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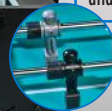
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FROM THE Head Rail

MIKE HOWERTON

Living in Arizona, I get used to most of the major events in the pool world taking place on the other side of the country. July was a nice change though, with the West Coast Swing and US Open 8-Ball & 10-Ball events so close to home.

On our cover, Shane Van Boening added more US Open trophies to his cabinet with both the US Open 8-Ball and US Open 10-Ball titles. As has been discussed online, Shane now holds the US Open 8-Ball, 10-Ball, One Pocket and Straight Pool titles. Even when he doesn't seem to be having one of his typical years, he proves time and time again that he is the best US player in the game right now.

The West Coast Swing wasn't so much about US players, with all but one of the titles won by Filipino players. Didn't we hear in the last couple of years how the Filipino players weren't as dominant as they used to be? Someone must have forgotten to tell them.

We will have a World Pool Series stop and the Turning Stone Classic XXX in August, so look for coverage of those events next month.





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20 COVER FEATURE:

West Coast Swing

Skip Maloney

Photos by Rick Schmitz



12 Toddy Deatherage

Melinda Bailey



26 What are the odds?

Skip Maloney

Photos by Roy Pastor



36 Van Boening recaptures US Open 8-Ball title



6 Why Do We Miss So Much And Especially Easy Shots

Jerry Briesath

8 Stop Dogging the Nine!

Anthony Beeler

10 Let go of bad days if you want to play your best

Dr. Chris Stankovich

32 Young Champs Take Center Stage at APA Junior Championships

37 Van Boening captures third consecutive US Open 10-Ball Championship

38 Ozzy Reynolds Becomes CEO of CueSports International

40 NAPT Debuts its Open Division I Pro Tour with the Inaugural 10-Ball Invitational

42 The Buzz Spotlight

46 Upcoming Tournaments

48 Tourney Results

Why Do We Miss So Much? Especially The Easy Shots



JERRY BRIESATH

First of all, you must understand that missing shots is part of the game. Everybody misses.

Believe it or not, most amateurs aim as straight as the pros. The problem with most amateurs that have aiming problems is not that they aim crooked, but rather that the cue ball does not go where they aim. And 99% of the time that is caused by poor mechanics. One of the biggest causes of missing the target is a fast backswing. Bringing the cue back too fast on the backswing causes the hand to squeeze the cue at the wrong time, therefore when the cue tip gets back to the cue ball it does not strike the cue ball at the place you aimed. If most amateurs would slow down their backswing, they would make more balls and realize that their aim wasn't so bad after all.

Another big cause of missing is not making the cue go straight through the cue ball, which puts unwanted side English on the cue ball and therefore it cannot go straight where aimed.

On my DVD set, there is a little trick you can try, to improve your accuracy. Place the cue ball on the spot. Place an object ball near the far corner pocket, one or two diamonds up from the pocket on the long rail. Now place two object balls on your side of the cue ball with just enough room for the cue stick to pass through when pocketing that ball on the far rail. When you shoot the shot, the cue stick should follow through 5 or 6 inches between those balls and not touch either one. This is a great exercise to see how straight your stroke is and don't forget to slow down that backswing.

Missing easy shots is usually caused by not giving that shot the same amount of time and concentration given to more difficult shows. Remember this rule — ANY EASY SHOT CAN BE EASILY MISSED

Also, be aware that there are several aiming systems out there that might help your game and if you find one that works better than your system, use it.

Good luck — Jerry

PS, don't forget to check out my 3 DVD set at www.poollessons.com



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STOP DOGGING THE NINE!

ANTHONY BEELER

If you've had butterflies while shooting the 9-ball, you've experienced performance anxiety! If you've had trouble going to sleep before an important match, you understand how it can control you.

If you've ever started panicking during your warm-up strokes because you are afraid you will miss, you understand how it can seriously affect your match play. If you've ever rattled the 9-ball you've felt its daunting effects. But what exactly is performance anxiety and why does it exist? This article is going to take a look into the origin of anxiety, what the effects are, and how you can harness its energy to help you play your best pool.

What is anxiety?

Generally speaking, anxiety is a reaction to some sort of stressor. If you don't know the mental game techniques to control it, that emotional response can quickly cause: your heart to race, a loss of focus, fast breathing, tension in the muscles and sweating. As humans, we've developed responses to anxiety that have become engrained in us for over a million years. We evolved to protect ourselves when something is threatening our lives. But, for some bizarre reason, that same response can be triggered today in a game of pool and can be quite challenging to deal with. And for most of us, it creates an even bigger challenge in a game that is already extremely difficult!

What do you fear most in pool?

It's probably at least one of the following:

- Losing to a weaker player (you've invested a lot of time into your practice, so you want to win when you should).

- How others perceive your performance – (i.e. you have a big ego)
- Fear of failure (failing to meet your goals)
- Fear of winning (self-sabotage puts you back in your comfort zone)

What does anxiety do to you?

- Anxiety can cause your hands to shake
- Your game speeds up and so does your pre-shot routine
- You make quick decisive decisions instead of weighing all of your options carefully (shot selection)
- You put the “death grip” on your cue

The positive side of anxiety

It turns out that there's a “healthy side” to anxiety, one that drives us to win and become better players. A top pool player's fear of failure is probably quite different than that of an amateur. Fear of failure to professional players doesn't represent a loss of respect from their peers or what people will think of them. This anxiety is a healthy fear. It motivates them.



If anxiety is controlled using proper stress management techniques, it can become a very powerful driver to success.

Professional pool players want to win. They want to win major championships and see their names and photos in major publications. This is not because they derive their self-esteem from it, but because they are competitors and love the thrill of competition. If you can direct the physiological changes that occur during stress in a positive way, you will gain the ingredients for an extraordinary performance. Your perspective of the “stress” is that it's a positive challenge, not a negative threat. Your senses are heightened and can be used to take your performance to an even higher level. For the world's best players, pre-competition anxiety is almost a necessity for them to play their best game.

Gaining control of your fears (getting to the root of the problem)

To get control of your anxiety, you need to ask yourself some key questions:

What do you fear? Why do you fear it? Most of us don't really know why we are nervous. What is it you want out of pool? What motivates you to succeed?

Do you gain your satisfaction from what other people think of you as a player? Is your success tied to your self-esteem, your status in the game and impressing others? If so, this is an unhealthy fear and you're too emotionally involved in the game to reach your full potential.

Ways to conquer performance anxiety in pool

- What is the worst case scenario? There are far worse things that could happen to you in life than not playing well.
- Look at failure as an opportunity to grow.
- Figure out the unknowns, so there is less to fear.
- Accept that it's natural to feel anxious – it's part of getting better.
- Visualization – Imagine yourself in the situations you fear and visualize yourself succeeding.

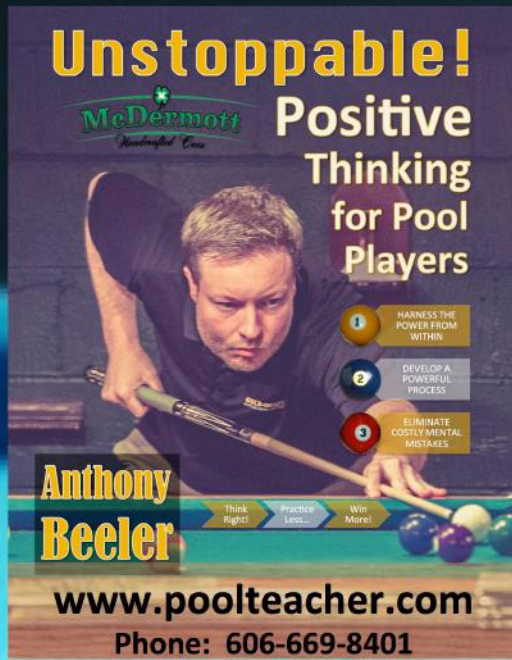
“ **PROFESSIONAL POOL PLAYERS WANT TO WIN. THEY WANT TO WIN MAJOR CHAMPIONSHIPS AND SEE THEIR NAMES AND PHOTOS IN MAJOR PUBLICATIONS.** ”

- Set short term goals and work on achieving them. Small incremental achievements might help you improve without creating too much pressure.

Franklin D. Roosevelt once said: “We have nothing to fear but fear itself.” No truer words were ever spoken. His advice can help you in difficult times. Learning to experience your primary emotions without resistance can help you weather all sorts of emotional storms that can occur during match play. The key is welcome anxiety into your game and use all of that added energy to your advantage.

Anthony Beeler is the 2017 Pool Instructor of the Year and is a former BCAPL National 9-Ball Champion. He has numerous top 25 national finishes and is one of only 8 ACS Master Instructors in the world. He is the primary author of the *National Billiards Instructors Manual* and has also authored the book *Unstoppable! Positive Thinking for Pool Players*. Anthony currently has the highest established Fargo Rating of any Master Instructor. He has won over 300 tournaments and has defeated numerous professional players in tournament competition.

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LET GO OF BAD DAYS IF YOU WANT TO PLAY YOUR BEST

The Sports Doc - Dr. CHRIS STANKOVICH
Drstankovich.com

We have all had those days where nothing seems to go right, almost as if a dark cloud is following us around.

