

Billiards Buzz

an  publication

vol.9, Issue September 2025



SINGAPORE SENSATION

CONTRIBUTORS:

Skip Maloney
Erwin Dionisio
Phil Capelle
Anthony Beeler
Mary Kenniston
Steve Lillis
Tim Gallagher

Taka Wu - Matchroom Multi Sport
Matchroom Multi Sport
Johnny Sturgis
WPBA
WCBS

COVER PHOTO:

Taka Wu - Matchroom Multi Sport

GRAPHICS AND LAYOUT:

Natasha Dolovacki
Nebojsa Dolovacki

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FROM THE Head Rail

MIKE HOWERTON

Congratulations to Aloysius Yapp for his back-to-back-to-back performance over the last month with wins in Florida, Atlantic City and Taipei, and the win in Europe back in May.

Pool is a funny game in that we sometimes see this sort of thing. Fedor dominated the major events last year with wins at the World Pool Masters, The World Pool Championship and the US Open.

If you look back at the Veterans of the game, Corey Deuel dominated in 2001 with wins in Japan, Vegas, Reno, Virginia and Maryland. If you want to go further back, Nick Varner was known for winning eight of the sixteen Pro Billiard Association events back in 1989.

You would think that the level of talent in the game right now would keep one player from dominating majors like this, but we all saw Yapp and Fedor's success. Maybe with such a fine line between the player's abilities, that bit of confidence from a win is all they need to get them back over the top in other events. And maybe there is a little intimidation in playing these recent champions. We saw it against Fedor last year. How much will it affect players who are playing Yapp this year.

Will be fun to watch.

Mike



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LESSONS FROM THE WORLD POOL CHAMPIONSHIP

PART 2

INTRODUCTION

Last month the emphasis was on key concepts that can help you to improve your game. In part 2 I will present a few more concepts before I then turn to several of the big shots in the closing stages of the match – shots that thrilled the spectators and that showed the world why pool is the best sport – both to watch, and to play!

EXPRESS YOURSELF

One of the beauties of pool is that you are free to indulge your quirks as you seek to fully express yourself. This can be a good thing providing these oddities add to your game, or at least don't detract from it.

For example, when Biado is at the table, you can see him wiggle his middle finger of his bridge hand. A another less obvious technique of his is the uncurling of two fingers on his hold hand towards the end of his backstroke. I would guess that this move ensures that his fingers and wrist are very loose in preparation of the final forward stroke!

One of the commentators said that Biado sets up with his cue in the low-left tip position, then reroutes it as needed, as does Francisco Bustamante, his fellow Filipino.

While I am not an advocate of this approach to setting up for a shot, I do believe that all of us use our eye/brain/hand coordination to reroute our cue, however so slightly, to fit our mind's eye's conception of the shot – something I call its Shot Picture.

As for Gorst, other than the WO, I don't know of any of his quirks. In fact, his game provides his admirers with a model of how to swing your cue back and forth and how to play great pool!

Maybe you have a quirk or two in your game. That could be good or not-so-good thing. But it advisable that your study your technique with a video camera and/or the help of a qualified instructor.

THE STATE OF A PLAYER'S ARM

The commentators mentioned how the score can affect the current state of a player's arm, for the good or bad. In certain conditions, such as when a player is on a streak of fine play, or is so far behind and they feel like they have nothing to lose, their arm and hand often become so loose and relaxed, which is the state in which we play our best pool. And, when a player is feeling the heat, there is a tendency to tighten up.

Therefore, one of the characteristics of the very best players is that they can stay loose and keep these tight armed stretches to a minimum. Taking a deep breath or two can enable a player to enter back into a relaxed state of body and mind.

GORST'S JUMPING METHOD

When responding to pro quality safeties in which the cue ball is so very close to the object ball, Gorst strikes down on the cue ball at extremely steep angles, as much as is needed to clear the obstructor. His shooting arm, from his hand to his elbow, is close to parallel with the floor.

I am a big fan of using WUS on most shots. Usually 4-8 WUS is about right for most shots. Gorst similarly uses several continuous WUS on his "regular" shots, and he also uses about 6 WUS while preparing to play jump shots as well. I think he does this because these WUS enable him to feel the stroke and to aim as well as possible on these hard-to-see shots.

Jump shots give you a great way to avoid missing the object ball altogether which, as you know, happens quite often on kick shots, even at the pro level. The initial goal on the more difficult jump shots is to hit the object

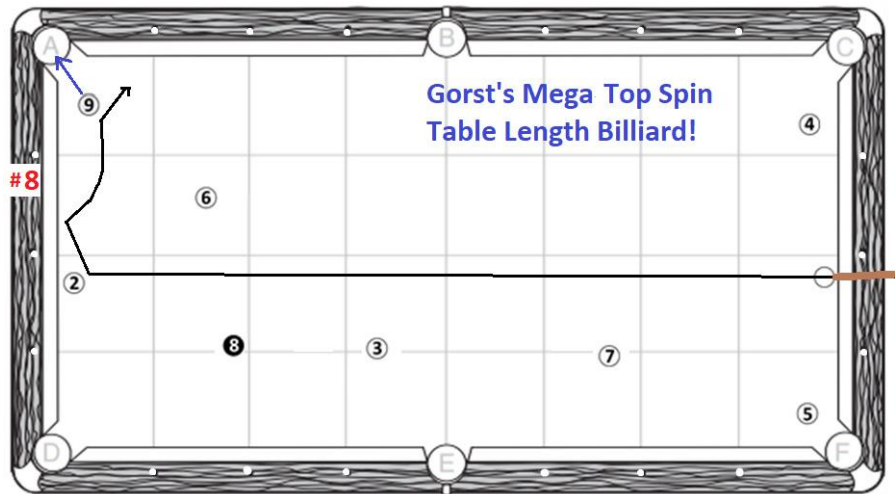
ball and avoid scratching and selling out, which could include jumping a ball off the table.

For a super skilled jump shot artist like Gorst, on the easier ones his odds of making the ball might be as high as 50-90+% depending on the shot. He has become so good on makeable jump shots that he tries to not only make the ball but to play good position!

As an aside, back in the day I, like most good players at the time, were inspired to improve our kicking games once we had the chance to see how Efren Reyes played them. As a result, I love to see the artistry of kicks more often, so if it was up to me, I would limit the number of jump shots in a game or a match. This would restore some much needed balance between the ratio of kick shots to jump shots.

BIADO'S BEAUTIFUL BANK

In Game 22 Biado was playing for shape on the short side of the 8-ball, midway between the corner and the side at Position X as shown in **Diagram 7**. But the cue ball stopped well short of his position zone, so Biado was now faced with a big decision – to play safe or to go for a tough bank. The announcers debated his next course



of action while the spectators anxiously awaited his big decision.

Biado ruled out a cross-side bank, probably because it would have been hard, if not impossible, to avoid a double-kiss with the ball frozen to the rail – plus, these side pockets were super small. After mulling over his options, he chose to play the cross-corner bank into the lower left corner even though the object ball well up on the side rail. His gutsy play was rewarded with a make and an easy shot on the 9-ball – and with a big ovation from the crowd. This high pressure shot also enabled Biado's lead to extend his lead to 13-9.

Sometimes that little decision making voice in your head says to go-for-it. Or,

as commentator Phil Yates so aptly said, *“Seize the moment, that’s what I say.”*

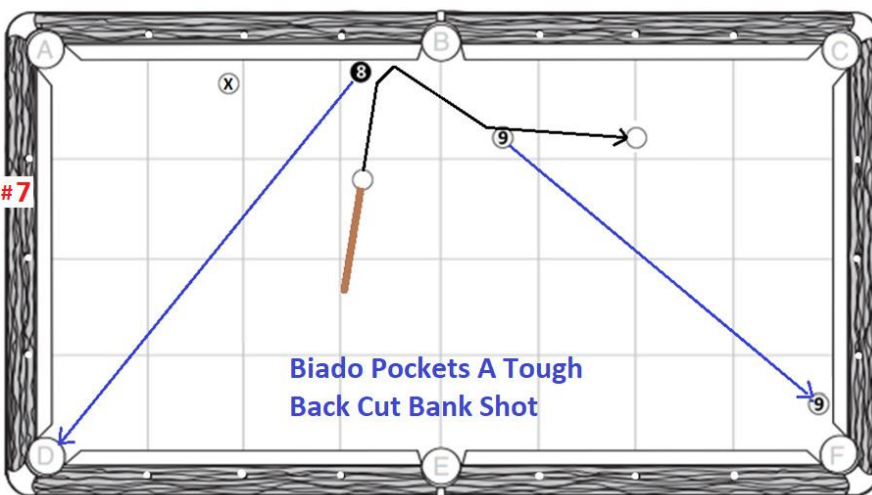
And when your inner shot selector chimes in, as in this case, considering it call because, if you make it, the fans will love it, your confidence will get a boost, and you could end up with a shot for your history book.

GORST'S MEGA BILLIARD

Gorst successfully pocketed the incredible billiard that's shown in **Diagram 8**, which enabled him to close the gap at 13-11. If he has missed and lost the game, he would have fallen 4 games behind, but he didn't because shots like this are what champions do, even under the most extreme circumstances.

Like Biado's bank, this is the type of shot that begs to be played, especially when a good safety is not available. Besides, with the balls strewn all over the table, Gorst might have gotten lucky with a safe even if he had missed the billiard.

Gorst is a very meticulous planner, and on this shot he took an extension so he would have the time needed to walk around the table and to fully survey the situation. Upon inspection



and reflection, Gorst decided to play this table-length mega-top spin billiard. Gorst aimed to hit about half of the 2-ball, and to then have the cue ball leave the rail, only to curve back towards the 9-ball, and to make it, which he managed to do.

I filmed this shot at quarter speed, then used frame advance and freeze frame to add to my understanding of the proceedings. A big takeaway: when you want to study shots in great detail, these techniques promise to shower you with insights.

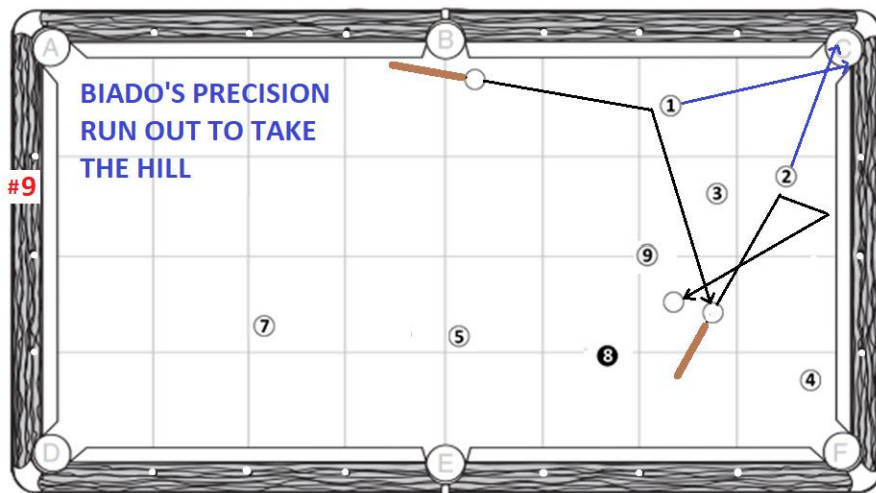
WHEN TO USE YOUR EXTENSION

Anyone who plays using a clock, like the pros, has only one extension per game, so it must be used wisely. Extensions give a player more planning time, more time to execute the shot, or both. On critical shots, especially the ones that are hard to execute, the last thing you need is to hear the buzzer just before making your final stroke.

Lesson: When you watch a match, especially a replay of a most notable one, such as the finals of the WPC, play special attention to those shots when a player chooses to use their extension. Then ask yourself why you think they took the extension and what was their thinking process. Also, look for moves, such as extra WUS, that help in executing the shot.

BIADO'S TAKES THE HILL

Gorst won Game 26 to tie the match at 13-13, or Pre-Double Hill, as I like to call it, at least for now. But he broke dry, leaving Biado with a very makeable 1-6 billiard into Pocket B. Biado rolled it and he displayed his fine touch in controlling both the cue ball and the 1-ball, which ended up in the



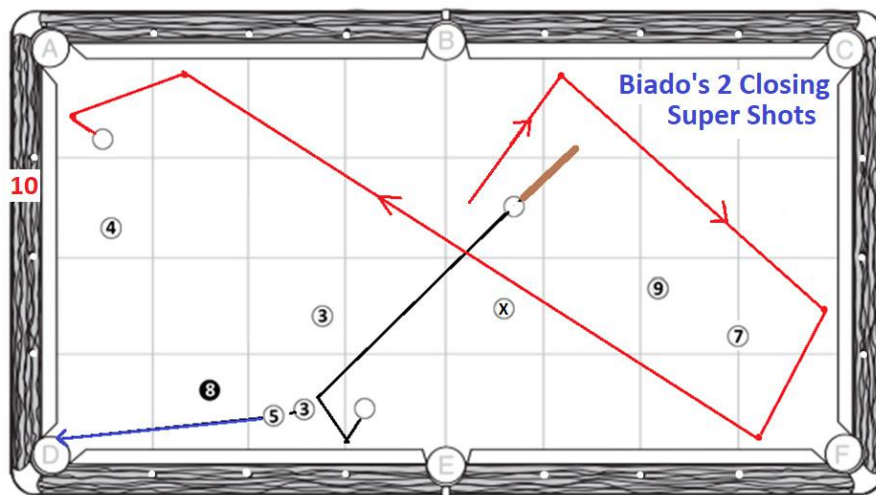
locations shown in **Diagram 9**. He now faced a series of precision position plays that, if executed with the positional skills that he is known for, would set him up for a routine close.

His shot on the 1-ball required a soft draw stroke with great directional control, which he managed in style, sending the cue ball between the 3 and 9 balls for shape on the 2-ball. On the 2-ball he need to play a stun shot with a medium hard stroke (a 6 on the Spectrum of Speeds) with the goal of coming out far enough for the 3-ball, but not so far that he would end up behind the 9-ball, which was acting as a Shadow Ball. Speed is tough to manage on high speed short range posi-

tion plays with trouble balls lurking, but Biado showed us once again that he can, as they say, “control his rock” with the best of them. With his work in Game 27 complete, Biado readied himself for a big closing performance.

BIADO BREAKS AND RUNS OUT

Biado polished off the rack which was featured in the previous section, so when he stepped up to the table to break in Game 28, he had a golden opportunity to close out the match. However, if he lost this pivotal game, the score would be tied once more at 14 each, and the ever dangerous Gorst would have had the break.



