takes place when you stand facing down the LOA and are preparing to land.

Using just two times – the planning time, and the time to execute the shot – keeps it simple. Your increasing awareness of these times will tell you whether you are moving at a good pace, and you will discover through actually playing the shots which types require a bit more time.

For example, on shots that take an above average amount of time to plan, and also to execute, you might spend 18 seconds in the planning phase, and 10 in the execution mode. That is cutting it close, but when your sense of time is super sharp, you may be able to tell when you absolutely must pull the trigger. As another example, on razor thin cut shots, you might need 10 seconds to complete your WUS, which gives you time to dial in your final LOA.

## THE TIME IS SHORT MODE

On some of the more time consuming shots, your internal warning system may tell you that you must hurry up and go into final stroke mode. You will want to, of course, allow sufficient time for the execution mode, and it can be quite problematic on those shots where you need to cut your WUS routine short. Still, this can happen, and you need to be prepared for all eventualities.

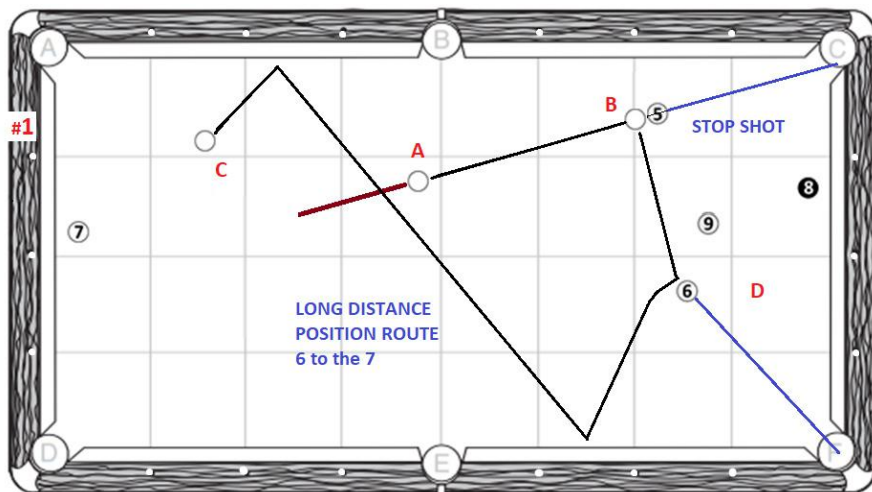
So, when time is running short and you have already used your extension, you need to develop the skill of shooting faster than you'd like to. On these shots, you need to issue yourself a Go signal, and then enter into your final stroke ahead of schedule. When this is the case, it is time to quickly move into your best mode for making your final stroke. This includes a smooth transition, and complete trust in your EBHC as you make your forward stroke into contact.

## DEVELOPING YOUR ROUTINE

One of the beauties of playing under a clock is seeing what elements of potential value that you can comfortably fit into your routine, and which shots to avoid using certain techniques.

If you can get to the standing position rather quickly, then you have bought yourself some valuable time to play the shot in the most relaxed manner possible. With this abundance of time, you could add one or more extras, including: taking a few AWUS, taking a deep breath or two, making a preliminary landing for perspective before getting back into the standing position and, most importantly, performing some extra WUS as needed.

These are the extras that can ensure that your execution is the absolute best that it can be. When you watch your partners, see which elements



they are using, and when it's your turn, have them take note of the ones that are a part of your routine.

## PLAYING A SHOT WITH THE CLOCK

In **Diagram #1** Player A is at the table, and is moving into position to shoot Cue Ball A into the 5-ball. A stop shot will leave him in ideal position at Cue Ball B to play the 6 into the bottom right corner pocket, and to send the cue ball across and down the table to Cue Ball C for good shape on the 7-ball.

When shooting the 5-ball, Player A does not need to spend much time planning the shot, so he will have plenty of time to perform the execution phase of this fairly easy shot. He might also take this bonus time to devise a pattern for the next 2-3 balls.

Since the shot on the 5-ball is a stop shot, Player A knows that the clock will start up again the moment the 5 enters the pocket. Player B, who is the acting timekeeper, knows what shot is going to be played (a stop shot), so he is ready to restart the clock for the shot on the 6-ball.

The route from the 6 to the 7-ball is going to take some time, so Player A can relax for moment and observe his position play unfold. In this case it

was a success. This positive result will go into his memory bank as a model for similar shots in the future.

Meanwhile, Player B (our timekeeper) is watching the cue ball roll to Cue Ball C, and as soon as it stops, he will restart the clock. He might, as I suggested above, make a note on something Player A did well, and how long he took for the execution phase of TSC to unfold.

The moment the ball stops at Cue Ball C, the clock starts, and the next shot, with its unique challenge, is planned and then executed. The objective for this shot is to send the cue ball to Cue Ball D for a small angled cut on the 8-ball. It will take the cue ball several seconds to arrive at Cue Ball D, so

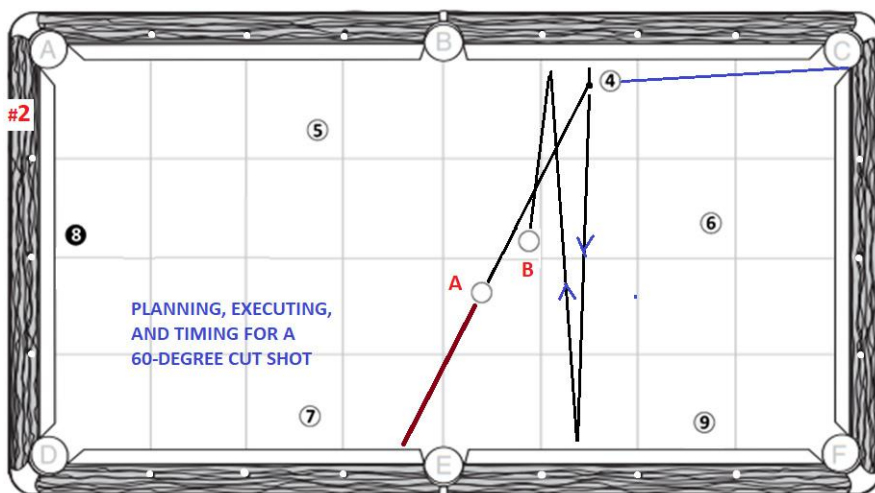
both Players A and B will have ample time to watch this shot unfold, and to assess the results.

## PLANNING AND PLAYING A THIN CUT

The shot on the 4-ball in **Diagram #2** is a 60-degree cut shot. Many things must happen for this shot to be a success, including managing your time well, pocketing a tough cut, and gauging your speed. The latter presents a formidable challenge because the cue ball is going to be rolling about 120" to Position B while crossing the table 2.5 times.

We'll assume that Player A has used his extension on a previous shot, so this one must be played in less than 30 seconds to beat the clock. Player A has just shot, and missed his position zone, leaving himself with this thin slice. Planning the route for this shot takes little time as the position of the balls leaves only one option: fan in the 4-ball and cross the table as shown for the 5-ball, leaving a cut to the left on the 5-ball, which is needed to play shape on the 6-ball.

Planning the execution of the shot will eat up several seconds on the clock. Player A must choose the cueing, which could be a quarter tip of high right english. In addition, Player A must also begin to develop a sense



of the correct speed of stroke, which will be about a 6.5-7 (medium hard to hard) on the Spectrum of Speeds.

While the planning of this shot could take 10-12 seconds or more, even more time will likely be required for the execution cycle to unfold. Player A may take a few extra AWUS and a relaxing deep breath before landing on the table. Then, while a typical shot may require 5-6 WUS to reach the Go signal, this one may take 10+ for the player to feel like they are in a state of maximum readiness.

Once their tip strikes the cue ball, Player A will watch the 4-ball roll towards the pocket and then, as quickly as possible, he will switch his gaze to the cue ball as it crisscrosses the table. While this is happening he may be assessing the success of the shot and begin to make plans for the 5-ball.

While all of this is going on, Player B must patiently wait for Player A's WUS

to come to end, and to sense when he is about to pull the trigger. Once Player A has begun his backstroke, contact will typically be made about a second later. Player B will also shift his gaze to the cue ball once the 4-ball is on its way to the pocket. Because of the above average amount of time that it takes for the cue ball to complete its travels, the timekeeper can easily determine when to restart the clock. In his notes he might write that Player A took 14 seconds in the execution cycle and that he made a very thin cut down the rail.

### **A FORM OF OVERTRAINING**

One of the big benefits of practicing on the clock with a partner is that, when you are playing in competition without a clock, it will seem as if you have all of the time you need, and then some.

Practicing on a clock will alter your sense of time, but this is a very good

thing because it will turn you into a more decisive and confident player, the kind who is far more often able to enter into the flow state, and into the zone that pool players like to refer to as dead stroke.

### **ABOUT PHIL CAPELLE**

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

**POOL'S #1 INSTRUCTIONAL AUTHOR**  
**Phil Capelle**  
All Billiards Press titles  
**AVAILABLE NOW**  
in the Accu-Stats Online Store:  
**www.accu-stats.com**

Accu-Stats Video Productions

# PRECISION AND CONTROL: THE CASE FOR A SLOW BACKSWING

ANTHONY BEELER

In the game of pool and billiards, precision, control, and consistency are paramount to success. One of the key components of executing a perfect shot is the backswing—the motion of the cue stick away from the cue ball before the forward stroke is made. While the forward stroke often gets most of the attention, the backswing plays an equally critical role in ensuring accuracy, power, and overall shot execution. A slow, controlled backswing can make a significant difference in your game, helping to improve shot consistency and reduce mistakes.

## Precision and Control

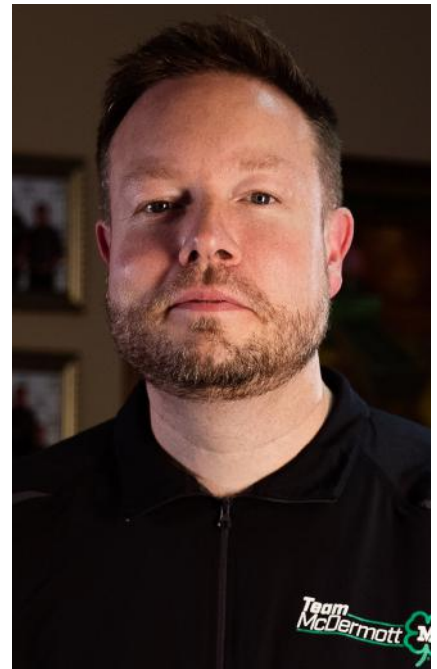
One of the primary benefits of a slow backswing is that it allows for greater control over the shot. A smooth, deliberate backswing gives the player the time to focus on the alignment of the shot and fine-tune their aim. It ensures that the cue stick is properly set in line with the target ball and allows the player to assess their stance and grip.

A fast or erratic backswing can lead to a loss of control, making it difficult to maintain consistent aim. The faster the motion, the more likely it is that your stroke will be less accurate, as you'll have less time to correct minor errors in your aim. A slow, controlled backswing gives the body time to settle into a rhythm, allowing for a more consistent follow-through and a cleaner hit on the cue ball.

## Minimizing Mistakes

Pool and billiards require a high level of precision. Even small mistakes in timing or stroke technique can result in missed shots or poor positioning. A slow backswing helps mitigate these errors by allowing the player to maintain a steady, rhythmic motion throughout the shot process.

When players rush their backswing, they often experience jerky movements that can lead to misalignment, poor follow-through, or hitting the cue ball off-center. These mistakes can cause unwanted spin or deflection, resulting in missed shots. By



focusing on a slow, fluid backswing, players can maintain a better sense of rhythm and timing, reducing the likelihood of errors.

## Generating Power with Control

While some players believe that a faster backswing is needed to generate more power, this is a misconception. Power in pool and billiards comes from a controlled, smooth stroke rather than a hurried backswing. A slow, steady backswing allows the player to store energy in the stroke, which is then released during the forward motion. This provides the cue ball with the necessary speed while maintaining accuracy and reducing the risk of overhitting the ball.

In contrast, a fast backswing can lead to jerky, uncontrolled motions that disrupt the timing of the shot. When the cue stick is rushed, the player loses the ability to smoothly transfer energy into the cue ball, leading to weak or inconsistent shots. A slow backswing ensures that the player can harness maximum control while still generating the necessary power for the shot.



### Consistency in Your Game

Consistency is crucial for success in pool and billiards. By incorporating a slow backswing into your routine, you develop a repeatable motion that you can rely on in every shot. The slower the backswing, the more time you have to check your body position, grip, and alignment. This consistency leads to fewer mistakes and allows players to become more confident in their stroke.

Over time, a slow backswing can become second nature, helping you to approach every shot with the same mindset and technique. This consistency breeds confidence, which is essential for players aiming to improve their game and perform under pressure.

