

Billie's Buzz

an  p

vol.9, Issue March 2025



**DANNY
DILIBERTO**

2/19/34 - 2/11/25

CONTRIBUTORS:

Skip Maloney
Erwin Dionisio
Billie Billing Photos
Diana Hoppe
Phil Capelle
Anthony Beeler
Steve Lillis
Tim Gallagher
Mary Kenniston
Predator Pro Billiard Series
EPBF
Jack Mitchell - Matchroom Multi
Sport
Pool Action TV

COVER PHOTO:
Billie Billing Photos

GRAPHICS AND LAYOUT:
Natasha Dolovacki
Nebojsa Dolovacki

© 2017-2025, *The Billiards Buzz* is an online only monthly publication. It is published on or around the 30th of each month. All opinions & information expressed herein are exclusively those of the writers or advertisers and do not necessarily reflect those of the AzBilliards. All persons interested in submitting articles and material of interest are invited to do so. Submission of such articles constitutes permission for AzBilliards to use these articles in this publication or online on AzBilliards.com. Article submission or advertisers queries can be sent to us at info@azbilliards.com

FROM THE Head Rail

MIKE HOWERTON

The pool world lost a legend last month, with the passing of Danny DiLiberto.

As I talked to people to gather the remembrances of Danny for this month's issue, it was apparent just how well loved Danny was by his peers. I had to pause multiple times for players to regain their composure before continuing the conversation.

Anyone who met Danny had fond memories of him, and he will be sorely missed within the industry.

I know that for the rest of my life watching pool, someone who can shoot with both hands will always be "amphibious" and someone who misses a crucial shot will always be "sleeping in the streets" and leaving an opponent with a game winning shot will always be "selling out his bankroll".

Until next time.
Mike





50 YEARS • *Meucci* 1975-2025

LEGENDARY PERFORMANCE MADE IN THE USA





- 6** Lessons from Turning Stone, Part 2
Phil Capelle
- 10** Mastering Center Ball
Anthony Beeler
- 12** World Class Pool
- 14** Gospel Trick Shots
Steve Lillis
- 26** Grabe Wins Kamui Vegas Open
Article and photo courtesy Predator Pro Billiard Series
- 28** Fisher, Kazakis & Amit Crowned Champs in Vegas
Article and photo courtesy Predator Pro Billiard Series
- 30** Thorpe and Amit Shine in Vegas
Article and photo courtesy Predator Pro Billiard Series
- 32** Bustamante Takes Down Swanee Memorial
Story by Mary Kenniston / Photos courtesy Pool Action TV
- 34** Bayou State Classic
Story by Mary Kenniston / Photos courtesy Pool Action TV
- 36** Scott Frost Returns to Global Stage
Story by Jack Mitchell / Photos courtesy Matchroom Multi Sport
- 38** Tyler Styer Joins Team Meucci
- 40** Jayson Shaw Joins Team Tiger
- 42** Tiger Introduces Nitro Cue Tip
- 44** Barry Hearn & Andy Goldstein to Compete at UK Open
- 46** Southwest Youth 10-Ball Tour
- 48** Tournament Results
- 52** Upcoming Events
- 53** AzBilliards Money List

18 Pool World Loses Danny DiLiberto

Photos courtesy Billie Billing, Diana Hoppe and National Billiard News archive




22 Filler Crowned Treviso Champion

Article and photo courtesy EPBF



24 Ouschan Takes Euro Tour Title

Article and photo courtesy EPBF



THE BLUE YOU NEED

Blue DIAMOND

SEARCH YOUR DEALER ON
BLUEDIAMONDCHALK.COM



LESSONS FROM TURNING STONE, Part 2

I watched every match on the streaming table provided by UpState AI as part of my coverage of Turning Stone Classic XL (#40). This month is the second column in a two part series. As I advised last month, these short lessons can serve as reminders for certain aspects of your game, or possibly provide you with some new ideas that you can employ in your game. Happy hunting.

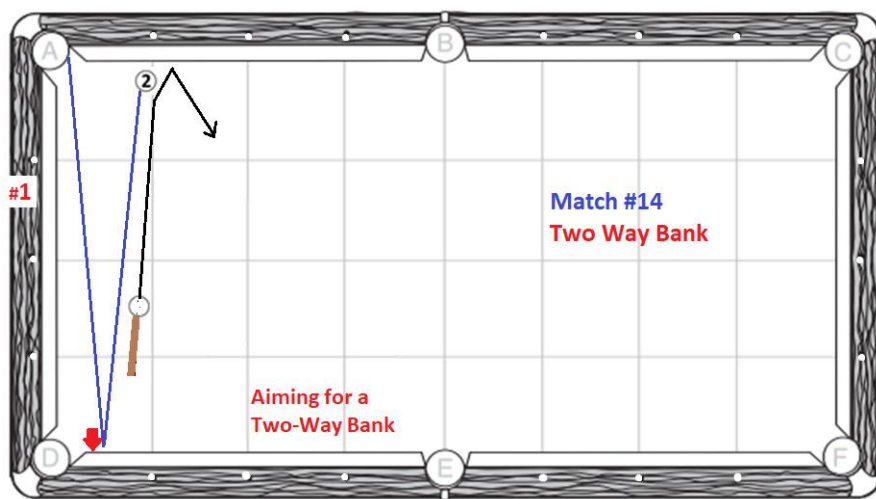
14 – MAKING A DOUBLE BANK

In this evenly rated match, Christoph Neumayer (736) raced to a 4-1 lead, but after 14 games, the score was tied at 7-7. But then Frankie Hernandez (720) broke dry and Christoph got out. In the final game Christoph missed an easy cross-corner bank, but made it on a double bank to win the match.

While he may have not planned it as a two-way bank, it did go, which leads to the logical conclusion that some banks do have a two-way component built into them. Indeed, a smart player might plan for a very slight miss into the first pocket as shown by the

red arrow in **Diagram #1**. If they make it, it was because the shot was designed to go in either corner pocket. So, if they do miss the bank on the correct side, then it could easily go into the opposite pocket. In short, this is pool's version of heads you win, tails you also win.

The shot in the diagram is a reasonably close approximation of the one that Christoph faced. He use a little bit of inside (left) english. The object ball missed on the high side of Pocket D, hitting the long rail as shown. The inside english now acted as outside (right) english, which threw the object ball to the right as it bounced off the rail and on a path to Pocket A.



15 – A BONAFIDE MISS-A-THON

Back in the early 70s I was watching a match at a 14.1 event at the Elks Club in Los Angeles between the great Joe Balsis and another fine player. At one point, he and his opponent traded a half dozen misses on the last ball of a rack before the madness finally came to an end. Some games are like that, as was game 4 in the matchup between Ruslan Chinahov and Matt Krah (699), which turned out to be a classic miss-a-thon.

So, what brings on this unhappy state of affairs when two players totally lose their games at the same moment? And how can you be the one to bring an end the madness? My best advice is develop a rock solid routine, such as The Shot Cycle (which will be featured on my next book), and then to focus on giving a shot your very best effort.

16 – TWICE RISING TO THE OCCASION

Hunter Lombardo made a long jump shot on the 1-ball, then a long and thin cross table cut on the 2-ball before proceeding to run out. On most jump shots hitting and/or making the ball is priority number one. Since making

a jump and playing good position is tough to do, your reward for making a jump is often yet another tough shot. This means that you must quickly end your post-great-shot celebration and quickly elevate your game once again, as Hunter was able to do.

Spend just a little time on your post-great-shot celebrations.

Earl Herring, Hunter's opponent, is in his 70s and still sports a Fargo of 669. He finished a respectable 17-24 in this edition of the Turning Stone. I like to watch as Earl applies his unique brand of "arm english" to most shots. But the fact of the matter is that, as we age, we gradually lose some of our fluidity. In other words, we tend to play tighter. This tendency to apply arm english could come on over a long period of time, which gives players plenty of time to get used to it.

17 – ADD A DEFENSIVE COMPONENT

Jayson Shaw failed to pocket a very missable billiard on the 9 in game 10 and sold out, allowing Lee Vann Cortezza to take a commanding 7-3 lead. The lesson: if you are going to play a tough billiard or combo, try to add a defensive component to the shot.

Still, winning is often about taking a well-calculated gamble on a tough shot. In an interview with Nick Varner last year he told me how he likes to take on tough shots. Both Cortezza (in game 3) and Shaw (in game 5) pocketed long rail banks and then ran out.

Long rail banks very often have a defensive component to them as the cue ball tends to end up near one long rail while the object ball, if missed, often stops near the opposite end rail. One typical resting spot is shown in **Diagram #2**. In this case, the 9-ball hit the end rail and stopped far up the side rail – but short of the side pocket. Notice that the cue ball stopped on the opposite side of the table, leaving the opponent with a long thin cut with the cue ball near the cushion.

18 – ON BEING A MOMENTUM PLAYER

One of the strongest moves in competitive pool is to open a match with a statement making B&R, and then let the momentum carry you forward till the end. In this match Aaron Greenwood had a front row seat for the Mika Express as the Iceman B&R the first game, then raced to a 5-0 lead, before cruising to a lopsided 9-2 win.

Mika Immonen takes a super-athletic approach to his play, which makes use of the continuous motion style

of play, as do more than half of the world's best players. Mika is also a momentum player who, once he gets on a roll, can sentence even the best of players to lengthy stays in their chair.

19 – THE SCORE PROGRESSION OF A DOUBLE HILL MATCH

It is my staunch belief that pool has the best Score Progression of any sport. Period. Score Progression reveals the heartbeat of a match as it shows when leads are gained or lost, leads are extended, comebacks are made, and when a contest is doubt to the end, which is especially the case when a match is decided by only one or two games.

Exhibit A shows the Score Progression in match #19, the first of Sunday's final day of play, between Moritz Neuhäusen (N) and Danny Hewitt (H). Break and runs are underlined.

NN HHH N H NNNN H N HHH N

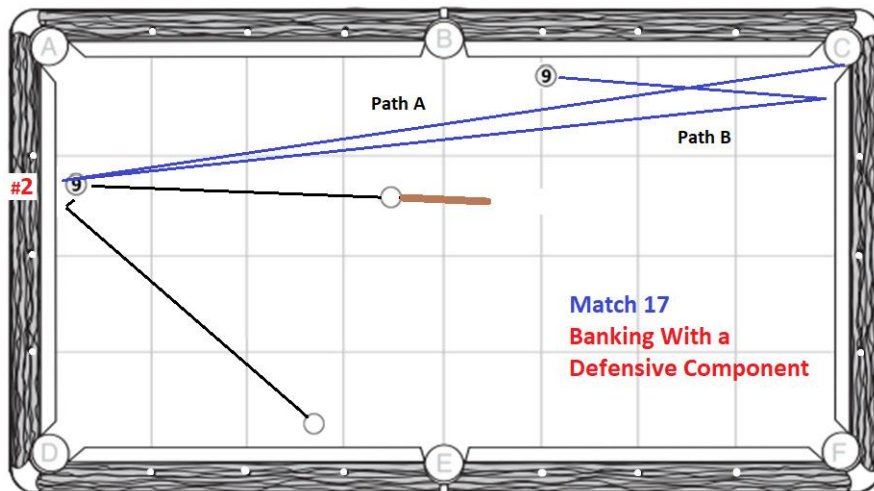
Notice the streaks of three or four games. The four straight by Neuhäusen enabled him to take a 7-4 lead. The three wins late in the match by Hewitt took him from 8-5 to 8-8. From a spectators point of view, matches like this one are the ultimate in the Art of Pool Watching.

You can live with quirk or two in your method of play.

I like Hewitt's game a lot and he gets results as shown by his Fargo of 773. Of interest is his stance, which is an extreme double knee bend. But hey, it works for him.

20 – GREAT SAFETY BATTLES

Game 7 between Jesse Piercey and Christoph Neumayer featured a Great Safety Battle, which I am sure you that



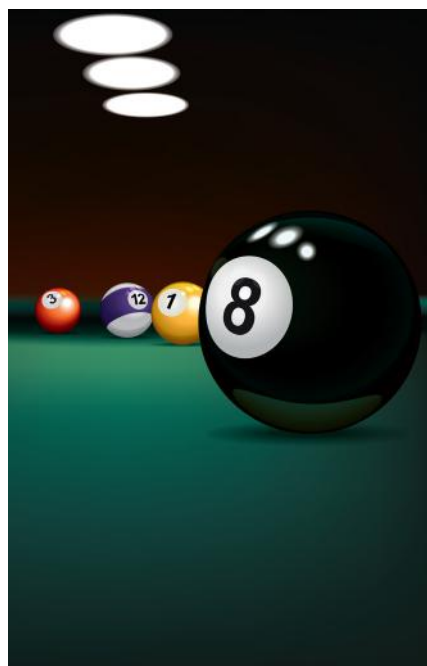
most of you, as true aficionados of the sport, love as much as most any aspect of the game.

Try exercising your poolplaying imagination when a safety is not so obvious.

Defensive play is largely about playing the percentages, about playing the smart shot. There are often so many more options than those available for the typical position play. As a result, you must put your imagination to work, especially when the best choice is not so obvious. Safety battles also take patience because you might need to play 2-3 or more safes before you arrive at the gamewinner. And safeties also require that you control one or both balls, often with the greatest of precision and skill.

21 – HOW TO B&R 5 STRAIGHT

Moritz Neuhausen won the opening two games, but then missed the 8 after employing the dreaded Walkover (see *Billiards Buzz*, April, 2024).



Lee Vann Corteza won that game, then broke and ran 5 straight, easily the best package in the 23 matches I watched. Lesson: packages of 3+ racks occur far less often than most fans think that they do.