Biado was well of the situation, but if he was feeling the pressure, as a mere mortal might, he might have collapsed under the heat. But Biado is a top pro and a winner of many titles including this one, so he knows how to elevate his game when the situation calls for his very best play.

In the April issue of the *Billiards Buzz* my story on Joshua Filler showed the big shot in each of his games on his way to the Derby City title in 9-ball. So, I thought, why not pick out the shot that I believed was the key to Biado's closing run out. As matters would have it, there were two, and they formed one of the best sequences in history.

For starters, Biado's position play from the 2-ball to the 3-5 combo came up short and about a diamond to the right of the ideal location, which is shown by Cue Ball X in **Diagram 10**. So, he now faced one of those combos

that are so incredibly hard to line up. Knowing this, Biado took an extension to size up the shot using his cue as an aiming device.

During his planning process you can see Biado looking up several times at the clock. Finally, after using most of the 60 seconds, he carefully took his stance, swung his cue, and pocketed the 5-ball. And once again, the crowd went crazy.

Still, his work was far from being over, for now Biado faced an around the table position play as shown by the red path in the diagram. He played this

one to sheer perfection, sending the cue ball 5 rails (a total distance of 16', 2") to its final resting place – which was super shape on the 4-ball. From there he cleared the table and then jumped on it, raising his arms in jubilation. As you can imagine, he was one very happy pool player!

Well, that does it till next month. I hoped you enjoyed my take on the World Pool Championship and the amazing play by two of the greatest players in this world, and that you learned some things that will help you to Play Your Best Pool!

ABOUT PHIL CAPELLE

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

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The Order of Operations of Spin: Stun, Follow, Draw

ANTHONY BEELER

It was the semifinals of a professional 9-ball tournament. One of the best female players in the world was playing beautifully—until she faced a routine ball in hand layout. She was shooting the 7 and had easy position on the 8. Instead of using ball in hand to set the cue ball into position for an easy stun shot, she attempted to draw her ball into position. In fact, she hit the shot so well she over drew the shot and scratched in the opposite side pocket. The crowd gasped. Her opponent easily pocketed the 9-ball to advance to the finals.

Afterwards, she was interviewed and said, “I thought draw would give me the best control.” In truth, the opposite was correct. The easiest way to control the cue ball is to follow a logical order of operations: **stun first, then follow, and finally draw**. This sequence isn’t arbitrary—it’s rooted in physics, percentages, and the realities of pressure play.

Stun: Your First and Best Option

Stun shots are the foundation of cue ball control. They occur when the cue



ball slides into the object ball without topspin or backspin, either stopping dead (stop shot) or rolling along the tangent line.

Why are stun shots first in the order?

- **Predictability:** The tangent line is fixed; you always know where the cue ball will go.
- **Stop Shots:** Other than following the tangent line, the only other thing that can happen with a stun shot is for the cue ball to stop dead. Zero cue ball movement equals complete control.

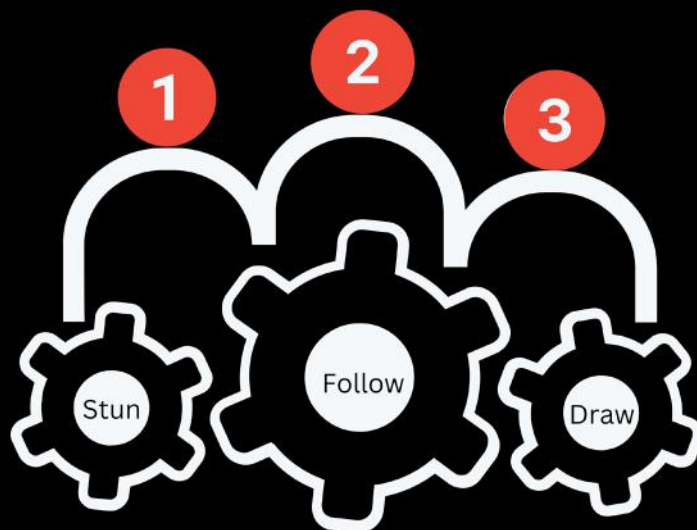
Follow: The Natural Path

If a stun shot won’t get you to your next ball, follow is the next option. A rolling cue ball tends to come off the object ball at about a 30-degree angle—the famous **30-degree rule** applies. This natural path gives you a reliable framework for predicting cue ball travel.

Follow shots are easier to manage than draw because:

- **Consistency**—a well-struck follow behaves predictably if you respect the 30-degree rule.
- **Speed Control**—it’s easier to judge how far the cue ball will roll with follow compared to draw.

ORDER OF OPERATIONS OF SPIN



When you have ball in hand, you should first be looking to stun your cue ball into position for your next shot.

If using stun is not an option, your next choice should be to use follow.

Your last option should be using draw. Draw is much harder to control.

Draw: Your Last Resort

Finally, there's draw—the most difficult option to master. Draw requires you to strike below center, imparting backspin. While it looks impressive when executed perfectly, it's also the most dangerous under pressure.

Why is draw the last option?

- **Speed sensitivity:** Too soft, and the ball won't draw. Too hard, and it over-spins.
- **Margin of error:** Small mistakes in tip placement lead to big differences in the final result.
- **Inconsistency under pressure:** Even seasoned players can struggle to replicate precise draw shots in high-stakes situations.

That doesn't mean you should avoid draw altogether. It's essential for certain positions, but if you can get the same shape with stun or follow, those are always the smarter choices.

Applying the Order in Real Games

When working through a pattern, ask yourself these questions in order:

1. **Can I play this with stun?** If yes, it's usually the best choice.
2. **If not, will follow give me the line I need?**
3. **If not, is draw the only way to achieve the position?**

This decision-making process keeps your cue ball routes simple and increases your percentage of being successful.

Final Thoughts

The order of operations of spin mirrors the order of operations in mathematics: follow the correct sequence and your solutions become more precise. Stun gives you control, follow provides natural movement with pre-

cision, and draw gets you out of tough spots when nothing else will suffice.

Master this process, and you'll not only avoid unnecessary mistakes—you'll begin to see patterns unfold with greater clarity and confidence. And the next time you're in a hill-hill match with the crowd holding its breath, you'll know exactly which choice to trust.

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

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BACK IN TULSA...



We got back to Tulsa just as the sun was coming up. Nearly on empty, we had to pump up again. Wiley Coyote and I went out each night to make some money.

Buddy stayed around the pool room and played all the locals who lined up to play him cheap. After a few days, he told me that Randy's birthday was coming up and we were going to go over to his house with a few others for a party on Sunday.

Sunday rolled around and we drove over to Randy's – the party was already in full swing. I knew almost everyone there and Randy's girlfriend had put together some food and snacks. After a few hours, it was time for Randy to open his presents – Randy's girlfriend wanted him to open hers last.

Randy made quite a haul – almost everyone had gotten him bottles of

liquor. Finally, his girlfriend handed him her gifts. She had gotten him a plaid flannel shirt and a pair of sneakers. She handed him one more package and he ripped it open.

"Oh, baby!" he hollered as he gave her a big hug. "Just what I needed! Thank you so much!"

Leaning forward, we all waited for him to show us what she'd gotten him. Grinning from ear to ear, he held up a pair of Odor Eaters! Everybody chimed in saying what a great gift they were while his girlfriend grinned from ear to ear.

I couldn't help it – I burst out laughing! Laughing so hard I started crying! And then realized I was the only one!

Everyone was looking at me wondering what's so funny! All I know is I would've been mortified if my boyfriend had gotten me Odor Eaters for my birthday!

Anyway, the next day Buddy told me to pack my stuff – we were heading to Houston. Cool, I thought...

It was a long drive – especially in those days of 55 MPH and Buddy made sure he stayed at the speed limit. However, he had a pile of eight tracks – all country music. It was the first time I'd heard of Merle Haggard, George Jones, Mel Tillis, Marty Robbins and so many others. We took turns driving and Buddy played the guitar and sang while I drove.



Sport Palace - New Orleans, LA

Finally, we arrived in Houston and went straight to the pool room. And that was where Buddy introduced me to Al Bonife – better known as “New York Blackie” in the pool world.

Naturally, I was thrilled. I’d heard all about Blackie from my good friend back home – Tommy Halliday – also known as “Staten Island” or “Doc.” Blackie was one of the guys that hung around 7-11 – that infamous New York City pool room that was home to the likes of Jersey Red, Johnny Ervolino, Jimmy Cattrano and Richie Ambrose as well as road players such as Eddie Taylor, Johnny Irish, the Jockey and Boston Shorty among many others.

It turned out that he and Blackie were running mates. They’d been best friends since they’d met in the early sixties at Johnston City. I remember thinking that it was an odd pairing – the city slicker and the country boy. It didn’t take me long to see the mutual respect these two men had for each other – how they’d always had each other’s back. It didn’t take long before the three of us were running around Houston together. They put me in action constantly and both were helping me with my game.

Blackie was like me – maybe it was the New York in us – neither one of us liked to stay in one place too long. Buddy, on the other hand, liked to lay up until the cash evaporated. So, most

of the time, when we were flush, it was Blackie and me. When we weren’t, we were the Three Musketeers. Either way was fine with me – I was living my dream – I was on the road! And not just with anybody, I was on the road with Buddy Hall and New York Blackie and loving every minute of it!

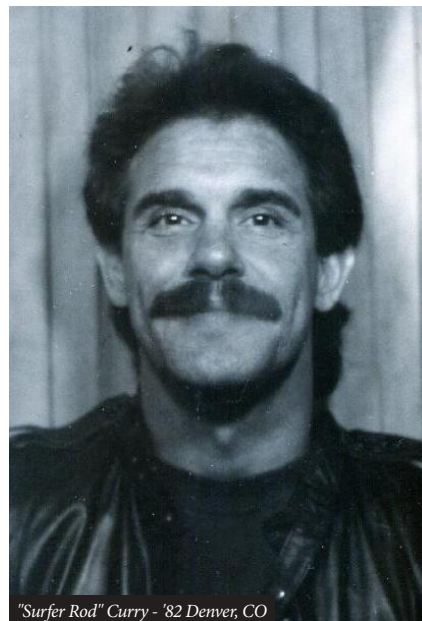
As the year went on, we became good friends and our travels took us to Baton Rouge, New Orleans, Dallas, Austin, San Antonio, Birmingham, Atlanta and all the towns in between. Blackie and I would sometimes get bored with Houston and we’d hit the road without Buddy – wherever the action took us – sometimes as far as the Carolinas. And always on the way back to Houston, we’d lay up for a couple days at one of Blackie’s old haunts – the Sport Palace in New Orleans. He’d play tonk in the back room & I played in the five or ten dollar ring game and stuffed myself with the best boiled shrimp in the universe!

One time we ended up in Tuscaloosa – we had been told to go to the firehouse. The chief had a girlfriend that liked to play. We walked in and told one of the firemen to call the chief to bring his girlfriend to play. Within an hour, we were playing nine ball on the bar box - \$10 on the five and \$20 on the nine. If you made the nine early, it got spotted.

She played OK but not good enough. After a couple hours, they were stuck about \$600. The chief snatched the cue out of her hand and said he’d play me some.

I’d been on the lemon with his girlfriend – mostly just riding the money balls. He played better than she did so I had to come off the stall and bear down. After a few more hours and several hundred dollars later, the chief’s nose was wide open.

Turning around, he pointed at Buddy and snarled, “I’ll play your stakehorse some!”



“Surfer Rod” Curry - '82 Denver, CO

Well, OK...I’m sure you all know how that turned out!

It was later in the year that we heard about two major events coming up – the Rocky Mountain Open in Colorado Springs followed by Richie Florence’s second World 9 Ball ProAm in Las Vegas. I wanted to go - I was playing better than ever and wanted to kick some butt! Blackie and I headed out – Buddy had a few things to take care of and said he’d meet us in Colorado Springs.

By this time, I’d found that Blackie wasn’t the greatest behind the wheel so I did all of the driving. We left Houston and took the interstate up through Dallas and worked our way into Kansas. By this time, it was the middle of the night and I was exhausted after driving for so many hours. We hadn’t seen another car for over an hour as we traveled through the endless miles of farmland so I decided to let Blackie take the wheel. I pulled over, we traded places and I grabbed a pillow from the back seat. Within minutes, I was sound asleep.

BOOM!!!

I awoke to see steam shooting out of the radiator and what looked like



Tommy Halliday (“Doc” or “Staten Island”) & Mary Kenniston - '86 PPPA World Open 14 Championships - Philadelphia, PA

greasy strands of plastic coating the crumpled hood and the windshield. I turned to look at Blackie and he was already climbing out of the car – cursing and running back to see what we’d hit. I got out just in time to see him kicking the hell out of something and hollering, “You son of a @\$%! You @\$%!”

I couldn’t believe it! He hadn’t been behind the wheel ten minutes and he’d hit an antelope! Now here we were – stranded out in the middle of nowhere.

We headed back to the car and saw that the radiator had a gaping hole in it and all the water had emptied onto the road. I didn’t know much about cars but I did know that we couldn’t go anywhere until the engine cooled down.

So, we sat & waited. Started it up, drove about a half mile or so until it started heating up again. Sat and waited again. We did this all night long and finally at daybreak limped into a town – if you could call it a town.

It consisted of a combination post office/small general store/gas station connected to a small restaurant. That was it. By this time, we were cold, starving and exhausted. Blackie

hadn’t said a word all night – he didn’t dare. I was still steaming.

We pulled in front of the place and an old man wandered out. He took one look at the car and drawled, “Oh, y’all must’ve hit one of them pronghorns.”

He told us his wife was just opening up the restaurant and said to go over there and get something to eat while he fixed us right up so I was slightly mollified.

It was barely sunrise and the farmers started streaming in. Each one saw the strangers in the coffee shop and while shaking their heads, said the same thing.

”Y’all must be the folks that hit the pronghorn.”

I summoned up a smile. “Yup, that would be us...”

It took every ounce of restraint for me not to knock some heads together.

I was thrilled when the old man walked in and told us that he could fix the car. That was until he said that we’d have to wait until he could get a radiator from Kansas City.

“And how long will that take?”



Al Bonife - Early '80s - Click's - Dallas, TX1 - PC of H & P

“Oh, probably could get it here in two or three days.”

Just when I didn’t think it could get any worse.