### Metronome

Pro players often use a metronome set to a 2-second beat to improve their stroke timing and rhythm. By setting the metronome to a steady 2-second interval, the player synchronizes their

backswing and follow-through with the metronome's clicks. On the first click, the player pulls the cue stick back to their full backswing, and then on the second click, they strike the cue ball. This exercise helps the player develop a consistent, smooth rhythm for their shots, preventing rushed or jerky movements while building muscle memory for proper stroke timing. Practicing with the metronome encourages control and steadiness, which is crucial for making accurate, well-timed shots under pressure.

### Conclusion

The slow backswing in pool and billiards is an essential aspect of shot

technique that offers numerous benefits. It provides greater precision and control, minimizes mistakes, generates power with consistency, and helps players develop a steady, repeatable stroke. Furthermore, it promotes mental focus and calmness, which are critical for high-level performance. Whether you're a beginner or an advanced player, focusing on a slow and controlled backswing is an effective way to elevate your game and improve your overall shot-making ability. By practicing and refining this aspect of your technique, you'll see noticeable improvements in your consistency and accuracy on the table.

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

NEWLY UPDATED ONLINE COURSE!

Master Instructor  
**ANTHONY BEELER'S**

VIRTUAL BILLIARDS ACADEMY

Instructor of the Decade!

**POOLTEACHER.COM**  
#1 IN POOL INSTRUCTION  
(606) 669-8401

Logos on keyboard: SPM MAGAZINE, ACS, McDermott, pbia, Billiards Buzz

Pool ball: 8

# Gospel Trick Shot #59

## Testing of Your Faith

**History of the Trick Shot:** This shot is based on a similar concept of a very familiar shot taken from the Artistic Pool shot program also known as the “Calling the Corners” trick shot from Discipline 1 of the “Trick and Fancy” category. The original shot has an added ball frozen to the object ball, however in this particular version of the shot the 8-Ball is used alone and is made in the opposite corner pocket.

**GTS Name and Why:** This Gospel Trick Shot is called the “Testing of Your Faith.” Often, we find ourselves in situations where we do not see an obvious solution to a problem we are facing. In this shot, you would want to bank the object ball across into the opposite side pocket, but due to the awkward angle of the position of the cue ball, a ‘double kiss’ would prevent the obvious bank shot from being played. This can cause you to feel discouraged and view the ‘double kiss’ as a negative. However, just as in life, we can view our problems negatively, or we can see them as an opportunity to develop us to do greater things for God’s glory. In this shot, the same is true. Instead of seeing the double kiss as a negative, the double kiss actually allows for a great shot to be done. A change of thinking, however, is required to see the negative challenge as an opportunity to develop us for greater things in life for God’s glory.

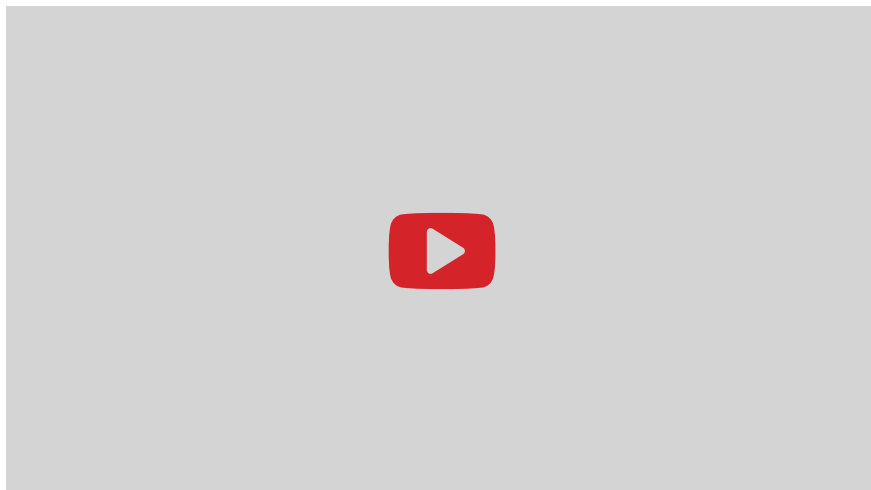
**Scripture References (NKJV):** James 1:2-3  
“My brethren, count it all joy when you fall into various trials, knowing that the testing of your faith produces patience.”

**Cue Ball Placement:** Along the long center line of the table, about a half a diamond from center of the side pockets as shown in the diagram.

**Object Ball(s) Placement:** The 8-Ball is positioned frozen to the rail about a ball width from the side pocket.

**Objective:** Hit the cue ball directly into the 8-Ball using about two tips of left-hand English at a medium pace. The cue ball and 8-Ball should ‘double kiss’ and cause the 8-Ball to be made in the opposite corner pocket.

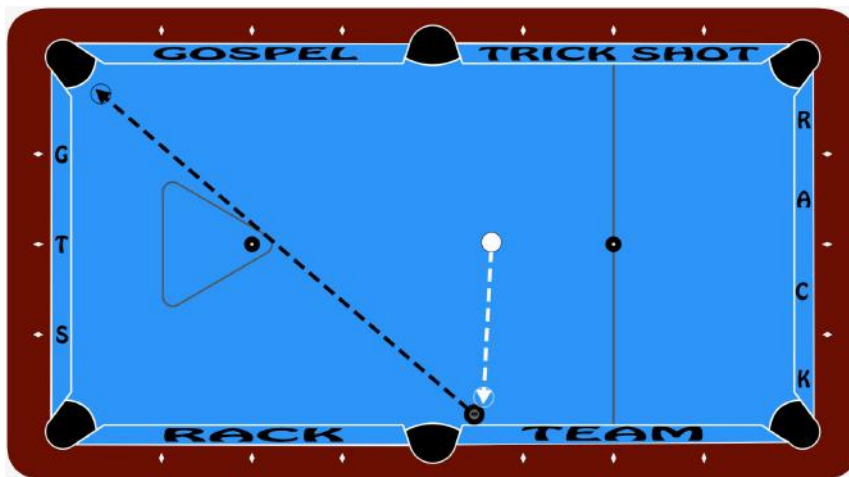
**Special Notes:** This shot is not as easy as it looks, and as the scripture implies, the testing of your faith produces patience. So be patient in working out the correct power and angle

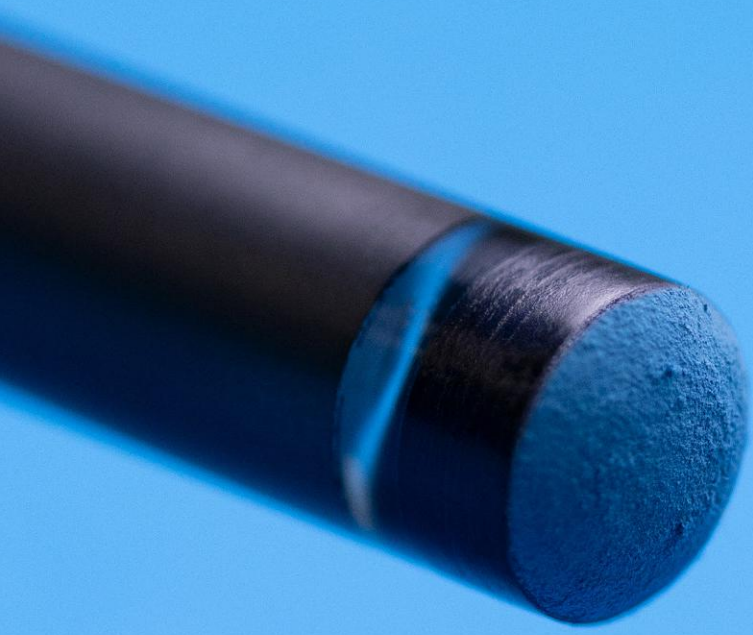


needed to hit the cue ball into the 8-Ball to be made in the corner pocket. If the you find that the 8-Ball misses the pocket into the short rail first you probably need to play the 8-Ball a fraction thinner. If you find you are missing it into the long rail then you will need to play the 8-Ball thicker or fuller.

**Crowd Reactions:** This shot will definitely cause a huge reaction from the crowd as it is not obvious that the 8-Ball can be made into the opposite corner pocket using a ‘double kiss.’ Normally you would miss the shot with your first few attempts, but this is a great opportunity to explain to the crowd how we

ought to learn from the challenges we face. Then we can make the necessary adjustments as we do in our walk of faith with the Lord. After several misses, the crowd would eventually want to see you make the shot which will build more anticipation. When you eventually make the shot, the 8-Ball normally would roll to the corner pocket at a slow pace just making it to the pocket resulting in the crowd roaring with a loud round of applause. After the Gospel Trick Shot is made, let everyone know that they should never lose faith or grow weary when facing challenges, but allow patience to be developed through the testing of our faith!





# ENGAGE

Choose yours:

**11.8 mm**

or

**12.3 mm**

ferrule

**CLEAR**

or

**WHITE**

**29" 30"**

or

**31" length**

 **becue**

**PROLINE**



INSPIRED BY TIMELESS DESIGN. ENGINEERED TO LAST. | [CUETEC.COM](https://www.cuetec.com)

© 2023 CUETEC CO. LTD. ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

**CUETEC**

*Meucci*



ICONIC DESIGNS  
PRECISION HIT  
HANDCRAFTED

Experience the Difference

MADE IN THE USA

# Team Europe Triumphs To Secure Fifth Consecutive Title

Story by Jack Mitchell - Matchroom Multi Sport / Photos courtesy Matchroom Multi Sport

## Day One

Match One: Team USA 1-5 **Team Europe**

Match Two: Skyler Woodward & Billy Thorpe 2-5 **Jayson Shaw & David Alcaide**

Match Three: **Tyler Styer 5-3** Mickey Krause

Match Four: Fedor Gorst & Shane Van Boening 2-5 **Eklent Kaçi & Francisco Sanchez Ruiz**

Match Five: **Skyler Woodward 5-2** Eklent Kaçi

The tournament marks the 31st edition of the prestigious transatlantic showdown, with Team Europe and Team USA vying for ultimate glory in the finale of the 2024 World Nineball Tour. Fans across the globe can witness the drama unfold via Sky Sports in the UK, DAZN in the US and Brazil, and Viaplay in Scandinavia, the Netherlands, Poland, and Iceland.

The day kicked off in classic Mosconi Cup fashion with USA and Europe

meeting in the first teams match. Europe's captain Jayson Shaw set the tone early, outmanoeuvring Fedor Gorst with a crafty safety on the 2-ball to secure the opening rack. Francisco Sanchez Ruiz extended the lead in the second frame, maintaining control against Shane Van Boening. Though USA Captain Skyler Woodward responded with a break-and-run in the third, Eklent Kaçi's clinical break-and-run in the fourth kept Europe ahead. Debutant Mickey Krause capitalised

Team Europe



on a failed safety by Billy Thorpe to get Europe to the hill, before Shaw sealed the match with another precise safety against Gorst, securing Europe's first point.

The second match saw captains Shaw and Woodward face off alongside teammates David Alcaide and Billy Thorpe. Despite Thorpe and Woodward showing flashes of brilliance, Europe capitalised on critical errors to race to a 5-2 victory. A highlight came in the seventh rack, where Shaw and Alcaide executed flawlessly under pressure to put Europe 2-0 ahead in the tournament.

In a highly anticipated singles match, Tyler Styer faced Mickey Krause, making his Mosconi Cup singles debut. Despite Krause showing promise, Styer capitalised on key mistakes, including a missed 2-ball in the sixth rack. With a composed carom shot in the final rack, Styer sealed a 5-3 win, giving USA their first point of the tournament.

The formidable European duo of Kaçi and Ruiz took on Gorst and Van Boening in a star-studded doubles clash. Europe surged ahead with a blend of safety play and break-and-run precision, reaching the hill at 4-1. Though the Americans rallied to close the gap, Kaçi and Ruiz delivered a flawless final rack to win 5-2, extending Europe's lead.

In the final match of the day, Woodward faced Kaçi in a pivotal singles encounter. Kaçi started strong, claiming the first two racks, but Woodward roared back with a commanding four-rack streak to reach the hill. Exploiting Kaçi's errors, Woodward capped off his performance with a break-and-run in the final rack, securing a 5-2 win and narrowing the overall deficit to 3-2 on the first day.

*Billy Thorpe and Skyler Woodward*



**Day Two**

Match One: **Team USA 5-2 Team Europe**

Match Two: **Fedor Gorst 2-5**

**Jayson Shaw**

Match Three: **Billy Thorpe & Tyler Styer 5-4 Jayson Shaw & Mickey Krause**

Match Four: **Shane Van Boening 1-5 Francisco Sanchez Ruiz**

Match Five: **Skyler Woodward & Fedor Gorst 4-5 David Alcaide & Eklent Kaçi**

The day opened with the second team match of the tournament, setting the stage for another dramatic encounter. Jayson Shaw, carrying momentum from Day One, gave Europe an early lead, while David Alcaide capitalised on Fedor Gorst's error to extend it to 2-0. Skyler Woodward countered for Team USA in the third rack, followed by Tyler Styer, who levelled the score after a rare miss from Eklent Kaçi.