A number of ingredients need to be present to run five straight. For starters, your break has to be working exceptionally well, which is a matter of both skill and luck. One or more balls must go on the break, you need to be blessed with a makeable shot on the lowest ball. You may need to make a challenging “out shot” to kickstart your run, and there can be no letting up. Furthermore, a package requires solid and precise position play, which enables you to get out of the tough racks and, finally, the mental strength to keep a good thing going.

I did the math on Lee Vann’s streak and it turned out that, after subtracting the balls that he made on the break, that he averaged a run of 7.2 balls. Rack by rack they were 7, 8, 8, 7, 6 balls long. As you might suspect, his run featured a super-wide variety shots and all types of position plays that were very well-executed. His run came to an end when he missed a bank in the sixth game.

22 – THE PULL AWAY

In game 3 of the semifinal match, Christoph Neumayer broke dry and Moritz Neuhausen ran 9 and out, won a safety battle as the best seem to do with great regularity, to win again, then B&R 2 games to open up a 5-1 lead in this race to 9. A burst of great play in games 2-5 led to a convincing 9-2 win over Neumayer, a fine player who obviously had to play some great pool to make it this far.

In the summaries for matches 5 and 11 I brought up the idea of a Variable Fargo, which would simply be an estimate of the amount that a player is playing above or below their Fargo

rating for a stretch of time. This could last for a game, a few games, a match, or even a series of matches. In this particular case I am putting the Variable Fargo to work again. Moritz is rated 805, but players at this level, especially this one, can, in short bursts, play as well as perhaps an 840 rated player.

23 – WATCH THE BALLS!

Efren Reyes is now 70 – can you believe that? And Lee Vann Corteza is 45. So, when Lee Vann was 15 and Reyes was 40 and was playing some of this best pool, the younger player had a role model for his game. And yet, his method of play, which features a short and powerful hit, is the polar opposite of Reyes’ method, which features a long and super smooth stroke.

However, if you just watch the balls when Lee Vann plays, you might think that you were watching Efren or some other Master of Position Play. And that goes for safeties too! And that’s because, when it comes to controlling the cue ball, Lee Vann is about as skilled as most anyone on the planet. So that is why I enjoying watching him so much – along with the fact that he looks, like Efren, to be truly enjoying himself as he plies his trade!

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*.

VANQUISH

NEW

MACH 1

CARBON FIBER BREAK CUE

CARBON FIBER

NEW &
IMPROVED
DEFY SHAFT

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

Available in linen, leather & no-wrap options!

VBP WEIGHT SYSTEM

PHENOLIC FERRULE

NAVIGATOR BREAK IMPACT

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

McDermott
Handcrafted Cues

Learn more at mcdermottcue.com/mach1



MASTERING CENTER BALL: THE KEY TO CONSISTENCY IN POOL

ANTHONY BEELER

Mastering center ball is one of the most crucial skills in pool. Whether you're a beginner or an advanced player, consistently striking the cue ball in the center enhances accuracy, control, and overall shot-making consistency.

Many players struggle with unintentional side spin, which can cause deflection and missed shots. Learning to find and strike true center ball is essential for developing a reliable and repeatable stroke.

Finding True Center Ball

One of the best ways to locate center ball is by using the top or bottom edge of the cue ball as a reference point. Instead of trying to aim directly at the middle of the ball, focus on the top



or bottom edge and then position the cue tip accordingly. This technique provides a clearer visual reference for center, making it easier to strike the cue ball precisely. Interestingly, hitting well above or below center often makes it easier to find true vertical center, so when possible, avoid aiming for the absolute middle.

Body Position and Stance

Proper body positioning is crucial for consistent center-ball hits. Many players unknowingly misalign themselves due to poor stance mechanics. A common mistake is allowing the back foot to cross the shot line—the imaginary straight path between the center of the cue ball and the target. The tip of the back foot should come up to the shot line but never cross it. Crossing the shot line can cause the butt of the cue to angle out, leading to an unintentional stroke across the cue ball, often sending the tip slightly left or right of center (depending on whether you are left or right-handed).



The “Dark Side of the Moon” Approach

A useful concept for finding true center ball is what I call the “Dark Side of the Moon” approach. This method helps players train their eyes to see the cue ball differently. Instead of aiming directly at the perceived center, shift your focus to the far side of the cue ball—the side opposite where the cue tip makes contact. By aiming through the cue ball toward this “dark side,” you counteract visual distortions that often lead to unintended side spin. This approach ensures a pure center-ball hit by forcing a straight, true alignment through the cue ball’s core. Many players unknowingly strike slightly off-center due to incorrect perception, but this method helps develop a more accurate feel for hitting center, leading to better shot-making and cue ball control.

Back to the Tip

A great way to confirm true center-ball hit is by practicing with a cue ball. Place the cue ball at the spot and aim to the middle diamond on the opposite end rail. The cue ball should strike the rail in front of the diamond and rebound back to your tip. If the cue ball returns to your tip, you have hit center. If it’s off to the left or right, then you didn’t hit center. Repeating this drill helps train your eye and your stroke for consistent center-ball contact.

Why Center Ball Matters

Finding and striking center ball is a fundamental skill for any serious pool player. By using the top or bottom of the cue ball as a reference, maintaining a proper stance, and ensuring the back foot does not cross the shot line, players can develop a more consistent and accurate stroke. Incorporating these techniques into your practice routine will lead to improved shot-making, better cue ball control, and greater confidence at the table.

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

NEWLY UPDATED ONLINE COURSE!

Master Instructor
ANTHONY BEELER'S

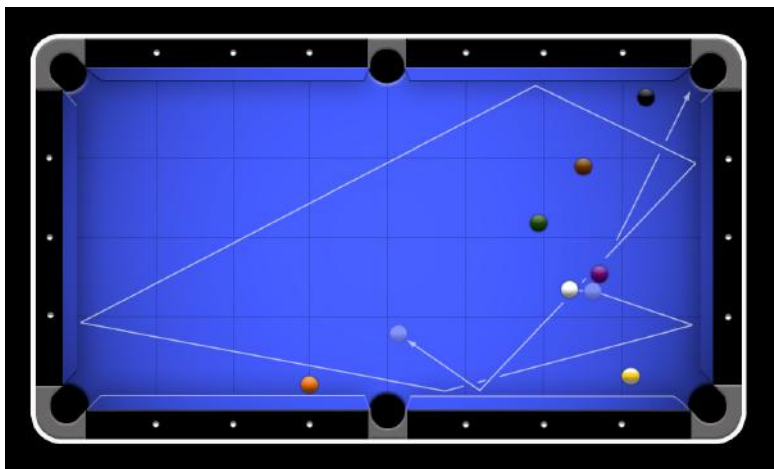
V I R T U A L
B I L L I A R D S
A C A D E M Y

Instructor of the Decade!

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

SPM MAGAZINE
ACS
McDermott
pbia
Billiards Buzz

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.

You can never go wrong with a highlight from Efen Reyes, and this month we go back to the famous Reno Open in 1995 when Efen hit the Z shot on Earl. This is a different shot though.

Early in the hot-seat match, also against Strickland, Reyes left himself a thin shot on the 4-ball and he made with this creative shot with the bridge.

This ball had to roll 25 feet with pretty perfect shape.



PROLINE



OUR LATEST BLUEPRINT FOR INTELLIGENT CASE DESIGN.

DESIGNED WITH PURPOSE | CUETEC.COM

CUETEC

© 2023 CUETEC CO. LTD. ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

Gospel Trick Shot #61

Come Home

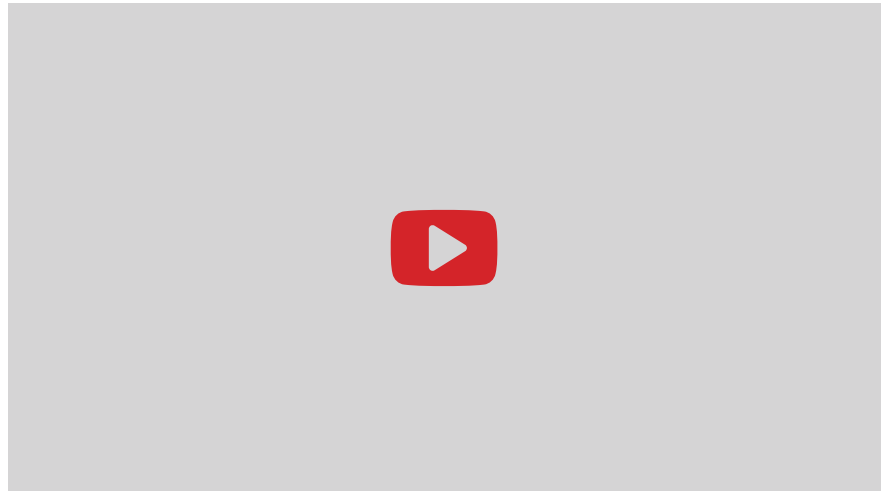
History of the Trick Shot: This shot also is an ongoing continuation of converting Artistic Pool shots from the WPA sanctioned World Artistic Pool program into Gospel Trick Shots. In the 2020 Official Shot/Challenge Program this particular shot is found in Discipline 6 and it is Shot 4b. It is performed in the video by Jason “The Michigan Kid” Lynch who is the ranked #2 in World Artistic Pool. He is also on our GTS RACK Team and in the video explains the Gospel Trick Shot message that goes with the shot. This Artistic Pool shot has a degree of difficulty rating of 9, so this is one of the more advanced shots in the professional program. The shots range from 6 to 10 so because this shot is higher on the spectrum this shot requires a great deal of practice, knowledge, and skill to make it consistently!

GTS Name and Why: Jason lost his wife to cancer in 2013 and it took a great deal of healing and understanding to come back home to God. The loss was devastating but through the love of friends and family he is back serving God with his God given gifts of testimony and trick shots. Just like in the story Jesus told of the lost sheep, the shepherd left the 99 and went out after the lost one to bring it home. As described in the video, the 1-4 balls represent the sheep that God has in his flock. God will go a great distance to save one person to bring them back home (the combination 8/9). Jesus is the Good Shepherd!

Scripture References in NIV Translation: **Luke 15:4** “Suppose one of you has a hundred sheep and loses one of them. Doesn’t he leave the ninety-nine in the open country and go after the lost sheep until he finds it?” and **Luke 8:39** “Return home and tell how much God has done for you.”

Cue Ball/Object Balls Placement: Cue Ball is frozen in line with balls 1-4 as shown in the diagram. The combination 8/9 is in the jaws of the lower right corner pocket, a rack is placed as shown.

Objective: Aim your cue stick to hit the cue ball with extreme bottom right with

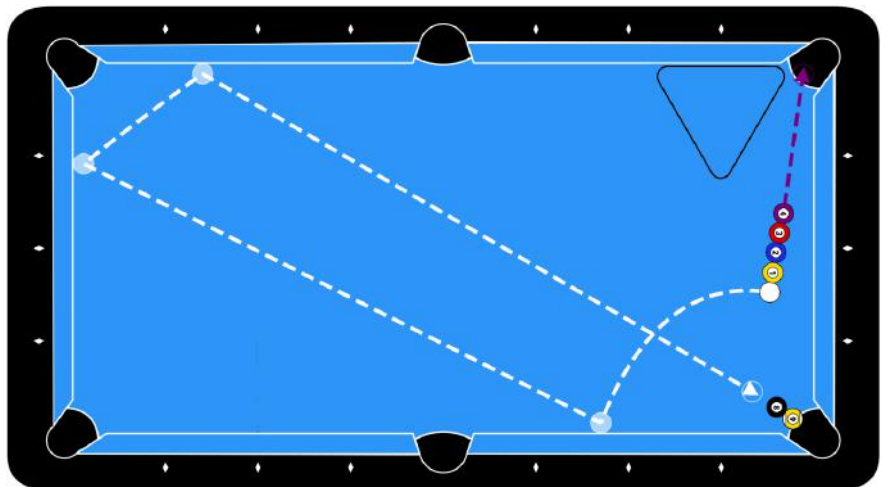


your cue stick parallel to the row of balls 1-4, follow thru with a firm stroke. If the shot is struck correctly, balls 1-4 will go off the rack into the corner pocket and the cue ball will draw and spin three rails to make the combination 8/9.

Special Notes: The explanation of the shot in the video relates to the Scriptures mentioned above.

Crowd Reactions Through the Years: This is a crowd favorite during professional competitions and exhibitions. Crowds

react to how much spin is on the cue ball when the shot is attempted. Sometimes this shot is taken too lightly by professionals. As one of his favorite shots, Jason says that when he misses the shot, he gets a taste of humble pie and it reminds him to be diligent even in the small things that we can take for granted in life. With this shot now as a Gospel Trick Shot, Jason and others can share what the Lord has done to bring them back home to God. If you need to come home to Jesus, make that decision today!



INTRODUCING

LX

Handcrafted High Performance Cues

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



Materials:

Ebony/Snakewood/Tulip
Full Splice - 4 Points

Ebony/Amboyna Burl/Bocote
Full Splice - 8 Points

Leather Wrap or Wrapless
Tiger Black Weave

Internal Tiger 5X Maple Patented
Core System

Laminated Shaft Options:
Tiger-X, LD or Pro

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



LX-8W



LX-5



www.tigerproducts.com

Available in 8 Different Models

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

Dealers and Distributors Only



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

Giotto
BILLIART ITALY

EXCLUSIVE LEATHER
CUE BAGS
MADE IN ITALY

Sport


LONGONITM
LONGONICASES.COM



The best playing experience

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

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



REMEMBRANCES OF Danny DiLiberto

Photos by **Billie Billing Photos** and **Diana Hoppe**

Early in the afternoon I got a text. All it said was “Danny passed this morning”. The news hit my stomach like a punch, even though Danny had been in ill health for quite a while and we had all been expecting the inevitable.