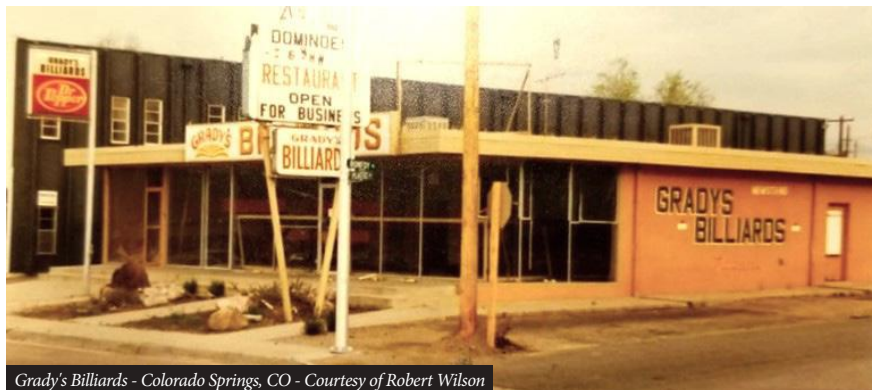
I have to say I can’t think of any other time in my life that seemed as endlessly boring as sitting in that coffee shop all day and sleeping on a couple of cots the old man had set up for us in the back room of that smelly garage. It seemed like an eternity but finally the car had a rebuilt radiator held on by chewing gum and wire. The guy even had the nerve to tack “lodging” on the bill! I didn’t care – I paid it. I was happy to get the hell out of Dodge.

We finally got to Colorado Springs but both of us were so exhausted and stressed out that our tournament performances were less than stellar. We both got into the money but Buddy did well and made it to the finals – finishing second to Mike Sigel.

The best part of the tournament was the round-the-clock action at Grady Mathews’ place. Blackie and I went halves with Buddy in the six-handed \$100 a man ring ten ball game. I



Kat Guest (Kathy Maio) - Opponent Mary Kenniston seated - '80 World 9 Ball ProAm - Las Vegas, NV - Courtesy of Bill Porter



Grady's Billiards - Colorado Springs, CO - Courtesy of Robert Wilson

handled the money for Buddy while Blackie stayed busy playing "Surfer Rod" Curry some one pocket with the big cue ball on the bar table.

The ring game went for days. We knew it wasn't stealing – the lineup had at various points all the stars of the day – Larry Hubbard, Wade Crane, Mike Sigel, Jimmy Reid, Louie Roberts, Danny Medina, David Howard, Jim Rempe, Allen Hopkins – can't remember them all. Buddy slapped a seven on them – nobody minded when he quit.

We hated to leave but it was time to head to Vegas. I have to say, I've traveled all over the country and have seen some beautiful scenery but none as gorgeous as that of the Southwest. The beautiful colors and formations of the rock were stunning. I often wish I'd taken some pictures.

We finally arrived at the Tropicana Hotel and headed down to the tournament room. Everyone was laughing, talking, woofing at each other and generally just excited to be there. Some were already in action! I got wrapped up in the scene and realized after a while that Blackie had disappeared. No big deal – I figured he was having as much fun as I was. Little did I know...

A few hours later, I saw him slowly making his way through the crowd. He looked really down – like he'd lost his best friend. I soon found out it was more than that – he'd lost his entire

bankroll at the tables. Turned out the guy who was such a good manager on the road wasn't such a good one in Vegas.

I was stunned. Lucky for us, I still had my half of our bankroll left so we weren't completely busted. However, now we didn't have the money to put either of us in the tournament – the entry fee was \$600.

I was sick. I saw Buddy across the room and went over and told him what happened.

"Well," he laughed. "Blackie didn't tell you that he was a sucker for the casinos? Wonder why?"

He also told me that he didn't have the extra money to put me in either – he'd paid off some debts. I was devastated – I couldn't believe we drove all the way there and I was going to have to sit on the sidelines.

A couple hours later, I saw Buddy was headed my way with a very handsome, well dressed man. He introduced me to Sid Mann – my new stakehorse! I don't know what Sid thought but I was so happy I gave him a huge hug, thanked him and told him he wouldn't be sorry – I was going to win this thing!

And so the tournament started. I'd win a match and Blackie would hit me for twenty so he could get some cigarettes. I'd win another and Blackie would hit me for fifty. He could not stay away from the tables. And so it went. I finally had to lock up the last of our cash when I caught him trying to get some money out of my pillowcase while I was asleep!

The finals had arrived and I was in them! My opponent was Kathy Maio (Kat Guest). She was on the road with Howard Ikeda and had just won the Rocky Mountain Open. She was looking to make it two in a row. We both played hard – it went to three sets and I finally sunk the winning nine ball! I had won the tournament!

Good thing too! We were down to our last fifty bucks! Sid came over with a fistful of hundreds and peeled off seven of them and handed them to me.

"Seven hundred?!!! Sid, what's this? I've got fourteen hundred coming!"

Sid glanced at Blackie and then it hit me. Blackie was staring at the floor – afraid to look me in the eye. He'd been borrowing from Sid against my winnings.

I was furious. Although it was one in the morning, I didn't care. I had to get us out of Vegas. I headed upstairs to pack with Blackie following sheepishly. After we'd packed our things, I grabbed the atlas. I had no idea where to go. I looked at the map and saw Los Angeles looked pretty close.

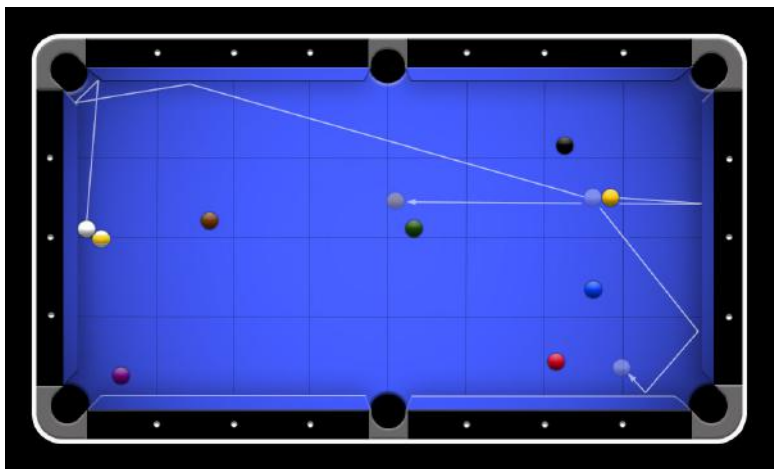
"How far is LA?" I asked him.

"A few hours."

"Good. I've never been to LA. Let's get the hell out of here."

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

F R O M



Accu-Stats Video Productions has been bringing us World Class Pool on video for the last 30 years. With this column, we hope to bring you some examples of the best shots that come up between the greatest players who play this game.

This month's shot comes from a match that we recently pulled from Deep in the Vault, between Kim Davenport and Allen Hopkins.

Allen locked Kim up in a safety on the 1-ball that looked unescapable, but "California" Kim studied things and came up with this beauty.

Grady Mathews wasn't sure what Kim was doing, but Nick Varner saw the shot as Kim kicked out of both points on the corner pocket, and up table to hit the 1-ball and leave Hopkins safe.



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Gospel Trick Shot #67

THE 4 GOSPELS – Matthew, Mark, Luke & John

History of the Trick Shot: This impressive shot, performed by Wayne Parker, takes place on a Chinese-style 9-foot pool table with snooker-style pockets. The shot itself was originally made famous by “Machine Gun” Lou Butera and later featured in the PC video game *Virtual Pool* under the Trick Shot Video section. In Wayne’s version, he successfully pockets four balls into three different pockets with precision and flair. Adding to the excitement, his wife Chantal joins in to assist—making her debut in Gospel Trick Shots—as she replicates the same shot on the opposite side of the table.

GTS Name and Meaning: One of the featured Gospel Trick Shots is titled “The Four Gospels: Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John.” In this demonstration, four balls are pocketed into three different pockets, each ball numbered one through four to represent the first four books of the New Testament. This shot carries a powerful spiritual message. Just as the four Gospels consistently point us to Jesus Christ, so this trick shot highlights how the life of Jesus always glorified His Heavenly Father. Everything He said and did was a reflection of God’s heart and character. To further emphasize the lesson, the shot is also replicated on the opposite side of the table, illustrating the truth of Romans 10:17—“Faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the Word of God.” Through this creative illustration, the audience is reminded that the Gospels are not just historical accounts, but living testimonies of Jesus’ mission to reveal the Father’s love and bring salvation to the world.

Scripture Reference: John 14:9 (NKJV): “...He who has seen Me has seen the Father...”

John 5:19 (NKJV): “...the Son can do nothing of Himself, but what He sees the Father do...”

Ball Placement: Cue Ball(s): Place the cue ball(s) on the table as shown in the diagram.

Object Balls:

1-Ball and 2-Ball: Frozen together, aimed toward the right point of the corner pocket.

3-Ball and 4-Ball: Frozen together, aimed toward the left point of the same corner pocket.

Leave approximately one ball’s width of space between the 2-Ball and 4-Ball.

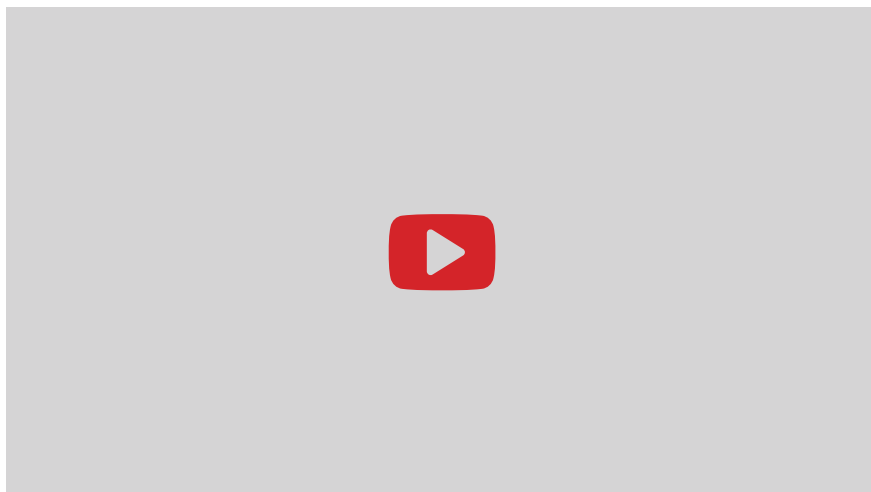
The tangent line of the 1-Ball (from the 2-Ball) should point toward the corner pocket.

The tangent line of the 3-Ball (from the 4-Ball) should point toward the opposite side pocket.

On the opposite side of the table, set up an identical four-ball formation.

Objective:

Strike the cue ball firmly with **half a tip of low English**. Aim at the **right-hand edge of the 1-Ball**.



The cue ball will:

Pocket the 1-Ball into the left corner.

Also pocket the 2-Ball into the opposite corner.

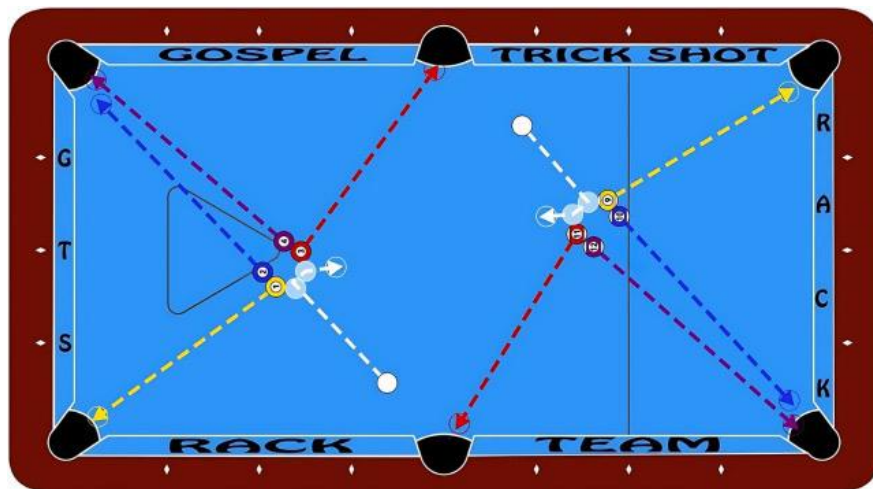
Carom into the 3-Ball, sending it into the side pocket.

Pocket the 4-Ball into the same corner pocket as the 2-Ball.

Special Notes: If the 1-Ball misses and strikes the short rail, adjust by moving the 1-Ball/2-Ball combo back towards the cue-ball about half an inch. Do the same adjustment if the 3-Ball/4-Ball combo misses to the left of the side pocket. A firm stroke is necessary for success. This shot re-

quires practice to master. To mark ball positions, you may tap them lightly into place with another object ball. This leaves a small indentation on the cloth for easy resetting. Avoid tapping too hard, especially in billiard halls, as venue owners may disapprove. A gentle tap is enough.

Crowd Reactions: This is a show-stopping shot! When set up correctly, balls scatter across the table and drop into pockets almost simultaneously. Two players are needed to perform the full version, so practice coordination with your partner beforehand. Expect big applause and loud cheers when the audience sees eight balls disappear in one shot. Don’t forget to celebrate the moment—give your partner a high five to the delight of the crowd!



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ALOYSIUS YAPP

CLAIMS LONG-AWAITED US OPEN CROWN

Story and photos courtesy Matchroom Multi Sport

Aloysius Yapp wrote another unforgettable chapter in pool history, defeating World No.1 Fedor Gorst to lift his maiden US Open Pool Championship crown at the Harrah's Resort, Atlantic City.

In doing so, the Singaporean star became the **first player ever to win three consecutive Matchroom majors** – adding the US Open to his UK Open and Florida Open triumphs earlier this year. The victory also propels Yapp to **World No.2** in the Nineball Rankings, cementing his status as one of the sport's elite.

“This is a dream come true – I can't even describe how I feel right now. I've wanted this title for so many years,

and there were times I wondered if it would ever happen. To finally lift the US Open is unbelievable.

“The pressure out there was immense – my hands were shaking throughout. Fedor is such a tough opponent, one of the very best, and I have so much respect for him. We both made mistakes, but it was an epic final and I'm proud of how I held myself together.

“Since winning the UK Open I've felt a new belief in myself, and to now win

Florida and the US Open this month shows that it's not luck – it's hard work, preparation, and trust in my game. This moment means everything to me.

“There are so many people I want to dedicate this title to, but most of all I want to give it to my friend, Chang Jung-Lin, who recently passed away. He taught me so much throughout my life, and I truly believe I wouldn't be here today without his guidance. This one is for you, my friend.”