Billy Thorpe broke the deadlock with a decisive finish in the fifth rack, and Shane Van Boening delivered a remarkable jump shot to put Team USA

on the hill. Gorst redeemed himself in the final rack with a composed clearance, securing Team USA's first team match win of the event and tying the overall score at 3-3.

In the headline singles match, Jayson Shaw faced rival Fedor Gorst. Shaw capitalised on Gorst's early mistakes, building a commanding lead with highlights including a stunning 2-9 carom in the fourth rack. Despite Gorst narrowing the gap, Shaw's break-and-run in the seventh rack sealed the win, restoring Europe's overall lead.

The first doubles clash of the day saw Billy Thorpe and Tyler Styer take on Jayson Shaw and Mickey Krause. The two sides traded racks early before Europe edged ahead. However, a missed shot on the 8-ball by Shaw allowed Team USA to level. Thorpe's golden break in the seventh rack gave the Americans the upper hand, but Europe forced a decider with a break-and-run. Under mounting pressure, Krause's missed safety gave Team USA the final rack and victory, once again evening the tournament score.

Francisco Sanchez Ruiz delivered a commanding performance in the fourth match, overpowering Shane Van Boening. Ruiz raced to a 2-0 lead, and despite Van Boening claiming one rack, the Spaniard's flawless shot-making in his three consecutive racks closed the match in emphatic style, regaining Europe's lead.

The day's finale featured an intense doubles battle between Skyler Woodward and Fedor Gorst against Eklent Kaçi and David Alcaide. Both teams traded frames throughout, pushing the match to a hill-hill decider. In a critical moment, Gorst's scratch on the break opened the door for Kaçi and Alcaide, who capitalised on the opportunity to claim the final rack and extend Europe's lead to two points.

### Day Three

Match One: **Team USA 5-3 Team Europe**

Match Two: Shane Van Boening & Skyler Woodward 1-5 **Mickey Krause & Francisco Sanchez Ruiz**

Match Three: Billy Thorpe 3-5 **David Alcaide**

Match Four: Fedor Gorst & Tyler Styer 3-5 **Jayson Shaw & Eklent Kaçi**

Day Three began with an intense team match, and Team USA fought hard to claim their first victory of the day. Jayson Shaw opened for Europe with a fortuitous fluke on the 9-ball, but Team USA responded quickly. Skyler Woodward capitalised on a rare error by Francisco Sanchez Ruiz, levelling the score. Fedor Gorst and Tyler Styer seized the momentum, taking advantage of mistakes from Eklent Kaçi and Ruiz to secure the win and close the overall gap to 5-7.

In the first doubles match of the day, Europe's Mickey Krause and Francisco Sanchez Ruiz showcased exceptional teamwork against Shane Van Boening and Skyler Woodward. The European

Fedor Gorst



duo maintained control throughout, with highlights including a stunning hook by Krause and a textbook break-and-run. Despite brief resistance from the Americans, a costly scratch by Woodward in the fifth frame allowed Europe to clinch the match decisively, pushing their lead to 8-5.

Billy Thorpe started strong in his singles match, claiming the opening rack, but Europe's David Alcaide responded with clinical precision, winning three consecutive racks to establish a commanding lead. Thorpe clawed his way back, levelling at 3-3 with a brilliant 3-9 combination shot. However, a scratch in the seventh frame proved costly, as Alcaide capitalised with a flawless two-rack run to secure victory and further extend Europe's advantage to 9-5.

The day's final doubles match saw Jayson Shaw and Eklent Kaçi face Fedor Gorst and Tyler Styer, with the Americans taking the opening frame after Shaw's miss on the 5-ball. The Europeans levelled in the second, but a failed 8-9 carom from Shaw in the third let the Americans regain

the lead, which they extended with a break-and-run in the fourth.

Shaw and Kaçi mounted a stunning three-rack comeback, capitalising on Gorst's scratch in the sixth and delivering a golden break in the seventh to reach the hill. A tense safety battle in the final rack saw Gorst escape a hook but leave a shot for the Europeans, who cleared the table to claim their third win of the day and extend Europe's lead.

### Day Four

Match One: Skyler Woodward 0-5 **Jayson Shaw**

Match Two: **Fedor Gorst 5-4 Mickey Krause**

Match Three: Skyler Woodward 4-5 **Francisco Sanchez Ruiz**

Day Four opened with a high-stakes showdown between the captains, Jayson Shaw and Skyler Woodward. Shaw capitalised on multiple errors from Woodward, including scratches and a dry break, to deliver a clinical 5-0 whitewash. This commanding win brought Europe within a single point of the championship.

INTRODUCING

**LX**

Handcrafted High Performance Cues

**TIGER TECHNOLOGY, TIGER QUALITY,  
TIGER PERFORMANCE.**



Materials:

Ebony/Snakewood/Tulip  
Full Splice - 4 Points

Ebony/Amboyna Burl/Bocote  
Full Splice - 8 Points

Leather Wrap or Wrapless  
Tiger Black Weave

Internal Tiger 5X Maple Patented  
Core System

Laminated Shaft Options:  
Tiger-X, LD or Pro

Carbon Fiber Shaft Upgrades:  
Fortis-X, LD or Pro



LX-8W

LX-5



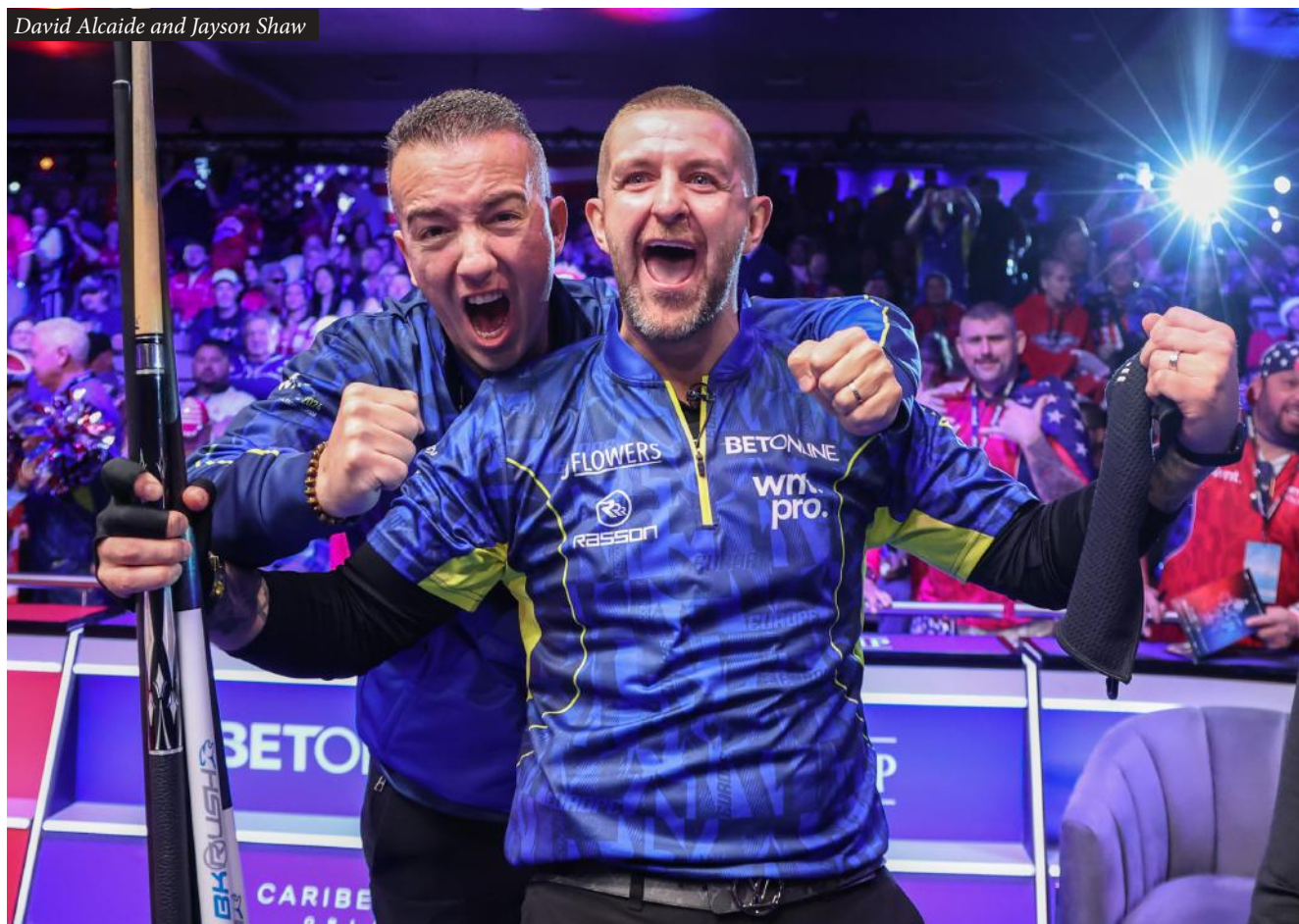
[www.tigerproducts.com](http://www.tigerproducts.com)

Available in 8 Different Models

To Order Call (800) 584 - 4375 or (818) 238 - 9906

Dealers and Distributors Only

David Alcaide and Jayson Shaw



In the second match, reigning World Champion Fedor Gorst sought to keep Team USA's hopes alive against European Open champion Mickey Krause. Gorst surged ahead, winning the first three racks with precision clearances. Krause rallied in impressive fashion, showcasing skill and resilience to draw level at hill-hill. In the decisive rack, Krause's foul on the 5-ball handed Gorst the opportunity to clear the table, securing a hard-fought win for Team USA.

The final match of the day saw Skyler Woodward return to face Francisco Sanchez Ruiz. Despite a strong start from Woodward, Ruiz's sharp play, including a brilliant 3-9 combo and a break-and-run, turned the match into a thrilling contest. With the Mosconi Cup on the line, Ruiz remained composed in the hill-hill decider, deliver-

ing another flawless break-and-run to pot the winning 9-ball and seal Europe's victory.

2024 saw Jayson Shaw etch his name further into the history books. Not only did he secure his seventh Mosconi Cup title and his third MVP award, but he also became the first player ever to be crowned MVP as a playing captain.

Reflecting on the achievement, Shaw remarked: "It has been a lot more work this year, but I'm so proud of

the boys. It's been a pleasure to have them on my team, and I cannot wait till next year."

Team Europe's emphatic performance not only reinforced their dominance in Nineball but also marked a powerful rebound after their close defeat at the inaugural Reyes Cup. With this victory, Europe adds another illustrious chapter to the Mosconi Cup's storied history, leaving fans eager to see what the next edition will bring.

**“ 2024 SAW JAYSON SHAW ETCH HIS NAME FURTHER INTO THE HISTORY BOOKS. NOT ONLY DID HE SECURE HIS SEVENTH MOSCONI CUP TITLE AND HIS THIRD MVP AWARD, BUT HE ALSO BECAME THE FIRST PLAYER EVER TO BE CROWNED MVP AS A PLAYING CAPTAIN. ”**

Billy Thorpe



Eklent Kaçi



Francisco Sanchez-Ruiz



Jayson Shaw



Skyler Woodward



Skyler Woodward and Billy Thorpe



Tyler Styer



# BOJANA SARAC

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

COMES FROM THE LOSS  
SIDE TO WIN WPBA  
DR. POOL/JACOBY TOUR  
CHAMPIONSHIP



Bojana Sarac

She's from Serbia and being more of a 'known' competitor in Europe, Bojana Sarac may have surprised some of her American counterparts this past weekend (Dec. 13-15) when she came from the loss side to down Bulgaria's Kristina Zlateva in the finals and win the \$40,000-added, WPBA's Dr. Pool/Jacoby Tour Championships in Rothschild, WI. It became her second (known) major title, since winning the Predator Group Women's Euro Tour stop at Dynamic Billiards' Ladies Treviso (Italy) Open last November. She entered our AZBilliards' database in August of 2021, which remains her best (recorded) earnings year. Among the Europeans who were not surprised at her win in Wisconsin was Kelly Fisher, who'd battled her in the finals and eventually won the Predator Austria Women's Open in October of that year.

The Dr. Pool/Jacoby Tour Championships drew a total of 80 competitors to the Central Wisconsin Expo Center in Rothschild and played out in two stages. The opening Stage 1 featured 48 un-seeded competitors, who played in a double-elimination bracket until the final eight on each side of that bracket advanced to compete in a second, double-elimination bracket that came loaded with 16 previously-seeded and 16 unseeded competitors. The 32 who'd waited for the conclusion of Stage 1 to begin competing, happened to be the top 32 in the WPBA rankings. Sarac, whose win catapulted her from well below the 'top 32' to #21 (after the win), went undefeated through the Stage 1 bracket, downing Shanna



*Kristina Zlateva and Bojana Sarac with tournament director Jerry Stuckart*

Lewis and Emilyn Callado, both 7-3, with a shutout over Shanelle Lorraine in between them. The field of 16 that advanced to Stage 2 was evenly split between American (Callado, teenager Jordan Helfrey, Sandy Cheng, Tina Larson, Pam Kelly, Laura Smith, Kim Housman) and foreign (Europe, Asia and Far East) competitors.