Pool players know exactly what I am talking about here – those days where the shots just don't seem to fall, and every time you miss you set your opponent up for an easy run. The funny thing is that no matter how hard you try to avoid bad days, it's impossible to do so – the bigger question is how do you respond to bad days so that you can quickly get back to being the player you know you really are.

Get messy and don't try to be perfect

People who call themselves perfectionists (a nice title, but not very practical) actually set themselves up for a lot of life anxiety. Think about it – if perfection is the only thing you'll tolerate, you are going to go through most days very frustrated. Great athletes, including pool players, aren't afraid to get messy by playing all-out and making the best of each day, even the bad days. What this means is that on some days you will know early on that it just isn't your day, and that's OK. Rather than get mad and upset, decide if there is still something you can salvage, or if there is a drill or two you can work on even though your complete game just isn't working.



Laugh and learn

Humor is another way to quickly diffuse negative energy and help you relax. Granted, it's tough to see the humor in missing a key shot in a championship match, and I wouldn't expect you to fall into a rolling laughter at that very moment. But try and keep perspective – assuming you have your health and people in your life that care about you, I would say you have it pretty good. Try to remind yourself



that pool is just a game and certainly not the defining characteristic of who you are as a person, rather than looking at it the other way around. Have a laugh once in awhile, and simply admit “it just wasn't my day.”

Why let go?

Think about it this way, every bad moment and day you hold on to equals every great moment you are potentially missing. To make my point, *when you are still mad about the last shot and it prevents you from making the next shot, you have only compounded your problem by not letting go.* Is it easy to let go of things? Hell no it isn't, but it is do-able. Letting go and moving on is what separates good players from average, and great players from good. More importantly, letting go of negativity is something that is 100% under your control, so make a wise choice if you want to see your game take off to the next level.

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

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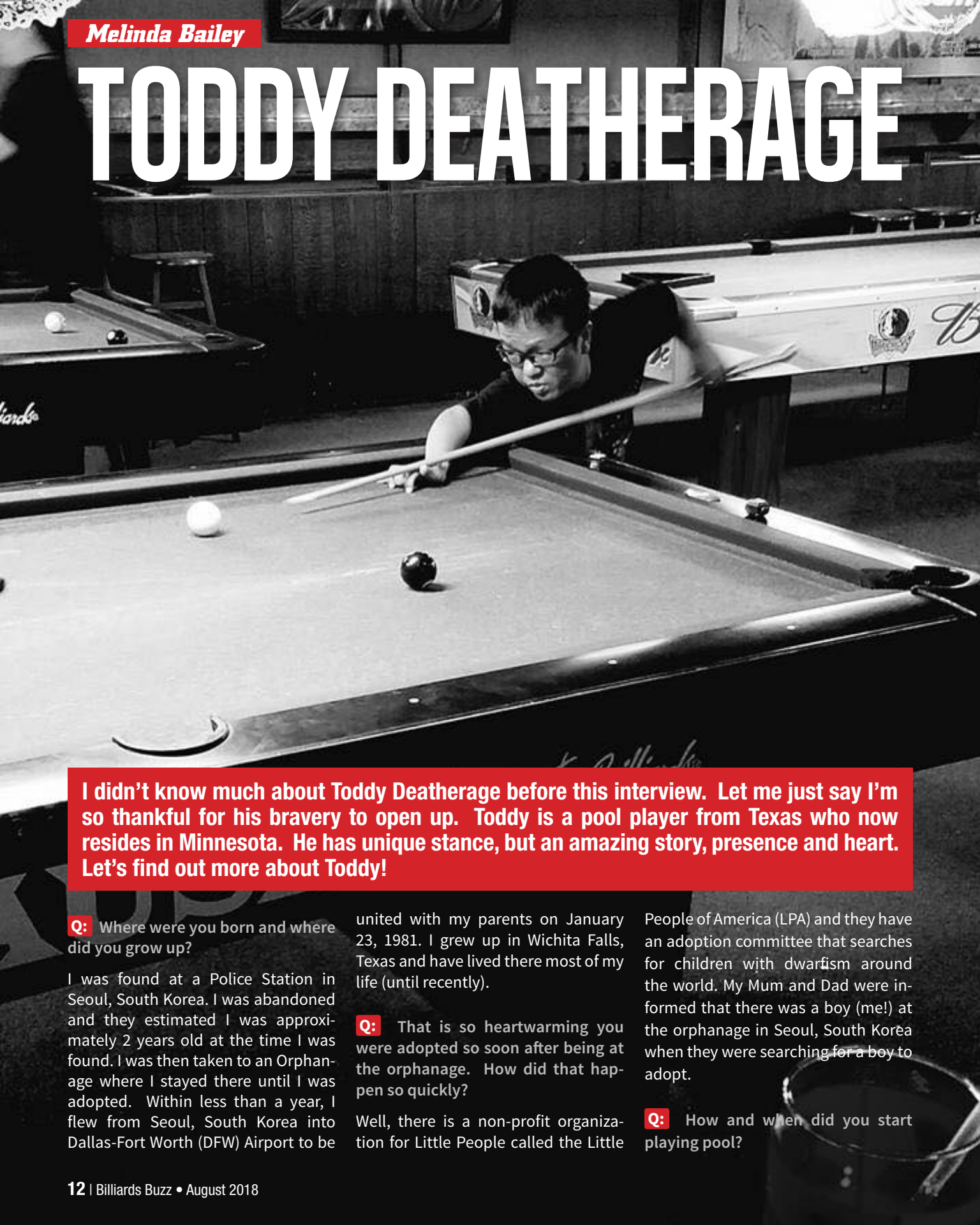
TH-3

TH-4

TH-5

TH-6

TODDY DEATHERAGE



I didn't know much about Toddy Deatherage before this interview. Let me just say I'm so thankful for his bravery to open up. Toddy is a pool player from Texas who now resides in Minnesota. He has unique stance, but an amazing story, presence and heart. Let's find out more about Toddy!

Q: Where were you born and where did you grow up?

I was found at a Police Station in Seoul, South Korea. I was abandoned and they estimated I was approximately 2 years old at the time I was found. I was then taken to an Orphanage where I stayed there until I was adopted. Within less than a year, I flew from Seoul, South Korea into Dallas-Fort Worth (DFW) Airport to be

united with my parents on January 23, 1981. I grew up in Wichita Falls, Texas and have lived there most of my life (until recently).

Q: That is so heartwarming you were adopted so soon after being at the orphanage. How did that happen so quickly?

Well, there is a non-profit organization for Little People called the Little

People of America (LPA) and they have an adoption committee that searches for children with dwarfism around the world. My Mum and Dad were informed that there was a boy (me!) at the orphanage in Seoul, South Korea when they were searching for a boy to adopt.

Q: How and when did you start playing pool?

I would have been around 6-7 years of age and I had received a kid pool table from Santa. Also, when I joined the Southwest Boy's Club in Wichita Falls (at the time I joined, it was called "The Boys Club" before it became the "Boys and Girls Club" in 1990) when I was 8, they had pool tables in the Gameroom. I fell in love with the game of pool then, and in all honesty, I liked the Gameroom because it was one of the few air conditioned rooms. Over the years I had amassed many City-wide Boys Club Pool Championship wins.

Q: How many siblings do you have and do they play pool?

I have 1 sister and she does not play pool. I am the only family member that does.

Q: Where do you work and how long have you been there?

I am currently not working. I am a stay at home step-parent and currently awaiting my Disability Hearing. I have had 4 back surgeries and a neck surgery done, and I actually have a neck surgery scheduled for late July to relieve a compressed vertebrae and pinched disc that is causing pain, numbness and tingling (not anything pleasant) in my arms and hands which is one of the reasons I didn't attend and play in the Junior Norris tournament this year.

Q: What brought you from Midland, Texas to Wichita, Texas and then to Minnesota?

I went to Midland, TX to enter into the "Teen Challenge," which is a faith-based Recovery Program, on January 6, 2010 and graduated from the program on February 7, 2011. I attended the program because I had an 8 year

addiction to methamphetamines. On December 23, 2018, I will be 8 years clean. After 2 years working in Midland, I moved back home because I lost my job during the Oil Boom and honestly, I was very homesick anyway. Then I started to date my childhood crush, and we just got married on September 25, 2017 and moved to Walker, Minnesota where I currently reside with my beloved.

Q: Congrats on your many years of sobriety; that's really fantastic! Let's talk about college now. What is your degree in and where did you get it?



Well, that's a good question. Actually, I did not finish college due to I started to have back problems during my sophomore year. In the span of 3 years, I had those 4 major back surgeries with a recovery time of 6 months in between a couple of those surgeries. My father also passed during mid-terms and I had an awful time dealing with the funeral and my scholarship

committee. So, I took some time off. Lastly, I forgot to withdraw from my semester and I flunked all my classes instead of getting W's before my last and final series of back surgeries.

Q: I love how your faith is a huge part of your life. Tell us about your relationship with God.

God is good all the time and all the time God is good. He is 1st in my life, followed by my wife, stepchildren, family and friends. I have a saying: "With God, I am everything. Without him, I am nothing." I believe my relationship with God is amazing. I have known him since I was a child. My paternal Grandmother was the Organist for Floral Heights United Methodist Church for 50 years. I remember her picking me up every Sunday and taking me to Sunday school and then I would sometimes sit in the pews in the sanctuary with a family friend while my Grandma played. Good times and everlasting memories of my Grandma. I love my walk with God. He has been there every step of the way, even when I was lost and deep into my addiction and depression. I would go to church high, but I knew that for an hour or however long the sermon was, I wasn't using. Some people have balked that it was wrong to go to church high, but I am not here on earth for their acceptance. I love the woman

I married, she and I are on our walk with God together and we both put him first.