Aloysius Yapp

Final Result

Aloysius Yapp 13–11 Fedor Gorst

The final began with nerves on show, as Gorst capitalised on Yapp’s error to take the opening rack. The pair traded racks in a tense early exchange, but Yapp found his rhythm in the fifth, stringing together a devastating run to surge ahead 10–5 with clinical cueing and relentless safety play.

Just as momentum seemed to have slipped away, Gorst mounted a fierce fightback, punishing a dry break from Yapp in rack 16 and reeling off four racks in succession to close the gap to 10–9. The American then tied the contest at 10–10 after Yapp faltered on a simple pot.

The pressure boiled over in the closing stages as both players exchanged

errors. At 11–11, nerves were on show between the two, but it was Yapp that pounced on a foul from Gorst to reclaim the lead and reach the hill.

With the title hanging in the balance, the final rack produced high drama. Yapp momentarily faltered with a missed 2-ball, but Gorst let slip his own chance on the 3-ball. That proved decisive: Yapp cleared the table to finally realise his US Open dream.

Yapp’s triumph not only completes a golden run of three majors in four months, but also marks redemption for years of near misses on American soil. Now crowned the 2025 US Open Champion, Yapp’s place in pool’s history books is undeniable.

The 2025 LiveSB.io US Open Pool Championship — the 48th edition of the World Nineball Tour’s most presti-

gious major — took place at the iconic Harrah’s Resort in Atlantic City, New Jersey, showcasing non-stop Nineball action from 18–23 August.



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CARLO "BLACK TIGER" BIADO

ELECTED TO BILLIARD CONGRESS OF AMERICA HALL OF FAME

The Billiard Congress of America (BCA) Hall of Fame welcomes four-time and reigning world champion **Carlo Biado** of the Philippines into the sport's most prestigious club.

Still one of the game's most dangerous players, Biado, 41, recently captured the 2025 WPA World 9-Ball Championship title in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia. He becomes the sixth Philippines-born player to be elected to the Billiard Congress of America Hall of Fame, following Filipino legends **Efren Reyes** (2003), **Francisco Bustamante** (2010), **Jose Parica** (2014), **Alex Pagulayan** (2019) and **Dennis Orcollo** (2022).

Biado will formally be inducted into the Hall of Fame on Saturday, Nov. 22, at the Renaissance Resort at World of Golf Village in St. Augustine, Fla., in conjunction with the 2025 International Open pool tournament.

"I am in shock, said Biado when being informed of the honor, adding with a laugh, "I am not expecting this now. I think I am not ready yet, but since I was elected, I'm going to take it. It is a blessing and I'm going to share this with my fellow players in the Philippines."

Unlike his flashier countrymen, most of whom enjoyed great international tournament success almost immediately, Biado toiled for nearly a decade before tasting victory. After falling to Taiwan's **Pin-Yi Ko** in the final of the 2015 WPA World 10-Ball Championship, Biado captured the gold medal at the 2017 World Games in Wroclaw, Poland, defeating Scotland's **Jayson Shaw** in the final match. Later that year, he added a second gold in Men's 9-Ball at the

Southeast Asia Games (SEA Games) and then won his first world title, defeating countryman **Roland Garcia** in the title match at the 2017 WPA World 9-Ball Championship. Biado's bid to win back-to-back WPA World 9-Ball Championships fell just short a year later, as he lost to Germany's **Joshua Filler** in the final.

In 2021, Biado earned the prestigious U.S. Open 9-Ball title, beating Singapore's **Aloysius Yapp** in the final. He earned another SEA Games title that year as well, winning gold in Men's

10-Ball. In 2022, Biado teamed with fellow Filipinos **Johann Chua** and **Rubilen Amit** to capture the WPA World Teams Championship and added the



Carlo Biado with the 2025 World Pool Championship trophy

Predator Pro Billiard Series Puerto Rico Open title.

In March 2024, Biado earned his third world title, topping Japan's **Naoyuki Oi** to win the WPA World 10-Ball Championship in Las Vegas. And in July 2025, he defeated defending champion **Fedor Gorst**, 15-13, to capture the WPA World 9-Ball Championship crown in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia, earning the \$250,000 top prize.

"I never really thought about the Hall of Fame." Biado said. "My main dream was always to be a world champion."

Voting for the 2023 BCA Hall of Fame was conducted by the USBMA Hall of Fame Board, which consists of USBMA members, elected At-Large members and living members of the Hall of Fame. In his second year on the ballot, Biado was named on 42 of 46 submitted ballots (91%). South Korean woman champion Ga Young Kim, also in her second year on the ballot,



I AM NOT EXPECTING THIS NOW. I THINK I AM NOT READY YET, BUT SINCE I WAS ELECTED, I'M GOING TO TAKE IT. IT IS A BLESSING AND I'M GOING TO SHARE THIS WITH MY FELLOW PLAYERS IN THE PHILIPPINES.

– Carlo Biado



was named on 30 ballots (66%). For two players to be elected in the same year from the Greatest Player ballot, both must be named on at least 70% of the ballots. American **Corey Deuel** was named on 15 ballots (33%). **Jeremy Jones**, JoAnn Mason-Parker, Stefano Pellinga, **John Schmidt**, **Vivian Villarreal** and **Charlie Williams** completed the 2025 ballot.

In other voting, former Pro Billiards Tour champion **David Howard** failed to garner the votes necessary for induction in the Veteran Players division. Howard, a two-time U.S. Open 9-Ball Champion, was recommended

for consideration by the USBMA Veteran Players Committee. Passage requires a Yes vote by more than 50% of the voters. Howard's nomination was approved on 47% of the submitted ballots.

To be eligible for consideration in the Greatest Players category, a player (a) must be 40 years old by Jan. 1 of the year of their inclusion on the ballot; (b) must have a professional playing career of at least 10 years; and (c) must have recorded significant achievements in U.S.-based and international events recognized by the Billiard Congress of America.



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TKACH WINS TWO-MATCH BATTLE WITH FEFILOVA TO CLAIM WPBA OLHAUSEN COLORADO CLASSIC TITLE

Story by Skip Maloney - AzB Staff / Photos courtesy WPBA

It's going to take a while to pry Kristina Tkach from her perch atop the WPBA rankings.

Though she has just this past weekend (Aug. 21-24) won her first 2025 tour title, she has a commanding lead in those rankings, which could, given how far out in front she is at the moment, allow her to take a two or three-event nap and maintain that lead. Tkach was defeated in the hot seat match by Margarita Fefilova (defending her title at this event), but came back from a semifinal win over **Pia Filler** to claim title to the \$25,000-added Olhausen Colorado Classic that drew a full field of 64 entrants to Felt Bar & Restaurant in Englewood, CO.

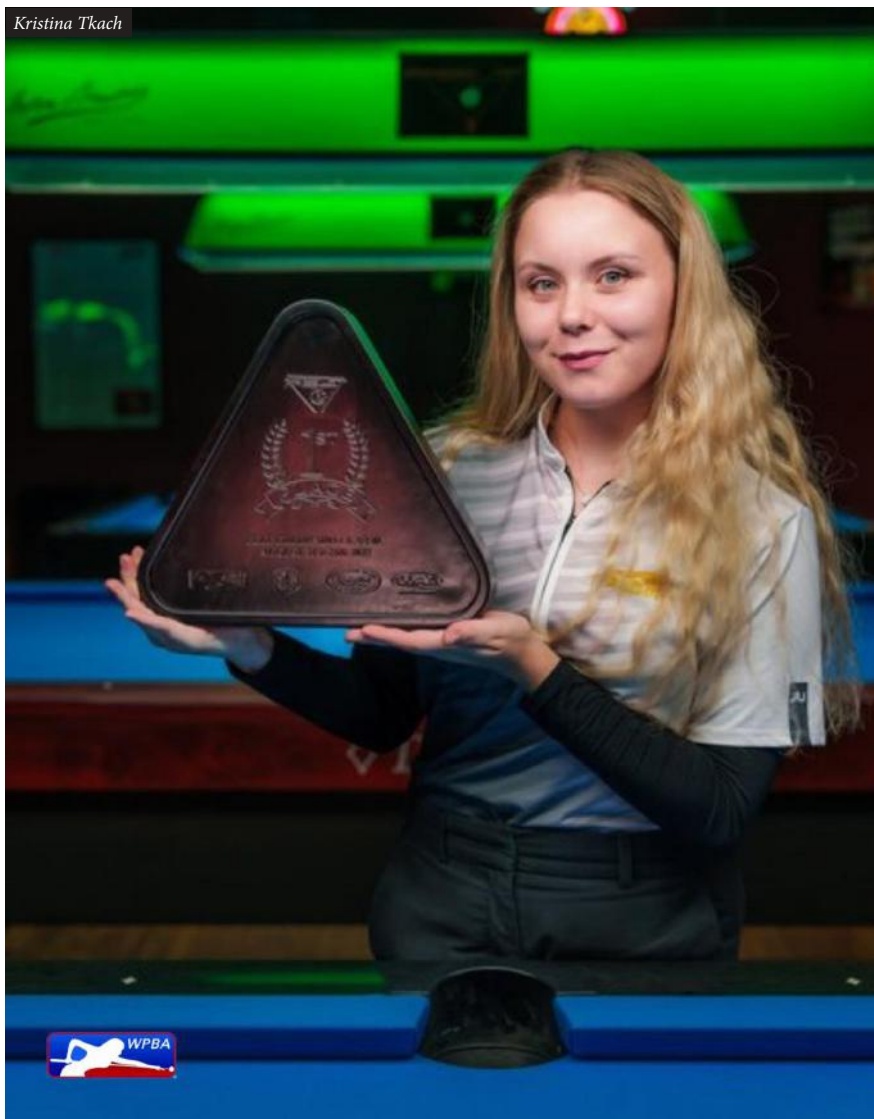
Three of the four winners' side quarterfinals in this event featured generational matchups; younger vs. older competitors, which is getting to be something of a 'norm' these days. The fourth winners' side quarterfinal happened to match up two women (Pia Filler and **Kaylee McIntosh**) who were born within a month of each other. The noted three matchups in the winners' side quarterfinals were not the only generational battles that played out on the tables, as younger competitors like **Savannah Easton**, **Sofia Mast**, **Kaley Sullivan**, **Kennedy Meyman**, **Ashley Rice**, Jordan Helfery and Vietnamese-American **Nguyen Bich Tram**, all at 25 and under, were on-hand, battling women like **Monica Webb** (Mast), **Allison Fisher** (Easton) and **Janet Atwell** (Helfery), to name just a few mix-and-match-ups. Tkach, who is just outside the 25-and-under

parameter, played another long-time veteran, **Billie Billing**.

As it happened, FargoRates were what they call 'spot-on' in this event, as the top four competitors by that metric finished as the top four finishers, though not in top-to-bottom order.

The top FargoRated player (Allison Fisher, 744) finished 4th, while the three just below her, finished 1st (Tkach, 743), 2nd (Fefilova, 732) and 3rd (Filler, 715). All four competed in the winners' side semifinals for advancement to the hot seat match.

Kristina Tkach



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Tkach opened up with two straight 8-1 victories over **Tarah Connor** and Billie Billing. Tkach advanced to down Ashley Rice 8-3, shut out Janet Atwell and drew Allison Fisher in one of the winners' side semifinals. Fefilova, in the meantime, got underway with a shutout over **Amanda Mann**, an 8-4 win over Eylul Kibaroglu and another shutout, over **Olivia Cheng**. She defeated Monica Webb 8-2 and drew Pia Filler (2024's runner-up at this event) in the other winners' side semifinal.

Fefilova moved on to the hot seat match with an 8-6 win over Filler, as Tkach was at work sending Fisher to the loss side 8-3. It was Fefilova who claimed the seat 8-6.

Filler and Fisher showed up on the loss side to face "Roadrunner" (Savannah Easton) and Turkey's Eylul Kibaroglu, respectively. Easton had lost her winners' side quarterfinal to Fisher ahead of downing fellow teenager the "Pink Dagger" (Sofia Mast) 8-6 and **Ashley Benoit**, in a double-hill match. Kibaroglu had lost her second-round match to Fefilova and won six straight that had recently included the elimination of Kaylee McIntosh, double hill, and Monica Webb 8-3.

Fisher and Filler ended their opponents' loss-side streaks and began their own; Fisher over Kibaroglu 8-4 and Filler over Easton 8-1.

So there they were, the top four, highest FargoRated women among the 64 entrants. Filler and Fisher, battling to bring that number down to three, and as it turned out, the winner had to wait a few minutes for Fefilova to complete her hot seat win over Tkach.

Filler downed Fisher 8-5 in the quarterfinals and got to work, almost immediately, against Tkach. No significant momentum advantage for either of them as they squared off in the match. Tkach won it 8-2.

The finals proved to be as much as anybody watching either live or via



Margaret Fefilova Styer

stream could have asked for. In the race to 10 between Tkach and Fefilova, they battled back and forth through six, single-game leads and six ties. Tkach opened the scoring with a break-and-run to take the first lead and took the single-game lead back in racks #3, #9 #11 and #13, with Fefilova going ahead in racks #5, and #7.

Rack #13 with the score tied at 6-6 proved to be the pivot point from which the match was eventually won. After Tkach won it to take her fifth, single-rack lead, Fefilova broke and was forced to 'push.' That opened the door to a second straight win for Tkach. She went on to win the rack she broke for a three-rack lead, putting her on the hill at 9-6.

Fefilova broke rack #16 and won it, restoring the hopes of many, including stream commentators **Lonnie Fox-Raymond** and Allison Fisher, along with 'chat' spectators, who'd been predicting a double-hill final game from the midway, 5-5 point of the match. Those hopes got elevated when Tkach broke rack #17 dry and left Fefilova with a straight-forward shot at the 1-ball. Uncharacteristically, Fefilova recorded an 'unforced error' and missed it. Tkach finished the

game, match and 2025 Olhausen Colorado Classic to record her first 2025 victory.

WPBA representatives thanked the ownership and staff at Felt Bar & Restaurant, along with sponsors Olhausen Billiards, Moonlighting Billiards, Simonis Cloth, Mr. Rodney, Adam Burke, Key Realty, Samm Diep (Professional Billiard Instructor), Aramith Balls, Pool Dawg, Master Auto Glass, Fodor Billiards (Game Room Design Center) and Ron Cox (PBA Instructor).