In her eight-match march to the title, Sarac squared off against three of the WPBA's top 10; one of them, Zlateva, twice. Racing to 8, she opened Stage 2 with an 8-1 victory over Caroline ("Kapow") Pao, and followed that with wins over Janet Atwell (3), Japan's Miina Tani (2), Taipei's Fan Yu Hsuan (5) and drew Bean (Meng-Hsia) Hung in one of the winners' side semifinals.

Zlateva's opponents, in the meantime, kept getting closer and closer to catching her. She started with a win over Olivia Cheng (3) and followed up with victories over Nguyen Bich Tram (4) and Chihiro Kawahara (5) to draw Margarita Fefilova in the other winners' side semifinal.

Sure enough, Fefilova got a rack closer than Zlateva's previous opponents, but "The Zlayer," as she's known, persevered 8-6 and advanced to the hot seat match. She was joined by Sarac, who'd sent Hung to the loss side 8-4. In the hot seat match versus Sarac, Zlateva stopped the 'one-rack-closer' pattern, by dispatching Sarac off to the semifinals 8-6 and claiming the hot seat.

By the time the loss side had whittled down to its final 8, in the battles for 9th/12th, at around 10 p.m. on Saturday night, it was still loaded with potentially significant 'spoilers.' Briana Miller had eliminated Sofia Mast as Kristina Tkach had gotten by Chihiro Kawahara, both 8-4. Kelly Fisher, who'd eliminated Allison Fisher in her previous match 8-4, had defeated Pia Filler 8-4. And Fan Yu Hsuan, who lost

**“ IN HER EIGHT-MATCH MARCH TO THE TITLE, SARAC SQUARED OFF AGAINST THREE OF THE WPBA'S TOP 10; ONE OF THEM, ZLATEVA, TWICE. ”**

her winners' side quarterfinal match to Sarac, began her loss-side trip with something of an 'upset' over Tzu-Chien Wei 8-5.

Hsuan had another surprise up her sleeve, as she advanced to down Filler 8-6. Miller, in the meantime, was busy with something of an 'upset' of her own, eliminating Kawahara 8-5.

The action moved on to Sunday with Miller facing off against Bean Hung, who (presumably) had enjoyed a good night's sleep following her loss to Sarac. So, too, with Fefilova, whose loss to Zlateva set her up against Hsuan.

Fefilova stopped Hsuan's loss-side progress with an 8-2 win and advanced to the quarterfinals. Hung joined her after eliminating Miller 8-5. The quarterfinals and hot seat match went off at about the same time, but the quarterfinals finished an hour earlier. Fefilova eliminated Hung 8-4 and

waited for Zlateva to claim the hot seat.

The semifinal match between Fefilova and Sarac was the 11th and last double-hill match of the 126 matches played in Stage 2 of the Dr. Pool/Jacoby Tour Championships. Two of them involved 14-year-old Savannah Easton, who defeated Emily Callado on the loss side and two rounds later, was herself eliminated by Briana Miller. In two others, Loree Jon Brown eliminated April Larson and Monica Webb defeated stream announcer Lonnie-Fox Raymond.

It was Sarac who prevailed in the semifinals to earn her second shot at Zlateva, waiting for her in the hot seat. Though likely reluctant to renew the pattern that she'd established with her previous opponents, what Zlateva didn't expect was that the next racks-against figure, in the finals, would in-

deed reach '7,' but they'd be her racks against Sarac. Sarac claimed the Dr. Pool/Jacoby Tour Championship title 10-7.

WPBA representatives thanked the ownership and staff at the Central Wisconsin Expo Center for their hospitality, as well as Dr. Pool Promotions and Jacoby Custom Cues. They also extended thanks to Presenting Sponsors Viking Cues, Olhausen Billiards, and Brunswick; Titanium Sponsors Diamond Billiard Products and Aramith Balls; Platinum Sponsors Simonis Cloth, How Professional Tips and Cues, Big Family Custom Creations, www.icitraining.com, Kamui Chalk, and Castillo Handmade Leather Products; Diamond Sponsors RJH Custom Cues, www.digitalpool.com, and Perfect Rack; and Gold Sponsors Iowa City Metro Pool League, Holt Family Dental Care, and Iowa City Women's 8-Ball League.

**January 17<sup>th</sup> - 26<sup>th</sup> 2025**  
**The Derby City Classic #26**  
**Accu-Stats LIVE PPV - Diamond Aramith/Simonis Arena**  
**9-BALL BIGFOOT 10-BALL BANKS ONE-POCKET**

**Daily PPV Access**  
Enjoy ALL-TABLE viewing only paying for the days you want to see.  
**\$14.95**

**Full PPV Access +**  
Enjoy ALL-TABLE viewing for 10 days + On-Demand Replay!  
**EARLYBIRD Get \$10 Off**  
**No Subscription!**  
~~\$89.95~~ **\$79.95**  
**DiamondTV Subscription**  
Get \$30 Off then \$10/mo  
**WOW \$59.95**

**Syndication Access**  
Exclusive remote streaming opportunity! Earn no cost access sharing discount link! Terms & Conditions apply. Deposit may be required. Get your link below @ [digitalpool.net/dpsyn](http://digitalpool.net/dpsyn)

Master Billiard, Diamond Billiard Products, Inc., Simonis Cloth, Aramith, Caesars

**SCAN YOUR PPV PASS TODAY!**  
[digitalpool.net/diamond](http://digitalpool.net/diamond)

Accu-Stats Video Productions



## The best playing experience

Endorsed by professionals and used in virtually all major tournaments worldwide, Iwan Simonis and Aramith offer players the highest standards, both in terms of quality and performance.

As seen in all Matchroom events, the combination of the Shark Grey Simonis 860 cloth and the Aramith Tournament Black ball set provides pool players with the ultimate equipment for the most accurate play.



# JOHANN CHUA

## SECURES HOMETOWN VICTORY AT THE INAUGURAL MARBOYS OPEN

The inaugural Marboys Open, a thrilling new addition to the World Nineball Tour (WNT) calendar, delivered world-class pool action in Parañaque City, Philippines, where local hero Johann Chua triumphed in impressive fashion to secure the title.

Chua's journey to victory wasn't without its challenges. In a tightly contested semi-final, he narrowly overcame rising Filipino star AJ Manas. However, in the final, Chua showed his class, delivering a dominant performance to defeat Aloysius Yapp 13-2. This victory marks Chua's third WNT title of the year, further solidifying his remarkable achievements following his victories at the Hanoi Open and the Reyes Cup with Team Asia.

The win earned Chua \$18,000 and securing his position at fourth in the WNT rankings, surpassing Alcaide, Yapp, and Ko Pin Chung. Yapp, who earned \$9,000 for his runner-up finish, now sits fifth. Meanwhile, Francisco Sanchez Ruiz remains in the top three, bolstered by a strong quarter-final showing.

Johann Chua said: "I'm thrilled with the victory, especially since it's in my home country. I'm still a bit speechless about what's happened over the past few months, but I'm focused on next year and doing everything I can to improve."

The Marboys Open not only showcased Chua's dominance but also underscored the growing prominence of

pool in the Philippines, with passionate fans rallying behind their champion.

As the 2024 year nears its conclusion, attention now shifts to the 3rd Universal Chinese Taipei Open, taking place from December 16-18, 2024, in Taipei City. There, Chua will be hunting for a third WNT ranking event title, joined by fellow elite players including Reyes Cup MVP Aloysius Yapp, UK Open champion Robbie Capito, European Open champion Mickey Krause, former World Champions Francisco Sanchez Ruiz and Carlo Biado, and Chinese Taipei's Ko Ping Chung and Ko Pin Yi.

Expect more thrilling action as the year wraps up.



# JOHANN CHUA



# NO ONE SAID IT HAD TO BE A FAIR FIGHT

WHEN PERFORMANCE MATTERS



K2's True Path Low Deflection Technology instantly gives any player the upper hand. The power packed front end construction features a low deflection core filled with our state-of-the-art Feedback Control Foam, a 15" pro taper, and is topped off with an Everest Tip. K2's accuracy, playability and forgiveness is unmatched. Use K2 when performance matters!

**Call 888-308-5632 for a dealer near you.**



PLAYKODA.COM

# “FIREBALL” MIKE DECHAINED GOES UNDEFEATED TO WIN INAUGURAL STATE OF MAINE 9-BALL OPEN

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

It's been almost four years (April 2021) since Mike Dechaine, aka Fireball, has recorded an event victory here on AZBilliards. It's been almost a decade since he had his best recorded earnings year (2015), when he climbed to #13 on the AZBilliards Money Leaderboard. It's been a few days since he went undefeated to claim the State

of Maine's inaugural, \$3,000-added Open 9-Ball Tournament, which drew 95 entrants to Forest City Billiards in Portland, ME this past weekend (Nov. 30-Dec. 1). So, being only the third cash payout he's recorded over the past two years, we wondered whether this appearance may have marked the beginning of a 'comeback' thing for him.

“No!” he said; quick, sure and with a touch of ‘are you kidding?’ surprise that the question had even been asked. “I have no interest, no drive to compete or pursue it again. I just don't think the value is there. It's still a money pit and just not lucrative enough to want to pursue it as a career.”



*Mike Dechaine*

“I’ll occasionally go to a tournament; no motive, really, probably more of a vacation,” he added. “It’s usually on a whim and the results aren’t important.”

His real job(s), in the HVAC and real estate industry, don’t afford him a lot of time for maintaining his skills and we wondered how he’d managed to just ‘jump back into the pool,’ literally and figuratively.

“I don’t know,” he said. “During the time I put in before, I was able to learn, understand and do. I think some of that has carried over, but I’m not really all that good right now. I’m mediocre at best.”

Well, if going undefeated through eight matches of the State of Maine’s first Open 9-Ball event is an indication of ‘mediocre,’ one has to wonder what a little more practice and an injection

**“ DECHAIINE WAS THE HIGHEST FARGORATED COMPETITOR (798) IN THE 9-BALL OPEN’S FIELD OF 95 AND OF THE EIGHT PLAYERS IN THE ‘700’ RANGE OF RATES, SEVEN OF THEM WERE AMONG THE TOP EIGHT TO FINISH. ”**

of his former ‘drive to compete’ might do.

“It’s always available,” he said. “I just have to see value!!”

Dechaine was the highest FargoRated competitor (798) in the 9-Ball Open’s field of 95 and of the eight players in the ‘700’ range of rates, seven of them were among the top eight to finish. Dechaine did meet and defeat three of his fellow ‘700’ competitors in his final four matches (facing runner-up Kevin Guimond, at 720, twice) and a ‘655’ (Mike Henderson), who finished in the tie for 12th.

He defeated his first three opponents, with an average FargoRate of 562, by an aggregate score of 27-6. He then defeated Mike Henderson 9-2, downed Tommy Cayer (709) in a winners’ side quarterfinal 9-7 (closest match to that point) and drew Thomas Haas (713) in one of the winners’ side semifinals. Guimond, in the meantime, started out facing four opponents with an average FargoRate of 655 by an aggregate score of 36-8. He then defeated David Hall (709) in one of the winners’ side quarterfinals 9-1 and drew Nick Charette (736) in the other winners’ side semifinal.

*Greg Lamb, Kevin Guimond, Mike Dechaine and room owner, Tyson Trepanier*



## Maine 9-Ball Open

Dechaine gave up a single rack to Haas and advanced to the hot seat match. Guimond joined him, following a 9-7 win over Charette. Dechaine claimed the hot seat 9-5 over Guimond.

On the loss side, where any number of potential 'spoilers' were still at work, Charette drew one of them, Lukas Fracasso-Verner, a familiar New England face, who'd travelled to Maine after competing in events at the International Open in St. Augustine, FL, a week earlier. Fracasso-Verner had lost a winners' side quarterfinal to Thomas Haas 9-3 and then, eliminated Ivalylo Petrov and Tommy Cayer, both 7-2, to draw Charette. David Hall, in the meantime, who'd followed his loss to Guimond with victories over Henderson 7-1 and Denys Zbikowski 7-5, picked up Haas.

Both matches for advancement to the quarterfinal finished 7-3; Haas

over Hall and Fracasso-Verner over Charette. The quarterfinal rematch between Fracasso-Verner and Haas turned into a double-hill fight, with Haas advancing to meet Guimond in the semifinals.

Guimond dropped Haas 7-4 to earn a second shot against Dechaine in the finals. Guimond crept a little closer to Dechaine in their second meetup. He came within a game of forcing double hill, but Dechaine edged out in front 9-7 to claim the Inaugural State of Maine 9-Ball Open title.

"(Room owner) Tyson Trepanier and tour director Greg Lamb did a wonderful job," noted Dechaine. "They did (run) local state tournaments before, but they wanted to draw outside players."