The verses that define me are Philipians 3k12-14 NIV: "Not that I have already obtained all this or have already been made perfect, but I press on to take hold of that which Christ Jesus took hold of me. Brothers and Sisters,



I do not consider myself yet to have taken hold of it. One thing I do, forgetting what is behind and straining toward what is ahead, I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus.” I will never be ashamed of my faith nor let others silence me. Love God and love your neighbor are the two greatest commandments. I don’t care about race, creed, color, orientation or religion. Be a good person and treat others the same and we’ll be friends.

Q: That’s all so beautiful! Btw, I didn’t realize you played pool until I saw a video of you from the Junior Norris tournament in 2017. Have you always broke one handed? If so, is that because of your height?

Yes and yes. Let’s start with the latter. When I started learning how to play pool at the Boys Club I would get a metal folding chair and stand on it to make shots. That didn’t last long

when it could have been a liability suit if I got injured while standing on the chair. Now the problem was I was barely knee high to a grasshopper and here I am barely seeing over the pool table. Well, I didn’t let that deter me! I started shooting overhand like a spear and I got quite good at it. Now when I started to get taller, I would still shoot with one hand and I got acclimated with the bridge at an early age and in doing so, I am quite comfortable using the bridge for multiple shots in a row. I once broke and ran out a nine ball rack using the bridge for 90% of the shots. My opponent wasn’t amused, but I got some fist bumps and I think a shot from my friends. Lol.

Q: Wait, is the way you break one-handed the reason for your nickname, “Spear Chunker?”

Yes Ma’am, it is. My close friend, Chad Gore from Wichita Falls, Tx, gave me that moniker. I can break two handed, but it feels off to me and I feel I have more control and definitely more power breaking one handed. Lol, I’ll tell you a quick story. When the name *Spear Chunker* was given, I was like huh? I kept picturing myself in a “mud flap” aka loincloth with a spear in my hand like one of those aboriginal people. One time I was breaking and that thought ran through my head and I started laughing and lost concentration and lost my grip on my break cue so much that I actually did launch it like a spear across the bar! haha. I don’t think I hit anybody, but then again that was a long time ago.

Q: Let’s get a little personal. Most Little People have a medical name for why they are short. What is yours?

I am an Achondroplasia Dwarf. It is the most common type of dwarfism and the physical characteristics are the arms and legs are short, while the torso is of average size. Normal size

organs, too. I have adapted in an average world and have made it my own.

Q: Is dwarfism hereditary?

Dwarfism is caused by a genetic mutation but beforehand, dwarfism was considered a birth defect. But since dwarfism is due to a genetic mutation, most people with dwarfism in general are born to average-sized parents. My sister and I are both adopted from South Korea, but we are not blood related. Both of my adoptive parents were Achondroplasia dwarfs, along with my sister, of whom had a different type of dwarfism than my parents and I. It’s not hereditary, no. It can skip many generations or it could happen back to back. Like I said, most dwarfs are born to average size parents and beforehand there could not have had a case of dwarfism in their entire family tree. Now, on the other hand, two people with dwarfism will have a higher chance of having a child with dwarfism. My sister and her husband have a son who is of average height, so take one person with dwarfism and one of average height



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and the percentage would be less than two people with dwarfism and a lesser percentage if both parents were of average height. Since it's a genetic mutation; all could carry that gene.

Q: Since I've not yet had the privilege to meet you, do you have an accent? The reason I ask is I notice you call your Mom, "Mum."

Smiling...I am an odd duck. I dance to the beat of a different drum. Accent? No, but I do have a slight Texas drawl. Got to remember, I was adopted at a very early age to two Caucasian parents, one from Minnesota and one from a Texas. I was "born" and raised in Texas my entire life. I grew up Texan. I lived and breathed Texas air, BBQ, Tex-Mex food, rodeos, country music (Texas Red Dirt Country is what I prefer). A lot of my friends are red-necks, roughnecks and a mish mash of other eclectic varieties...and then we come upon the word "Mum." Ah yes, the Queen's English. Why do I call my Mom "Mum," when I have never been to England or Australia? If we can get technical, I have no idea why or even when I started to use Mum, lol! But, it would drive my mother crazy when she saw it on Facebook. "You

are not British! You are Korean! I have never, ever heard you call me Mum. So why do you refer to me as Mum in writing?" I'd shrug my shoulders and say, "I don't know?"

Q: That's hysterical! And I can tell your Mum was a very important person in your life. Tell us about her, and her love of animals, too.

My Mum was an amazing woman. Her heart was in animals. She had volunteered at the Local Humane Society for 15 years as well as sat on the Board of Directors as their Vice President. In her later years, after my father had passed in 2004 at the early age of 50, Mum was lost for a while. Life was just "there" for her. Happiness did come in spurts: My sister getting married and my Mum had an instant step granddaughter, of whom my Mum adored and loved as if she was blood (that part never mattered to her). The birth of my sisters' son was another high spot in her life. My Mum's and I relationship was stormy growing up. There was some abuse growing up that happened in our house. I had forgiven her many years ago and when I came back to Wichita Falls in 2014, she apologized and I told her all is

forgiven, even if she had never asked for forgiveness, it was there. Mum and I had a wonderful relationship these last few years before she died and I will cherish them forever.

Q: Tell us about this other wonderful woman in your life, Jennifer. How did you two meet?

Jen was my childhood crush. We both have family in Austin, Minnesota and that is where my Mum was born. My family would go up for holidays, summer vacations and so on. As Jen and I got older and she "blossomed" into a young woman, my pup love became something more solid. Fast Forward to July, 2016. My Mum and I came up to see family and I saw Jenny. At the time, I had a girlfriend who came up with us, but there was some butterflies in my stomach when I saw Jenny, but put that aside because I was with my girlfriend. Well, my girlfriend dumped me and my Mum had passed in September. Some of my family came down for the funeral and Jenny came along to honor my Mum. After the funeral, Jenny and I started talking and on Valentine's Day of 2017, I ponied up and told her how I felt via text. Either she was going to say she had feelings or I'd look like a complete idiot. The seconds counted out and I was nervous because she hadn't replied or said anything! Then lo and behold, she said she too had this feeling inside her that stirred when we saw each other the last time. So...we started dating, visiting each other and as the months went by and we got closer, I asked her to marry me and she said yes! So...she flew down and then we loaded my vehicle, got married in Oklahoma and off to Minnesota we went. She is an amazing and beautiful woman and I couldn't be any happier. She completes me.

Q: So you knew she was "the one"?

I had always been in love with her ever since we were children. I just never





That would be my 1st place Team Plaque out of Promiseland Bar with Jimmy York in 2017. Jimmy has been like a father to me ever since I started playing pool leagues at the age of 18 and even more so when my own father had passed. Jimmy would always check up on me and either instill knowledge or give me a lecture of why I was being dumb or doing something that was dumb. Lol. The reason it's my most coveted title is not because it was 1st place, but because I got to play a season with Jimmy. Powers at play somehow did not align for us to play on a team together for the longest time. When I made a commitment to play pool on a team at whatever place was the home bar, I stayed faithful to that home bar until my team disbanded or the bar shut down. Well, Jimmy needed a teammate for his Thursday night team and I wasn't playing on that night, so after 21 years, Jimmy and I got to honor Jimmy's wish for us to play together on a team finally!

thought in a million years that I could be with her. I did tell my Mum before she passed how I felt about Jenny. My Mum just brushed it off, but I felt deep inside that my Mum knew how I felt for Jenny all along; I just have this hunch.

Q: What goals do you have?

Goals in Life: Always put God first and be a patient and good person on my walk with Jesus. Be a good husband and father figure to my step children. Win a big pool tournament. Play pool and golf for the rest of my life. Oh, and grandchildren!

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

Junior "Texas Legend" Norris. I remember being around 8-9 and my Dad took me to "The Board Room," an old poolhall in Wichita Falls (that is closed now) and we would play pool there. I played my Dad for a Coke or something and lost. My Dad said I should play with both hands, but at the time it was uncomfortable to me.

I was practicing shooting shots and Junior came to my table and showed me this trick of his where he picks up and holds all 15 balls in two hands! It was very impressive. I asked him if I should shoot with one hand or two and he gave me the best advice I was given and still use to do this day. Junior said: "Shoot whatever way is more comfortable to you and practice it all the time." When I came back to Wichita Falls in 2014, I befriended Junior's daughter Sherrie Norris and we became good friends. I'd see Junior a lot and we would visit together and talk. He'd been like a grandpa to me. Sadly, he passed in 2016. The Junior Norris Memorial Tournament is in his honor. Junior got to see his tournament blossom before he passed. He will be remembered with love and honor, especially by me.

Q: Who has been a big influence in your life?

God.

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

Q: What is your most memorable match?