But Danny DiLiberto had always been bigger than life, so you sorta expected him to find a way to beat the odds as he had always done during his glory days. But this time, the other guy got to call for the rack.

It will always be one of my best memories, the time I spent with Danny

while we put together “Road Player”, the book about his adventures on the road, many of which were actually true. True or fantasy, they all showed the great spirit who came to be so talented in many different areas. He was a pro at four sports, all of which began with a ‘B’. He was a fantastic baseball player and had a favorite bet where he would wager that he could throw a

ball or a rock or whatever further than anyone would believe. He took money from pros whose tosses always came up way short of where Danny could land his missile. He was also a great bowler and as a boxer he trained under Angelo Dundee (Ali’s trainer) and had 14 bouts, none of which he lost. He would have been a fantastic boxer but he was found to have glass hands



and he finished many fights with broken fingers and shattered hands. Which left him with billiards.

And that worked out pretty well. Only occasionally a tournament player, Danny made his living in the local bars and pool rooms. He lived on the edge for much of his life, with his ability to afford dinner and a hotel room often dependent upon his ability to pocket balls earlier in the day.

Danny would not want sadness now, but celebration. Celebration that he never had to, as he would say, "Work a square job for a single day in my life". Even though his life was often hard, he always expressed great sympathies for "the squares who have to get up every day and go work for someone else".

With the passing of Danny DiLiberto, the storied generation of players that began with those in Johnston City has come to an end. They all entertained our imaginations with stories and unmatched cuemanship, and Danny D was always one the brightest flames in that exalted group of candles.

- Jerry Forsyth (Author of *Road Player: The Danny DiLiberto Story*)

Danny was my dear friend, and he'll live on forever in my heart and in the

hearts of countless Accu-Stats viewers.

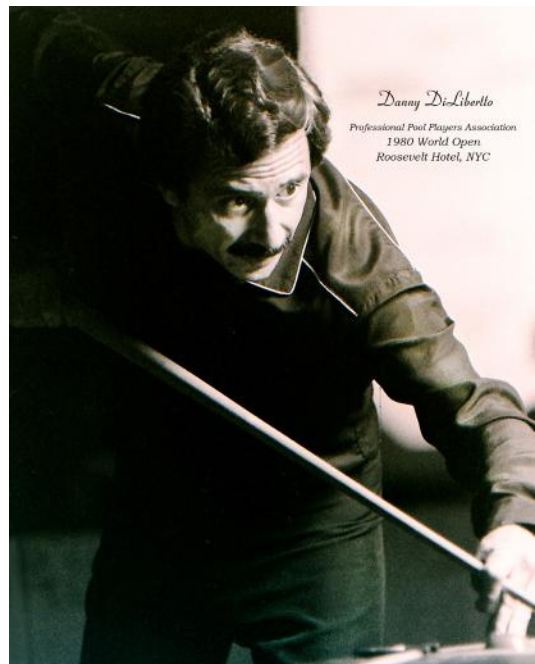
He loved being in the commentary booth, and never refused a chance to be there. I could always count on Danny, just ask. He was funny, and would make light-hearted fun of his good friends Billy Incardona and the late Grady Mathews . . . and they loved it.

I saw Danny a few months back when he was in the nursing home in Florida. He was alert and very happy to see me. We chatted quite a bit about pool and reminisced about his career.

I said to him, "Let's watch some pool on my cell phone." Of course, I chose a match where he was doing commentary with Billy. He smiled and enjoyed every minute. We will miss him, but NEVER forget him.

- Pat Fleming (Accu-Stats Video Productions)

All of us who knew Danny will truly miss him. He had a way of endearing himself to you with his mischievous grin and friendly manner. Danny was a true gentleman in every possible way, polite in the presence of women, kind to the elderly, playful with kids and honorable at all times. A Man among men! At the same time he had



the heart and soul of a warrior, never one to turn away from battle, be it on the green felt or on the pavement outside. For all these reasons Danny was widely respected in the billiard world and beyond.

Danny was also perhaps the most gifted athlete to ever grace the pool scene. He was a championship caliber bowler, a standout baseball player and a lightweight contender in boxing. No one really knows what other sports he excelled at, since he was not one to brag. His way of bragging was to show you!

Danny was plagued by stomach ailments all his adult life, that often sidelined him, but never held him back for long. He would fight it off and come back stronger than before. He did this so many times that none of us believed we would ever lose him.

Danny Diliberto is a man who definitely left his mark on the world and everybody who graced his path. We can all thank God there was a Danny Diliberto to guide us and keep us on track. He was the one pool player that everyone looked up to and stayed on



the straight and narrow when he was around. Danny would not accept anything less!

- Jay Helfert

I have been sad all morning. He was a grandfather and hero to me and we went back over 50 years in pool together.

I knew that he was going to pass away soon and unusually I awoke just before 4 a.m. today and just sensed that he was gone. When I got up a few hours later I told my wife about what I had felt and I then soon discovered it was true.

He spent his life playing against the very best, Joe Balsis, Irving Crane, Luther Lassiter, Nick Varner, Efren Reyes, Jersey Red, Buddy Hall, Earl Strickland, Mike Sigel, Steve Mizerak, Willie Mosconi, Jim Rempe, and Efren Reyes, along with anyone else that you have ever heard of. Imagine the hardships of making a living traveling and playing tough games against great players...you had better be a tough guy.

I first encountered Danny in 1973 at the U.S. Open Straight Pool Championship in Chicago. He played with an uncommon tenacity and grit which

was always his calling card in life. Danny is just a tough guy that is unafraid.

When he played he always had an energy, a bounce in his step, the spirit and enthusiasm to take on and accomplish what was necessary for victory.

The details of his game were interesting as he kept his cue fractionally more level than all of the other top tier players to gain an extra fragment or percent of accuracy. He would willfully take an intentional foul before ever giving anyone a chance to shoot an open tough shot. Danny won due to his willingness to work harder than his opponent. I was always and forever inspired by his examples and I so admired Danny.

He was justifiably a very proud guy and had unexpected qualities beyond a regular pool player. He loved creating a large Sunday gathering and cooking a high quality Italian pasta dinner for however many people were present.

If you insulted or physically challenged Danny, you could either apologize or get a "shot at the title".

He never used one word of profanity which is unheard of in my professional life.

Danny and I became broadcast partners and commentated more than 300 matches together covering a couple of decades.

Billy Incardona, Danny Diliberto, and Grady Mathews, are my favorites and all taught me so much pool with their insights and broadcasting styles. We all became brothers that had traveled the globe together at various times over many years.

Sometimes during our broadcasts Danny would recall an incident from long ago or before my time and offer it to the audience. I also genuinely loved hearing these stories from the past that I had never heard before. They often caught me off guard with a factual recollection and despite not trying to be funny, they would have little humorous twists that caused me to burst out in laughter for the unexpected direction things had turned and the fact that he was being serious and not attempting comedy.

Time went by and despite Danny being 20 years older than me, we aged together. We would be preparing in the broadcast booth pre match and he would be speaking about physical fitness for pool and he might look over and sternly say, "I can still out run you"...I had no doubt.

Danny was a tough guy with a kind heart that lived pool. Pool was his life and during our final broadcasting days he dearly loved still being around the sport. Pool was his identity and just being near it was invigorating for him, gave him a sense of purpose, and some greatly deserved attention.

Danny knew that our time was coming closer to the end and when we would complete a major tournament he always signed off with the most gracious and heartfelt speech to the audience as if this might be the final time. I would feel the emotion and sincerity of his words in my headset



Danny with Bobby Hunter and Nick Varner

and my respect and pride would grow even greater for knowing Danny, as a tear would form in my eye.

During these recent days he was suffering without hope of improving. Just sad to think of all of those years gone by. We had a ton of fun experiences and Danny enjoyed a tremendous life.

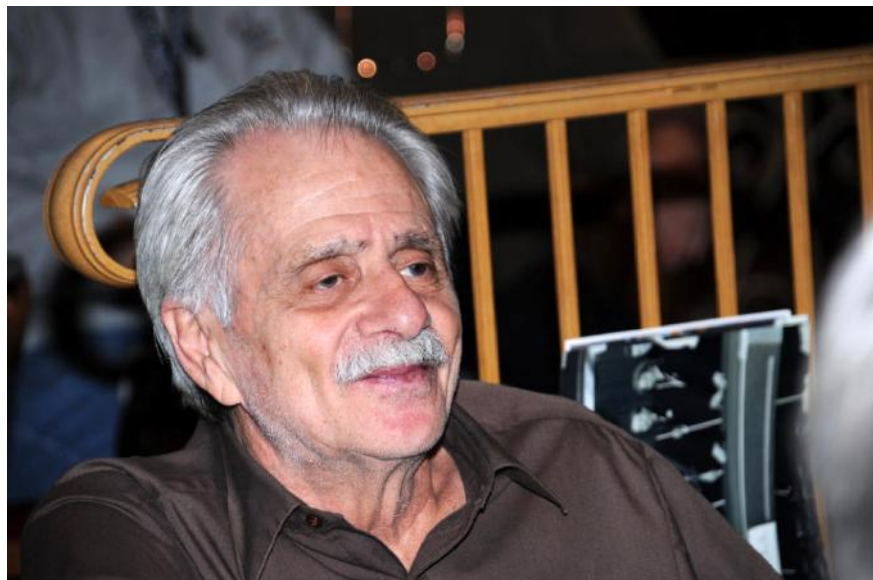
Thank you for adding so much to my life Danny, I love you.

- Mark Wilson

The first time I ever saw Danny DiLiberto was in 1974 at the Elks Lodge in Hollywood, California. He was competing in a straight pool tournament with the likes of Joe Balsis, Jimmy Moore, Irving Crane, Luther Lassiter, Petey Margo, and Larry Lisciotti, a real stellar lineup. Growing up and watching these greats contributed to my game, going from a C player to an A player in, like, six months.

Fast forward a few years later, I was on the road, hustling pool in Buffalo, New York. I ended up getting action with a local named Buffalo Frank, a real funny character. While we were woofing at each other, the house man was calling Danny to get him down there to match up with me. I was real young and must have looked like easy pickings. Danny already had a big name at this time, and I knew who he was. I, more or less, sort of wanted to be his friend and try to maybe make some money together, getting steered, instead of trying to play him. If I played him and beat him, by some chance, which I probably wouldn't have, it would have knocked all my action.

Eventually, me and Danny became really good friends. He was quite the horse handicapper, and so was I. We used to go to Santa Anita, and he would bring a picnic basket full of fruit, a big blanket, and the Racing Form already marked with the X's and O's. Sometimes Danny's family would



come with, and it was a really pleasant afternoon for all of us.

One of the fond memories I have with me and Danny gambling, we were playing one pocket for 10 large at Pool Sharks, what is today known as Griff's. He was giving me 8 to 7. Harry Platis was staking me. The action was in the pit area, where everybody was elevated around one table looking down. It was pretty cool. Danny showed me shots that I'd never seen, and I knew quite a bit running around with Ronnie Allen. We were cutting up with one another, but I had to be careful and show respect to Danny DiLiberto. I couldn't open my mouth, like I was wont to doing on occasion. There were a lot of railbirds, and all the rounds from Vegas were in the house. Everybody was betting it up. It was really a lot of fun. That was one of my most fondest memories ever playing him. I love Danny and am going to miss him.

- Keith McCready

I miss Danny. I will always miss Danny.

Danny was a true friend of mine for years. 20 years before we even did commentary, we were friends back in the late 60's. We did a lot of things together in Florida. We went on the

road together. We hustled together. He was a very charismatic guy and he had a lot of talent. I respected Danny so much. I loved Danny.

I thought we had a good rapport. We got along really well and lot of people enjoyed our commentary. I was able to kid him and he would take it so graciously. I knew when to pull up though. He was a little sensitive in some areas. I had more leeway than most, because of how close we were.

I think the fans of the commentary throughout the years probably preferred our commentary more than any of them. And I enjoyed my commentary with Danny more than anyone else I did commentary with. We just had a good feel with one another and we were close. We would eat together. We were both Italian. There were a lot of things we liked about one another. And there was a lot to like about Danny. He was a very talented person. A good hearted guy.

I miss Danny and I don't want him to disappear easily, like most players do. He was a legendary man and he should keep his legendary status and stay in the hearts and minds of people. That's what I think.

- Billy Incardona

FILLER

CROWNED CHAMP IN TREVISO

Photos and article courtesy EPBF

JOSHUA FILLER (GERMANY) collected his ninth Predator Euro Tour title as he defeated compatriot Stefan Casper by 10-2 to claim the Longoni Italian Open at the Best Western BHR Treviso Hotel.

Filler's recent run of form at the Euro Tour has been nothing short of incredible, with five championship wins in his last seven starts.

For Casper, who battled his way through the competition, it was a career-best second place finish, and he enjoyed outstanding victories over Alex Kazakis and Wojciech Szewczyk in the quarter and semi-finals respectively. Filler, though, grabbed the

match by the scruff of its neck as he opened up a 3-0 lead to leave his opponent reeling.

Casper got a couple of racks on the board to trail 2-4 and give himself a glimmer of hope, but after that it was strictly one-way traffic as Filler won the next eight racks unanswered to close out the match.



Joshua Filler



“ IN THE FIRST MATCH I WAS KIND OF STILL TIRED BUT WHEN YOU PLAY A LOT OF MATCHES, YOU GO THROUGH THE ADRENALIN AND DON'T FEEL TIRED. – Joshua Filler ”

Filler is well-rehearsed in victory speeches and he said, “It feels good because I played pretty good throughout the whole tournament, except the one match maybe. The deciding thing today against Niels and Casper was my safety game. I played really good safety; smart shots and I kept them under pressure the whole time.