They did just that, drawing them from states all the way down to Pennsylvania and what Trepanier called "a solid


group representing Canada." It is an event that he plans to repeat.

"Forest City Billiards is an almost 11,000 sq. ft. pool hall with 22 total, 9 ft. tables, two 8ft. Valleys, and a 12 ft. Snooker table," said Trepanier, "with all but the 8 ft. Valley tables with new Perimeter Lights."

"We also have ping-pong tables, darts, as well as a full kitchen and bar," he added.

"It was a successful event," said Dechaine, "and yeah, hopefully, it'll carry into next year as well."

Trepanier thanked his staff for their efforts at making such a successful event, Lamb for directing the event, Mike DeMarco from Ship the Cash for the live streaming and sponsors Iwan Simonis Cloth, Brunswick and digitalpool.com.



# 73.3.MILLION+ VIEWS!

**The Accu-Stats YouTube Channel**

SAVE  
\$20

**Derby City Classic 2025**  
Jan 17-26

**LIVE PPV+ OnDemand**

Early Bird Special: \$59.95  
After Jan 17: \$79.95

**2025 Accu-Stats Annual FREE Catalog**

**In production NOW!**

For a **FREE** Catalog Featuring **30+** years  
of Pro Tournament Match Action  
download at [accu-stats.com](http://accu-stats.com)

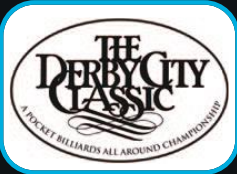
**800.828.0397**

**It's not just a Catalog, it's a History Book!**

## Changing the World of Pool...For Good!

Whether it's via Accu-Stats YouTube Channel, Vimeo OnDemand, PPV+, ROKU Channel, Streaming Video, Billiards TV, Accu-Stats delivers your message to the World...FOREVER!

That's lifetime views generating **6,171,175** watched hours in 2024!  
**WE THANK YOU ALL!**




**From Pool's most grueling Arena:**

**10-DAYS of 9-Ball, One-Pocket, Bank Pool, & BIG FOOT 10-Ball**





**Don't miss a stroke, no matter what your time zone:**

**Get PPV OnDemand**



Have your product or service **exposed** to the most economical and targeted demographic in **POOL:**

Ads start at **\$675...per YEAR!**

Action Photography ©mediumpool



# WANT TO REACH NEW HEIGHTS?

With Aramith billiard balls, you benefit from the highest quality and performance standards in the industry.



Offer a perfect balance for a true and accurate roll



Allow predictable rebounds thanks to the resin elasticity



Respect the most exacting standards from one ball to another



SIMONIS CLOTH  
simoniscloth.com



ARAMITH BALLS  
aramith.com



STRACHAN CLOTH  
strachan.co



FUSIONTABLES  
fusiontables.com

# **GORST, CHOCHAN & KID CHRIS WIN AT BUFFALO'S PRO-AM CLASSIC**

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

**Owner James Leone ("Buffalo") and his General Manager Steve Tesvich ("Bullseye") put out the welcome mat this past week for the \$18,000 added Buffalo's Pro-Am Classic.**

**L**ocated in Jefferson, LA, a suburb of New Orleans, this event featured four divisions – one pocket, a banks ring game, bar table 9 ball and the 9 ball main event.

Presented by PoolActionTV.com and Buffalo's Billiards, local sponsors included attorney Joseph J. Long, Lomax Custom Cues, Simonis, Aramith, Hanshew Jump Cues, JB Cases, Di-

amongd Billiard Products, Inc., Bull Carbon, Durbin Custom Cues, Savage Billiards and the Action Palace of Dayton, OH.

*Fedor Gorst*



The action began on Wednesday evening with nineteen players competing in the \$5,000 added one pocket event. Players with a Fargorate of 619 and below paid a \$200 entry fee, players with a Fargorate of 620-739 paid \$400 and all players with a Fargorate over 740 paid \$600. Format was a race to three and the finals were one race to four.

Putting on a clinic, the final match was all Tony Chohan as he defeated Fedor Gorst 4-0!

The following evening was the \$1,000 added Banks Ring Game. Gorst and Mickey Krause were the two men last standing with Fedor raking in all the chips.

The \$10,000 added 9 Ball Main Event was a ranking event for the World Nineball Tour. Twenty two players posted their \$300 entry fees to compete in this tournament. Format was double elimination (races to 9/7) until down to sixteen players. It was single elimination from there. Played on nine foot Diamonds and using a template rack with the nine racked on the spot, winners broke from the box. Races were 9/7 and players were seeded in the first round according to Nineball World Ranking.

After over two days of play, the field boiled down to Mark Estiola and Fedor Gorst. The finals was one extended race to eleven and Gorst took it down with a score of 11-6.

The \$2,000 added Bar Table 9 Ball event drew 63 players who paid a \$40 entry fee. As in the 9 Ball Main Event, it was double elimination with races to seven until down to the final sixteen players with single elimination from there.

The two finalists were Kid Chris and Tony Fargo (Ferguson). Kid Chris won the final match 7-4.

“ **PUTTING ON A CLINIC, THE FINAL MATCH WAS ALL TONY CHOHAN AS HE DEFEATED FEDOR GORST 4-0!** ”



Tony Chohan

# **CALDERON, HENNESSEE, KRAUSE & KIBAROGLU**

## **ARE SPACE CITY OPEN XII CHAMPS**

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

**Big Tyme Billiards in Spring, TX – a suburb of Houston – wrapped up the year with their \$8,000 added Space City Open XII. Owners Billy Sharp, Mark Avery and Jim Henry and their manager, Jaime Arredondo, welcomed both players and fans to their event.**

Live streamed and promoted by Ray Hansen's PoolActionTV.com, local sponsors included Immediate Smiles, Brutal Game Gear, Poison by Predator, Outsville, Predator, Alamo Billiards, Simonis, Aramith, Jerry Olivier Custom Cues, Diamond Billiard Products, Inc., Savage Billiards and the Fort Worth Billiards Superstore.

The action began on Wednesday evening with the \$1,000 added 9 Ball Banks. This single elimination event drew a full field of 32 players. Paying their \$100 entry fees and racing to four on nine foot tables, it whittled down to Johnathan Pinegar ("Hennessee") and Raed Shabib with Hennessee taking it down 4-2.

Thursday evening was the start of the \$1,000 added One Pocket Championship. Also racing to four, this single elimination event had a full field of 32 players posting a \$100 entry fee.

In the upper portion of the bracket, it was Roberto Gomez and Hennessee who made it to the final four. Roberto eked out a 4-3 win over John Gabriel and then smoked both Mark Estiola and Ernesto Bayaua 4-zip. Hennessee spanked Derek Fontenot, James Bulice and Michael Alonzo – all 4-0.

Alex Calderon



In the lower portion of the bracket, Chip Compton had wins over Donnie Proctor 4-0, Greg Sandifer 4-2 and Alex Calderon – also 4-2. Mickey Krause defeated Brad Danford, Victor Rojas and Eric Aicinena – all 4-0.

Playing to make the finals, it was Hennessee over Roberto and Mickey over Chip – both matches went 4-3.

The finals were tight until Mickey pulled away to defeat Hennessee and win the match 4-2.

The main event – the \$3,500 added Open 9 Ball Championship – began on Friday evening. 114 players posted their \$75 entry fees to play in this double elimination event. Played on seven foot Diamonds, races were 9/7.

In the upper portion of the bracket, Calderon sliced through the field to make the hot seat match. In the first round, Alex blistered James Costello 9-0, defeated Joshua Garcia 9-4, blanked Daniel Bennett and Rizvi Dimalen 9-0, Joey Gray 9-4 and Tommy Tokoph 9-5.

In the lower portion of the chart, Ryan Robinson defeated Christy Munos and Donald Proctor – both 9-1. He then beat Lazaro Martinez III 9-4, Cesar Archiga 9-6, Justin Espinosa 9-4 and Gabriel Martinez 9-7.

The hot seat match began with Alex locking up his seat in the finals 9-4. Ryan headed west to await an opponent.

Trying to stay alive, it was fellow Oklahomans Joey Gray and Chip Compton duking it out. Going down to the case game, it was Chip who survived 7-6 and went on to face Ryan. Joey finished in fourth place.

In another match going down to the wire, Chip again prevailed 7-6 and moved on to the finals. Ryan finished in third place.

Since this was true double elimination, Chip would have to defeat Alex

two sets to claim the title. He took the first set 9-3 forcing a final race to seven for it all.

It went neck and neck with both players on the hill. Alex pocketed the final nine ball to take the match and the title.

While the Open 9 Ball was winding down on Sunday, the \$500 added Ladies 9 Ball was just getting started. A full field of 32 players paid a \$45 entry fee to compete in this double elimination event played on seven foot Diamonds. Races were 7/5.

The Ladies 9 Ball began with Natalie Rocha defeating Erin Lacy 7-4, Jackie Silva and Mille Almaraz – both 7-5 and Genesis Padilla 7-0 to make the hot seat match.

In the lower portion of the bracket, reigning Texas Open 9 Ball champ, Turkey's Eylul Kibaroglu, worked her way through the field. She posted wins over Lindsey Sanders 7-2, Jaiden Barbour 7-1, Robyn Petrosino 7-3 and Tam Trinh 7-4 to arrive at the hot seat match.

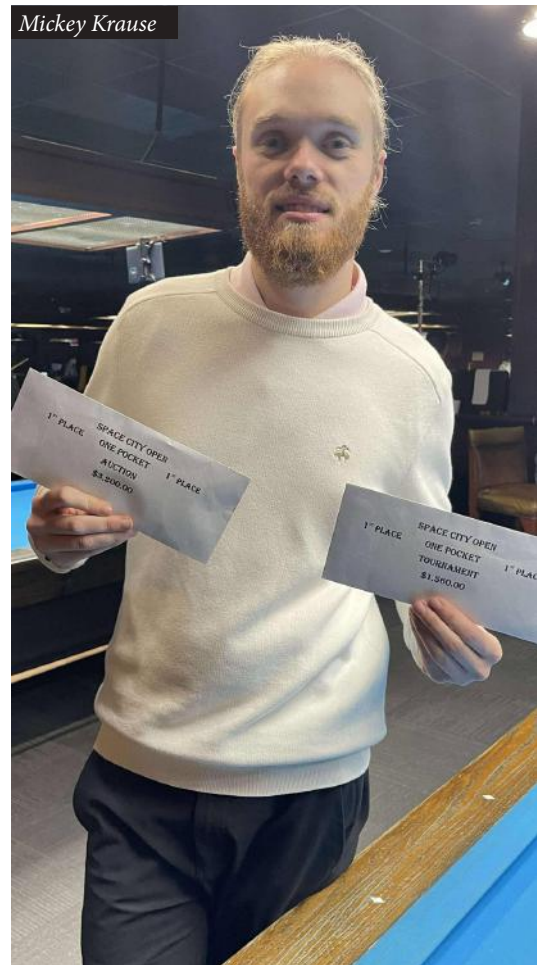
The hot seat match was all Eylul as she trounced Natalie 7-1. Eylul advanced to the finals and Natalie headed west to await for an opponent to emerge.

On the one loss side, it was Mille who eliminated Makenna Sanders 5-2. Makenna finished in fourth place.

Taking no prisoners, Natalie then blistered Mille 5-0 to head back to the finals. Mille finished in third place.

As mentioned previously, Natalie had her work cut out for her as she had to defeat Eylul twice to win the tournament. However, she had to settle for runner-up as Eylul won the match 7-1 and claimed the title.

Congratulations to Alex Calderon, Hennessee, Mickie Krause and Eylul Kibaroglu for becoming this year's Space City Open champions! And, congrats to Hennessee for claiming the \$1,500 All-Around bonus!



# BENOIT COMES FROM THE LOSS SIDE TO DOWN MILLER AND CLAIM JPNEWT SEASON FINALE TITLE

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

It's been an ongoing battle that's stretched out over the past two years. As a prelude to it all, back in July of 2023, JPNEWT Tour Director, Briana Miller and Ashley Benoit came within a match of facing each other in the finals, twice, at a stop on the tour in Pelham, NH. They'd both made it to the winners' side semifinals in that

event, against different opponents. Miller advanced to the hot seat match and defeated Katie Bowse, who'd sent Benoit to the loss side. Benoit won two on the loss side before Bowse defeated her, again, in the semifinals.

Benoit appeared in only four of the 11 stops on the 2023 tour and fin-

ished at #15 in the season's final tour standings. This year has been a different story. She's appeared in seven of the 10 stops this year, including a victory at this past weekend's (Sat., Dec. 7) JPNEWT season finale, the \$3,000-added PA State Women's 9-Ball Championships, which, in collaboration with PA ProAm Pool, drew 33

*Ashley Benoit*



entrants to Bluegrass Billiards in Philadelphia. She has finished the year at #2 in this season's final tour standings.