That would have to be at the Junior Norris Celebration of Life Tournament in 2016 against Dave Faver. We were both on the loser's side. Race to 9, 9-ball. I lost that match 9-7, but the reason why it's my most memorable was because of Dave. After the match he was telling Sherrie Norris that he was sweating in that match against me. That I kept coming back and almost took the lead at 7-7, but I missed a crucial 8 ball to get on the 9 to win that game and take the lead. It was a fantastic match and one I will always remember to have a road Pro telling Sherrie that.

Q: What is your favorite event to play in?

Junior Norris Tournament because it's in my hometown and it honors my "Grandpa". Ha!! I could almost write

Melinda Bailey

a book. Hmm...maybe that isn't a bad idea.

Q: Tell us something we wouldn't think of that is difficult as a Little Person? Something we take for granted.

Ok...let me think....got one! Those damn automatic doors you walk through. I cannot remember for the life of me what store it was, but there were two sets of automatic doors and in between a short and narrow mid-section. I got through the first one and I face planted into the second one because it didn't open! I had assumed it would, so I wasn't paying attention lol. Well, here I am trying to get out and the door in front of me wouldn't open and the one behind me only opened one way. So here I am at 4'4" jumping up and down trying desperately for the motion sensor to trigger the damn door to open. So I'm basically locked in and then what happens? I have to pee. Talk about adding insult to injury and of course I don't see anyone in sight to come let me out and I can't say for sure, but I have this suspicion that security was laughing their asses off on the other side of the cameras, lol. Finally, this angel of a woman comes and goes through the first door and triggers the damn second door and I rush through as if I was on fire and headed straight to the bathroom. True story. I can't make this up!

Q: Wow, that is a crazy story, lol! Btw, I'm curious, did you get picked on in high school?

I didn't get picked on in high school. Junior high was where I got picked on. But luckily that was only two years. In high school, I made lots and lots of friends. I have to admit, I did surprise and lifted a female friend of mine and tossed her into the trash can once, lol! She's one of my besties and she loves telling people that story of how I bullied her (jokingly) in high school this one time.



Q: Do kids point at you when you go out? If so, how do you handle that?

Yes, and I don't get mad at them because they are curious. I get mad at the adults who reprimand them or tell them to quit looking or yells at them. I am always glad to answer a child's question of, "Why are you so small?" or "Are you a adult?" That could be debatable haha. (and yes I left it as "a" instead of "an" because children don't know the difference.) One child even asked me if I could drive.

But no, I do not get offended. I will actually tell a short joke before anyone else does, because

(A) I will probably give a better punchline and it's funnier when I do that, and (B) I would of done something like that when I was younger to diffuse a situation or to lighten the mood. In turn, it would make me more comfortable.

Q: I am glad you are kind to children and their curiosity. So, what's

your favorite quote or words you live by?

Life is short, so am I. Have fun with it.

Q: Omgosh I love that! Thank you for doing the interview, Toddy.

I thoroughly enjoyed the experience – thank you very much, Melinda.

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

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



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WEST COAST SWING

It was a 773-mile, five-event road trip that played out over two weeks from June 30 to July 15. It started out at Family Billiards in San Francisco with the 6th Annual Cole Dickson Memorial, and after a two-event stop at California Billiards in Mountain View, CA, it moved across the desert for a two-event stop at Scott Frost's appropriately-named Freezer's Ice House in Tempe, AZ.

It offered a \$36,000-added (total) purse that by the time it was over, had awarded \$200 shy of \$80,000 in prize money. About 16% of that money (\$12,900) went to the Philippines' Dennis Orcollo who won two of the five events, while finishing 3rd and 4th in two others.

We are talking here about POVPool and West State Billiards' West Coast Swing (WCS), which has settled in nicely as an annual mid-summer event out on the Left coast, leading up to (though not associated with) CSI's US Open 10-Ball and 8-Ball Championship events in Las Vegas. The lure of Vegas at the end of

the WCS had a way of adding about 300 miles and another week or two to the road trip for those who were inclined to keep it going (Orcollo, for example, went to Vegas and added \$4,500 to his \$12.9K; not a bad chunk of change for a month of work). According to POVPool's Daniel Busch, it all spoke to



Dennis Orcollo, Scott Frost and Warren Kiamco



Warren Kiamco

“ KIAMCO WENT ON TO END A TERRIFIC RUN BY SHANE MCMINN, DEFEATING HIM IN THE SEMIFINALS 8-5. KIAMCO MADE SHORT WORK OF THE UN-FARGO RATED AL-SHAHEEN IN THE FINALS 13-5 TO END THE 2018 WEST COAST SWING. ”

the Swing’s theme of “awakening the road warrior within.” It provided (and will continue to do so, annually), the best players in this and other countries the opportunity to connect with the sports’ roots by arranging for a reasonably tight geographic series of events that put them on the road, offered them the potential for strong payouts (not to mention unrecorded amounts of money that changed hands after-hours), and brought a star-studded roster together to have some fun doing what they do best.

It was a good couple of weeks for players from the Philippines and “T-Rex” Tony Chohan, who picked up the only non-Filipino victory on the five-stop tour; the West Coast Challenge One Pocket, in which he sent Orcollo to the

loss side from the hot seat match, and then, once Shane Van Boening had eliminated Orcollo in the semifinals, defeated *him* in the finals.

Chohan had two shots at the Philippines’ Jeffrey De Luna in the opening event of the WCS – the 6th Annual Cole Dickson Memorial – which got underway on the last day of June. The Dickson memorial was something of an undercard in the WCS. Both Chohan and De Luna navigated their way through the field of 75 at Family Billiards in San Francisco, with an unremarkable set of draws. De Luna faced Ian Costello in one of the winners’ side semifinals, as Chohan squared off against Neil Vichiensaen in the other one. De Luna played 12 games to down Costello (8-4), while Chohan sent Vichiensaen

west in 11 (8-3). They played 14 games in the hot seat match (8-6) that sent Chohan to the semifinals.

In that semifinal match, Chohan had to contend with Lance Salazar, who was in the midst of an eight-match loss-side winning streak that gave him a shot at reaching the finals. He took full advantage, battling Chohan to a deciding 11th game. Chohan spoiled the bid by winning the 11th game for a second shot at De Luna. De Luna, though, repeated his hot seat effort, downing Chohan 8-6 a second time to claim the first WCS event title.

And it was on to California Billiards. . .

The action shifted to California Billiards where Chohan picked up his win in the West Coast Challenge One Pocket event. He had to get by, in order, Orcollo and then, Van Boening to claim that title.

Appropriately, T-Rex, from the US of A, kicked off his winning One Pocket campaign on the 4th of July, when it became apparent that things had shifted from an under card to a main event. Chohan downed Jay Helfert and Ed Neves, both 4-1, before he ran into Shane Van Boening. He got by Van Boening 4-2, and advanced to a winners’ side semifinal against Warren Kiamco. Orcollo, in the meantime, worked his way through the field to a winners’ side quarterfinal against Jayson Shaw, which he won 4-2, to draw The Lion (Alex Pagulayan) in the other winners’ side semifinal.

Chohan downed Kiamco 4-2, while Orcollo survived a double hill match against Pagulayan. Chohan then threw what turned out to be a knockout punch and shut Orcollo out in the hot seat match.

There were more than just a few potential winners left on the loss side,



Dennis Orcollo

“ORCOLLO'S MARCH TO THE HOT SEAT INCLUDED WINS OVER SCOTT FROST (DOUBLE HILL) AND IN ONE OF THE WINNERS' SIDE SEMIFINALS, ALEX PAGULAYAN.”

and Kiamco, moving over, picked up one of them – Van Boening, who'd eliminated Jayson Shaw and Brandon Shuff to meet him. Pagulayan drew Chris McDaniel, who'd given up only a single rack, total, to Omar Alshaheen (0) and Ian Costello (the 1) to reach him. Van Boening and Pagulayan moved on into a double hill quarter-final match that eventually advanced Van Boening to the semifinal against Orcollo, which Van Boening won 3-1 for a shot at Chohan in the hot seat. They battled back and forth to a 2-2 tie (race to 5), before Chohan took over and won three to claim the title.

With the event score tied at 1 between the Philippines and the USA, a Russian showed up to challenge everybody in the \$15,000-added, 128-entrant West Coast Challenge 10-Ball. With decidedly different draws, Ruslan Chinakhov and Orcollo advanced to the hot seat match; Chinakhov defeating Joe

Hartnett, Teymour Ansari, Ronnie Alcano and Omar Alshaheen to get there, and Orcollo, after an opening round shutout over CJ Robinson, downing Rodney Morris, Jayson Shaw, Shane Van Boening and Roberto Gomez. Much to the surprise of more than just a few (including, one would assume, Orcollo himself), Chinakhov defeated Orcollo 9-7 in the hot seat match.

On the loss side, Gomez had picked up countryman Zoren James Aranas, who'd eliminated Corey Deuel and Jayson Shaw to meet him. Alshaheen had drawn Van Boening, who'd just eliminated Thorsten Hohmann and Kiamco. Aranas and Van Boening advanced to the quarterfinals, where, despite Van Boening's higher (by 13 points) Fargo rating, Aranas prevailed 9-7 to face Orcollo in the semifinals. Orcollo gave up only two racks to Aranas and got a second shot at Chinakhov. Orcollo chalked up his first 2018

WCS win with a 15-9 victory in the finals.