Two of the WPBA's previously upcoming events have been postponed to 2026; the Borderline Brunswick Invitational, originally scheduled for next month and the WPBA Railyard Invitational, originally scheduled for early November. This has left the only other event on the 2025 WPBA calendar as the Nov. 12-15, Dr. Pool Tour Championships at the Wisconsin Convention and Expo Center in Rothschild, WI. Details about the re-scheduling of the Borderline Brunswick and Railyard Invitational events will be announced on the WPBA Web site (<https://wpba.com/>) where one can also discover links to recorded matches of this recent weekend's matches.

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Jayson Shaw



ALOYSIUS YAPP

MAKES HISTORY WITH FLORIDA OPEN TRIUMPH

Story and photos courtesy Matchroom Multi Sport

Aloysius Yapp etched his name into history, claiming the inaugural Florida Open Pool Championship title after a gripping victory over Shane Van Boening at the Caribe Royale Resort in Orlando.

In doing so, the Singaporean became the **first player ever to win back-to-back WNT Open events**, adding the Florida crown to his UK Open triumph earlier this year.

“I can’t believe it – honestly, I’m still in shock. Shane is such a phenomenal player and someone I have so much respect for – one of the greatest of all time.

At the start of the year, I told myself I wanted to win a major. To win one felt amazing... but to win two in a row is just unbelievable. I’m truly speechless. Thank you to everyone for the incredible support this week – it’s been unforgettable.”

Yapp’s title bid began under pressure as Van Boening won the lag and raced into a 5–1 lead. But the Singaporean refused to be rattled, seizing on a missed 2-ball in the seventh rack to spark a stunning fightback. With flawless cueing and steely composure, Yapp reeled off four straight racks to level at 5–5 before surging ahead 9–5 with a commanding display reminiscent of his UK Open final dominance earlier this year.

Van Boening threatened to derail the momentum with a four-rack burst of his own, capitalising on a rare scratch from Yapp to tie the match at 9–9. But Yapp, undeterred, struck back immediately—punishing Van Boening’s error in rack 19 to reclaim the lead at 10–9.

Both players felt the heat in the closing stages, but it was Yapp who kept his nerve, reaching the hill at 12–10 after another Van Boening scratch. When the American produced a dry break in what proved to be the final rack, Yapp pounced without hesitation, clearing the table to seal the

Florida Open crown and cement his place in World Nineball Tour history.

The **2025 LiveSB.io Florida Open Pool Championship** took place at the stunning Caribe Royale Resort in Orlando, Florida, showcasing six days of non-stop nineball action from 5–10 August.



Aloysius Yapp

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JOHANN CHUA

STOPS SVB 'COMEBACK' RUN TO CLAIM 3RD ANNUAL BATTLE OF THE BULL 9-BALL TITLE

Story by **Skip Maloney - AzB Staff** / File photos courtesy **Erwin Dionisio**

Last night (Sat. Aug. 16), the Philippines' Johann Chua became the 11th different competitor to be among the 9-Ball, Battle of the Bull's 'final four' in the past three years.

The only competitor to appear more than once among the final four has been **Shane Van Boening** (SVB), who made his second appearance on that list of 12 when he competed against Chua in last night's final. The Battle of the Bulls' first winner, **Aloysius Yapp**, was in attendance this year, though **Billy Thorpe**, who took the title last year, was not.

SVB and Chua both went undefeated to the final match, defeating three opponents in Stage 1's double-elimination bracket and four more in Stage 2's single-elimination bracket. Johann Chua began the final with a 63% game-winning average (65-38), while Van Boening came in with a 72% game-winning average (65-25; elevated by two matches that he'd won by a total score of 18-1). Their FargoRates were only nine points apart, with SVB ahead 843-834. Chua was given an odds-at-winning chance of 43.7% to win their race to 13; fairly close to even. He beat those odds and became the event's third champion, with a 13-8 victory over SVB.

About 10 minutes into the opening rack of the final, observers might have been forgiven if they assumed they were watching a One Pocket tournament. Chua and SVB were eight shots into that opening rack, which SVB broke, dropping one, before one of them dropped the 2-ball. Three shots later, Chua opened the scoring, closing out the rack, 12 minutes after SVB had broken it.

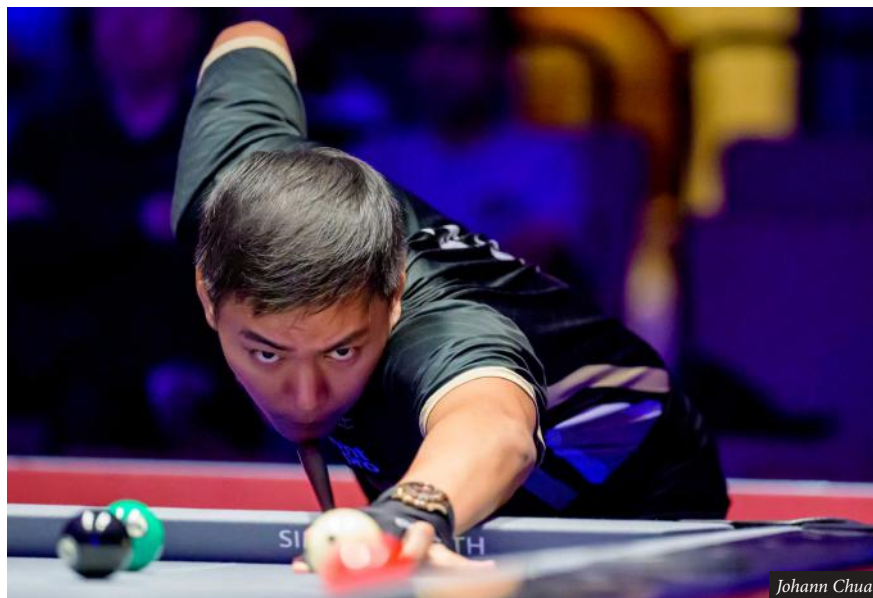
It took the two of them as long to finish the next four racks as it had taken them to complete the first one. With the 'winner breaks' (World Nineball Tour) format, Chua broke the second rack, dry, and SVB ran the table to tie things up. SVB broke rack three and dropped three of its balls. Unfortunately, the cue ball dropped as well, Chua tied the score ahead of breaking and running rack #4.

When Chua broke rack #5 dry, SVB answered with his own mini-run of two, clearing rack #5 and then, chalking up his first break-and-run to knot things at 3-3. The next two racks, which took about 17 minutes, began with an SVB break, at which he dropped one ball and initiated the match's first 'push.' After a little back and forth that culmi-

nated in eight different appearances at the table between them, Chau took advantage to go ahead 4-3. Van Boening was never that close again.

Chua broke rack #8 dry and after the two of them had taken seven turns at the table, Chua closed it out. He then chalked up his second 'break and run' to take a 6-3 lead. SVB broke that three-pack by responding to a dry break and clearing the table to draw within two.

(Short intermission) We opted to track two variables in the match that are not normally considered, to determine if there was any useful information about either of them; time per game (which gave us an average time-per-game) and the total (and, in each



game) number of times that each of them stepped to the table to take a shot or a number of them.

The match took about 94 minutes, total; minus the amount of time it took to gather, re-rack and then, break the rack (usually less than a minute, though not always). The longest rack was their 12-minute first one. The shortest was rack #10, which Chua broke (dry) and SVB cleared the table in a minute and 15 seconds. Over the 21 games, the average rack took about four-and-a-half minutes, though it's important to note that the average was that large because five of the 21 racks took nearly 45 minutes (12, 10, 9, 7, and 6). Take those racks out of the equation, reduce the amount of time left in 94 minutes and the other 16 racks took an average of just over three minutes.

A connecting thought as we near the end of our intermission. A lot of players and spectators in the pool community take issue with the 'winner breaks' format, partly because it opens up the (admittedly remote) possibility that the person who sits at the start of the match and watches his opponent break the opening rack might never get up out of his chair. Races to 13 make that possibility even more remote. Advocates of 'winner breaks' can argue that breaking is a skill of the game, even though what happens when the cue ball hits the rack is subject to all kinds of unpredictable results, even though many top-level professionals appear to have found ways to assure that at least one ball in a rack will fall; not always, of course. SVB and Chua each broke three racks, dry, and each chalked up three break and runs. The 'winner breaks' format can become particularly problematic when a competitor steps to the table, somewhere past the halfway mark, which, in this particular race to 13 with its 13-8 final score, would be in the vicinity of rack #10 or #11.

Down by two (4-6) at the conclusion of the 10th rack, SVB broke rack #11 (dry, as it happened) and Chua won it, to begin a five-rack run, from which SVB would not recover, even though his longest run was ahead of him. Chua broke rack #12 and after coming to the table three times, won it to take his largest lead to that point at 8-4. He broke, ran rack #13, broke again (dry) and won his 10th game, as well.

In rack #15, Chua hit what was arguably the match's most impressive individual shot. Left with an intervening ball between the cue ball and the 3-ball, which rested in the middle of a short rail, he went for a jump-bank, which not only hit the 3-ball, but put it on a path to the opposite corner pocket and hit the 5-ball on its way in. Chua was up by seven, 11-4.

No sooner had stream commentator **Scott Frost** reminded viewers (and his booth companion, **Karl Boyes**) that the match was by no means over yet, SVB made his move. Chua broke rack #16, sinking a ball, but turned the table over to SVB, who ran the rest of them. He broke and ran rack #17 and #18. After breaking rack #18 and sinking two of the balls, SVB was faced with a long shot; cue ball down in the vicinity of a corner pocket, near a short rail, looking up towards a 2-ball that was halfway up the table, and just a little off of a center line that would put it directly in the diagonally-opposite corner pocket. SVB was a little hesitant about lining it up and pulling the trigger.

"A tough one here," said Boyes in the broadcast booth. "Biggest shot of the match for SVB, coming right up."

"You can tell he just doesn't 'see' it," said Frost, as SVB kept stepping away and then, getting back down. "He's trying to just feel it. We've all been there."

"Boom!" said Boyes a second later as the 2-ball dropped into the corner, "the ball is in the hole."

"Yeah," Frost noted, "that's a big one for him right there."

SVB finished up his third break and run and Chua's lead was down from six to four (11-7).

SVB put a little icing on it by working out of an early jam breaking rack #19. In the 9-minute game of the match, SVB came to the table four times before he secured the win to pull within three at 11-8.

In the hopes of getting to within two for the first time since rack #10, SVB broke and sank two balls, before he ran into an issue with working on ways to drop the 2-ball in a way that would leave him in good position for the 3-ball. It was one of those shots you're trying to line up, but no matter how many times you look at it or think about ways to apply some spin, the cue ball will be going away from your next ball. He made the 2-ball, but was left with a long, oblique-angle shot on the 3-ball. And missed it.

Chua was at the table quickly, finished the rack to reach the hill and prepared to break for the win. He broke out his third break and run to do it. And the long, One Pocket and 9-Ball week of the Battle of the Bull was over.

Tour director and owner of the host venue, Wolf's Den in Roanoke, VA, Kory Wolford thanked his staff (Amanda Young, Travis Ayers, Mikhala Underwood, Whitney Fauber, Chad Wright, Deric Rickey and Jacob Sloan, along with a "huge shout out to Frank from BSN for the most professional stream (he had) ever seen in person" and its commentating crew of Scott Frost and Karl Boyes. He also acknowledged the work of digitalpool.com's Zach Goldsmith and **Brandon Shuff** and a "new partner that (he is) super excited to work with – **Elvis Rodriguez** and Neto Gomez" from InTheBox.

VANN CORTEZA

GOES UNDEFEATED TO CLAIM WNT RALLY IN THE SHENANDOAH VALLEY TITLE

Story by Skip Maloney - AzB Staff / File photo courtesy Erwin Dioniso

The Philippines' Lee Vann Corteza has gotten off to a slow start this year. By the end of July in 2024, which was his second-best recorded year with us since he first appeared in our database in 2002 (2013 was his best), Corteza had already brought home more than 75% of the cash he would earn before year's end.

If he's working to best his 2024 income in all that's left of this year, he better get to work because his end-of-July, 2025 totals are only 38% of last year's total. And the five-month clock to New Year's Day 2026 is ticking.

He broke out of the August 'gate' quickly by going undefeated to win the World Nine Ball Tour (WNT) Rally in the Shenandoah Valley this past weekend (July 31-Aug. 2). The \$10,000-added event drew 64 entrants to On Cue Sports Bar & Grill in Port Royal, VA. Vann Corteza (818) and Germany's **Moritz Neuhausen** (who finished in the tie for 5th/6th, 811) were the only two competitors with a FargoRate above 800. There were 26 entrants with FargoRates in the 700 range and 23 in the 600 range, which, combined, made up 76% of the field. There were 11 in the '500' range, and one competitor each in the '500' and '400' range;

US' Luther Pickeral at 410 and Vietnam's Huy Hoang Dang at 288.

With five months to go before the 2025 Mosconi Cup gets underway on Dec. 3-6 at Alexandra Palace in London, individual competitors are chasing WNT 'point' events, which will influence

Matchroom Sports decisions about who gets on either the US or European team. At this stage of the point-chasing game, **Tyler Styer** and **Lukas Fracasso-Verner**, who both competed in the Rally, are two of the current, top-five, US contenders, along with **Fedor**



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Gorst, Shane Van Boening, and Sky Woodward. Spain's Jonas Souto was the only European of the top five, current contenders in WNT points to be in attendance at the Rally. **Kledio Kaci** leads that list, followed by Josh Filler, **Francisco Sanchez-Ruiz**, and **Pijus Labutis**, with Souto bringing up the rear of that five-man list.

With all of that in mind, let's see how the Rally in the Shenandoah Valley played out. It was a two-stage event; the original field of 64 competed in a double-elimination Stage 1 until there were eight players left on each side of the bracket. Those 16 moved into a single-elimination Stage 2 for four rounds that eventually crowned the event's champion.

In races to 9 in Stage 1, Vann Corteza got by Kashton Keeton and **Jeremy Long**, both 9-6, ahead of defeating **Brandon Shuff** 9-3 in the final, winners' side qualifying round for advancement to Stage 2. Pongers, in the meantime, defeated **Steve Fleming** 9-4 and sent Boris Ivanoski to the loss side 9-5, before **John Morra** sent him to the loss side 9-5.

Joining Vann Corteza in advancing to single elimination from the winners' side of the Stage 1 bracket were Tyler Styer, **Nathan Childress**, Moritz Neuhausen, **Sam Henderson**, John Morra, **Gregorio Sanchez** and **Felix Vogel**.