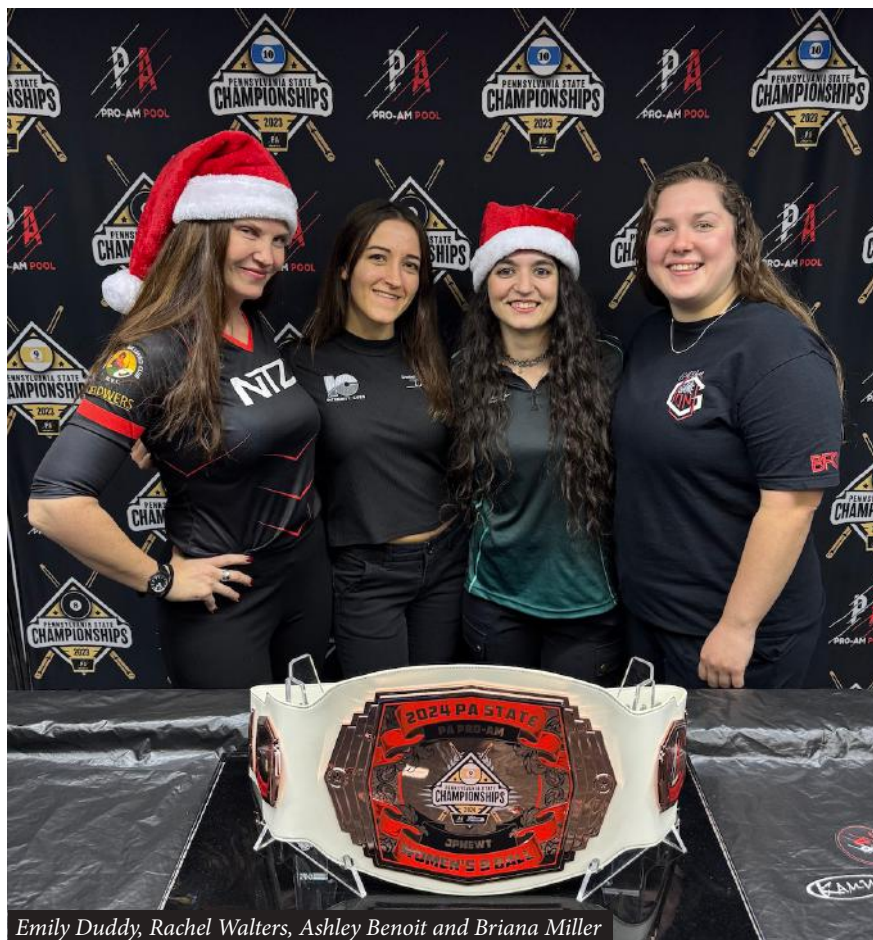
Benoit and Miller have faced off against each other four times in a hot seat match this year and Miller has claimed the seat three times. They have split the top two prizes twice; in June, when Benoit, in a winners' side semifinal, defeated Miller, who returned from the loss side to arrange the split, and the following month, when Benoit claimed the hot seat over Miller and split with her when she returned from the semifinal. In September, Miller claimed the hot seat and negotiated the split when Benoit returned from the semifinals.

Miller has won three of this year's JPNEWT stops outright. Benoit has won two.

This past weekend, the bracket set-up guaranteed that if they met, they would do so in the hot seat match. In races to 6, Benoit started out, over three matches, with an aggregate score of 18-5, downing Emily Duddy (2), Crystal Atkinson (1) and April Hatcher (2). This set her up in a winners' side semifinal against Tina Malm. Miller, in the meantime, who opened with a 6-1 victory over Mindy Maialetti, faced a pair of almost-double-hill challenges (6-4) in her victories over Christine Pross and Rachel Walters, which set her up against Giovanna Napolitano in the other winners' side semifinal.

Malm chalked up as many racks against Benoit as all of Benoit's previous opponents (4), but it wasn't enough, as Benoit advanced to the hot seat match. By the same score, Miller sent Napolitano west. Also by the same score, Miller claimed the hot seat.

Emily Duddy had followed her opening-round loss to Benoit with five straight loss-side wins; downing Jane Im and Christine Pross (both 5-3), shutting out Melissa Jenkins and defeating Nicole Nester and April Hatch-



Emily Duddy, Rachel Walters, Ashley Benoit and Briana Miller

er (both 5-2) to draw Napolitano. Malm picked up Walters, who'd followed her winners' side quarterfinal loss to Miller with victories over Lai Li 5-3 and Marie Althouse 5-1.

Walters downed Malm 5-2 and advanced to the quarterfinals versus Duddy, who'd eliminated Napolitano 5-3. Walters defeated Duddy in those quarterfinals 5-3 and then, was shut-out by Benoit in the semifinals.

They could have opted for their fourth split of the top two prizes, but it being the season finale of the 2024 JPNEWT Tour and given their 2024 match history – Benoit had yet to defeat Miller when she (Miller) occupied the hot seat – they decided to play a final match. They did, however, mutually agree to make it a race to 3, instead of what would otherwise have been to 6. Benoit won her first outright JPNEWT

final match against Miller by shutting her out 3-0 and in addition to her top cash prize, claiming the 'prize belt' awarded to the PA State Women's 9-Ball Champion.

The results left Miller at the top of the JPNEWT leaderboard, which made her the 2024 Tour Champion, with Benoit close on her heels. Rounding out the field of the tour's top five in 2024 were Erica Testa, Joann Mason Parker, and Rachel Lang.

In her role as Tour Director, Miller and PA ProAm Pool's Frank Maialetti, thanked the ownership and staff at Bluegrass Billiards, along with title sponsor J. Pechauer Custom Cues, Kamui, Crossroad Cues, Trophy Smack, InTheBox Sportswear, Marty Magee's Irish Pub, MagicBall Rack, FargoRate, digitalpool.com, Perceptive Lighting and Fast & Loose Designs.

# ORTIZ GOES UNDEFEATED TO CLAIM TITLE TO \$4,000-ADDED, NWPA TOUR'S 2024 SEASON FINALE

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

## Claims Player of the Year and Tour Champion awards at annual Banquet

**I**n what was originally planned to be a \$1,000-added season finale and Annual Awards Banquet for the Northwest Women's Pool Association Tour (NWPA) at one location, turned into something else altogether at a different one. The last-minute change of venue launched a search for an alternative location and prompted a wildly successful search for community support.

"As a result of that last-minute change, we had to make up for our planned, \$1,000-added money," explained tour representative, Nicole Donisi. "We put a call out on social media to our community and received an overwhelming amount of support."

"Many businesses and individuals donated and we ended up with over \$4,000," she added, "all of it going back to player payouts."

To the surprise of no one, Molina Ortiz went undefeated to claim the tour's season finale, claiming her fifth title of the six in which she competed this year (12th in three years) and at the Awards Banquet was named as Tour Champion and Player of the Year (more on these awards a little later). The event drew 45 entrants to what was a new room for the tour and could likely become a regular stop in

the season(s) ahead, the Silver Star Saloon in Vancouver, WA.

Although you never know when it comes to pool tournaments because of the way that they can sometimes turn on a dime and eliminate the

'most likely to succeed,' Molina Ortiz lived up to her two-year billing as the NWPA's Tour Champion. She gave up only six racks in her 42-game march to the hot seat and overall, including the final, finished with an aggregate score of 45-8, for an average game-winning



percentage of 85%. Winning, on average, eight games out of every 10, in races to 6, is a sure-fire way to put a few winning trophies onto one's mantelpiece.

She opened with a 6-2 win over Kelsey Joe, before shutting out two straight opponents, including the runner-up in the year's 'point standings,' Stephanie Drakulic. She moved on to defeat Ashley Julian 6-1 and drew Andy Camping in one of the winners' side semifinals. Katherine Robertson, in the meantime (#4 in the point standings), opened up against Linda Massey, downing her 6-3. She moved on to defeat Amanda Hang (2), Maryann McConnell (4) and Tylyn Holzapfel (2) and faced Kira North in the other winners' side semifinal.

Ortiz chalked up her third shutout, sending Camping to the loss side, as Robertson did likewise to North 6-2. Ortiz defeated Robertson 6-3 and claimed the hot seat.

On the loss side, where a number of spoilers lurked, Stephanie Drakulic (one of them) followed her loss to Ortiz with six straight, which would take her as far as the semifinals. In loss-side races to 5, loss-side wins #3 and #4 eliminated Holzapfel (1) and Nicole Donisi (another one), double hill. In the battles to determine 5th/6th, Drakulic drew Camping. In the other 5th/6th battle, North picked up Ashley

**“ SHE OPENED WITH A 6-2 WIN OVER KELSEY JOE, BEFORE SHUTTING OUT TWO STRAIGHT OPPONENTS, INCLUDING THE RUNNER-UP IN THE YEAR'S 'POINT STANDINGS,' STEPHANIE DRAKULIC. SHE MOVED ON TO DEFEAT ASHLEY JULIAN 6-1 AND DREW ANDY CAMPING IN ONE OF THE WINNERS' SIDE SEMIFINALS. ”**

Julian, who'd followed her winners' side quarterfinal loss to Ortiz by giving up only a single rack in her next 11 games; one to Evelyn Hazlett and none to Angela Higgins.

A pair of spirited 5-3 matches, with Drakulic downing Camping and Julian eliminating North. Drakulic led to the quarterfinals. Drakulic then gave up just a single rack to Julian in that quarterfinal match, before Robertson allowed her only two in the semifinals that followed.

Ortiz closed out the NWPAs 2024 season with a victory in the finals. She defeated Robertson 9-2 to claim the season finale title.

A 15-entrant Second Chance tournament saw Maryann McConnell and Kathie Macdonald battle twice for the title. It was Macdonald claiming the hot seat with a double hill 3-2 win. McConnell moved to the semifinals and

shut out Marian Poole, before returning for a second shot at Macdonald. In an extended race to 4, a second, double-hill battle ensued with McConnell winning it.

In addition to Ortiz' Player of the Year and Tour Champion Awards, the NWPAs Awards Banquet gave its Rookie of the Year award to Tylyn Holzapfel, its Most Improved award to Angela Higgins and President's Awards to Chris Rogers, Kira North, Aimée Wilson-McDonnell and Jordan Oakes.

**“ A 15-ENTRANT SECOND CHANCE TOURNAMENT SAW MARYANN MCCONNELL AND KATHIE MACDONALD BATTLE TWICE FOR THE TITLE. IT WAS MACDONALD CLAIMING THE HOT SEAT WITH A DOUBLE HILL 3-2 WIN. MCCONNELL MOVED TO THE SEMIFINALS AND SHUT OUT MARIAN POOLE, BEFORE RETURNING FOR A SECOND SHOT AT MACDONALD. IN AN EXTENDED RACE TO 4, A SECOND, DOUBLE-HILL BATTLE ENSUED WITH MCCONNELL WINNING IT. ”**

Tour representatives thanked the ownership and staff at the Silver Star Saloon for their hospitality, as well as the too-numerous-to-mention private donations from the 25+ citizens that added \$4,000+ to the amount paid out to the players. Each were thanked individually through social media channels. Representatives also thanked Michael Littman with Littman Lights “for supporting us all year as our official tour sponsor,” JamUp Apparel for being the tour's Apparel partner, Tour Director Chris Rogers, and official stream partner Hill-Hill Productions (Tyrel Datwyler) “for traveling with us all season.” Dates and locations for the 2025 season will be announced after the NWPAs January board meeting.

# HEYBALL PARASPORT WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP CROWNS WINNERS

Photos courtesy Erwin Dionisio

**T**he WPA Heyball Parasport World Championship came to its conclusion on December 20th, after five grueling days of play at the Los Angeles Convention Center.

The wheelchair division came down to two players very familiar with each others games, as the UK's Dave Beaumont defeated Ireland's Fred Dinsmore in a 7-1 final match.

Both players went undefeated in the double elimination first stage of the event, and then navigated the single elimination second stage to face off for the gold.

In the Men's Standing division, it was also two players familiar with each other, as China's Liu Junwei defeated fellow countryman Xue Wen 7-5 in an all Chinese finals .

Again, both players went undefeated through the opening double elimination stage and the single elimination final stage, until meeting each other in the finals.

The ladies division saw a unique finish as American (via the Philippines) Hy-dred Goldberg defeated Switzerland's Catherine Scheeberger in the finals.

These two ladies faced off in the first round of the round robin opening stage of the event, playing down to a spot shot shootout before Goldberg won the match 4-3. Neither player lost a rack for the remainder of the round robin stage and Goldberg won her semi-final match over the Ukraine's Emma Svidzinska 5-0 before facing Schneeberger again in the finals. That final match went to another shootout with Goldberg coming out on top again for the gold medal.



**VANQUISH**

**NEW**

# MACH 1

**CARBON FIBER BREAK CUE**

CARBON FIBER

NEW &  
IMPROVED  
DEFY SHAFT

Introducing the Vanquish Mach 1 - our most technologically-advanced break cue. This state-of-the-art carbon fiber butt features our patented Variable Balance Point technology, which allows you to adjust the weight and balance of your cue. The Mach 1 comes equipped with our newly-engineered Defy break shaft with a Navigator Break Impact tip and phenolic ferrule for maximum power and control.