The Desert crossing

And it was on to Tempe, AZ where Freezer's Ice House hosted another One Pocket and 10-Ball Challenge, that commenced on July 11, and where Orcollo went back to back and chalked up his second 2018 WCS victory in the One Pocket tournament. Orcollo went undefeated in this one, defeating Josh Roberts twice.

Orcollo's march to the hot seat included wins over Scott Frost (double hill) and in one of the winners' side semifinals, Alex Pagulayan. Roberts, in the meantime, who'd faced exile to the loss side three times in double hill wins over Chris Adams, Tony Chohan and, in his winners' side semifinal, Ian Costello, played a fourth double hill match, battling for the hot seat, and was eventually defeated by Orcollo.

On the loss side, Pagulayan picked up Chohan, who'd recently eliminated Chip Compton (double hill) and Billy Thorpe 3-1. Costello drew Warren Kiamco, who'd just eliminated Jeff De Luna, double hill. Chohan and Kiamco gave up only a single rack between them against Costello (0) and Pagulayan (1) and advanced to the quarterfinals. A double hill quarter-final eventually advanced Chohan to a semifinal rematch against Roberts, who downed Chohan a second time (double hill) and got his own second shot against Orcollo. Orcollo gave up only a single rack to Roberts and claimed the One Pocket title.

Four down and one to go . . .

With the Philippines/USA score at 3-1, in favor of the Philippines, there was a veritable army of competitors anxious to get in on the last share (\$23,900) of

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Tony Chohan

the original \$79,800 total purse in the 2018 WCS by winning the last event – the \$10,000-added Freezer’s Ice House 10-Ball Challenge. As is so often the case, Warren Kiamco advanced quietly (stealthily?) through the field (96 entrants), and though sent to the loss side after a winners’ side semifinal, he returned to down Omar Al-Shaheen and claim his country’s fourth and his only 2018 WCS title.

Kiamco’s path to the winners’ side semifinal against Omar Al-Shaheen in this event was not without its challenges and included wins (in order) over The Lion, Corey Deuel, and Orcollo, who was looking for his third win of the tour. Shane McMinn, in the meantime, with arguably, a much easier draw, got into a winners’ side semifinal against the Russian (Ruslan Chinakhov).

Al-Shaheen sent Kiamco west (8-3) and faced McMinn, who’d sent Chinakhov to Siberia (otherwise known as the loss side) 8-5. Al-Shaheen and McMinn locked up in a double hill fight for the hot seat, which fatefully sent

McMinn to the loss side and a meet-up with the eventual winner, Kiamco.

On the loss side, as the event moved into its first money rounds (17th-24th) there were a

ton of potential winners lurking; Orcollo, De Luna, and (another country heard from; Albania) Klenti Kaci among them. Chohan was there, as were Thorsten Hohmann, Chip Compton, Brandon Shuff, Josh Roberts, Deuel, and Zoren James Aranas, representing an average Fargo rating of 777 (Orcollo at the top with 805 and Shuff at the bottom with 735). By the time Kiamco and Chinakhov joined them at the 5th/6th slots, only Orcollo was left.

Kiamco drew Max Eberle, who’d recently eliminated Chohan. Chinakhov drew Orcollo, who’d recently eliminated Compton and Aranas. Predictably, Kiamco and Orcollo advanced to the quarterfinals, where Kiamco spoiled Orcollo’s bid for a third WCS title with an 8-6 win. Kiamco went on to end a terrific run by Shane McMinn, defeating him in the semifinals 8-5. Kiamco made short work of the un-Fargo rated Al-Shaheen in the finals 13-5 to end the 2018 West Coast Swing.



Jeff De Luna

That's all she wrote. .

There was, at the end of it all, a celebratory feel to the thing. There are times when the end of a pool tournament can feel like a funeral, as the winner and runner-up in a given tournament try their best to set aside the exhaustion and lingering sense of the grim-faced competition they've been a part of, and smile (sort of) for a camera. At the very end of the West State Billiards/POVPool's 2018 West Coast Swing (WCS), which came to its conclusion on Sunday, July 15, Scott Frost, gripping two microphones, tried to conduct a post-finals interview with the winner (Warren Kiamco) and runner-up (Omar Al-Shaheen) in the 10-Ball Challenge.

Frost tried. He really did. But his interview efforts were stymied by the unexpected appearance of Dennis Orcollo, carrying his over-sized check for \$3,000 (earned by winning the One Pocket event the day before) into the camera shot, and hugging Frost like a teddy bear he'd decided he wanted to take home with him. Orcollo had apparently spent a good deal of time between his quarterfinal loss to Kiamco and the end of the final match, at the bar. Beyond its humor value, the attempted interview and its interruption were emblematic of one aspect of the 2018 West Coast Swing that had nothing to do with the pool games that were played or the money they'd all earned.

It was, according to POVPool's Daniel Busch, "the overwhelming response from professional players" which stood out in his mind as the most memorable thing about the 2018 West Coast Swing that had culminated with the goofy interview. Busch and his broadcast crew at POVPool streamed free, selected matches at all of the venues; all of which can be accessed on POVPool's Web site.



Ruslan Chinakhov

"They really appreciated the string of events," said Busch. "There was an amazing amount of friendship, a feeling of family, and an overwhelming display of camaraderie.

"The West Coast Swing has set the stage for these guys," he added. "(Given them) the opportunity to travel the West Coast for a couple of weeks and make appearances at some of the country's best venues."

Any questions about the overall strength of fields in this 2018 WCS might arguably be answered by noting that the final event of the 2018 West Coast Swing (the 10-Ball Challenge) featured nine of the 14 US players who have been named to the initial Mosconi Cup team. Five of them - Josh Roberts, Corey Deuel, Chris Robinson, Brandon Shuff and Chip Compton - made it into the money rounds. Billy Thorpe, Tyler Styer, Oscar Dominguez and Mitch Ellerman did not. The WCS clearly attracted the best (minus five) US talents to the tables over the past two weeks; a circumstance that POVPool's Busch hopes to duplicate as plans begin to coalesce around the 2019 West Coast Swing.

"It's two weeks of brutal hard work, with 11 months of planning and promotion behind it," said Busch, adding that this year's event might not have been as successful as it was, were it not for the cooperation of the rooms that hosted the events - Family Billiards in San Francisco, California Billiards in Fremont, CA, and Freezer's Ice House in Tempe, AZ.

"You don't normally get that kind of cooperation between rooms," Busch noted, "but (in this case) they all worked at helping to promote each other's events in the Swing."

Busch thanked the ownership and staff at all of the venues, in addition to title sponsor West State Billiards, Cohen Cues, Big Time Threads, KD Cues, Ariel Carmeli (AC) Cues, Tiger Products, and JB Cases. The four cue representatives were all a part of the West Coast Swing's Cuemakers' Showcase, held at two of the venues (California Billiards and Freezer's Ice House), which garnered a "better than expected" interest and response from the players. Busch expects to announce plans for the 2019 West Coast Swing, sometime in January.

What Are The Odds?

Each year, the Billiards Education Foundation (BEF) hosts nationwide qualifying tournaments to advance players to its annual Junior Nationals competition.

This year, the BEF's 30th Annual Junior National 9-Ball Championships were held from July 10-14 at the Ernest N. Morial Convention Center in the Big Easy (otherwise known as New Orleans, LA). The event featured four new age categories – 16 & Under, and 11 & Under categories for both boys and girls – and played a true double elimination format. Considering all of the nationwide qualifying events, which drew over 1,000 players, the odds that sets of siblings would not only advance to the national stage, but win events in their indi-

vidual categories, would have to be long.

But it happened. Of the 170 attending juniors (of 273 that qualified), 18 families had two or more juniors in the event, led by the Tates of Raleigh, NC and Mercados from Harbor, MI, each with four children in the event.

"It looks like families that play together, stay together," said Billiard Education Foundation president, Tom Riccobene. "It's a great tribute to these parents for supporting their kids to play this game.

"There are social, cognitive and physical skills that are learned in pool competition," he added, "which will serve them all well in life."

The oldest of the Tates, Joey, playing in the 14 & Under Boys division (with the largest field; 52), came back from an opening set defeat (5-7) in a true double elimination final to shut out Lazaro Martinez from New Braunfels, TX and successfully defend the title he'd won last year. His sister Bethany, in the meantime, worked her way through a not-surprisingly short field of six players to win the new 11 & Un-



Justin playing in the second largest field – 40 – in the 16 & Under).

The Jiang family from Harvard, MA (the town, not the university) advanced two of their children to the national competition, as well, and both of them, Michelle and Tiana, won their respective age divisions. The eldest, Michelle, for the second time, successfully defended her 18 & Under Girls title against five-time Junior National Champion April Larson (more on this later). Michelle's younger sister, Tiana, went undefeated in the 14 & Under Girls division, downing Grand Rapid, MI's Emma Hildebrand in one set in the finals. Emma's brother, Timothy



11 & Under Girls Hayleigh Marion, Bethany Tate

der girls' division, going undefeated and downing Bristol, VA's Hayleigh Marion in the finals. Three of the six players in this division, including Noelle and Lily, were members of the Tate family.

The girls in the Mercado family fared better than their brothers, which could lead to some lively conversation around the dinner table. Hailey Mercado in the 14 & Under Girls division finished in the tie for 7th, as did sister Serenity in the 18 & Under Girls. Brothers Austin and Justin finished in the tie for 9th in their respective categories (Austin in the 11 & Under and



11 & Under Boys Winner Kyle Yi

(TJ), played in the 16 & Under Boys category and went two and out (yet another occasion for lively conversation on the home front).