Yannick Pongers had to win just a single match on the loss side to qualify for Stage 2 and he drew his older brother, Quinten. No 'brotherly love' forfeit in the decision about that match. They played it and Yannick advanced 9-6 to Stage 2. Joining him were Jeremy Long, who'd won three, loss-side matches that included a 9-4 win over **Georgi Georgiev** to qualify. Brandon Shuff had one match to win on the loss side and drew **Rodney Morris**. They battled to double hill before Shuff moved on to Stage 2. Also advancing from the loss side were

Sullivan Clark, and Jonas Souto, who, like Yannick Pongers and Shuff, had only a single, loss-side chance to qualify for Stage 2. Souto downed **Mhet Vergara** 9-5. Rounding out the Final 16 field from the loss side were Boris Ivanoski, Mika Van Berkel, and **Walter Laikre**.

In races to 11, the average score in the eight-match, opening round of Stage 2 was 11-6.25 There were no double-hill matches and only one got within a game of that; Sullivan Clark defeated Gregorio Sanchez 11-9. There were some surprise-eliminations in that opening round to include the elimination of Sanchez by Sullivan Clark, Brandon Shuff (by Felix Vogel 11-3), John Morra (by Mika Van Berkel 11-8), and Tyler Styer (by Jeremy Long 11-6).

The second (quarterfinal) round was markedly different, with an average score of 11-8, comprised of two double-hill matches and two 11-6 matches. Pongers, who'd eliminated Sam Henderson in the opening round 11-6, defeated Van Berkel in the quarterfinals by the same score and drew Felix Vogel, who'd eliminated Clark, double hill. Nathan Childress downed Neuhausen, double hill and picked up Vann Corteza, who'd eliminated Jeremy Long 11-6.

In the two, semifinal races to 13, Yannick defeated Vogel 13-11 and Vann Corteza eliminated Childress 13-9.

In what, by any measure, was an extraordinary final race to 15, Vann Corteza and Pongers battled back and forth to a 14-14 tie and played a single game for the title. What would you guess to be the total time of those 29 games of 9-ball? (We'll wait for you to guess. . .)

According to the digitalpool time stamps (and verified by Event Director Chris Wilburn) the match took a total of two hours and 14 minutes. A quick trip to your nearest calcula-

tor will allow you to divide 29 games into 134 (minutes) and come up with 4.62 minutes per game. But wait, there's more. Every three racks of the match, Matchroom Sports ran an ad on the stream that lasted for various amounts of time close to or just over a minute, which brings the total play-time minutes down to about 124 minutes. According to Wilburn, while straight math would suggest that the addition of the Matchroom Sports announcements to the overall time of the match would reduce the time-per-game down to 4.27 minutes instead of the aforementioned 4.62, he says that each rack took closer to three and half minutes.

"There were a lot of break and runs," said Wilburn, "and anytime someone broke dry or missed an early shot, the other would run out."

"There were just running out all over the place," he added. There wasn't very much safety play in the match at all," he added.

Still, a 29-game match that was completed in just over two hours? Three and half minutes per game? It can take most people longer than that to get dressed in the morning. A spectator could have made a trip to the restroom and come back to discover that they'd missed two games. Or three, if there was a line.

Vann Corteza won the 29th game to claim the 2025 Rally in the Shenandoah Valley.

Event director Chris Wilburn thanked Cole Haase, his partners and staff at On Cue Sports Bar & Grill for their hospitality, along with sponsors CW Designs, Andy & HOW, Perimeter Billiards, Toam, InTheBox, Rayman's Pro Shop, Warren Lee, Haley Chevrolet, Air Serve, Discover Front Royal, Edward Jones, Vita Coco, Saffelle Cattle Co., and US Foods.

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GORST COMES FROM 0-2 DOWN TO CLAIM BATTLE OF THE BULL ONE POCKET TITLE

Story by **Skip Maloney - AzB Staff** / File photos courtesy **Johnny Sturgis**

As we began work on this report, Fedor Gorst and Roland Garcia were continuing to compete in the finals of the \$10k-added One Pocket tournament of the 3rd Annual Battle of the Bull, hosted by Wolf's Den in Roanoke, VA.

It began at 1 p.m. this afternoon (EDT, Thurs., Aug. 14) and didn't conclude until just before 6 p.m. As we were working on this report at 3:45 p.m., the score was tied at 2-2, Gorst having come back from an 0-2 deficit. Gorst went on to win 4-2.

For those who may have missed yesterday's report, which was posted before the One Pocket quarterfinals and semifinals had been played, **Brandon Shuff**, who placed 4th in the One Pocket division of the Derby City Classic earlier this year, shut out **Louis Demarco** in the quarterfinal of the Battle of the Bulls' One Pocket event. Gorst shut him out in the semifinal.

Before they began the final One Pocket match, Garcia had played in an opening round of the 9-ball tournament last night (losing to **Robbie Capito** 9-6). Gorst began today at 11 a.m., defeating **Carl Honey** 9-2 in under an hour.

The 64-match, double-elimination Stage 1 of the \$35k-added, 128-entrant, Battle of the Bull 9-Ball Tournament got underway last night (Wed.) with first-round matches at 7, 9, and 11 p.m. They resumed this morning at 9 a.m. A number of second-round, winners' side matches, which began at 5 p.m. are ongoing.

Gorst, **Pijus Labutis**, Alex Kazakis, **Francisco Sanchez-Ruiz**, **Wiktor Zielinski**, **Kledio Kaci**, **Aloysius Yapp**, **Thorsten Hohmann**, **John Morra**, Moritz Nuehausen, SVB, **Roberto Gomez**, **Lee Vann Corteza**, **David Alcaide**, **Mario He**, **Landon Hollingsworth** and **Lukas Fracasso-Verner** are among the competitors playing in the winners' side second-round.

Among those (other than Roland Garcia) who didn't make it to the winners' side second round were **Josh Roberts**, Jonas Souto, Brandon Shuff, **Albin Ouschan**, **Ralf Souquet**, **Mickey Krause**, **Shane Wolford**, and **Carlo Biado**. Some of the opening-round, loss-side matches will get underway at 11 p.m. this evening (Thurs.), while second-round, winners'

side matches will look to advance 32 competitors to a third round.

Among the completed matches which got underway at 5 p.m. were **Shane Van Boening's** victory over Roberto Gomez 9-2, Pijus Labutis over Kash-ton Keeton 9-3, Alek Kazakis downing Norway's Emil-Andre Gangflot 9-6, Poland's **Mieszko Fortunski** defeating Eric Picker 9-2, Wiktor Zielinski downing **Gregorio Sanchez** 9-3.

Matches scheduled for the 7 p.m. time slot include David Alcaide against Sweden's **Walter Laikre**, **Nathan Childress** versus the Netherlands **Yannick Pongers**, Mario He vs. **Daniel Adams**, and Lukas Fracasso-Verner taking on Germany's **Felix Vogel**.

All matches, recorded and live can be accessed at **Digitalpool.net/wolfsden**.



Fedor Gorst

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KLOMPENHOUWER, BAI AND HAN TAKE WORLD GAMES GOLD

Story and photos courtesy **WCBS**

Three of the total seven gold medal decisions were on the schedule on August 13th in the billiards competitions at the World Games in Chengdu, China.

Standing on the top step of the podium were **Therese Klompenhouwer** (The Netherlands/Women's 3-Cushion), Yulu Bai (China/Women's 6-Reds Snooker), and Yu Han (China/Women's Pool).

Women's 3-Cushion Therese Klompenhouwer of the Netherlands entered the competition as the clear favorite and fully lived up to this role. In the final against Japan's Ayaka Miyashita, she quickly took the lead and steadily extended it. After 21 innings, the final score stood at 25-12.

Jackeline Perez from Peru had already secured third place behind Miyashita on Tuesday.

Result: Therese Klompenhouwer vs. Ayaka Miyashita 25-12

Women's 6-Reds Snooker The women's snooker final was also a one-sided affair. In the 6-reds format, China's Yulu Bai won the first frame in front of her home crowd against Narucha Phoemphul (Thailand) by 42-18. The second frame was closer, but Bai again prevailed 41-25, becoming the new World Games champion.

Bronze went to Ploychompoo Laokitthong of Thailand, who had defeated Belgium's **Wendy Jans** 2-1 on Tuesday.

Result:

Narucha Phoemphul vs. Yulu Bai 0-2

Women's Pool Yu Han of China is the new World Games champion in women's 10-ball. In a nail-biting final, she edged out the Philippines' **Chezka Centeno** 7-6.

Han had the better start, racing ahead 3-0, but Centeno stayed in the match

and kept close. At 6-6, the score was tied and Centeno was at the table. However, a foul by Centeno gave Han the chance to seal the victory, which she took amid loud cheers from her supporters.

The bronze medal match earlier had also been a thriller. Shasha Liu (China) took a quick 4-1 lead against Germany's **Ina Kaplan**, but the European number one fought back to level at 6-6. Kaplan's final break was unsuccessful, allowing Liu to clear the table and take bronze.

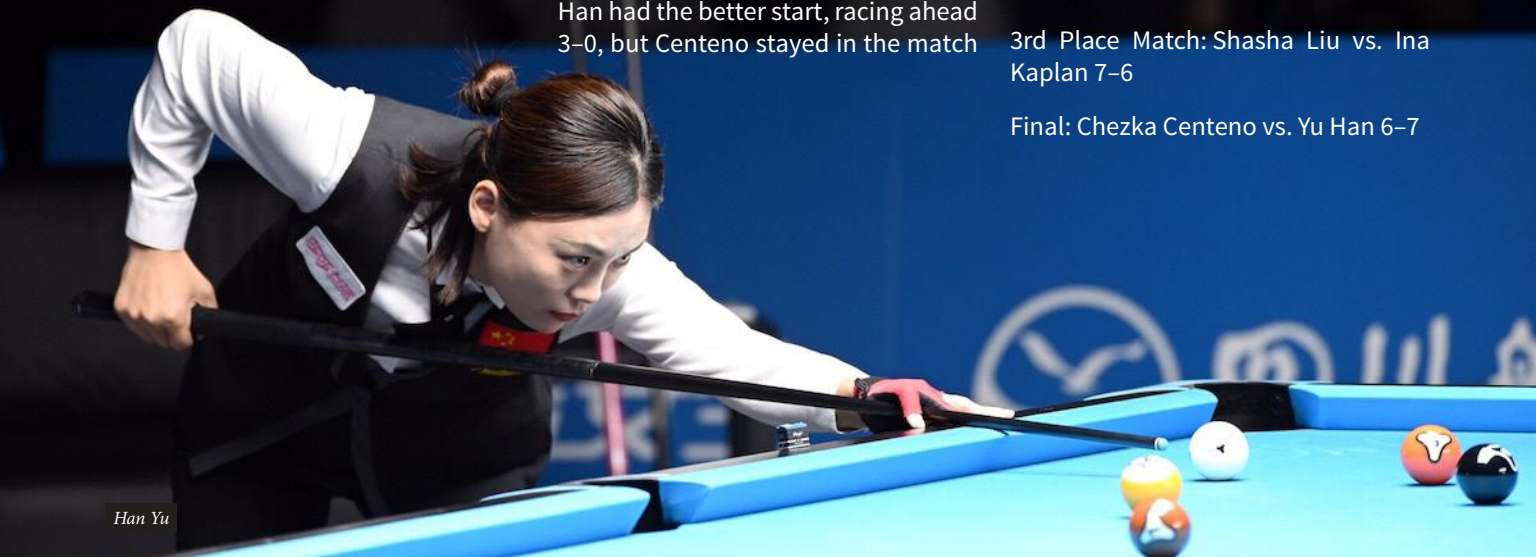
In the morning semifinals, Chezka Centeno had beaten Shasha Liu 7-4, while Yu Han defeated Ina Kaplan more clearly, 7-3.

Results:

Semifinals: Shasha Liu vs. Chezka Centeno 4-7 Yu Han vs. Ina Kaplan 7-3

3rd Place Match: Shasha Liu vs. Ina Kaplan 7-6

Final: Chezka Centeno vs. Yu Han 6-7



Han Yu

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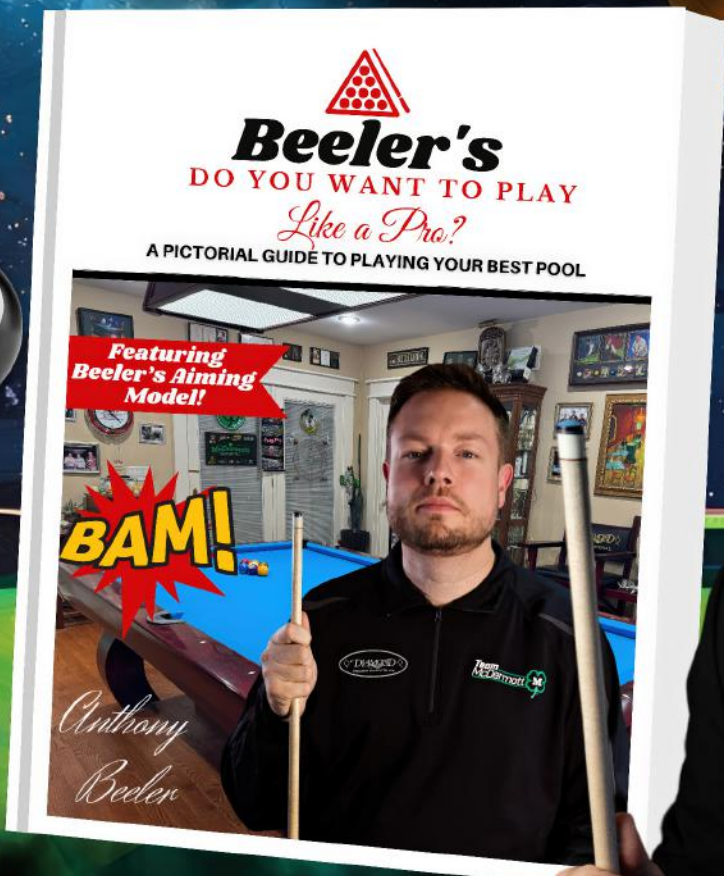
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WORLD GAMES BILLIARDS COMPETITIONS CONCLUDE WITH FOUR NEW CHAMPIONS

Story and photos courtesy **WCBS**

The World Games billiards competitions in Chengdu, China, concluded on August 14th. The four remaining titles went to Myungwoo Cho (South Korea / Men's 3-Cushion), Guodong Xiao (China / Men's Snooker), Oliver Szolnoki (Hungary / Men's Pool), and Taiyi Zhang (China / Mixed Heyball).

Men's 3-Cushion

South Korea's Myungwoo Cho underlined his current dominance in 3-cushion billiards with today's final victory over Egypt's **Sameh Sidhom**.