Available in linen, leather & no-wrap options!

**VBP** WEIGHT SYSTEM

PHENOLIC FERRULE

**NAVIGATOR BREAK IMPACT**

Navigator Break Impact is a hybrid phenolic break tip. Most phenolic tips are designed to generate power, but at the cost of cue ball control. The Break Impact tip's hybrid construction provides tremendous cue ball control without sacrificing power.

**McDermott**  
*Handcrafted Cues*

Learn more at [mcdermottcue.com/mach1](http://mcdermottcue.com/mach1)



# WPA ARTISTIC POOL DIVISION ANNOUNCES INAUGURAL HALL OF FAME CLASS

## WPA ARTISTIC POOL DIVISION ANNOUNCES INAUGURAL HALL OF FAME CLASS

**T**he World Pool Association (WPA) Artistic Pool Division is proud to announce the Inaugural Class for the Artistic Pool Hall of Fame.

### Tom Rossman

Tom Rossman was born in Streator, Ill., and studied business management at Eastern Illinois University. But pool was always Rossman's true passion and he has parlayed that love into a 40-plus year career as a competitor, promoter, innovator, teacher and ambassador in the sport.

Rossman is credited with being the founding father of the modern day "Artistic Pool" movement. Rossman developed and promoted numerous events through the 1990s and was asked by then-World Pool-Billiard Association president Jorgen Sandman to help develop professional artistic pool competitions within the association's worldwide federation and have the discipline formally recognized by the world organization. Rossman served as president of the WPA Artistic Pool Division for more than a decade. The WPA World Artistic Pool Championship was first staged in 2000, and has been held every year since. Rossman won the title in 2006, and was runner-up on three occasions. Tom is

a member of the WPA Artistic Pool Board of Directors. He is also a member of Team USA for Blackball, the team just returned from the Blackball World Championships held in Bridlington, England.

Rossman's efforts in organizing trick shots as a competitive discipline were also instrumental in the development of the ESPN Trick Shot Magic shows, produced by Billiards International. Trick Shot Magic continues to draw the highest ratings of any televised billiard programming in the U.S.



## Mike Massey

Mike Massey won his first professional tournament (9-Ball) in 1971. Considered pool's best trick shot artist for almost 30 years, Mike has given substantial visibility to the sport by traveling the globe to perform exhibitions, teach pool and compete in a variety of disciplines.

He holds multiple national and international titles, including the World Artistic Pool Championship in 2000, '02 and '03. He won the National 9-Ball Championship in 1982, the Senior Masters 9-Ball Championship in 1997 and in 1996 he participated on the winning team in the Mosconi Cup. He has won the World Trick Shot Championships in Snooker on two occasions, and he is a repeat champion of ESPN's Trick Shot Magic, winning in 2000, '01, '03 and '04.

He's been in five movies, acting, performing trick shots or serving as a technical advisor, plus did the voice-over commentary on the DVD of the movie *The Hustler* and recreated the difficult shots performed in the movie and is featured in the documentary. He is also an accomplished country singer and has recorded numerous songs. In 2003, he co-wrote *Mike Massey's World of Trick Shots* with Phil Capelle, and is a regular contributor to billiard publication.



## Posthumously Induction George Middleditch

George Middleditch inducted Posthumously. Born in Detroit, MI to Roy and Henrietta Middleditch on

May 15, 1936 passed away September 14, 2011. He was 75.

George acquired his education in Gaylord, Michigan (class of 1955) where he excelled as an athlete with achievements unchallenged for many years. His passion for billiards took him down a life long professional path.

He traveled the country with his pool stick in hand to engage competitors and entertain with exhibitions. He as a unique individual drawing people in like moths to a flame with his vaudevillian flair.

These three deserving players will be inducted during the Artistic Pool World Championships, being held at the Bay City Boys and Girls Club in Bay City Michigan on February 12th – 15th.

Statewide Billiards will be setting up five Diamond tables for the duration of the event.

Railbirds TV will be streaming the event for free on YouTube.

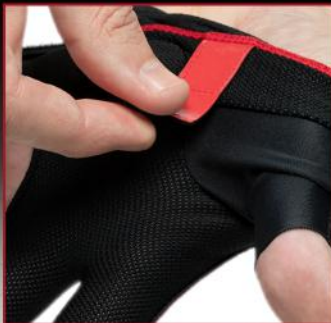
K.O. Diamond Limousine LLC will be providing shuttle service for the event.

In The BX Apparel is the official apparel company for the event and will be donating proceeds from T-Shirt sales to the event.

The Artistic Pool Division has additional sponsorship positions available. Interested parties should contact the Artistic Pool Division President Jason Lynch at [michigankidtrick@gmail.com](mailto:michigankidtrick@gmail.com).



^ X IS



**THE X-FACTOR:** BREATHABLE COMFORT FROM ANY ANGLE.

[CUETEC.COM](http://CUETEC.COM)

© 2020 CUETEC CO. LTD., ALL RIGHTS RESERVED

**CUETEC**

# WPA RECOGNIZES BLACKBALL AS OFFICIAL DISCIPLINE

The World Pool Association (WPA), the international governing body for pool, is delighted to announce that Blackball has been officially recognized as a discipline directly governed by the WPA.

This milestone marks a significant progression in the journey of Blackball, a discipline rooted in the WPA's long-standing commitment to unifying the global pool community.

The WPA's involvement with Blackball dates back nearly 20 years. In 2004, the WPA convened a landmark meeting in London to address the fragmentation caused by differing rule sets in small-table pool games. This pivotal gathering brought together key stakeholders from Europe and Africa, leading to the establishment of Blackball as a modern and standardized version of the game.

The WPA played a crucial role in uniting national organizations under a single set of rules and governance, ensuring the sport's growth and integrity. In 2005, Blackball rules were officially ratified at the WPA General Assembly in Austria, marking the beginning of a new era for small-table pool. The WPA's early vision and support laid the foundation for Blackball's development into a globally recognized discipline.

Ishaun Singh, President of the WPA, shared, "Blackball has been an integral part of the WPA's mission to promote unity and growth within the pool community. The recognition of

Blackball as a WPA discipline celebrates two decades of collaboration and progress. We are proud to formally welcome Blackball into the WPA's fold and look forward to supporting its continued success." The President of the Blackball International (BI), Mr. Vincent Pillay, stated, "The decision to apply to WPA to be adopted as a discipline was unanimous by the council of the BI. It is the obvious next step in the progression of the sport, and we will embrace it for all the positive impacts it will have in Blackball going forward."

This decision underscores the WPA's dedication to fostering diversity within the pool sports ecosystem. By providing Blackball with direct governance, players worldwide will benefit from unified rules, global recognition, and access to prestigious WPA-sanctioned tournaments.

The modern Blackball game, played on small tables with standardized rules, embodies the principles of accessibility and inclusivity. Its dynamic and strategic gameplay has captivated players across Europe, Africa, and beyond, making it a vital part of the international pool scene. The WPA remains steadfast in its commitment to promoting and developing all disciplines of pool, ensuring the sport



thrives in all its diverse and exciting forms

## About World Pool Association

The World Pool Association (WPA) is the international governing body for pool (pocket billiards), dedicated to promoting and regulating the sport of pool worldwide. Formed in 1987, the WPA is headed by a board of directors consisting of representatives from Oceania, Africa, Asia, Europe, North America, and South America with a commitment to fostering fair play, sportsmanship, and excellence for all pool players. The WPA is an associate member of the World Confederation of Billiards Sports (WCBS), which is the international umbrella organization, recognized by the IOC, and that encompasses all major cue sports.

# DIAMOND™

*BILLIARD PRODUCTS, INC.*

THE OFFICIAL TABLE OF THE



RANKED #1 AMONG PLAYERS



DESIGNED BY PLAYERS FOR PLAYERS

FOR MORE INFORMATION PLEASE CALL US AT: 812-288-7665 OR VISIT US AT: [WWW.DIAMONDBILLIARDS.COM](http://WWW.DIAMONDBILLIARDS.COM)

# EMILY DUDDY

## RENEWS PARTNERSHIP WITH JACOBY CUSTOM CUES

In 2021 American WPBA Pro Emily Duddy reached out to Brandon Jacoby of Jacoby Custom Cues out of Nekoosa, Wisconsin in the hopes of partnership. Jacoby quickly responded that they would be thrilled to build Emily a one of a kind cue and sponsor her.

**E**mily, known as “The Billiard Bombshell”, has been a ranked & full time touring Professional on the WPBA & other tours since 2010. She also won the BCA National Team

Championships in 2009 with her women’s team “Kiss Of Death”. She plays out of the famous Amsterdam Billiard Club in NYC. Emily also has a large social media following & has been fea-

tured in multiple reality TV shows, as well as making appearances on “The Today Show” & the daytime show “Harry”.

JOY 乔氏



In her early pro years she played with Predator. Then designed her first custom cue in 2012 with cue maker Steve Klapp & continued to use a predator shaft. After almost 10 years with the same cue she was ready to support another American Custom cue maker & knew Jacoby was one of the best!

It took Jacoby around 9 months to build the cue they co-designed. Featuring butterfly splice work, buffalo turquoise inlays, & a wrapless cocobolo shaft...it was exactly what she had dreamed of!

For the past few years she shot with the low-deflection Ultra Pro wood shaft, but recently she has switched to the Jacoby Blackout 11.8 Carbon Fiber shaft & feels it has taken her game to a new level.

She also fell in love with the Black-Out Jump/Break with the sport grip

**“OUR PARTNERSHIP WITH EMILY HAS BEEN HIGHLY REWARDING. WE EAGERLY ANTICIPATE EXPLORING FUTURE OPPORTUNITIES TOGETHER, ESPECIALLY WITHIN THE BILLIARD WORLD.”**

”

in Black & Red (her signature colors) which she breaks with.

After 3 years together both parties are still happy with their partnership and have renewed their contract for 2024. Emily loves having a one-of-a-kind American made cue and Jacoby is honored to have such a great representative, with one of the biggest followings and personalities in the pool. You can catch Emily's monthly fan appreciation giveaways on her Facebook fanpage where she features

goodies from all her top of the industry sponsors.

“Our partnership with Emily has been highly rewarding. We eagerly anticipate exploring future opportunities together, especially within the billiard world. Her presence has injected significant positivity into the industry and women's pool.” said a representative from Jacoby Custom Cues.

More information on Jacoby Custom Cues can be found online at <https://jacobycustomcues.com/>

**POWER,  
PRECISION  
& CONTROL**

BLACK BLADE CUES ARE ENGINEERED FOR THE **ULTIMATE SHOT**. FEATURING FWD™ WEIGHT TECH FOR A SMOOTHER, STRONGER GAME.

**SCAN TO SHOP NOW**

USE PROMO CODE:  
**HOLIDAY25**  
FOR \$25 OFF

BLACK BLADE CARBON 11.8

BLACK BLADE CARBON 黒刃

# Tourney Results

**Dec 04 - Dec 08**

## Space City Open XII 9-Ball

### Big Tyme Billiards

Spring, Texas

- 1 Alejandro Calderon \$3,000
- 2 Chip Compton \$1,700
- 3 Ryan Robinson \$1,200
- 4 Joey Gray \$800
- 5 Gabriel Martinez \$500
- 5 Tommy Tokoph \$500
- 7 Ernesto Bayaua \$325
- 7 Joey Bourgeois Jr. \$325
- 9 Justin Espinosa \$200
- 9 Lazaro Martinez III \$200
- 9 Mickey Krause \$200
- 9 Shahram Changezi \$200
- 13 Greg Sandifer \$125
- 13 Jonathan Pinegar \$125
- 13 Raed Shabib \$125
- 13 Roberto Gomez \$125
- 17 Cesar Archiga \$80
- 17 Eylul Kybaroglu \$80
- 17 Kenny Nguyen \$80
- 17 Kenny Price \$80
- 17 Rizvi Dimalen \$80
- 17 Sean Black \$80
- 17 Sonny Bosshamer \$80
- 17 Steve Lenz \$80

**Dec 04 - Dec 08**

## Space City Open XII One Pocket

### Big Tyme Billiards

Spring, Texas

- 1 Mickey Krause \$1,560
- 2 Jonathan Pinegar \$800
- 3 Chip Compton \$400
- 3 Roberto Gomez \$400
- 5 Alejandro Calderon \$100
- 5 Eric Aicinena \$100
- 5 Ernesto Bayaua \$100
- 5 Mike Alonzo \$100

**Dec 04 - Dec 08**

## Space City Open XII Bank Pool

### Big Tyme Billiards

Spring, Texas

- 1 Jonathan Pinegar \$1,500
- 2 Raed Shabib \$780
- 3 Ernesto Bayaua \$400
- 3 James Davis Jr. \$400
- 5 Derek Fontenot \$100
- 5 Eric Aicinena \$100
- 5 John Gabriel \$100
- 5 Tommy Tokoph \$100