“For Casper in the final, he was struggling with the speed of the table and I just took advantage of it. Every time I got out of shape, I played really good shots and when you play like that it

feels amazing. It’s my ninth win of the Euro Tour. It’s pretty impressive but I want to keep the streak going.

Filler had been under the spell of jet-lag, having just returned from an extended trip to the United States.

He said, “The first two days I just slept a maximum of two or three hours due to the jet lag but today was the first day that I slept six hours so I felt much much better. In the first match I was kind of still tired but when you play a lot of matches, you go through the

adrenalin and don’t feel tired. Now I’m awake, I’m going to have a nice dinner and I’m happy to lift the trophy in the end!”

Despite coming close, Casper drew some consolation from his performances this week, “I’m very happy with this tournament but Josh is too good – that’s it. I could have made it 3-3 but after that I had no chance. But that’s OK; I’m very happy with my second place. It’s been the best international tournament I’ve ever played and I’m looking forward to achieving similar results in the future.”

The Longoni Italian Open was the first Euro Tour event following Predator’s ground-breaking partnership with the tour.

Commented JP Parmentier, Sports Marketing Director of the Predator Group, “This event marks the beginning of an exciting new era for our sport. We are incredibly proud to have introduced the ARC Pool Table on this stage for the first time, and seeing a world-class player like Joshua Filler lift the trophy on the ARC made it even more special.

“This is just the beginning—we’re looking forward to bringing this level of innovation and excellence to many more events ahead,” he added.

This year sees a new streaming platform for all Euro Tour and European Championships events.

The Predator Euro Tour Series is the world’s longest-running pool tour. Sanctioned by the EPBF, there are six events annually on the calendar and all tournaments are played on Predator ARC tables, covered with Simonis 860 cloth, using Aramith Duramith balls. Additional sponsors are Kamui Chalk and Longoni Cues.

The host sponsor at the Longoni Italian Open is the Best Western Premier BHR Treviso Hotel

OUSCHAN TAKES TITLE ON EURO TOUR RETURN

Photos and article courtesy EPBF

After a five year absence from the Predator Euro Tour, Austria's Jasmin Ouschan returned to the fray in some style as she stormed to victory in the Longoni Italian Open, beating fellow Austrian Sandra Baumgartner by 8-3 at the host venue, the Best Western BHR Treviso Hotel. It was Ouschan's 19th Euro Tour title, an incredible achievement which will take some beating.

Jasmin Ouschan

Having also won the WPBA Olhausen Iron City Billiards Invitational in Birmingham, Alabama just seven days ago, her Euro Tour win cements a perfect start to what looks to be a packed 2025 for Ouschan. In all, she won seven times in Treviso to seal the title as she overcame some jetlag. Despite Baumgartner taking the opening rack, it was all Ouschan after that as she romped to victory

Commented Ouschan, "It was exhausting to be honest. A lot of matches especially in two days and I just came from America, so I was still a little jetlagged. I kind of had to pull

through a little bit but it feels really good to be back.

"I'm so happy for Predator coming into the Euro Tour because we need some new energy on this tour and of course I want to support that so I'm definitely going to play more Euro Tours. Obviously, it's started well for me so I'm going to try and keep going.

"Coming back from America is always the toughest jet lag to me so it's really hard to get up in the morning and play at 10am but this my job; I've been doing this for 20 years and I know how to deal with it and I'm not complaining but I just have to understand that I really need to take care of my energy.



Sandra Baumgartner

“So, I think I did a good enough job for this tournament and I think I can do even better with my performance. I won it, I won in America and, so far, season 2025 is going perfect for me!” she added.

Baumgartner’s second place finish was her best yet on the Predator Euro Tour and we can look forward to seeing her competing regularly on the European circuit.

She said, “I’m very happy about all my performances. I played some very good matches; not so much in the final but I’m still very happy about it. I’ve known Jasmin for a long time as we went to school together so we’ve known each other since we were six years old so we’ve played a lot of tournaments together and had a lot of matches. I decided to play all the Euro Tours and also the European Championships so I’ll be back.”

With the conclusion of the first Predator-sponsored event, JP Parmentier, Sports Marketing Director of the Predator Group, was more than happy, “The first Women’s EuroTour event of the year was a special one — not only because it marked the debut of the ARC Pool Table on this stage, but also because it saw Jasmin Ouschan make

a powerful statement with her return to the winner’s circle.

“Jasmin has been part of the Predator family for years, and her dedication, professionalism, and passion for the sport embody everything we stand for. As the biggest investor in women’s pool, we are committed to creating more opportunities for female athletes and driving the growth of women’s cuesports worldwide. Seeing Jasmin lift the trophy on the ARC is a proud moment for us, and we look forward to continuing our mission to elevate the game for the next generation.”

Earlier in the day, the final of the eight-event EPBF Youth Tour Masters took place with Sweden’s Walter Laikre running out a 7-2 winner over favor Moreno (Spain) to lift the trophy.

Earlier, 16-year-old Laikre enjoyed a terrific run at the Longoni Italian Open as he won five matches before going out in the last 16 at the hands of Alex Kazakis. He carried that form into the Youth Masters and was delighted with his efforts this week.

Commented Walter, “It was a nice win; I played good all the week. It’s really nice to win this tournament af-

ter a good performance in the Euro Tour. I’ve been happy with my game in every match here. I have European Championships coming up for the men’s and a couple of Euro Tours so I’ll see how I go. I couldn’t have done much better this week so nothing to complain about!”

This year sees a new streaming platform for all Euro Tour and European Championships events and going forward, matches will be streamed throughout on YouTube, via the Pro Billiard TV channel – <https://www.youtube.com/@ProBilliardTV>

For all results, live scoring and draw, visit <https://www.epbf.com/tournaments/eurotour/information/>

The Predator Euro Tour Series is the world’s longest-running pool tour. Sanctioned by the EPBF, there are six events annually on the calendar and all tournaments are played on Predator ARC tables, covered with Simonis 860 cloth, using Aramith Duramith balls. Additional sponsors are Kamui Chalk and Longoni Cues.

The host sponsor at the Longoni Italian Open is the Best Western Premier BHR Treviso Hote



Walter Laikre

GRABE WINS KAMUI VEGAS OPEN IN EPIC COMEBACK

Article and photo courtesy Predator Pro Billiard Series

Denis Grabe pulled off an unforgettable comeback to capture the 2025 Kamui Las Vegas Open title, overcoming a dominant start from Joshua Filler to force a dramatic shootout and clinch the championship.

What initially looked like a one-sided final turned into a battle for the ages. Filler came out firing, crushing the first two sets 4-0 and 4-1, seemingly in complete control. But in a stunning reversal, Grabe fought back, taking the third set 4-3 and then leveling the match with a commanding 4-1 victory in the fourth, shifting the momentum entirely.

That's the magic of the Pro Billiard Series sets format—a match can turn at any moment, creating unmatched excitement for players and fans alike.

With everything on the line, the shootout delivered even more drama. Filler shot first and made his first three attempts, but Grabe matched him shot for shot. When Filler missed his fourth, the door opened for Grabe, who kept his nerves in check and delivered the winning shot to claim the title.

With the victory, Grabe earns \$37,500, while Filler takes home \$17,500 as the runner-up. The WPA-sanctioned event featured a 128-player field, making this a massive achievement for Grabe in one of the biggest tournaments of the Predator Pro Billiard Series calendar.



Denis Grabe



@probilliardseries

 **becue**



NEW

360 GRIP
▶ SPORT EDITION

NEW GRIP
OUT NOW

becueofficial.com

FISHER, KAZAKIS AND AMIT CROWNED CHAMPIONS IN VEGAS

Article and photos courtesy Predator Pro Billiard Series

After 11 days of intense competition and high-stakes battles, the Las Vegas Pro Billiard Series has come to a thrilling close at the Rio All-Suite Hotel & Casino.

In the Kamui Mixed Doubles Open, Kelly Fisher & Alex Kazakis took revenge for last year's final, overpowering Chang Jung-Lin & Chieh-Yu Chou (4-3, 4-3, 4-2) in a flawless display of teamwork and precision.

The duo lost only three sets throughout the tournament, securing the \$30,000 top prize and proving once again that they are among the best doubles players in the world.

Rubilen Amit capped off a spectacular week by claiming the 2025 Kamui Las Vegas Women's Open title, defeating Han Yu 3-1 in sets (4-2, 4-1, 3-4, 4-2) to take home the \$22,500 top prize. It was a double triumph for Amit, who also won the Women's Challenge of Champions.

It was a week of champions across multiple disciplines:

- **Rubilen Amit** – Kamui Las Vegas Women's Open & Women's Challenge of Champions
- **Kelly Fisher & Alex Kazakis** – Kamui Mixed Doubles Open
- **Denis Grabe** – Kamui Las Vegas Men's Open



Kelly Fisher and Alex Kazakis

- **Francisco Bustamante & Joshua Filler** – One Pocket Face-off
- **Billy Thorpe** – Bank Pool Showdown
- **Laz Martinez** – American Junior Showdown
- **Henrik Larsson** – Parasport Exhibition

With 8 professional events, over \$400,000 in prize money, and a global audience tuning in to Pro Billiard TV and many other platforms, this event was more than just a competition—it was a celebration of the sport.

The free livestream allowed fans worldwide to experience elite-level billiards and helped grow the game by making top-tier action accessible to all.

For full results, highlights, and upcoming events, visit probilliardseries.com website and follow @ProBilliardSeries on social media.



Rubilen Amit

quickly
becoming
your most
trusted
source in
billiards...

We buy, sell, and trade.
New custom cues on a weekly or bi-weekly basis.

Cue brands typically on the site: Mottey, James White, Southwest, Joss West, Manzino, Scruggs, Runde, Szamboti, TAD, Schick, Gina, Cohen

Authorized Dealer of: Shelby Williams, Larry Vigus, Mike Bender, Josh Treadway, Pete Tonkin, Jim Pierce, Ariel Carmelli in addition to Predator, Pechauer, Viking, Meucci, and Jacoby.

Cues, Cases, Accessories & More!

Top-10
Predator
Dealer

Biggelbachs.com
where pool players are family

THORPE AND AMIT SHINE IN VEGAS

Article and photos courtesy Predator Pro Billiard Series

The action continued at the Predator Pro Billiard Series in Las Vegas, where Billy Thorpe and Rubilen Amit delivered commanding performances to claim victory in the Bank Pool Showdown and Women's Challenge of Champions, respectively.



Thorpe Dominates Bank Pool Showdown in Elite 12-Player Field

In a highly competitive field of 12 of the world's best bank pool players, Billy Thorpe proved why he was one of the tournament's biggest favourites. With seven wins and just one loss, Thorpe stormed through the competition, capping his run with a 3-0 sweep in the finals against Roberto Gomez to secure the \$16,000 first-place prize.

One of the tournament's defining moments came in the semifinals, where Thorpe delivered an incredible 10-consecutive bank run—the highest of the event—against Skyler Woodward, cementing his reputation as one of the best bank pool players in the world.

Rubilen Amit Triumphs in the Women's Challenge of Champions

The highly anticipated Women's Challenge of Champions saw a thrilling battle between reigning world champions Rubilen Amit (9-Ball) and Kristina Tkach (10-Ball), each proving their mastery in different disciplines.

Amit claimed the 9-ball match in straight sets (2-0).

Tkach responded in 10-ball, winning her own 2-0 set victory.

The decider came in 8-ball, where Amit delivered a clinical 6-3 win to seal the title and further solidify her legacy in the sport.



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

Jayson Shaw



BUSTAMANTE TAKES DOWN SWANEE MEMORIAL

Article by **Mary Kenniston** - Photo courtesy **Pool Action TV**

Hosted by Griff's Bar & Billiards in Las Vegas, NV, the 29th Annual Jay Swanson Memorial 9-Ball Championship kicked off on President's Day.

Presented by Griff's and PoolActionTV.com, this \$3,000 added double elimination event drew 81 players. Played on nine foot Diamonds, the format was alternate breaks with races to 8/7 and one extended race to eleven for the title.

Notables included defending champ John Morra, BCA Hall of Famers Francisco Bustamante and Alex Pagulayan, reigning Buffalo's Pro One Pocket champ Roberto Gomez, newly minted Bayou State One Pocket Classic titlist Tony Chohan as well as the

new Bayou State 9-Ball Classic champ Billy Thorpe.

2020 Swanee champ Max Eberle led Vegas locals Bob Herchik, Ian Costello and Gary Onomura as well as Savannah Easton, fresh off snapping off



Francisco Bustamante

*Francisco Bustamante and Can Salim*

both the Ultimate Pool USA Arizona Juniors and Womens Championships.

Germany's Can Salim, Canadian Erik Hjørleifson, Filipino Jeffrey De Luna and Marco Teutscher of the Netherlands added some international flavor. Josh Roberts, Shane Winters, Jeff Beckley, Ronnie Allen, Frank Nordmann and Nick De Leon roamed the room as well as young guns Mark Estiola, Adrian Prasad and Kash Keeton.

Other ladies included current WPA Women's World Nine-ball champ Rubilen Amit, reigning European Straight Pool, Nine Ball and Ten Ball champ Pia Filler, Emily Sumrall and Sabrina Peterson.

After the players meeting and draw, the matches began. Whittled down to the final four on the winners side, Shane Winters battled Can Salim and Francisco Bustamante took on compadre Alex Pagulayan. Salim won his match as did Bustamante – both with an 8-6 score. They locked up their seats in the hot seat match and their opponents headed west.