Michelle Jiang's second Junior National title was, for her, something of a mixed blessing. She successfully defended her title by defeating Larson twice; once, in the hot seat match, and again in the finals. Mixed with that victory, however, was Jiang's realization that it was her last event as a junior competitor.

"It's the end of a journey," she said. "I'd like to come back and play next year, but I can't."



14 & Under Boys Lazaro Martinez III, Joey Tate



14 & Under Girls Kennedy Meyman, Tiana Jiang, Emma Hildebrand

“She was very gracious,” said Jiang of Larson’s reaction at the conclusion of her (Jiang’s) defense of the 18 and under title, “but it was really hard to hug this year.”

For her part, Larson, who has advanced beyond her participation in the annual Junior Nationals and Atlantic Cup Challenges to compete and win in a few pro tournaments, said the same thing in separate interviews about her losses to Jiang at this year’s Junior Nationals and the BCAPL Women’s Singles Platinum division tournament.

“It is what it is,” she told us here at AZ-Billiards about her Junior Nationals effort, and Ra Hanna, of On The Wire Creative Media about her effort at the BCAPL tournament. “But it was definitely a learning experience.”

“She improved her game,” Larson added.

Meanwhile, back at the Jiang ranch, Michelle’s younger sister, Tiana, jumped into the interview process to

She noted that Europe’s Junior National competition has a 21 & Under category, but she, personally, is ready and in fact, preparing to move on.

“It is the Junior Nationals,” she said, “and at 19, you’re really not a ‘junior’ anymore.”

“It’s a really hard transition from Junior to Pro events,” she added. “I played in the Amway Cup in Taiwan a couple of months ago, and while I did better than I expected, I didn’t get past the first round.”

A week or so ago, Michelle followed up her trip to New Orleans with a jaunt to Las Vegas, where she competed in the BCAPL National Championships, participating in the 38-entrant Women’s 8-Ball Singles Platinum Division. Sent to the loss side by the eventual hot seat occupant, Molrudee Kasemchaiyan, in the second round, Jiang won seven in a row, including a 6-2 win over Larson in the battle for 5th/6th place, and then, defeated Kasemchaiyan twice (6-2, 6-0) to claim that division title and the \$1,500 top prize.

The rivalry between Michelle Jiang and April Larson has been ongoing for a number of years, commencing

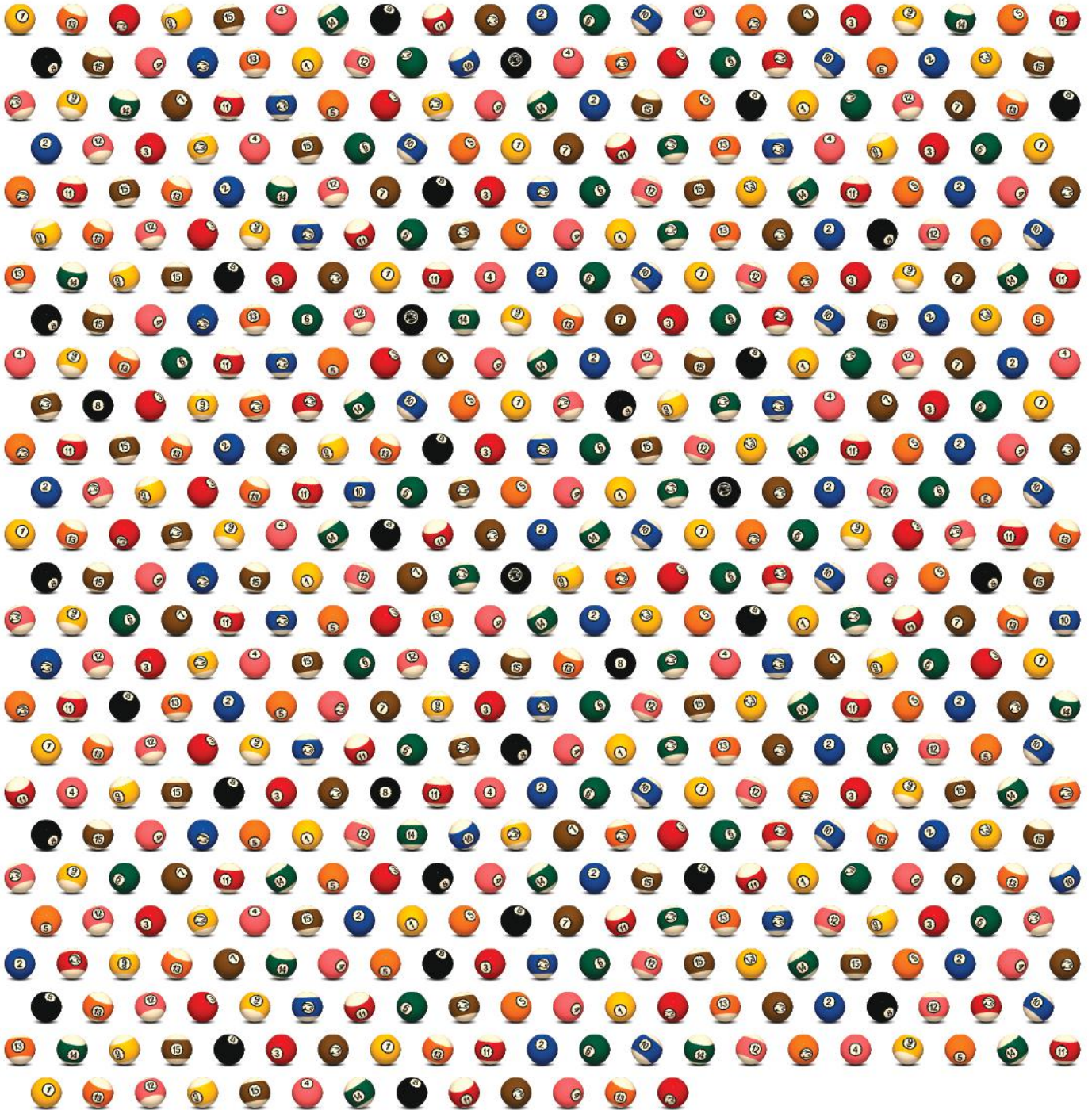
about the time that Larson won her first of five Junior National Championships in two separate divisions (14 & Under and 18 and Under). Over the years they’ve become friends, though Jiang’s recent two Junior National wins put just a slight strain on that relationship.

“ IT’S A GREAT TRIBUTE TO THESE PARENTS FOR SUPPORTING THEIR KIDS TO PLAY THIS GAME. – Tom Riccobene, Foundation president ”



16 & Under Boys Eric Roberts, Kaiden Hunkins, Matthew Wiseley

WHAT WILL BE YOUR GAME'S LEGACY?



Junior Nationals

talk about her victory in the 14 & Under Girls division. She defeated Emma Hildebrand twice, shutting her out in the hot seat match, and then, 7-3 in the finals. She started playing the game a little later than her sister did, and said that she wasn't really trying to follow in Michelle's footsteps.

"I just started playing," she said. "It was something I wanted to do for myself."

"I think it's to my advantage that (pool) is a thinking game," she added, "because I suck at sports."

The older Juniors move on

For the 18 & Under Juniors, boys and girls, the Junior Nationals are both an end and a beginning. None of the participants in this division of the annual tournament will be back, but at this point, the two winners (and some of the others) plan to keep playing. Participation in this annual event doesn't necessarily translate to success at the



16 & Under Girls Aryana Lynch, Vivian Liu

next level, but a look at a list of recent winners is a strong indication that it helps. Among the boys who've won this event as 18 & Under participants, you'll find Shane McMinn (1999, 2000, 2001), Beau Runnigen (2002), and Mosconi Cup Team member Justin

Bergman (2003, 2005, 2006; John Morra slipped into the 2004 spot). Among the women, you'll find Sarah Rousey (2000), Eleanor Callado (2002, 2003), Mary Rakin (2004, 2007), Liz Lovely (2009, 2010; also a 14 & Under champion in 2006), Briana Miller, who was a seven-time champion; four times as a 14 & Under competitor, and three times (2011 through 2013), and, of course, April Larson, who won three times as a 14 & Under and twice as an 18 & Under, before being unseated from that spot by Jiang.

“ I'M GETTING A JOB. I CAN GET REAL GOOD AT POOL, BUT I BELIEVE THE BEST THING IS TO GET A JOB AND PLAY, TOO. – Jordan Burden ”



18 & Under Boys Thomas Haas, Jordan Burden, Austin Summers

As they move out into the much more fiercely competitive world, these 'senior' juniors are very alert to the problems of setting one's sights on a career at the tables, and this year, both Michelle Jiang and the 18 & Under Boys' winner, Jordan Burden, of Jacksonville, FL, have very clear and definite plans for their lives going forward.

Burden, who spoiled Austin Summers bid to earn the 18 & Under Boys' title a second time, by defeating him in the finals of this year's event in an exciting double hill match (check out On The Wire Creative Media for a recording of this match), has every intention of moving forward with his development

as a pool player, but not at the expense of further education and good job.

“I’m looking to go to school and eventually work for the Fire Department,” he said. “I want to be playing better than I am now in five years, but I’m not planning to live off playing pool.