**Dec 04 - Dec 08**

## Space City Open XII Ladies 9-Ball

### Big Tyme Billiards

Spring, Texas

- 1 Eylul Kybaroglu \$600
- 2 Natalie Rocha \$360
- 3 Mille Almaraz \$220
- 4 Makenna Sanders \$160
- 5 Genesis Padilla \$90
- 5 Tam Trinh \$90
- 7 Jillian Nickerson \$50
- 7 Robyn Petrosino \$50

**Dec 04 - Dec 14**

## Qatar World Cup 10-Ball 2024

### Qatar

- 1 Daniel Maciol \$100,000
- 2 Mario He \$40,000
- 3 Jeffrey De Luna \$15,000
- 3 Mohammad Soufi \$15,000
- 5 Aivhan Maluti \$8,000
- 5 Alexandros Kazakis \$8,000
- 5 Ameer Ali \$8,000
- 5 Arnel Bautista \$8,000
- 9 Albin Ouschan \$5,000
- 9 Jose Alberto Delgado \$5,000

- 9 Jung-Lin Chang \$5,000
- 9 Konstantin Stepanov \$5,000
- 9 Luca Menn \$5,000
- 9 Oliver Szolnoki \$5,000
- 9 Ruslan Chinakhov \$5,000
- 9 Sean Mark Malayan \$5,000
- 17 Ali Nasser Alobadili \$4,000
- 17 Andri Januarta \$4,000
- 17 Bader Al Awadi \$4,000
- 17 Chia-Chen Hsieh \$4,000
- 17 Denis Grabe \$4,000
- 17 Dominik Jastrzab \$4,000
- 17 Fu Huan \$4,000
- 17 Hoang Minh Tai Nguyen \$4,000
- 17 Konrad Juszczyszyn \$4,000
- 17 Leonardo Hipolito \$4,000
- 17 Marlon Manalo \$4,000
- 17 Maximilian Lechner \$4,000
- 17 Naoyuki Oi \$4,000
- 17 Roberto Bartol \$4,000
- 17 Thorsten Hohmann \$4,000
- 17 Yuma Dorner \$4,000
- 33 Abdullah Falah Alfili \$3,000
- 33 Bashar Hussain \$3,000
- 33 Darren Appleton \$3,000
- 33 Dennis Laszkowski \$3,000
- 33 Dimitris Loukatos \$3,000
- 33 Felix Vogel \$3,000
- 33 Hiroshi Takenaka \$3,000
- 33 Hunter Lombardo \$3,000
- 33 John Morra \$3,000
- 33 Khaled Al Otaibi \$3,000
- 33 Kun Lin Wu \$3,000
- 33 Kyle Amoroto \$3,000
- 33 Marco Teutscher \$3,000
- 33 Mateusz Sniegocki \$3,000
- 33 Mazen Berjaoui \$3,000
- 33 Mechel Zahra \$3,000
- 33 Michal Gavenciak \$3,000
- 33 Mieszko Fortunski \$3,000
- 33 Mika Immonen \$3,000
- 33 Mohamad Ali Berjaoui \$3,000

33 Mustafa Hassan \$3,000  
33 Nasser Dwekatt \$3,000  
33 Niels Feijen \$3,000  
33 Omar Al Shaheen \$3,000  
33 Radoslaw Babica \$3,000  
33 Riku Romppainen \$3,000  
33 Roman Hybler \$3,000  
33 Ruben Bautista \$3,000  
33 Sanjin Pehlivanovic \$3,000  
33 Sina Valizadeh \$3,000  
33 Stefan Kasper \$3,000  
33 Wojciech Szewczyk \$3,000

## Dec 05 - Dec 07

### Chohan vs Bergman One Pocket Challenge

#### Railyard Billiards

Louisville, KY  
1 Justin Bergman

## Dec 07 - Dec 08

### NWPA Tour 2024 Stop 7

#### Silver Star Saloon

Vancouver, Washington  
1 Molina Ortiz \$1,620  
2 Katherine Robertson \$1,085  
3 Stephanie Drakulic \$700  
4 Ashley Julian \$470  
5 Andy Camping \$335  
5 Kira North \$335  
7 Angela Higgins \$240  
7 Nicole Donisi \$240  
9 Evelyn Hazlett \$165  
9 Jennifer McKune \$165  
9 Raquel Minjarez \$165  
9 Tylyn Holzapfel \$165  
13 Aimee Wilson-McDonnell \$110  
13 Becky Way \$110  
13 Cindy Rosenthal \$110  
13 Josie Bailus \$110

## Dec 07 - Dec 07

### JPNEWT 2024 Season Finale

#### Bluegrass Billiards

Philadelphia, Pa  
1 Ashley Benoit \$1,400

2 Briana Miller \$1,100  
3 Rachel Walters \$850  
4 Emily Duddy \$550  
5 Giovanna Napolitano \$380  
5 Tina Pawloski Malm \$380  
7 April Hatcher \$150  
7 Marie Althouse \$150

## Dec 11 - Dec 15

### 2024 WPBA Aramith / Dr Pool Classic

#### Central Wisconsin Convention and Expo Center

Rothschild, Wisconsin  
1 Bojana Sarac \$14,000  
2 Kristina Zlateva \$8,500  
3 Marharyta Fefilava \$6,000  
4 Meng-Hsia Hung \$4,500  
5 Briana Miller \$3,400  
5 Chihiro Kawahara \$3,400  
5 Yu-Hsuan Fan \$3,400  
9 Kelly Fisher \$1,700  
9 Kristina Tkach \$1,700  
9 Sofia Mast \$1,700  
9 Tzu-Chien Wei \$1,700  
13 Allison Fisher \$1,400  
13 Chieh-Yu Chou \$1,400  
13 Miina Tani \$1,400  
13 Wan-Ling Wang \$1,400  
17 Brittany Bryant \$1,000  
17 Chia Hua Chen \$1,000  
17 Kaylee McIntosh \$1,000  
17 Loree Jon Hasson \$1,000  
17 Maria Teresa Roper Garcia \$1,000  
17 Nguyen Bich Tram \$1,000  
17 Savannah Easton \$1,000  
17 Soledad Ayala \$1,000

## Dec 11 - Dec 15

### Buffalo's Pro Am Classic Open 9-Ball

#### Buffalo's Billiards

Jefferson, La  
1 Fedor Gorst \$6,800  
2 Mark Estiola \$4,800

3 Mickey Krause \$3,200  
4 Tony Chohan \$1,800

## Dec 11 - Dec 15

### Buffalo's Pro Am Classic One Pocket

#### Buffalo's Billiards

Jefferson, La  
1 Tony Chohan \$5,000  
2 Fedor Gorst \$3,700  
3 Roberto Gomez \$2,500  
4 Mickey Krause \$1,400

## Dec 11 - Dec 15

### Buffalo's Pro Am Classic Bar Table 9-Ball

#### Buffalo's Billiards

Jefferson, La  
1 Chris Kimball \$1,700  
2 Tony Fargo \$950  
3 Jamie Baraks \$600  
4 Jimmy Randolph \$400  
5 Kevin Ping \$255  
5 Todd Babin \$255  
7 Billy Sanders \$160  
7 Michael Luster \$160

## Dec 14 - Dec 14

### Q City 9-Ball Tour Championship

#### The Clubhouse

Lynchburg, Virginia  
1 Joey Tate \$850  
2 Scott Roberts \$520  
3 Thomas Sansone \$340  
4 Greg Taylor \$220  
5 Collin Hall \$115  
5 Eddie Vonderau \$115

## Dec 14 - Dec 15

### Garden State Pool Tour Grand Amateur Championship

#### Shooter's Family Billiards

Wayne, NJ

- 1 Jason Halpin \$800
- 2 Tim Clark \$400
- 3 Chris Hanold \$280
- 4 Pascal Dufresne \$200
- 5 Nicole Adams \$140
- 5 Rick Rodriguez \$140
- 7 Kevin Scalzitti \$100
- 7 Rick Rodriguez \$100

## Dec 20 - Dec 22

### Jersey Girl Deck the Ball Tournament

#### JOB Billiards

Madison, TN

- 1 Scooter Goodwin \$4,100
- 2 Scott Pankey \$2,460
- 3 Brent Harris \$1,300
- 4 Gabe Booth \$1,000
- 5 Jamie Barlow \$450

- 5 Justin Godsey \$450
- 7 Jonathan Pinegar \$250
- 7 Steven Gregory \$250
- 9 David Nunn \$200
- 9 Jeremy Jackson \$200
- 9 Tab Pranee \$200
- 9 Will Freeman \$200
- 13 Joe Matlock \$150
- 13 Manuel Flores \$150
- 13 Parker Martin \$150
- 13 Scotty Boggs \$150
- 17 Andy Schroth \$100
- 17 Danny Winchester \$100
- 17 Jacob Martin \$100
- 17 Mario Hernandez \$100
- 17 Mark Henry \$100
- 17 Ryan Hogans \$100
- 17 Shane Feeney \$100
- 17 Steven Bailey \$100

## Dec 20 - Dec 22

### Jersey Girl Deck the Ball Natural Born Women Division

#### JOB Billiards

Madison, TN

- 1 Kim Pierce \$380
- 2 Pamela Kelly \$280
- 3 Roxanne Pope \$200
- 4 Amanda Huff \$100

## Dec 21 - Dec 21

### Q City 9-Ball Tour Stop

#### Action Billiards

Inman, SC

- 1 Kaleb Hixon \$600
- 2 Landon Hollingsworth \$400
- 3 Roland Meza \$220
- 4 Steven Ellis \$140
- 5 Bill Fowler \$105
- 5 Bob Moore \$105

**SEARCH. FIND. PLAY.**

# PlayPool.com

Locations  
Amenities  
Discounts  
Flyers  
& more

Available on the App Store

ANDROID APP ON Google play

# 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.

## JANUARY/FEBRUARY

### Music City Classic

**Jan 08 - Jan 12**

JOB Billiards  
Madison, TN

### Turning Stone Classic XL

**Jan 09 - Jan 12**

Turning Stone Casino  
Verona, NY

### 2025 Mini Derby

**Jan 09 - Jan 14**

Railyard Billiards  
Louisville, KY

### Quechan Casino Grand Slam 2025

**Jan 12 - Jan 18**

Quechan Casino and Resort  
Yuma, Arizona

### Derby City Classic 2025

**Jan 17 - Jan 27**

Horseshoe Southern Indiana  
Elizabeth, IN

### ACS Midwest 10-Ball BEF Junior Qualifier

**Jan 19 - Jan 19**

River Center  
Davenport, Iowa

### WPBA Iron City Invitational V

**Jan 29 - Feb 02**

Iron City Billiards  
Birmingham, Alabama

### Massachusetts State 9-Ball Championship III

**Feb 01 - Feb 02**

Amazin Billiards  
Malden, Ma

### Joss Tour 2024-2025 Stop 11

**Feb 15 - Feb 16**

Sharpshooters Billiards & Sports Pub  
Amsterdam, NY

### 2025 Las Vegas Open

**Feb 19 - Feb 26**

Rio All-Suite Hotel & Casino  
Las Vegas, NV

### Women's Las Vegas Open 2025

**Feb 25 - Mar 01**

Rio All-Suite Hotel & Casino  
Las Vegas, NV

### Mixed Doubles Open

**Feb 25 - Mar 01**

Rio All-Suite Hotel & Casino  
Las Vegas, NV

# AZBILLIARDS MONEY LIST

	NAME	COUNTRY	\$ AMOUNT	
	Fedor Gorst	 USA	510.163,00 US\$	
	Joshua Filler	 GER	316.488,00 US\$	
	Shane Van Boening	 USA	228.388,00 US\$	
	Carlo Biado	 PHI	209.275,00 US\$	
	Eklent Kaci	 ALB	184.757,00 US\$	
	Francisco Sanchez-Ruiz	 ESP	161.763,00 US\$	
	Mickey Krause	 DEN	150.828,00 US\$	
	Daniel Maciol	 POL	142.172,00 US\$	↑
	Kristina Tkach	 RUS	137.113,00 US\$	↓
	Jayson Shaw	 SCO	124.976,00 US\$	↓

## THE COMPLETE ZERO-X BILLIARDS DVD COLLECTION

# FROM TOR LOWERY

NOW IN STOCK IN THE ACCU-STATS ONLINE STORE

# WWW.ACCU-STATS.COM







# CLASSIC DESIGN, NEW FEEL

## NATURAL BORN NAKED

with K2 leather Wrap



## NAKED BREAK

with 360 Grip



 **becue**

[becueofficial.com](http://becueofficial.com)

Niels Fejer

PRO CUES LINE

2023 BILLIARD CONGRESS OF AMERICA  
HALL OF FAME INDUCTEE

Game cue mod. "FLAMES"

Jump Break cue mod. "TJB22"

Game cue mod. "SPARKLE"

Low deflection "LUNA NERA" graphite shaft



LONGONICUES.COM