Now down to four players, Salim and Bustamante began playing the hot seat match while over on the one loss side, Pagulayan and De Luna were in a dead heat fighting to stay alive. Neck and neck throughout the entire match, it was tied at five apiece. Pagulayan then won the next two games to close out the match out 7-5. De Luna finished in fourth place.

In the hot seat match, Salim had jumped out to a 5-2 lead, however, slowly but surely, Bustamante clawed his way back and went ahead 6-5. Can won the next game to tie it up but then Francisco went ahead 7-6. Bustamante then broke dry for the first time in the match but Salim was hooked. He rolled out leaving himself on the rail with a tough shot on the one. Francisco passed and then watched Can fire it in and run out the rack. He then broke the balls, made four and ran out to claim his seat in the finals.

Now battling to stay alive, Bustamante won the lag and pulled out to a 3-0 lead. After trading misses in the fourth game, Pagulayan finally got

on the board making it 3-1. They split the next two games making it 4-2 and then 5-3. Francisco won the next two games to take the match 7-3 leaving Alex in third place.

As said previously, the finals would be one extended race to eleven. Due to the late hour on Tuesday evening, the finalists agreed to play the finals on Wednesday night and from the beginning, it was a dead heat. Tied at 6-6, Bustamante pulled away to make it 8-6 but Salim rallied to tie it at nine apiece!

After a safety battle in the next game, it was Francisco who came with a tough shot on the seven to run out and get to the hill first.

Breaking, Bustamante pocketed two balls and had a clear opening shot on the two and a layout with no problems. All Can could do was watch Francisco clear the rack to win the game and take the title! Final score – 11-9.

Congratulations to Francisco for a great tournament! Good job, Can!

CHOHAN, THORPE & BUSTAMANTE ARE BAYOU STATE CLASSIC CHAMPS

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

The owner of Emerald Billiards, Zack Louviere, and his General Manager, Tommy Terrebonne, welcomed everyone back for their Third Annual Bayou State Classic.

Held in New Iberia, LA, this year's event featured an added \$20,000 to three divisions – One Ball One Pocket, One Pocket and Open Nine Ball.

BCA and One Pocket Hall of Famer Francisco Bustamante, Buffalo's House pros Sergio Rivas and the 2024 Big Tyme Classic One Pocket champ Tony Chohan, 2024 Buffalo's Pro Classic One Pocket champ Roberto Gomez and this year's Music City Classic runner-up Mark Estiola were there. Current Canadian Nine & Ten Ball champ John Morra, last year's Space City Open XII One Pocket champ Mickey Krause and Albanian Kledio Kaci were also spotted. Reigning Bayou State Classic One Pocket champ Billy Thorpe, current Mini Derb Open One Pocket champ Sky Woodward, Josh Roberts, Chip Compton, Jamie

Baraks, Red Door Den's Greg Hogue, Derek Fontenot, Dallas Broussard and Carl Honey were also seen roaming the room.

Joining Emerald Billiards and PoolActionTV.com, local sponsors included attorney Joseph J. Long, Hanshew Jump Cues, Simonis, JB Cases, Diamond Billiard Products, Aramith, Steve Lomax Custom Cues, Bull Durham, Durbin Custom Cues, Savage Billiards, Meucci and the Action Palace of Dayton, OH.

The event kicked off on Tuesday night with the \$2,000 added One Ball One Pocket division. This single elimination tilt had a \$200 entry with players racing to four games.

Francisco Bustamante has been absent the last several years due to visa issues – it's great to have him back in

the US. Showing he hasn't lost a step, he defeated Billy Thorpe in the finals with Tony Chohan finishing in third place.

Wednesday evening saw the start of the main event – the \$13,000 added One Pocket tournament. This double elimination race to three event drew twenty players. This tournament had a different twist to it with the entry fees based on Fargo rates. Players with a Fargo rate of 740 and over paid \$600, 620-739 paid \$400 while 619 and below paid \$200.

With most players receiving a bye, several players weren't so fortunate. Billy Thorpe drew Greg Hogue and notched a 3-1 win. In what could have been a final match at any event, one pocket specialists Josh Roberts and Francisco Bustamante battled to the case game with Bustamante taking the match 3-2.

Second round saw Sky Woodward duke it out with Mark Estiola. Final score 3-2 with Estiola taking the win. Billy Thorpe was no match for Tony Chohan this time – he got thumped 3-0.

In the third round, Bustamante eked out a 3-2 win over Estiola. Chohan also won the final game to take the match from Roberto Gomez 3-2. Mickey Krause defeated John Morra 3-1.

Down to four on the winners side side, Chohan was catching a gear. He rode into the hot seat match after a 3-0



Tony Chohan

toasting of Bustamante. Krause was on fire as he beat Chip Compton 3-1 to grab the other spot in the hot seat match.

The hot seat match was close and the young Dane closed it out 3-2 & claimed his berth in the finals. Chohan headed to the one loss side to await an opponent.

After losing his first match, Woodward went on a tear. Down went Ryan Darby 3-1, Chance Conn, Ken Nguyen and Thorpe – all 3-0. Facing Bustamante saw a dogfight but Woodward survived 3-2. Next was Estiola – he won that one 3-1 but waiting for him was the always tough T-Rex. Chohan took that match 3-0 and headed back into the finals. Sky finished in third place.

Despite having had a great year on the World Nineball Tour, Krause was outplayed by the more experienced Chohan as Tony swept the title 4-0.

While the One Pocket was wrapping up, the \$5,000 added Open 9 Ball division was just getting underway. Played on seven foot Valleys, the dou-



Francisco Bustamante

ble elimination event drew 135 players. Entry fees were \$100 with races to 9/7 with alternate breaks.

Slicing through the field to arrive at the final four on the winners side and squaring off were Mickey Krause and Billy Thorpe and Josh Roberts vs Francisco Bustamante. Roberts moved on to the hot seat match (9-4) as well as Thorpe (9-6).

Krause and Bustamante headed west to join Mark Estiola and Sky Woodward. Bustamante eliminated Woodward and Krause went down to Estiola – both matches 7-5.

Now down to four, on the one loss side it pitted the veteran Filipino, Bustamante, against young gun Estiola. Hot seat action was Thorpe and Roberts.

The hot seated match saw both players run out on their breaks – score 2-2. A scratch by Roberts gave Thorpe the opening he needed to take the lead and run out the next rack to make it 4-2. Another opening saw Thorpe regain control of the table to pull away and open it up to reach the hill first at 8-3. Roberts managed to win two more games but Thorpe closed out the match 9-5.

Roberts headed west to play Bustamante for the other spot in the finals. He defeated Estiola 7-4 leaving Mark in fourth place.

Roberts then eliminated Bustamante 7-4 and moved into the finals. Francisco finished in third place.

Since this was true double elimination, Roberts would have to defeat Thorpe twice to take the title.

Last year's runner-up, Thorpe was looking to claim the title this year. He shot out to a 4-1 lead and maintained his lead 70 7-5. Roberts won the next game to make it 7-6 and then won another to tie it at seven apiece!



Billy Thorpe

Although it was Billy's break, all the pressure was on him now. Whoever won this game would reach the hill first!

And run out he did! Now the pressure was on Josh to tie it up! And he did! 8-8!

Again, it was Thorpe's break and he pocketed a ball leaving him an almost straight-in shot on the one. However, the two wouldn't pass the obstructing ball, so Billy The Banker played position on the two for a bank. He rifled it in and it was a road map from there to the title!

What a match! What a comeback by Josh!

Congratulations to Tony Chohan, Billy Thorpe and Francisco Bustamante for becoming this year's Bayou State Classic champions!

We're looking forward to next year!

SCOTT FROST

A RETURN TO THE GLOBAL STAGE

Scott Frost is making a long-awaited return to the competitive scene at the 2025 European Open, marking his first Matchroom Major in two years. Known for his work as a commentator and coach in recent years, Frost is stepping back onto the main stage, and for the first time in his career, competing outside of the United States.

“It’s been two years since I last played in a Matchroom Major—my last event was the 2023 US Open. Since then, I’ve been focused on commentating and coaching, and I’ve barely had time to practice. I did compete at the Derby City Classic, but that was just one-pocket, so this is a whole different challenge.”

At 49 years old, Frost acknowledges that his passion has shifted. However, the opportunity to compete again has reignited something in him. “I used to live and breathe pool. Now, my love is in coaching and commentary. But when Matchroom gave me this opportunity, I knew I had to take it. Playing in Bosnia next month—trust me, I’m going to put in the work and be ready.”

Frost knows the modern game has evolved significantly, particularly when it comes to the break, and he is making that his top priority in preparation. “The guys on tour now are incredible with their break. I used to have a strong break, but for the last two years, all I’ve done is talk about it—I haven’t been out there perfecting it. That’s my main focus right now.”

The 2025 European Open moves to Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina, a new venue for both Matchroom and Frost. “I’ve never been to Bosnia, but I’ve heard it’s a beautiful place. I don’t

have high expectations, but sometimes, that’s when I play my best. I’ll be giving it my all and having some fun along the way.”

Despite entering with a relaxed mindset, Frost believes that if he finds his rhythm, he could make a deep run. “I thought, ‘Why not go out there and



see if I can win a couple of matches?' Because once you win a few, it's a whole different ballgame. I really think I can make something happen if I get rolling. I like the tables, and I've always been a player who thrives on movement and strategy. If I get past the break, I feel like I always have a chance."

Frost is eager to test himself against international competition and has his sights set on a fresh challenge. "I'd love to play against a top Filipino or European player. I've played Americans my whole life—I want to take on someone like Johann Chua. He was phenomenal last year. I know if I play someone like him, I'm set to play a great match."

Reflecting on his last Matchroom Major, Frost was struck by the professionalism and scale of the event. He has witnessed firsthand how the nine-ball scene has evolved, especially with Matchroom's influence. "I

wasn't always the biggest nine-ball fan, but Matchroom has turned it into something special. They took a broken game and made it one that's never truly perfected. That's what excites me. That's why I got the itch to play again at the US Open two years ago, and now I'm back in it."


Beyond the European Open, Frost is excited about the future of the sport and upcoming events on the World Nineball Tour. "I can't wait to see the Hanoi Open. I can feel the energy just watching it through a screen. And the Reyes Cup—man, I think that's going to explode. I think it'll double or triple in size. It's a genius concept, and I'm excited to see where it goes."

As Frost looks ahead to Sarajevo, he's keeping his expectations in check but remains hopeful. "For me, success isn't about a specific finish—it's about exceeding my own standards. If I overthink things and expect too much,

that's when I struggle. I just want to enjoy it, compete hard, and see where it takes me. If I get a couple of good draws, who knows? It all comes down to the break. If I can break well, I know I can still play at a high level."

As for the European title contenders, Frost has his eye on a few players. "I'd love to see Kledio Kaçi have a big year. He's unbelievably tough. His brother, Eklent, has a shot too—he had an incredible year, finishing runner-up at the World Championship. But that's the beauty of Matchroom events—anyone who wins one of these instantly becomes a star. Every player knows it. Every player wants it. That's what makes it so exciting."

Scott Frost's return to the competitive scene at the 2025 European Open will be one to watch. Whether he makes a deep run or simply enjoys the experience, his passion for the game remains as strong as ever.



73.3.MILLION+ VIEWS!

The Accu-Stats YouTube Channel

SAVE
\$20

Derby City Classic 2025
Jan 17-26

LIVE PPV+ OnDemand

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

2025 Accu-Stats Annual FREE Catalog

In production NOW!

For a **FREE** Catalog Featuring **30+** years
of Pro Tournament Match Action
download at accu-stats.com

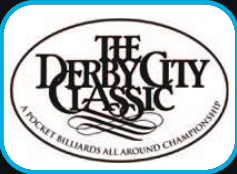
800.828.0397

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

Changing the World of Pool...For Good!

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

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




From Pool's most grueling Arena:





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

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

Get PPV OnDemand



Have your product or service **exposed** to the most economical and targeted demographic in **POOL:**
Ads start at **\$675...per YEAR!**

Action Photography ©mediumpool

TYLER STYER JOINS TEAM MEUCCI

Photo courtesy **Erwin Dionisio**

Meucci has announced their new sponsorship deal with America's Tyler Styer.

Styer has been one of the top American players for the last few years, winning the 2019 Kremlin Cup and the 50th Annual Texas Open. He has represented Team USA at the Mosconi Cup six times and helped hoist the cup in 2018 and 2019.

“We are thrilled to welcome Tyler Styer to the Meucci team” said Meucci’s Seth Randall. “Tyler has proven time and again to be a winner. His dedication, professionalism, and love for

the game set him apart as a true role model for the sport. His skill, sportsmanship, and commitment to excellence perfectly align with our brand values. As an elite player, he embodies what it means to be a champion, and we are proud to support him on this next chapter of his journey.”

Styer expressed his excitement to join the Meucci Team. “I’ve never been this excited in my entire career when it comes to my equipment. I’m able

to customize my own specs and try new ideas with a great company. The best part is they are made in the USA, which is really important to me. Once I narrow down all my ideas into one cue, Meucci and I will make that cue available for everyone to try!”

For more information on Meucci Cues, check out <https://www.meuccicues.com>.



Tyler Styer



Shane Van Boening
GENERATION II

LEGENDS AREN'T BORN. THEY ARE MADE.



BEGIN YOUR LEGACY | 2.11.2025 | CUETEC.COM

CUETEC

JAYSON “EAGLE EYE” SHAW JOINS TEAM TIGER, SPONSORED BY TIGER TIPS

Tiger Products is thrilled to welcome pool superstar and Mosconi Cup MVP Jayson Shaw to Team Tiger, sponsored by Tiger Tips.

This exciting partnership unites one of the most electrifying players in professional pool with a brand renowned for its superior craftsmanship and cutting-edge innovation.