Having already led 22-13 at the break, the world number one extended his lead to 30-21 in just a few innings. After Sidhom managed to score one

more point, Cho stepped up to the table and effortlessly produced the ten points he still needed. Even before making the final point, confident that the shot would succeed, he raised his arms in celebration. All that was left for Sameh Sidhom was to offer a highly respectful congratulations for the South Korean's world-class performance.

Final Result: Myungwoo Cho vs. Sameh Sidhom — 40:22

Men's Snooker

The men's snooker final was decided only in the decider and featured moments rarely seen in the game.

In the first frame, **Michael Georgiou** (Cyprus) was in the lead against Chi-



Oliver Szolnoki

na's Guodong Xiao, but Xiao managed to win the frame 1-0 by sinking the pink during the colors phase. In the second frame, Georgiou dominated with an impressive 111-point break to level the match at 1-1.

In the decider, Xiao took an early 40-0 lead, which Georgiou nearly erased with a 32-point break. The Cypriot ended his run with a fine snooker, but Xiao responded with a classic fluke — striking the red perfectly so that it rolled along the length of the cushion and dropped into the pocket.

Xiao added a few more points and left Georgiou snookered. After a brief safety exchange, Georgiou played what seemed like a perfect snooker on the brown, but to his dismay, Xiao sank another seemingly impossible shot. Shortly afterward, Xiao potted the blue for a 57-32 lead, meaning Georgiou needed two snookers on the pink. He managed one, but before he

could attempt another, Xiao sank the pink to clinch the gold medal.

Final Result: Guodong Xiao vs. Michael Georgiou — 2:1

Men's Pool

The story of new World Games champion Oliver Szolnoki could be straight out of a movie. In the group stage, the Hungarian was practically eliminated — if his opponent Jeffrey de Luna (Philippines) had sunk the decisive 10-ball to win 9-5, Szolnoki would have had to watch the rest of the tournament from the stands. But de Luna missed, Szolnoki staged a brilliant comeback, and won 9-8 to reach the quarterfinals. Two more 9-8 victories put him in today's final against Peru's **Gerson Martinez**, who had himself staged a comeback from 3-7 down to beat Germany's **Joshua Filler** in the semifinals.

In the final, Szolnoki repeatedly held the lead, but the score was level again

at 7-7. Martinez then got out of position on the four ball and was forced to play a safety. Szolnoki won the ensuing safety battle to go ahead 8-7. In the 16th rack, with the break, the Hungarian ran the table to seal a 9-7 victory and with it, the celebrated World Games title.

Final Result: Gerson Martinez vs. Oliver Szolnoki — 7:9

Heyball

The Heyball final saw China's Taiyi Zhang take a 2-1 lead against South Africa's **Jason Theron**. The lead was short-lived, as Theron leveled at 2-2 and later again at 3-3.

But spurred on by the home crowd, Zhang pulled away from his opponent and sank the winning ball to claim a 5-3 victory.

Final Result: Jason Theron vs. Taiyi Zhang — 3:5

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The advertisement features a large, glowing cue ball on the left. The central text promotes a DVD collection by Tor Lowery, available at Accu-Stats. Below the text, several DVD covers are displayed, including titles like 'Mental System', '50 Shots', 'Kicking', 'Supercharge', 'Diamond Systems', 'Fundamentals of Position Play', 'Create the Winning Edge!', 'Awesome!', 'Zero-X Billiards Presents', 'Pocket of New Material', and 'Center Ball'. The Accu-Stats Video Productions logo is in the bottom left corner.

TEXAS BILLIARDS HALL OF FAME ANNOUNCES 2025 INDUCTEES: VILLARREAL, WILEY, PUCKETT, AND BLACK TO BE HONORED IN CEREMONY

The Texas Billiards Hall of Fame is proud to announce its 2025 class of inductees, featuring four legendary figures whose extraordinary contributions have shaped the sport of billiards: **Vivian Villarreal, CJ Wiley, U.J. Puckett, and Richard Black.**

The induction ceremony and banquet will take place on September 2, 2025, at the Wingate Conference Center in Round Rock, Texas. Tickets are now available at www.halloftexas.com.

“This is an incredible class of inductees—each of whom has left an indelible mark on billiards in Texas,” said **Kevin Welling**, Chairman of the Texas Billiards Hall of Fame. “From a pioneering woman champion to a master hustler and mentor, a legendary poolroom icon, and one of the greatest custom cue makers in history—this class touches every corner of the sport.” They will join previous honorees such as **Jeremy Jones, Belinda Calhoun, and Bob Vanover** in what is quickly becoming one of the most prestigious honors in the sport.

Vivian Villarreal, affectionately known as “The Texas Tornado,” dominated the professional circuit in the 1990s, earning the world No. 1 ranking in women’s pool and amassing numerous titles including the ESPN World Open 9-Ball Championship and double-digit Texas Open titles. A trailblazer on and off the table, she also founded the Tornado Foundation and Vivian’s Kidz, both dedicated to community causes.

CJ Wiley, Dallas native and former hustler turned world champion, is celebrated as one of the greatest money players of the 20th century. A Mosconi Cup champion and respected coach, Wiley blends charisma, high-level play, and instruction into a lasting impact on the game through his platform, *Mastering Pocket Billiards*. CJ is the first touring pro to win the Texas

Open 9-Ball Championship and one of only a handful to have more than 1 title.

U.J. Puckett, a true icon of poolroom folklore, was a one-pocket legend and 1960 national nine-ball champion known as much for his flamboyant presence and booming voice as for his extraordinary skill. His legacy contin-



CJ Wiley



UJ Puckett

ues to inspire, and he remains a Texas Open 9-Ball staple in memory and myth.

Richard Black, the Missouri-born cue maker who adopted Texas as home

in the 1960s, transformed cue making into high art. Known for exquisite craftsmanship and innovative designs—including the legendary Gothic Knight cue—his work has been dis-

played in major museums and used by champions such as **Steve Mizerak** and Ewa Mataya Laurance. A mentor, artist, and pioneer, Black’s impact on cue making is unmatched.

“This is just the beginning,” added **Paul Guernsey**, Treasurer of the Texas Billiards Hall of Fame. “We’re planning tournaments, youth camps, and charitable projects to expand the Hall’s influence and preserve the legacy of Texas pool. We invite all lovers of the game to become members and support the future of the sport.”

To learn more, purchase banquet tickets, or become a player member, visit www.halloftexas.com.

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Las Vegas, Saint Louis, San Antonio, and Jacksonville Set to Host Pro Billiard Series Events

The Pro Billiard Series (PBS) is proud to announce its **2026 US PBS Stop Schedule**, featuring four major events in Las Vegas, Saint Louis, San Antonio, and Jacksonville. Next year's series brings a carefully curated mix of WPA World Championship events, open tournaments, and invitationals, continuing PBS's mission to grow the game through innovation, high-level competition, and broader regional presence.

The tagline says it all: **Witness History**. In 2026, each stop is designed not only to showcase elite players and international formats, but to connect more fans to the action in person and bring professional pool to key regions across the U.S.

"We can't wait to bring our tournaments to more U.S. states and a broader audience so they can experience the action live and meet their favorite players," said Vincent Rochefort, Director of Predator Events. "Each stop offers something unique and plays a key role in expanding our reach and deepening our connection with the pool community here in the USA."

2026 US PBS Events Schedule:

Las Vegas, NV

February 18 – 28, 2026

The season kicks off in Las Vegas, where PBS joins longtime partner CSI in celebrating the 50th BCA World Championship. As part of the mile-

stone, PBS will host the **2026 WPA World Teams Championship**, delivering a major international event to start the year.

Saint Louis, MO

March 31 – April 9, 2026

PBS brings elite pro billiards to the Midwest for the first time. Saint Louis is home to a passionate pool community, and this stop is a key step in expanding the reach of the series.

San Antonio, TX

November 22 – 29, 2026

San Antonio brings PBS into the heart of Texas. This late-season stop taps into one of the most active player communities in the country.

Jacksonville, FL

December 14 – 20, 2026

The season finale lands in Jacksonville, the home of Predator. This closing event wraps the year with intensity, fan engagement, and celebration.

More details about the tournament formats and event lineup at each stop will be announced shortly.

The US Pro Billiard Series remains focused on delivering a modern, competitive, and accessible experience at every level. With the 2026 **US PBS Stop Schedule**, players and fans alike will have more opportunities than ever to **Witness History**.

For event details, registrations and updates, visit ProBilliardSeries.com.





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Tourney Results

Aug 02 - Aug 02

Q City 9-Ball Tour Stop

Sticks & Stones Family Billiards

Rock Hill, South Carolina

- 1 Matt Lucas \$500
- 2 Daniel Adams \$300
- 3 Aaron McClure \$180
- 4 Zach Martin \$100
- 5 Javier Oliu \$55
- 5 Onyx Stinson \$55

Aug 02 - Aug 02

Sunshine State Predator Pro Am Tour 2025 Stop - 9-Ball Division

Racks Billiards Sports Bar and Pizzeria

Sanford, Florida

- 1 Julio Burgos \$1,000
- 2 Lukas Fracasso-Verner \$750
- 3 Alex Bausch \$650
- 4 Tommy Kennedy \$500
- 5 Chase Stumfoll \$300
- 5 Julio Estevez \$300
- 7 John Souders \$200
- 7 Justin Hall \$200
- 9 Anthony Meglino \$150
- 9 Benji Buckley \$150
- 9 Joselito Martinez \$150
- 9 Trenton White \$150
- 13 Justin Toye \$100
- 13 Mike Xiarhos \$100
- 13 Paul Allison \$100
- 13 Tyler Russell \$100

Aug 02 - Aug 02

Sunshine State Predator Pro Am Tour 2025 Stop - 10-Ball Division

Racks Billiards Sports Bar and Pizzeria

Sanford, Florida

- 1 Anthony Meglino \$3,500
- 2 Trenton White \$1,850
- 3 Lukas Fracasso-Verner \$1,100
- 4 Justin Hall \$800
- 5 David Jacobs \$500
- 5 Georgi Georgiev \$500
- 7 Chase Stumfoll \$360
- 7 Francisco Serrano \$360

Aug 02 - Aug 02

Sunshine State Predator Pro Am Tour 2025 Stop - Ladies Division

Racks Billiards Sports Bar and Pizzeria

Sanford, Florida

- 1 Jessica Barnes \$355
- 2 Nicolle Cuellar \$200
- 3 Alley Peters \$150

Aug 03 - Aug 03

Mezz Cues LA 9-Ball Series Stop

Good Timez Billiards

Huntsville, Alabama

- 1 James Cabal \$850
- 2 Darwin Bernadaz \$490
- 3 Shahdad Zand \$300
- 4 Jason Wetherald \$180
- 5 Chaokun Li \$110
- 5 Ken Chim \$110
- 7 Nick Cacchione \$70
- 7 Tom Nguyen \$70

Aug 05 - Aug 10

Florida Open

Caribe Royale

Orlando, Florida

- 1 Aloysius Yapp \$40,000
- 2 Shane Van Boening \$16,000
- 3 Mickey Krause \$10,000
- 3 Yu-Lung Chang \$10,000

- 5 Amil Andre Gangflot \$7,000
- 5 John Morra \$7,000
- 5 Maximilian Lechner \$7,000
- 5 Moritz Neuhausen \$7,000
- 9 Aleksa Pecelj \$4,000
- 9 Anthony Meglino \$4,000
- 9 David Alcaide \$4,000
- 9 Francisco Sanchez-Ruiz \$4,000
- 9 Jesus Atencio \$4,000
- 9 Le Quang Trung \$4,000
- 9 Marvin Asis \$4,000
- 9 Naoyuki Oi \$4,000
- 17 Bader Al Awadi \$2,000
- 17 Bernie Regaliaria \$2,000
- 17 Billy Thorpe \$2,000
- 17 Carlo Biado \$2,000
- 17 Chris Reinhold \$2,000
- 17 Donny Mills \$2,000
- 17 Elliott Sanderson \$2,000
- 17 Jayson Shaw \$2,000
- 17 Johann Chua \$2,000
- 17 Konrad Juszcyszyn \$2,000
- 17 Mario He \$2,000
- 17 Mustafa Alnar \$2,000
- 17 Robbie Capito \$2,000
- 17 Skyler Woodward \$2,000
- 17 Thorsten Hohmann \$2,000
- 17 Yannick Pongers \$2,000
- 33 Albin Ouschan \$1,000
- 33 Alex Bausch \$1,000
- 33 Alexandros Kazakis \$1,000
- 33 Andri Januarta \$1,000
- 33 Antonis Kakaris \$1,000
- 33 Casper Matikainen \$1,000
- 33 Dimitris Loukatos \$1,000
- 33 Eklent Kaci \$1,000
- 33 Fedor Gorst \$1,000
- 33 Francesco Candela \$1,000
- 33 Gregorio Sanchez \$1,000
- 33 Harry Vergara \$1,000
- 33 Hunter Lombardo \$1,000
- 33 Jan Van Lierop \$1,000

33 Jonas Souto Comino \$1,000
33 Jui An Hsu \$1,000
33 Kostas Koukiadakis \$1,000
33 Lee Vann Corteza \$1,000
33 Luong Duc Thien \$1,000
33 Masato Yoshioka \$1,000
33 Max Eberle \$1,000
33 Mika van Berkel \$1,000
33 Patric Gonzales \$1,000
33 Petri Makkonen \$1,000
33 Pham Phuong Nam \$1,000
33 Quoc Hoang Duong \$1,000
33 Roberto Gomez \$1,000
33 Sanjin Pehlivanovic \$1,000
33 Szymon Kural \$1,000
33 Tyler Styer \$1,000
33 Vitaliy Patsura \$1,000
33 Wiktor Zielinski \$1,000

Aug 09 - Aug 10

REVAMP 9-Ball Tour Stop

Mell J's South Bar & Grill

Midlothian, VA

1 Dennis Herndon \$1,500
2 Chad Cox \$900
3 TJ Garth \$500
4 Markcus Jennette \$360
5 Cyra Johnson Jr. \$180
5 Ryan Cousins \$180
7 Maddy Patel \$140
7 Warren Tallent \$140
9 Jacob Avila \$100
9 Jake Drudge \$100
9 Josh Setterfield \$100
9 Marc Becker \$100

Aug 09 - Aug 10

REVAMP One Pocket Tour Stop

Mell J's South Bar & Grill

Midlothian, VA

1 Mike Davis \$2,000
2 Larry Kressel \$1,200
3 Jimmy Varias \$700
4 Matt Clatterbuck \$400
5 Jonathan Ailstock \$200
5 Nathan Childress \$200
7 Jeff Underwood \$150
7 Troy Miller \$150