“I’m getting a job,” he added. “I can get real good at pool, but I believe the best thing is to get a job and play, too.”

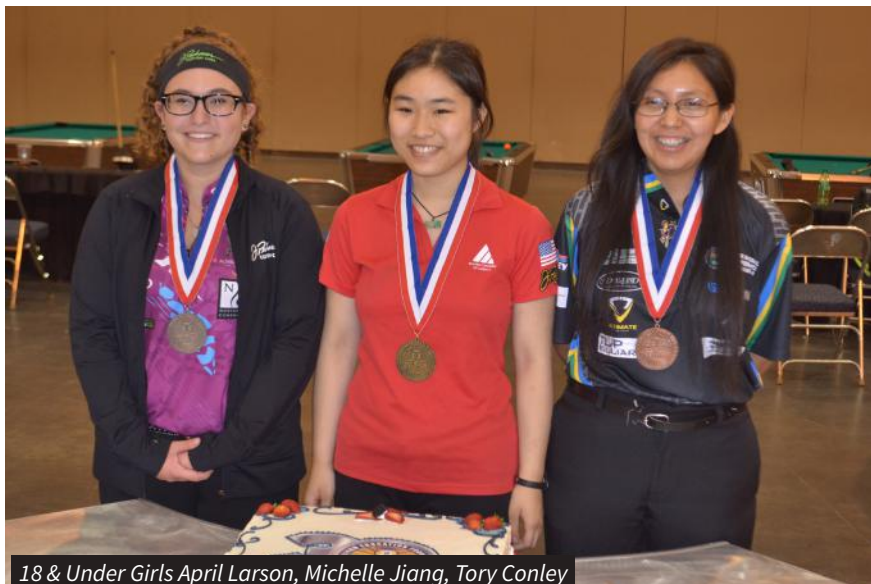
Michelle Jiang’s plans are similar, albeit in a different direction.

“I’m going to MIT to study Computer Science,” she said. “I’m not quite sure at this point about a specific interest.

“I wouldn’t want to stop playing,” she added of her pool plans, “but education has to take precedence over pool, at least for now.”

April Larson, in the meantime, is doing a little of both. On August 15, she will head to Saint Charles, Missouri, where she is enrolled at Lindenwood University. She will be pursuing an unspecified major in finance, while taking part in the University’s much-heralded pool program, under the leadership of former Mosconi Cup captain, Mark Wilson.

“I am overjoyed,” she said of her enrollment in the school and its pool program, “and I can’t wait to get started.”



18 & Under Girls April Larson, Michelle Jiang, Tory Conley

“ IT’S A REALLY HARD TRANSITION FROM JUNIOR TO PRO EVENTS. I PLAYED IN THE AMWAY CUP IN TAIWAN A COUPLE OF MONTHS AGO, AND WHILE I DID BETTER THAN I EXPECTED, I DIDN’T GET PAST THE FIRST ROUND. – Michelle Jiang ”

These three and potentially others are awaiting word as to whether they will qualify for the Junior World Nationals, which as of this date, has not selected a city, nor how many players from different countries will be eligible to participate. It’s possible that Michelle Jiang and April Larson will both qualify. Possible, too, that Jordan Burden and Austin Summers could qualify, as well. They are also awaiting an

announcement about the 2018 Atlantic Challenge Cup, a Mosconi-Cup-styled juniors’ tournament, pitting Europe’s best against the best here in the US. Scheduled for November 29-December 1, the USA team, which will be looking for its first victory at this event, has yet to be selected. The selection committee has certainly got an impressive batch of juniors to choose from.



Young Champs Take Center Stage at **APA Junior Championships**

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A record number of aspiring young APA members from across North America made their way to St. Louis, Mo., in early-July for the APA Junior Championships.

After four-days of having fun, making new friends from across the country and playing their hearts out on the pool table, four new champions were crowned in each tier of the Junior Championships.

In the finals of the Green Tier (Skill Levels 1-2), Robert Gumm, Jr. of Independence, Mo., defeated Imagine Gordon of Lawton, Okla. Gordon finished Runner-up. Luke Jackett of Guelph, Ont., and Brent Lemke of Convoy, Ohio, tied for 3rd Place in the Green Tier which featured the largest number of competitors in this year's event with 172 participants.

In the finals of the Red Tier (Skill Level 3), Dylan Edwards of Washington, Ill.,



Black Tier Champion Joseph Hankins



Green Tier Champion Robert Gumm

defeated Lukas Sterbenz of Necedah, Wis. Sterbenz finished Runner-up. Alex Van Valkenburgh of Schenectady, N.Y., and Deekin Smith of Lebanon, Ind., tied for 3rd Place in the Red Tier which had 94 participants.

“THE APA IS GENERALLY RECOGNIZED AS THE GOVERNING BODY OF AMATEUR POOL, HAVING ESTABLISHED THE OFFICIAL RULES, CHAMPIONSHIPS, FORMATS AND HANDICAP SYSTEMS FOR THE SPORT OF AMATEUR BILLIARDS.”

In the finals of the White Tier (Skill Levels 4-5), Paul Marshall of Wyoming, Mich., defeated David Parks of Maricopa, Ariz. Parks finished Runner-up. Ryan Curmi of Acton, Ont., and Elijah Wilson of Grandview, Mo., tied for 3rd Place in the White Tier which had 87 participants.

In the finals of the Black Tier (Skill Levels 6-9), Joseph Hankins of San Diego, Calif., defeated Travis Criblez of Mantua, Ohio. Criblez finished as Runner-up. The Black Tier, featuring the highest skilled players, included 33 competitors. Tying for 3rd Place in the Black Tier were Johnathan Portwood of Moundville, Mo., and Devlin Smith of Lebanon, Ind.

Overall, nearly 400 players competed in one of the four 9-Ball skill level tiers July 5 – July 8 at the Renaissance St. Louis Airport Hotel.

The four-day event also included recognition for Outstanding Academic Achievements and a special exhibition and autograph signing by “The Black Widow” Jeanette Lee.

Event sponsors included: Nationwide Insurance, Aramith, PoolDawg.com,



Red Tier Champion Dylan Edwards

“ OVERALL, NEARLY 400 PLAYERS COMPETED IN ONE OF THE FOUR 9-BALL SKILL LEVEL TIERS JULY 5 – JULY 8 AT THE RENAISSANCE ST. LOUIS AIRPORT HOTEL. ”

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The APA, based in Lake Saint Louis, Mo., sanctions the world’s largest

amateur pool league, known as the APA Pool League throughout the United States, and as the Canadian Pool League in Canada. Nearly 250,000 members compete in weekly 8-Ball and 9-Ball League play. The APA is generally recognized as the Governing Body of Amateur Pool, having established the official rules, championships, formats and handicap systems for the sport of amateur billiards.

The APA produces four major tournaments each year—the APA World Pool Championships, the APA Poolplayer Championships, the APA Junior Championships and the U.S. Amateur Championship—that, together, pay out nearly \$2 Million in cash and prizes annually!

The APA and its championships are sponsored by Aramith, Action Cues and PoolDawg.

For more information on the American Poolplayers Association, visit www.poolplayers.com.



White Tier Champion Paul Marshall

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Van Boening

Recaptures US Open 8-Ball Title

The finalists in the 2018 US Open 8-Ball Championship were the same as in 2017 — Shane Van Boening taking on Alex Pagulayan. But this year, the outcome changed, with a focused and determined Van Boening beating Pagulayan handily, by a score of 10-3.

The win allowed Van Boening to take home both the US Open 10-Ball and US Open 8-Ball Championship titles — a feat he also accomplished in 2016.

The 2018 US Open 8-Ball Championship started Saturday at Griff's in Las Vegas, NV with a field of 39, including many of the best pool players in the world.

Van Boening, of South Dakota, had wins over Brandon Shuff (8-5) and Josh Roberts (8-5) before being sent

to the one-loss side of the bracket by the young Albanian, Eklent Kaci. But, in the same deliberate manner as he did in the US Open 10-Ball Championship, Van Boening made his way through the back side of the bracket, beating: Shane McMinn, 8-3; Warren Kiamco, 8-7; Oscar Dominguez, 8-7; Dennis Orcollo, 8-7; and Thorsten Hohmann, 8-1; to meet Pagulayan in the finals.

Pagulayan's path to the hot seat included wins over: Cole Hoggart, 8-0;

Ronnie Alcano, 8-4; Kiamco, 8-5; Kaci, 8-4; and Hohmann, 8-7, before losing to Van Boening in the finals.

2018 US Open 8-Ball Championships results:

- 1 Shane Van Boening, South Dakota
- 2 Alex Pagulayan, Canada
- 3 Thorsten Hohmann, Germany
- 4 Dennis Orcollo, Philippines
- 5 Oscar Dominguez, Nevada
- 5 Eklent Kaci, Albania
- 7 James Aranas, Philippines
- 7 Warren Kiamco, Philippines
- 9 Dennis Hatch, Indiana
- 9 Shane McMinn, Oklahoma
- 9 Josh Roberts, South Carolina
- Skyler Woodward, Kentucky

For more information, contact Mary Coffman, CSI Marketing Manager at 509-308-9814 (cell); or by email at maryc@playsipool.com.