A dominant force in the sport, Shaw has captured multiple world titles and is widely recognized for his exceptional skill and fierce competitiveness. Now, as an official Team Tiger player, he's eager to take his game to new heights with the support of Tiger's industry-leading products.

“I'm excited to join Team Tiger. I've built a great relationship with Tony over the past eleven years, and we've always talked about collaborating. Now that it's happening, I'm looking forward to working with him and Tiger Tips. Their products are widely recognized for their quality, and I'm confident they'll help enhance my game in upcoming tournaments,” said Shaw.

When it comes to performance, Shaw's tip of choice is clear: Tiger's Sniper Laminated Cue Tip.

“The Sniper Tip is hands down the best I've used. It holds chalk exceptionally well, delivers consistent performance, and doesn't mushroom like other tips I've tried in the past. That reliability is crucial in high-pressure matches, and I trust it in any playing condition,” Shaw added.

Tiger Products CEO Tony Kalamdaryan expressed his excitement about welcoming Shaw to the team.

“Jayson is one of the most talented and dedicated players in the sport today. His relentless pursuit of excellence aligns perfectly with what Tiger represents. We've shared a strong friendship for over a decade,

and so this partnership feels very organic. We're excited to have him represent Tiger Tips and look forward to supporting him as he continues to dominate the game,” said Kalamdaryan.



With Shaw now representing Tiger Tips, fans can expect to see him competing with Tiger's premium products in major tournaments around the world.

For more information about Tiger Products and their full line of high-performance billiard accessories, visit www.tigerproducts.com.

ABOUT TIGER PRODUCTS

Founded in Burbank, California, Tiger Products has been a leader in high-performance billiard equipment for the last three decades. Specializing in innovative cue tips, shafts, cues, and accessories, Tiger is dedicated to craftsmanship, technology, and quality. Tiger Tips are world-renowned for their consistency and innovation, helping players win multiple world championships and set world records. Every Tiger product is proudly made in the USA and designed to help players perform at their best.

ABOUT JAYSON SHAW

Born in Glasgow, Scotland, Jayson Shaw developed a passion for pool at an early age, learning the game from his father, Charlie Shaw, a professional player. Initially drawn to snooker, he eventually fell in love with American pool and turned professional at just 16 years old. Since then, he has become a global powerhouse, capturing major titles such as the U.S. Open Nine-Ball Championship, two International 9-Ball Opens, nine Turning Stone Classic titles, and three Derby City Classic Bigfoot Ten-Ball Challenge victories.

In 2024, Shaw captained Team Europe to victory at the Mosconi Cup, earning MVP honors for the third time. He also holds the world record for 14.1 straight pool, with an astonishing 832-ball high run, set on January 6, 2025, at The Back Room Billiards Studio in Lorton, Virginia.

Outside of pool, Shaw enjoys golf, fishing, and supporting Celtic Football Club, along with a passion for UFC, boxing, and fútbol. He currently resides in Connecticut with his wife, Ara, and their two children.

For more information on Tiger Products:

TigerProducts.com | [Instagram.com/Tigpro](https://www.instagram.com/Tigpro) | [Facebook.com/TigerProductsInc](https://www.facebook.com/TigerProductsInc)

For more information on Jayson Shaw www.instagram.com/jaysonshawofficial

THE COMPLETE ZERO-X BILLIARDS DVD COLLECTION FROM TOR LOWERY
 NOW IN STOCK IN THE ACCU-STATS ONLINE STORE
WWW.ACCU-STATS.COM

The advertisement features a large, stylized cue ball with a flame-like effect on the left. To the right, a collection of DVD cases is displayed, including titles such as 'ZERO-X INSTRUCTION', 'MENTAL SYSTEM FOR POOL PLAYERS', 'CREATE THE WINNING EDGE!', 'AWESOMENESS', 'MAY SAFE THE GAME OF DEFENSE', 'ZERO-X BILLIARDS PRELUDE', 'POWERS OF NEW MATERIAL', 'FUNDAMENTALS OF POSITION PLAY', '50 SHOTS', 'DIAMOND SYSTEMS', 'KICKING', 'SUPERCHARGE YOUR CUE BALL CONTROL', and 'PATTERN'. The Accu-Stats Video Productions logo is visible in the bottom left corner.

TIGER INTRODUCES NITRO

A NEW LAMINATED CUE TIP IN COLLABORATION WITH WORLD CHAMPION DARREN “DYNAMITE” APPLETON

Tiger Products, an industry leader in high-performance billiard equipment, proudly announces the launch of the NITRO Laminated Cue Tip: Darren Appleton Edition.

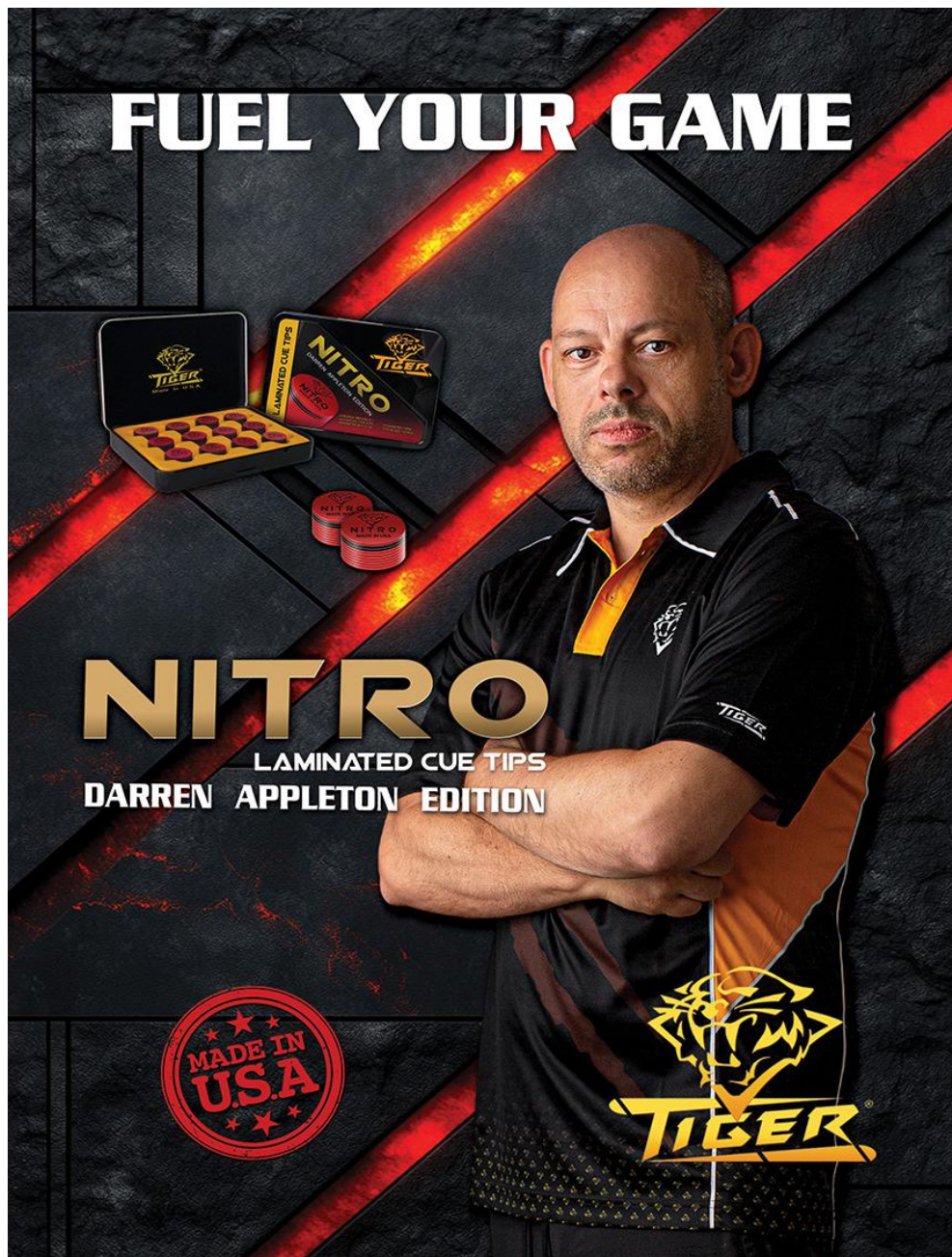
This medium-hardness tip, developed in collaboration with Darren “Dynamite” Appleton, represents a groundbreaking addition to Tiger’s renowned lineup.

The NITRO Laminated Cue Tip is engineered for consistency, accuracy, and ultimate control, embodying the precision and excellence that both Tiger and Appleton stand for. Made in the USA, this is the first time Tiger has partnered with a professional player to introduce a brand-new tip to its collection, marking an exciting milestone for the brand and the sport.

“This is new territory for us as a brand,” said Tiger CEO Tony Kalamdaryan. “We’ve been making tips for almost 30 years, and we demand perfection when adding a new one to our lineup. Collaborating with Darren and getting his experience from competing at a top-level while also using our expertise and mastery of tip making, made for a result that we can’t wait for players to try.”

Darren Appleton, a World Champion, BCA Hall of Famer and former World #1 player, brings his wealth of experience on the table to this collaboration.

“I was absolutely shocked by how good the NITRO Tip plays. It has the perfect feel—right between medium and soft—and the ease with which it draws the ball and generates spin really took me by surprise. I believe this tip is perfect for everyone, from pros



to amateurs, and I'm confident it will be used globally. I'm incredibly excited and honored to have a tip under my name with Tiger, a brand that, in my opinion, produces the best tips in the world. The NITRO Tip offers the perfect balance of feel, control, power, and spin, while also holding chalk exceptionally well." said Appleton. "This tip is a game-changer."

Designed to ignite explosive performance on the table, NITRO Laminated Cue Tip: Darren Appleton Edition is packed with the energy and precision of a controlled detonation—perfect for players looking to take their game to the next level. NITRO Laminated Cue Tip: Darren Appleton Edition Retails for \$27.

For more information about Tiger Products and their full line of high-performance billiard accessories, visit www.tigerproducts.com.

ABOUT TIGER PRODUCTS

Founded in Burbank, California, Tiger Products has been a leader in high-performance billiard equipment for the last three decades. Specializing in innovative cue tips, shafts, cues, and accessories, Tiger is dedicated to craftsmanship, technology, and quality. Tiger Tips are world-renowned for their consistency and innovation, helping players win multiple world championships and set world records. Every Tiger product is proudly made in the USA and designed to help players perform at their best.

ABOUT DARREN APPLETON

Born in Pontefract, West Yorkshire England, Darren Appleton grew up with a strong passion for sports. Finding pool as a teen, Appleton quickly became one of the top players in English Pool, winning every title in sight before becoming No. 1 in the world within two years of turning professional! Taking on American Cue sports in 2006, he has won over 50 major titles worldwide and was inducted to the BCA Hall of Fame in 2017. Appleton currently resides in both the USA and UK, competing all around the world and sharing his knowledge and passion for pool through coaching clinics, exhibitions. He likes to give back to the game that has been so good to him. Appleton launched Dynamite Billiards, a retail venture, back in 2023.

SEARCH. FIND. PLAY.

PlayPool.com

Locations
Amenities
Discounts
Flyers
& more

Available on the App Store

ANDROID APP ON Google play

BARRY HEARN AND ANDY GOLDSTEIN TO COMPETE AT 2025 UK OPEN POOL CHAMPIONSHIP 6-11 MAY

The World Nineball Tour is thrilled to announce that Barry Hearn OBE, Matchroom Sport President, and Andy Goldstein, renowned TalkSport Radio host, will be returning to the world of Nineball to compete at the spectacular 2025 UK Open Pool Championship.

The event returns to the Telford International Centre, Telford, England, from May 6-11, 2025, and will be broadcast live on Sky Sports in the UK and Ireland, as well as to fans globally through WNT TV. Full broadcast details to be announced soon.

Hearn and Goldstein will join a stellar 256-player field, featuring the top 128 professional players from the World Nineball Tour, battling for a share of the £200,000 prize fund and the prestigious UK Open title.

Barry Hearn shared his excitement: "The US Open Pool Championship last year was the greatest experience of my life, even though I lost my first match 9-1. I thought that would be the end of my Nineball career, but I got addicted, and what I thought would be a one-off

has turned into a return—I'm back for the UK Open this May! No pressure, no excuses. This year, I'm not just aiming to win a match—I'm here to play better than you (Goldstein)!"

Andy Goldstein added: I'm absolutely buzzing for the UK Open. My practice begins this week, and this year, my goal isn't just to win a match—I'm determined to break into the world rankings and secure my status as an official professional pool player!

This year's UK Open promises to be more exciting than ever, with six days of world-class action in one of the UK's premier venues. Situated in the heart of the country, the Telford International Centre provides easy access, superb facilities, and an electric atmosphere for players and fans alike.

TICKET INFORMATION

Tickets for the 2025 UK Open are now available for purchase! Secure your spot to witness world-class Nineball action live in Telford

TICKET PRICES:

- **Day Tickets:** £20-£35
- **Weekend Pass:** £50
- **Season Pass:** £125

Don't miss your chance to witness history as Barry Hearn and Andy Goldstein take on the world's finest pool players at the 2025 UK Open Pool Championship. Get your tickets for the UK's greatest pool event **here**.

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



ENGAGE  **becue**

ENGAGE SHAFT

PURE FULL CARBON FIBER EXPERIENCE

12.3/11.8 · PRO TAPER · TOP ACCURACY ·
LOW DEFLECTION · FIRM HIT · AURORA
FRONT-END TECHNOLOGY · STIFFNESS

becueofficial.com



BILLIARD EDUCATION FOUNDATION

ANNOUNCES FIRST ANNUAL SOUTHWEST YOUTH 10-BALL CHAMPIONSHIP TOUR

The Billiard Education Foundation (BEF) is proud to announce the first annual Southwest Youth 10-Ball Championship Tour, further solidifying its commitment to fostering the growth and development of junior billiards players across the country.