Aug 09 - Aug 09

Q City 9-Ball Tour Stop

Breaktime Billiards & Sports Bar

Clemmons, NC

1 Chris Clary \$500
2 Chris Turner \$340
3 Thomas Sansone \$220
4 Jesse Draper \$120
5 Chris Nixon \$55
5 Sahil Patel \$55

Aug 11 - Aug 16

2025 Battle of the Bull

Wolf's Den Billiards

Roanoke, Virginia

1 Johann Chua \$20,000
2 Shane Van Boening \$10,000
3 Quoc Hoang Duong \$5,000
3 Yu-Lung Chang \$5,000
5 Alexandros Kazakis \$2,500
5 Felix Vogel \$2,500
5 Luong Duc Thien \$2,500
5 Wiktor Zielinski \$2,500
9 Aloysius Yapp \$1,300
9 Fedor Gorst \$1,300
9 Jan Van Lierop \$1,300
9 Konrad Juszczyzyn \$1,300
9 Lukas Fracasso-Verner \$1,300
9 Maximilian Lechner \$1,300
9 Moritz Neuhausen \$1,300
9 Po Cheng Kuo \$1,300
17 Aleksa Pecelj \$800
17 Casper Matikainen \$800
17 Francisco Sanchez-Ruiz \$800
17 John Morra \$800
17 Jui An Hsu \$800
17 Kledio Kaci \$800
17 Lee Vann Corteza \$800
17 Li Wen Lo \$800
17 Lo Ho Sum \$800
17 Mario He \$800
17 Mieszko Fortunski \$800
17 Pham Phuong Nam \$800
17 Pijus Labutis \$800
17 Sanjin Pehlivanovic \$800
17 Walter Laikre \$800
17 Yannick Pongers \$800

Aug 11 - Aug 16

2025 Battle of the Bull One Pocket

Wolf's Den Billiards

Roanoke, Virginia

1 Fedor Gorst \$8,000
2 Roland Garcia \$4,000
3 Brandon Shuff \$2,500
4 Louis Demarco \$1,500
5 Konrad Juszczyzyn \$1,100
5 Mickey Krause \$1,100
7 Josh Roberts \$700
7 Shane Van Boening \$700

Aug 16 - Aug 17

NWPA Tour 2025 Stop 5

Players Sports Bar

Kennewick, Washington

1 Shaundra Radford \$880
2 Robin Adams \$615
3 Tilyn Holzapfel \$430
4 Sarah Myers-Mitchell \$290
5 Andy Camping \$185
5 Maryann McConnell \$185
7 Jeanne Christiansen \$120
7 Melinda Hoffman \$120
9 Aimee Wilson-McDonnell \$80
9 Donna Jessop \$80
9 Kathie MacDonald \$80
9 Sara Moore \$80

Aug 16 - Aug 17

2025 DFW 9-Ball Tour Stop #8

Rusty's Billiards

Fort Worth, Texas

1 Gavin Mathew \$1,100
2 Jeff Turney \$860
3 Diana Wolfe \$660
4 Mark Johnson \$460
5 Clinton Mayo \$300
5 Joel Nabia \$300
7 Chris Ferguson \$160
7 Jason Gladden \$160
9 Paryag Mehta \$100
9 Ricky Ferguson \$100
9 Sean McAlister \$100
9 William Banda \$100

Aug 18 - Aug 23

2025 U.S. Open 9-Ball Championship

Harrah's Resort Atlantic City

Atlantic City, NJ

- 1 Aloysius Yapp \$100,000
- 2 Fedor Gorst \$50,000
- 3 Johann Chua \$25,000
- 3 Pin-Yi Ko \$25,000
- 5 Denis Grabe \$15,000
- 5 Joshua Filler \$15,000
- 5 Michael Baoanan \$15,000
- 5 Niels Feijen \$15,000
- 9 Albin Ouschan \$8,000
- 9 Aleksa Pecelj \$8,000
- 9 Jayson Shaw \$8,000
- 9 Jeffrey Consigna Roda \$8,000
- 9 Kun Lin Wu \$8,000
- 9 Oscar Dominguez \$8,000
- 9 Quoc Hoang Duong \$8,000
- 9 Wiktor Zielinski \$8,000
- 17 Alexandros Kazakis \$5,000
- 17 Amil Andre Gangflot \$5,000
- 17 Ang Tuan Nguyen \$5,000
- 17 Bader Al Awadi \$5,000
- 17 Baseth Mocaibat \$5,000
- 17 Fitim Haradinaj \$5,000
- 17 Hui-chan Lu \$5,000
- 17 Jesus Atencio \$5,000
- 17 John Morra \$5,000
- 17 Mieszko Fortunski \$5,000
- 17 Moritz Neuhausen \$5,000
- 17 Naoyuki Oi \$5,000
- 17 Po Cheng Kuo \$5,000
- 17 Sullivan Clark \$5,000
- 17 Szymon Kural \$5,000
- 17 Yu-Lung Chang \$5,000
- 33 Arseny Sevastyanov \$3,000
- 33 Bernie Regaliaria \$3,000
- 33 Brandon Shuff \$3,000
- 33 Carlo Biado \$3,000
- 33 Chris Reinhold \$3,000
- 33 Cristian Surdea \$3,000
- 33 Daniel Maciol \$3,000
- 33 Eklent Kaci \$3,000
- 33 Francisco Sanchez-Ruiz \$3,000
- 33 Harry Vergara \$3,000
- 33 Hayato Hijikata \$3,000

- 33 Jonas Souto Comino \$3,000
- 33 Karl Gnadeberg \$3,000
- 33 Konrad Juszczyzyn \$3,000
- 33 Lee Vann Corteza \$3,000
- 33 Lo Ho Sum \$3,000
- 33 Lukas Fracasso-Verner \$3,000
- 33 Marco Teutscher \$3,000
- 33 Marvin Asis \$3,000
- 33 Matt Edwards \$3,000
- 33 Maximilian Lechner \$3,000
- 33 Mickey Krause \$3,000
- 33 Mustafa Alnar \$3,000
- 33 Nicholas Tan Guo \$3,000
- 33 Oliver Szolnoki \$3,000
- 33 Ping-Chung Ko \$3,000
- 33 Robbie Capito \$3,000
- 33 Roberto Gomez \$3,000
- 33 Sanjin Pehlivanovic \$3,000
- 33 Thorsten Hohmann \$3,000
- 33 Tyler Styer \$3,000
- 33 Wojciech Szewczyk \$3,000

Aug 21 - Aug 24

2025 WPBA Felt Colorado Classic

Felt Billiards

Englewood, CO

- 1 Kristina Tkach \$10,000
- 2 Marharyta Fefilava \$6,500
- 3 Pia Filler \$4,500
- 4 Allison Fisher \$3,400
- 5 Eylul Kybaroglu \$2,500
- 5 Savannah Easton \$2,500
- 7 Ashley Benoit \$2,000
- 7 Monica Webb \$2,000
- 9 Aleksandra Guleikova \$1,500
- 9 Janet Atwell \$1,500
- 9 Kaylee McIntosh \$1,500
- 9 Sofia Mast \$1,500
- 13 April Larson \$1,100
- 13 Kennedy Meyman \$1,100
- 13 Nicole Keeney \$1,100
- 13 Olivia Cheng \$1,100
- 17 Angela Janic \$850
- 17 Ashley Rice \$850
- 17 Caroline Pao \$850
- 17 Emily Duddy \$850
- 17 Nguyen Bich Tram \$850
- 17 Stacie Bourbeau \$850

- 17 Stephanie Mitchell \$850
- 17 Tina Larsen \$850

Aug 23 - Aug 23

Q City 9-Ball Tour Stop

Borderline Billiards

Bristol, TN

- 1 Morgan Stout \$500
- 2 Mike Clevinger \$300
- 3 Aaron McClure \$180
- 4 Rudy Hess \$155

Aug 25 - Aug 29

2025 Formosa Cup

Taipei City

Taipei City,

- 1 Aloysius Yapp \$12,000
- 2 Ping-Chung Ko \$6,000
- 3 Po Cheng Kuo \$3,000
- 3 Wang Hung Hsiang \$3,000
- 5 Bader Al Awadi \$1,500
- 5 Chien Hung Liu \$1,500
- 5 Sun Yi Hsuan \$1,500
- 5 Yu-Lung Chang \$1,500
- 9 Chia-Chen Hsieh \$700
- 9 Cuyno Apat \$700
- 9 Fu Huan \$700
- 9 Lo Ho Sum \$700
- 9 Ping Han Ko \$700
- 9 Ri Teng Liu \$700
- 9 Ta Li Lin \$700
- 9 Yun Cheng Liu \$700
- 17 Ameer Ali \$400
- 17 Andri Januarta \$400
- 17 Arrojo Arnulfo Jr. \$400
- 17 Che-Wei Fu \$400
- 17 Cheng-Ta Tsai \$400
- 17 Gong-Hao Yang \$400
- 17 Guo En Tan \$400
- 17 Hui-chan Lu \$400
- 17 Kouki Sugiyama \$400
- 17 Kun Lin Wu \$400
- 17 Mishel Turkey \$400
- 17 Pei-Wei Chang \$400
- 17 Pin-Yi Ko \$400
- 17 Sung Kong Kyo \$400
- 17 Ying-Chieh Chen \$400
- 17 Zih-Min Lee \$400

Aug 27 - Sep 01

52nd Annual Texas Open 9-Ball

Skinny Bob's Billiards

- Round Rock, Texas
- 1 Shane Van Boening \$14,000
 - 2 Miguel Polanco \$9,300
 - 3 Vitaliy Patsura \$4,000
 - 4 Jesus Atencio \$2,500
 - 5 Lazaro Martinez III \$1,500
 - 5 Tommy Tokoph \$1,500
 - 7 Fedor Gorst \$800
 - 7 Shahram Changezi \$800
 - 9 Josh Roberts \$600
 - 9 Mark Johnson \$600
 - 9 Michael Schneider \$600
 - 9 Miguel Savilla \$600
 - 13 Adam Sisneros \$400
 - 13 Billy Dyke \$400
 - 13 Devin Poteet \$400
 - 13 Gabriel Martinez \$400
 - 17 David Neumann \$300

- 17 Demitrios Jelatis \$300
- 17 John Morra \$300
- 17 Josh Keller \$300
- 17 KC Massey \$300
- 17 Lucas Taylor \$300
- 17 Shane Wolford \$300
- 17 Tony Chohan \$300
- 25 Andrew Rodriguez \$200
- 25 Chris Morris \$200
- 25 David O'Keefe \$200
- 25 Jayden Holt \$200
- 25 Nick De Leon \$200
- 25 Noah Contreras \$200
- 25 Ruben Silva \$200
- 25 Savannah Easton \$200

Aug 27 - Sep 01

52nd Annual Texas Open Ladies 9-Ball

Skinny Bob's Billiards

Round Rock, Texas

- 1 Eylul Kybaroglu \$2,300
- 2 Sue Orr \$1,200
- 3 Tina Pawloski Malm \$700
- 4 April Gonzales \$500
- 5 Chris Fields \$300
- 5 Ming Ng \$300
- 7 Courtney Peters \$200
- 7 Jennifer Kraber \$200

Aug 28 - Aug 01

2025 Efren "Bata" Reyes 10-Ball Championship

Mandaluyong

- Mandaluyong,
- 1 Paolo Gallito \$17,418
 - 2 Lee Vann Corteza \$5,225

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Upcoming Tournaments

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

SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER

2025 Zen & Yuan 8 Open

Sep 02 - Sep 05

Shanghai

2025 Houston Open

Sep 04 - Sep 07

Bogies Billiards West
Houston, Texas

Tiger Florida Tour 2025 Stop

Sep 06 - Sep 06

Brewlands Bar & Billiards
Lakeland, FL

2025 China Open

Sep 06 - Sep 14

Shanghai China

JPNEWT Tour 2025 Stop #5

Sep 13 - Sep 14

Shooter's Family Billiards
Wayne, NJ

WPA World 10-Ball Championship 2025

Sep 17 - Sep 28

Quan Khu 7 Stadium
Ho Chi Minh Korea

2025 Women's World 9-Ball Championship

Sep 17 - Sep 28

Quan Khu 7 Stadium
Ho Chi Minh Korea

Arizona Women's Billiards Tour 2025 Stop 6

Sep 20 - Sep 21

Dozer's Grill
Mesa, Arizona

West Coast Women's Tour 2025 Stop 5

Sep 20 - Sep 20

The Jointed Cue
Sacramento, CA

2025 Yalin WPA Women World 10-Ball Championship

Oct 07 - Oct 12

Indonesia

WPA Yalin World 8-Ball Championship 2025

Oct 09 - Oct 13

Indonesia

West Coast Women's Tour 2025 Stop 6

Oct 11 - Oct 11

Diamond Billiards
Modesto, California

JPNEWT Tour 2025 Stop #6

Oct 11 - Oct 12

Yale Billiards
Wallingford, Connecticut

2025 Reyes Cup

Oct 16 - Oct 19

Manila

3rd Annual Madison 3 Cushion International Open

Oct 16 - Oct 19

Madison, WI

Arizona Women's Billiards Tour 2025 Stop 7

Oct 18 - Oct 19

Metro Sports Bar & Billiards
Fayetteville, GA

17th Annual "Cues for the Cure" Breast Cancer Fundraiser

Oct 18 - Oct 18

Corner Pocket
Largo, FL

Philippines Open Pool Championship

Oct 21 - Oct 26

Manila

NWPA Tour 2025 Stop 6

Oct 25 - Oct 26

Ox Billiards
Seattle, Washington

AZBILLIARDS MONEY LIST

	NAME	COUNTRY	\$ AMOUNT	
	Carlo Biado	 PHI	264.750,00 US\$	
	Fedor Gorst	 USA	235.700,00 US\$	
	Aloysius Yapp	 SIN	215.200,00 US\$	↑
	Joshua Filler	 GER	172.740,00 US\$	↓
	Shane Van Boening	 ALB	132.400,00 US\$	↓
	Kledio Kaci	 USA	80.850,00 US\$	↓
	Johann Chua	 PHI	75.000,00 US\$	↑
	Denis Grabe	 EST	72.575,00 US\$	
	Mickey Krause	 DEN	68.750,00 US\$	↑
	Bernie Regalario	 PHI	63.000,00 US\$	↑

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