This exciting new tour will provide young players in the Southwest region with opportunities to compete, improve their skills, and potentially represent the United States on the world stage.

The Southwest Youth Tour will consist of state junior 10-Ball Championships in:

Arizona: Dozer's Grill, Mesa, AZ – March 15th

California: Corner Pocket, Bakersfield, CA – April 26th

New Mexico: Slate Street Billiards, Rio Rancho, NM – May 10th

Winners of each state championship event will be awarded free entry into the Junior National Championships, held in Quincy, Illinois, in July 2025. This is a WPA (World Pool-Bil-

liard Association) sanctioned tournament and the only event where juniors are selected to represent the United States on the American team at the World Championships in November 2025.

In addition to the paid entry into the National Championships, each qualifier provides the winners in the Boys 18u and the Girls 18u divisions with state championship title recognition. The ultimate winners from the National Championships will then have the prestigious opportunity to represent the United States at the World Championships in November 2025.

Eligibility: Juniors must not turn 19 in the calendar year 2025 to qualify. Brackets will include Boys 18u, Girls 18u, and a 14u boys and girls mixed division.

The Billiard Education Foundation is dedicated to promoting billiards as a life-enhancing sport, providing opportunities for young players to develop valuable skills, sportsmanship, and a lifelong passion for the game. The Southwest Youth Tour 10-Ball Championships is a key initiative in this mission, offering a platform for young talents to shine and pursue their dreams in the world of billiards.

**SOUTHWEST YOUTH TOUR
10-BALL CHAMPIONSHIP
2025**

BEF

Tour Information:

Southwest Youth Tour event winners will be recognized as 10-ball State Champions and awarded free entry into the 2025 Junior National Championships to be held in Quincy, Illinois, July 2025.

Winners from nationals go on to represent the United States at World Championship in November of 2025.

Juniors must not turn 19 during the 2025 calendar year. Entry fees for each qualifier are \$25 and juniors must be a member of the Billiard Education Foundation which has a \$15 yearly membership fee.

<https://billiardeducation.org/Become-a-Junior-Member>

We will be playing 10-ball using WPA Rules. WPA rules can be found at <https://wpa.com/rules-of-play/>

STOP #1
DOZER'S GRILL
MESA, AZ
MARCH 15
REGISTER STOP 1

STOP #2
CORNER POCKET
BAKERSFIELD, CA
APRIL 26
REGISTER STOP 2

STOP #3
SLATE STREET
BILLIARDS
RIO RANCHO, NM
MAY 10
REGISTER STOP 3

TOUR SPONSOR
LUCASI
PROFESSIONAL

This is a WPA (World Pool-Billiard Association) sanctioned tournament.

Tournament Director: Steve Sherman 203-400-1284 shermanscs@gmail.com

About the Billiard Education Foundation (BEF)

The BEF is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization committed to promoting billiards among youth, fostering sportsmanship, and providing educational opportunities. Through various programs and initiatives, the BEF aims to shape the future of billiards by nurturing the next generation of players and leaders.

Website: <https://billiardeducation.org>

For more information about the Southwest Junior Tour, and all 2025 BEF junior events, visit the Billiard Education Foundation event page here: <https://billiardeducation.org/Events>

For more information about the Southwest Youth 10-Ball Championship Tour, contact tournament director Steve Sherman, email: shermanscs@gmail.com

DIAMOND™

BILLIARD PRODUCTS, INC.

THE OFFICIAL TABLE OF THE



RANKED #1 AMONG PLAYERS



DESIGNED BY PLAYERS FOR PLAYERS

FOR MORE INFORMATION PLEASE CALL US AT: 812-288-7665 OR VISIT US AT: WWW.DIAMONDBILLIARDS.COM

Tourney Results

Feb 02 - Feb 02

Mezz Cues LA 9-Ball Series Stop

Good Timez Billiards

- Huntsville, Alabama
 1 James Cabal \$1,000
 2 Jacob Ventura \$550
 3 Chris Stawarski \$350
 3 Ken Chim \$350
 5 Dave Hemmah \$200
 5 Jason Wetherald \$200
 5 Shahdad Zand \$200
 5 Victor Garcia \$200
 9 Abet Ng \$100
 9 Chris Wedekind \$100
 9 Eduardo Montez \$100
 9 Jamal Oussi \$100
 9 Joseph Leon \$100
 9 Michael Hansen \$100
 9 Rhino Lay \$100
 9 Ted Windle \$100

Feb 04 - Feb 09

2025 Bayou State Classic One Pocket

Emerald Billiards

- New Iberia, LA
 1 Tony Chohan \$8,100
 2 Mickey Krause \$6,000
 3 Skyler Woodward \$4,500
 4 Mark Estiola \$3,000

Feb 04 - Feb 09

2025 Bayou State Classic One Ball One Pocket

Emerald Billiards

- New Iberia, LA
 1 Francisco Bustamante \$2,200
 2 Billy Thorpe \$1,300
 3 Tony Chohan \$900

Feb 04 - Feb 09

2025 Bayou State Classic 9-Ball

Emerald Billiards

- New Iberia, LA
 1 Billy Thorpe \$5,000

- 2 Josh Roberts \$2,500
 3 Francisco Bustamante \$1,500
 4 Mark Estiola \$1,000
 5 Mickey Krause \$650
 5 Skyler Woodward \$650
 7 Derek Fontenot \$450
 7 Shahram Changezi \$450
 9 Dallas Broussard \$350
 9 Devon Arnoult \$350
 9 John Morra \$350
 9 Kale Bourque \$350
 13 David Barndt \$250
 13 Howard Gautreaux \$250
 13 Jamie Baraks \$250
 13 Kledio Kaci \$250
 17 Blake Bosarge \$150
 17 Boog Long \$150
 17 Christian Diaz \$150
 17 John Bautista \$150
 17 Latimer Brock \$150
 17 Oscar Ruiz \$150
 17 Rick Roth \$150
 17 Tony Chohan \$150

Feb 06 - Feb 08

2025 Longoni Italian Open

Best Western Premier BHR Treviso Hotel

- Treviso,
 1 Joshua Filler \$6,187
 2 Stefan Kasper \$4,743
 3 Niels Feijen \$3,093
 3 Wojciech Szewczyk \$3,093
 5 Alexandros Kazakis \$1,546
 5 Felix Vogel \$1,546
 5 Mieszko Fortunski \$1,546
 5 Oliver Ortmann \$1,546
 9 Jose Alberto Delgado \$1,031
 9 Juan Carlos Exposito \$1,031
 9 Konrad Juszczyszyn \$1,031
 9 Marco Spitzky \$1,031
 9 Marius Skoneczny \$1,031
 9 Michal Muklewicz \$1,031
 9 Ugar Turku \$1,031
 9 Walter Laikre \$1,031
 17 Albin Ouschan \$618
 17 Alvaro Canoniga \$618

- 17 Christos Papageorgiou \$618
 17 Daniel Guttenberger \$618
 17 Dimitris Loukatos \$618
 17 Fabio Rizzi \$618
 17 Fatjon Lamce \$618
 17 Joao Grilo \$618
 17 Luca Menn \$618
 17 Mario He \$618
 17 Mika van Berkel \$618
 17 Piotr Twerdyk \$618
 17 Radoslaw Babica \$618
 17 Roman Hybler \$618
 17 Tobias Bongers \$618
 17 Tomasz Kaplan \$618
 33 Davide Sini \$309
 33 Dmitro Skorokhodov \$309
 33 Dominik Jastrzab \$309
 33 Edin Redzic \$309
 33 Ioannis Charlaftis \$309
 33 Jere Virtaranta \$309
 33 Karl Gnadeberg \$309
 33 Marc Bijsterbosch \$309
 33 Miguel Silva \$309
 33 Omar Fidalgo \$309
 33 Pablo Garcia-Lagar \$309
 33 Pia Filler \$309
 33 Quinten Pongers \$309
 33 Ricardo Gutjahr \$309
 33 Szymon Kural \$309
 33 Yannick Pongers \$309

Feb 08 - Feb 09

2025 Longoni Italian Open - Women's Division

Best Western Premier BHR Treviso Hotel

- Treviso,
 1 Jasmin Ouschan \$1,546
 2 Sandra Baumgartner \$1,031
 3 Lena Primus \$825
 3 Linnea Hjalmarstrom \$825
 5 Christine Steinlage \$618
 5 Melanie Suessenguth \$618
 5 Nina Torvund \$618
 5 Pia Filler \$618

Feb 08 - Feb 09

TOP Tour Stop

Borderline Billiards

Bristol, TN

- 1 Scott Howard \$620
- 2 Mike Skeens \$400
- 3 Robert Hamilton \$250
- 4 Ricky Bingham \$160
- 5 Joe Blackburn \$55
- 5 Mike Holmes \$55

Feb 08 - Feb 09

Jersey Girl Billiards' Music City Split Bracket

JOB Billiards

Madison, TN

- 1 Willie Butler \$5,000
- 2 Kerry Beland \$3,000
- 3 Michael Scheel \$1,600
- 4 Robert Bernander \$1,300
- 5 Rob Hall \$600
- 5 Tab Pranee \$600
- 7 Jeremiah Brown \$300
- 7 Mike Barnick \$300
- 9 Edwin Harris \$200
- 9 Jordan Davis \$200
- 9 Parker Martin \$200
- 9 Steve Legace \$200
- 13 Bradley Shamin \$140
- 13 Lee Uhles \$140
- 13 Robbie Herrington \$140
- 13 Tommy Counts, Sr. \$140
- 17 Amber Jordan \$100
- 17 Cole Taylor \$100
- 17 Daniel Dooley \$100
- 17 Danny Winchester \$100
- 17 Nick Brown \$100
- 17 Paul Krimes \$100
- 17 Phillip Crechale \$100
- 17 Will Freeman \$100

Feb 08 - Feb 09

Pool Series Stop #1

Brass Tap Billiards

Raleigh, NC

- 1 Gregorio Sanchez \$880
- 2 Jas Makhni \$550
- 3 Steven Page \$350
- 4 BJ Ussery \$200
- 5 Corey Sykes \$100
- 5 Diego Guerrero \$100
- 7 Greg Kane \$50
- 7 Thomas Sansone \$50

Feb 09 - Feb 09

Natural Born Women's Series Stop

JOB Billiards

Madison, TN

- 1 Brittany Beland \$560
- 2 Michelle Dunn \$450
- 3 Briana Laine \$250

Feb 13 - Feb 16

Ultimate Pool USA Arizona Open

Dozer's Grill

Mesa, Arizona

- 1 Joe Prince \$7,000
- 2 Craig Waddingham \$3,500
- 3 Joven Bustamante \$1,600
- 3 Sam Henderson \$1,600
- 5 Anthony Schultz \$800
- 5 Nick De Leon \$800
- 5 Tim Daniel \$800
- 5 Tyler Styer \$800
- 9 Amy Beauchamp \$400
- 9 Brett Snowden \$400
- 9 Cleve Thompson \$400
- 9 Eric Pickar \$400
- 9 Greg Hogue \$400
- 9 Mitch Ellerman \$400
- 9 Nicholas Care \$400
- 9 Savannah Easton \$400
- 17 Bob Stinson \$200
- 17 Brad Vollmers \$200
- 17 Carl Tibbets \$200
- 17 Chris Melling \$200
- 17 Coby Japp \$200
- 17 David Matlock \$200
- 17 Jamie Farrow \$200
- 17 Jerry Stuckart \$200
- 17 Joey Barrera \$200
- 17 JR Flores \$200
- 17 Justin Bergman \$200
- 17 Justin Whitehead \$200
- 17 Robert Moreno \$200
- 17 Robert Randolph \$200
- 17 Shane Petrick \$200
- 17 Zach Bryan \$200

Feb 13 - Feb 16

Ultimate Pool USA Arizona Open Shootout

Dozer's Grill

Mesa, Arizona

- 1 Sam Henderson \$3,000

- 2 Eric Charlton \$1,500
- 3 Chase Stumfoll \$750
- 3 Justin Bergman \$750

Feb 13 - Feb 16

Ultimate Pool USA Arizona Mixed Pairs Shootout

Dozer's Grill

Mesa, Arizona

- 1 David Matlock \$1,000
- 1 Jordan Helfrey \$1,000
- 2 Justin Bergman \$500
- 2 Tina Larsen \$500

Feb 14 - Feb 16

Dave Rogers Memorial - Division A

Red Lion Hotel

Cheyenne, Wyoming

- 1 Robert Leivonen \$500
- 2 Jose Ibarra \$375
- 3 Nathan Woodson \$275
- 4 Nelson Mangaoang \$200
- 5 Caleb Bedford \$106
- 5 Ismael Garcia \$106

Feb 14 - Feb 16

Dave Rogers Memorial - Division B

Red Lion Hotel

Cheyenne, Wyoming

- 1 Joel Rodriguez \$500
- 2 Ruben Castaneda \$325
- 3 Terry Kallsen \$250
- 4 Curly Mansfield \$175
- 5 Constantine Pappas \$140
- 5 Rick Garza \$140
- 7 Bailey Glode \$55
- 7 Trent Glanz \$55

Feb 14 - Feb 16

Dave Rogers Memorial - Division C

Red Lion Hotel

Cheyenne, Wyoming

- 1 Nicole Rivera \$375
- 2 Jon Glennon \$250
- 3 Xavier Burnett \$175
- 4 Nomar Rodriguez \$140
- 5 Alfredo Arreola \$115
- 5 Damian Holten \$115
- 7 George Jankowski \$90
- 7 Justin Nettik \$90
- 9 Elias Gatmaitan \$65
- 9 Mack Bonilla \$65
- 9 Michael Barela \$65

9 Terry Schaub \$65
13 Noel Saenz \$40
13 Rick Munoz, Sr. \$40
13 Rob Kilian \$40
13 Simon Perez \$40

Feb 14 - Feb 16

Dave Rogers Memorial - Division AA/AAA

Red Lion Hotel

Cheyenne, Wyoming
1 Derrick Pacheco \$600
2 Donald Parker \$450
3 Devin Schweer \$350
4 Martin Cano \$280

Feb 15 - Feb 16

2025 Romania 9-Ball

Black and White Club

Oradea Romania
1 Szymon Kural \$1,357
2 Hubert Lopotko \$940
3 Dmitri Hryb \$710
3 Jacek Pietrzyk \$710
5 Ciprian Gandac \$417
5 Cristian Surdea \$417
5 Dominik Jastrzab \$417
5 Kristian Mrva \$417
9 Balazs Koles \$67
9 Borys Gackowski \$67
9 Flavian Glont \$67
9 Katarzyna Wesolowska \$67
9 Marius Skoneczny \$67
9 Petr Urban \$67
9 Szymon Duda \$67
9 Timothei Furko \$67

Feb 15 - Feb 16

Ultimate Pool USA Arizona Junior Open

Dozer's Grill

Mesa, Arizona
1 Savannah Easton \$800
2 Jordan Helfrey \$400
3 Gavin Mathew \$200
3 Memphis Wilson \$200
5 Bailey Sunman \$100
5 D\von Garcia \$100
5 JP Nicholson \$100
5 Kaden Herrbach \$100

Feb 15 - Feb 15

Classic Billiards Vampire Night

Classic Billiards

Lauderhill, Florida
1 Briana Miller \$630
2 Bryan Ceglarek \$630
3 Omar Nassif \$300
4 Tony Hardin \$200
5 Anthony McGuire \$100
5 Sean Blaine \$100
7 Ignacio Meindl \$80
7 Vinny Ceraulo \$80
9 Danny Ramirez \$60
9 George Zamora \$60
9 Jim Maney \$60
9 Josh Carmusin \$60

Feb 15 - Feb 15

Garden State Pool Tour Open Stop

Shooters Family Billiards

Wayne, New Jersey
1 Luis Jimenez \$600
2 Marc Lamberti \$300
3 Mark Watt \$200
4 Rachel Lang \$160
5 Rick Rodriguez \$110
5 Vincent Chang \$110

Feb 15 - Feb 16

2025 DFW 9-Ball Tour Stop 2

Massey Shots

Plano, Texas
1 John Rawlins \$1,160
2 Mark Johnson \$820
3 Matt Smith \$630
4 Ruben Adame \$430
5 Clint Freeman \$320
5 Darryl Smith \$320
7 Eli Bomsburger \$240
7 Jesus Sorto \$240
9 Eric Terry \$170
9 Greg Sandifer \$170
9 Ricky Phifer \$170
9 Vishnu Vardhan \$170
13 Glenn Fichtman \$95
13 Joel Nabia \$95
13 Nitin Malik \$95
13 Sammy Downs \$95

Feb 15 - Feb 16

Ultimate Pool USA Arizona Women's Open

Dozer's Grill

Mesa, Arizona
1 Savannah Easton \$2,000

2 Amy Beauchamp \$900
3 Emily Duddy \$400
3 Jordan Helfrey \$400
5 April Larson \$200
5 Brandi James \$200
5 Marharyta Fefilava \$200
5 Tina Larsen \$200
9 Dori De Leon \$100
9 Holly Figueroa \$100
9 Jaye Succo \$100
9 Jessica Main \$100
9 Kate Franco \$100
9 Skylar Hess \$100
9 Sofia Mast \$100
9 Veronica Poore \$100

Feb 17 - Feb 18

Jay Swanson "Swanee" Memorial 9-Ball Tournament 2025

Griff's

Las Vegas, Nevada
1 Francisco Bustamante \$2,700
2 Can Salim \$1,500
3 Alex Pagulayan \$1,000
4 Jeffrey De Luna \$700
5 Shane Winters \$500
5 Victor Cucuza \$500
7 Jordan Holman \$370
7 Josh Roberts \$370
9 Joao Sias \$260
9 Kash Keaton \$260
9 Max Eberle \$260
9 Roberto Gomez \$260
13 Adrian Prasad \$200
13 Brian Begay \$200
13 Erik Hjorleifson \$200
13 Nick De Leon \$200

Feb 19 - Feb 26

2025 Las Vegas Open

Rio All-Suite Hotel & Casino

Las Vegas, NV
1 Denis Grabe \$37,500
2 Joshua Filler \$17,500
3 Alexandros Kazakis \$8,750
3 Jeffrey De Luna \$8,750
5 Marco Teutscher \$4,375
5 Roberto Gomez \$4,375
5 Stefan Kasper \$4,375
5 Wojciech Szewczyk \$4,375
9 Alex Pagulayan \$2,188
9 Andri Januarta \$2,188
9 Daniel Maciol \$2,188

9 Dimitris Loukatos \$2,188
9 John Morra \$2,188
9 Jung-Lin Chang \$2,188
9 Maximilian Lechner \$2,188
9 Radoslaw Babica \$2,188
17 Alan Rolon \$1,094
17 Albin Ouschan \$1,094
17 Amil Andre Gangflot \$1,094
17 Chia-Chen Hsieh \$1,094
17 Donny Mills \$1,094
17 Gerson Martinez \$1,094
17 Hoang Minh Tai Nguyen \$1,094
17 Juan Carlos Exposito \$1,094
17 Kun Lin Wu \$1,094
17 Lazaro Martinez III \$1,094
17 Mateusz Sniegocki \$1,094
17 Naoyuki Oi \$1,094
17 Ralf Souquet \$1,094
17 Ruslan Chinakhov \$1,094
17 Sylvain Gingras \$1,094
17 Tim Jonkman \$1,094

Feb 20 - Feb 20

Chohan/Bustamante One Pocket Face Off

Rio All-Suite Hotel & Casino

Las Vegas, NV

1 Francisco Bustamante \$10,000

Feb 21 - Feb 21

Filler/Van Boening One Pocket Face Off

Rio All-Suite Hotel & Casino

Las Vegas, NV

1 Joshua Filler \$10,000

Feb 22 - Feb 22

Q City 9-Ball Tour Stop

The Clubhouse

Lynchburg, Virginia

1 Brian Bryant \$440

2 Chris Woodrum \$290

3 Darren Musser \$110

Feb 22 - Feb 23

Maine State 9-Ball Championship

Forest City Billiards

Portland, ME

1 Mike Dechaine \$2,200

2 Kyle Pepin \$1,400

3 Dave Hall \$730

4 Dennis Patenaude \$400

5 Cody Francis \$150

5 Michael Perry \$150
7 Greg Lamb \$110
7 Ivaylo Petrov \$110
9 Cody Porter \$90
9 Guy Bouthot \$90
9 Judson Strang \$90
9 Roy Morgridge \$90
13 Brent Grenier \$70
13 Carlos Aguilar \$70
13 Josh Rupard \$70
13 Matt Jarrell \$70

Feb 22 - Feb 23

Stokers Open Masters Tournament

Stroker's Billiards

Palm Harbor, FL

1 Trenton White \$900

2 Kyle Bova \$600

3 Jay Winters \$500

4 Don Kreisler \$400

5 Jose Del Rio \$300

5 Troy Berber \$300

7 David Ricci \$150

7 Rolando Aravena \$150

Feb 23 - Feb 23

Garden State Pool Tour Open Stop

Bergen Billiards

Palisades Park, NJ

1 Kang Lee \$500

2 Nimo Wode Ni \$250

3 Hai Chi \$150

4 Nick Croce \$100

Feb 24 - Feb 27

Tkach/Amit Challenge of Champions

Rio All-Suite Hotel & Casino

Las Vegas, NV

1 Rubilen Amit \$15,000

2 Kristina Tkach \$3,500

Feb 24 - Feb 28

Bank Pool Showdown

Rio All-Suite Hotel & Casino

Las Vegas, NV

1 Billy Thorpe \$14,500

2 Roberto Gomez \$8,500

3 Joshua Filler \$2,500

3 Shane Van Boening \$2,500

5 Alex Pagulayan \$1,500

5 Skyler Woodward \$1,500

7 Chip Compton \$500

7 Evan Lunda \$500
9 Francisco Bustamante \$250
9 Tony Chohan \$250

Feb 25 - Mar 01

Women's Las Vegas Open 2025

Rio All-Suite Hotel & Casino

Las Vegas, NV

1 Rubilen Amit \$22,500

2 Han Yu \$13,125

3 Chieh-Yu Chou \$6,563

3 Jasmin Ouschan \$6,563

5 Chezka Centeno \$3,281

5 Chihiro Kawahara \$3,281

5 Soledad Ayala \$3,281

5 Wan-Ling Wang \$3,281

9 Annita Kanjaya \$1,641

9 Harin Lee \$1,641

9 Kelly Fisher \$1,641

9 Kristina Tkach \$1,641

9 Marharyta Fefilava \$1,641

9 Miina Tani \$1,641

9 Seo Seoa \$1,641

9 Tzu-Chien Wei \$1,641

Feb 25 - Mar 01

Mixed Doubles Open

Rio All-Suite Hotel & Casino

Las Vegas, NV

1 Alexandros Kazakis \$15,000

1 Kelly Fisher \$15,000

2 Chieh-Yu Chou \$8,750

2 Jung-Lin Chang \$8,750

3 Jose Alberto Delgado \$4,375

3 Maria Teresa Roper Garcia \$4,375

3 Maximilian Lechner \$4,375

3 Shui Ching Chiang \$4,375

5 Chezka Centeno \$2,188

5 Daniel Maciol \$2,188

5 Han Yu \$2,188

5 Kun Lin Wu \$2,188

5 Mark Estiola \$2,188

5 Naoyuki Oi \$2,188

5 Sakura Miramatsu \$2,188

5 Seo Seoa \$2,188

9 Alex Pagulayan \$1,094

9 Denis Grabe \$1,094

9 Eylul Kybaroglu \$1,094

9 Jasmin Ouschan \$1,094

9 Joshua Filler \$1,094

9 Pia Filler \$1,094

9 Wojciech Szewczyk \$1,094

9 Yvonne Hybler \$1,094

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.

MARCH

15th N.E. Pool & Billiard Hall of Fame 9-Ball Open

Mar 01 - Mar 02

Snookers - Sports Billiards, Bar & Grill
Providence, RI

US Open 10-Ball Championship 2025

Mar 01 - Mar 05

Griff's
Las Vegas, Nevada

TOP Tour Stop

Mar 01 - Mar 02

Dot's Cue Club
Rocky Mount, NC

Mezz Cues LA 9-Ball Series Stop

Mar 02 - Mar 02

Good Timez Billiards
Huntsville, Alabama

2025 GB9 Ball Tour Stop One

Mar 07 - Mar 09

Spots and Stripes Pool Hall
Redhill

Joss Tour 2024-2025 Stop 13

Mar 08 - Mar 09

Utica Billiards On The Boulevard
Utica, New York

New England Junior American Billiard Championship Series Stop 2

Mar 08 - Mar 08

Run Em Racks Billiards
Johnston, RI

European Open 2025

Mar 11 - Mar 16

Hotel Hills Sarajevo
Llidza, Sarajevo

Bosnia & Herzegovina Junior Open

Mar 14 - Mar 15

Hotel Hills Sarajevo
Llidza, Sarajevo

Joss Tour 2024-2025 Stop 14

Mar 15 - Mar 16

Brickhouse Billiards
N. Syracuse, New York

SouthWest Youth Tour Stop 1

Mar 15 - Mar 15

Dozer's Grill
Mesa, Arizona

Premier League Pool 2025

Mar 20 - Mar 27

Hotel Hills Sarajevo
Llidza, Sarajevo

Joss Tour 2024-2025 Stop 15

Mar 22 - Mar 23

Yale Billiards
Wallingford, Connecticut

Joss Tour 2024-2025 Stop 11

Mar 29 - Mar 30

Sharpshooters Billiards & Sports Pub
Amsterdam, NY

AZBILLIARDS MONEY LIST

	NAME	COUNTRY	\$ AMOUNT	
	Fedor Gorst	 USA	58.600,00 US\$	
	Joshua Filler	 GER	55.981,00 US\$	
	Denis Grabe	 EST	38.594,00 US\$	↑
	Shane Van Boening	 USA	35.400,00 US\$	↓
	Billy Thorpe	 USA	34.600,00 US\$	↑
	Skyler Woodward	 USA	25.650,00 US\$	↓
	Alex Kazakis	 GRE	25.296,00 US\$	↑
	Mickey Krause	 DEN	23.350,00 US\$	↓
	Roberto Gomez	 PHI	22.775,00 US\$	↑
	Rubilen Amit	 PHI	22.500,00 US\$	↑

THE COUNTER-WEIGHT

IMPROVES YOUR GAME
**IMMEDIATELY
GUARANTEED**



Order Online at:
www.Accu-Stats.com

Or call: 1-800-828-0397



APA, BCA, USA, VNEA, TAP and UBL League Approved. MADE IN THE USA - 30-day money back guarantee

Pat. Pending 62785846

NO ONE SAID IT HAD TO BE A FAIR FIGHT

WHEN PERFORMANCE MATTERS



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

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



PLAYKODA.COM