CSI is the parent company of the BCA Pool League and the USA Pool League. CSI also produces independent events like the US Bar Table Championships, US Open 10-Ball Championship, US Open 8-Ball Championship, and much more. For more information, visit www.playsipool.com or call CSI at p702-719-POOL.

Shane Van Boening



Van Boening Captures Third Straight US Open 10-Ball Championship



After being knocked to the loser's bracket in the third round, Shane Van Boening plowed his way through eight more matches to collect his third consecutive US Open 10-Ball Championship title.

The 2018 US Open 10-Ball Championship started Wednesday at Griff's in Las Vegas, NV with a field of 45, which included many of the best pool players in the world.

Van Boening, of South Dakota, had wins against Chip Compton, 9-4, and Donny Mills, 9-0, before being sent to the B-side of the bracket by Mosconi Cup hopeful Mitch Ellerman. But it doesn't matter where Van Boening sits in a bracket, or his competition ahead, don't count him out. Van Boening plowed through the loser's bracket to meet Alex Pagulayan in the finals. He posted wins against: Josh Roberts, 9-6; Warren Kiamco, 9-8; Ian Costello, 9-3; Thorsten Hohmann, 9-7; Dennis Hatch, 9-2; and Eklent Kaci, 9-6. Van Boening met Ellerman again in the semi-finals and cast his revenge, winning 9-3, to meet Alex Pagulayan in the finals.

Pagulayan's path to the hot seat included wins over: Bret Huth, 9-3; Max Adams, 9-1; Oscar Dominguez, 9-7; Ian Costello, 9-4; and Dennis Orcollo, 9-6.

But Van Boening's determination to win that third consecutive US Open 10-Ball title proved to be too much Saturday for Pagulayan, who fell, 11-2 in the single-race final.

Ellerman, of Las Vegas, made the most of his home-field advantage to make his way through the winner's side of the bracket, beating Kurt Kobayashi, 9-2; Billy Thorpe, 9-8; Shane Van Boening, 9-7; Corey Deuel, 9-6; and Dennis Hatch, 9-6, before losing to Pagulayan



Shane Van Boening

in the hot seat match, 7-9. Ellerman was unable to repeat the win over Van Boening in the semi-finals, losing 9-3, for a very respectable third place finish.

2018 US Open 10-Ball Championships results:

1. Shane Van Boening, South Dakota
2. Alex Pagulayan, Canada
3. Mitch Ellerman, Nevada
4. Eklent Kaci, Albania
5. Dennis Orcollo, Philippines
6. Dennis Hatch, Indiana
7. James Aranas, Philippines
8. Thorsten Hohmann, Germany
9. Omar Alshaheen, Kuwait
10. Ian Costello, California
11. Corey Deuel, California
12. Ernesto Dominguez, California

The US Open 8-Ball Championships started Saturday at 5 p.m. and continues through Tuesday at Griff's in Las Vegas. For live stream of the event, go to <http://www.playcspool.com/live-streaming.html>.

For more information, photos, contact Mary Coffman, CSI Marketing Manager at 509-308-9814 (cell); or by email at maryc@playcspool.com.

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Ozzy Reynolds

Becomes CEO of CueSports International

CueSports International (CSI) is excited to announce that effective August 1, 2018, Ozzy Reynolds will become the new owner and CEO of CSI. This is part of a planned succession that was put into place in 2014 when Reynolds joined the company as General Manager.

Reynolds has a wealth of billiards experience as both a player and promoter. He began playing at just eight years old and has competed in various leagues, regional tours and pro tournaments. A native of Virginia, Ozzy is the founder of The Action Pool Tour, VA State-10-Ball Championships and VA State 8-Ball Championships.

Along with his billiards acumen, he also has impressive education and experience. He worked as a nuclear-powered aircraft carrier Design Lead for ten years, a Construction Manager for NASA infrastructure projects for three years, a Project Manager for NASA facility projects for four years, and CSI General Manager for four years. He has also served on the Billiards Congress of America (BCA) Board of Directors since 2016. In 2009, he earned a Bachelor's of Science degree in Business Administration (BSBA) from Old Dominion University with a minor in Civil Engineering Technology. In 2012, he earned a Masters in Business Administration (MBA) from the prestigious College of William & Mary. He also holds official certifications as a Marine Designer and a Project Management Professional (PMP®).

Reynolds is eager to begin this new chapter and lead CSI to realize its full potential. When asked about his new role, Reynolds said, "I am extremely honored and humbled to be at the helm of such an incredible organiza-

tion. For me, this is the culmination of many years of education, hard work and passion. For CSI, it is a new chapter. We will continue to operate with the passion, commitment and principles of our founder, Mark Griffin. The future of CSI is very bright."

Ozzy Reynolds

Owner / CEO

ozzy@playcsipool.com

702-719-POOL (7665)

Taking over for Reynolds as General Manager is current CSI Office Manager, Amy Kane. A native of Las Vegas, Kane has owned and operated several businesses and has served as CSI Office Manager since 2015.

She was first introduced to pool in 2006 and her passion for the game quickly grew. She and a business partner launched VegasBilliardsBuzz.com in 2009 which galvanized the Vegas

Ozzy Reynolds





Amy Kane

pool community. Based upon its success, they then launched the Vegas Billiards Tour which operated successfully for seven years.

“The experience Amy has gained over the years as a league player, team captain, league operator, tournament director and CSI Office Manager, coupled with her business intelligence, makes her the perfect candidate for General Manager,” explained Reynolds.

Kane looks forward to her new position and said, “I’m honored to take on this role. I have always been dedicated to the betterment of the game and this capacity will give me a greater ability to do just that. We have an exceptional team that strives for that every single day.”

Amy Kane

General Manager
amy@playcsipool.com
702-719-POOL (7665)

This comes on the heels of CSI founder and international businessman, Mark Griffin, deciding that it was time to turn CSI over to the next generation. Griffin founded CSI in 2004 and quickly propelled it to become one of

the most well-known and respected billiards companies in the world. It began as the parent company of the BCA Pool League but Griffin quickly added to its portfolio with the creation of the USA Pool League and numerous amateur and professional events including the US Open 10-Ball, US Open 8-Ball, US Open Straight Pool, US Open One Pocket, US Open Bank Pool, US Bar Table Championships, Jay Swanson Memorial, and many more.

Although Griffin’s vast experience and accomplishments are too numerous to list here, he has been a master level player, billiard instructor, proprietor of pool rooms in three states since 1969, table mechanic, cue and memorabilia collector, league operator, table manufacturer, BCA Board Director and a partner or supporter of various billiards ventures and initiatives such as The Action Report (TAR), American Rotation, FargoRate and many others.

In 2015, Griffin underwent a successful double lung transplant at the age of 68. He quickly recovered and got right back to work. In addition to his duties as CEO of CSI, in 2016 he opened what has quickly become one of the most acclaimed pool rooms in the country which bears his name - Griff’s Bar & Billiards. “Mark Griffin is an amazing person. He bounced back from a double lung transplant as if it were a scrape on his elbow and jumped right back into work. Then he began the long and arduous process of building and opening Griff’s. All I could do was watch in amazement as he ran circles around all of us,” says Reynolds.

When asked about this transition, Griffin said, “This plan of succession has been in place for more than four years and I decided that it was now time to hand over the reins of CSI to the next generation. I am proud of what CSI has accomplished and confident that it will continue to be a leader in the industry.” When asked what’s next for him, Griffin said, “Since my



Mark Griffin

health is good and I feel great, I’d like to spend more time focusing on Griff’s and traveling.”

Although Griffin is officially “retiring” from CSI, he will continue to be a trusted advisor and will be given the title of CEO Emeritus to denote his perpetual status as founder, honor his distinguished service and recognize his continued council. Reynolds added, “Mark Griffin isn’t disappearing. His knowledge and experience is an asset and we will continue to utilize it as much as possible.”

Mark Griffin

CEO Emeritus
markg@playcsipool.com
702-719-POOL (7665)

CSI is the parent company of the BCA Pool League (BCAPL), USA Pool League (USAPL) and numerous amateur and professional events.

For more information, visit
www.playcsipool.com
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NAPT Debuts Its Open Division I Pro Tour With The Inaugural 10-Ball Invitational

After three successful seasons managing Women's Division I Pro Events, The North American Pool Tour (NAPT) is proud to announce their expansion into the men's pool world by debuting NAPT Open Divisions!

NAPT has held seven Women's Division I Pro events, awarding over \$100,000 in prize money. Although NAPT has concentrated primarily on women's fields to date, the intention has always been to expand into men's (open) fields, offering opportunity to ALL players across North America.

NAPT's Inaugural 10-Ball Invitational Division I Open Pro event will be held at Shooter's Sports Bar and Billiards, Grayslake, Illinois on September 27-30, 2018. This exciting event will feature a guaranteed \$6,000 in ADDED prize money (compliments of Shooter's Sports Bar and Billiards) with an entry fee of \$275, creating a total prize purse

of over \$30,000 (based on full field of 96 players). As with all NAPT events, free streaming will be available for fans online (visit www.playnapt.com during event to find links to brackets and live stream). Additional Division I Open events are being planned for later in 2018.

Shooter's Sports Bar & Billiards (<http://shooters-sports-bar-billiards.business.site>) is conveniently located just Northwest of Chicago in cozy, Grayslake, IL. With 15, 9ft & 8, 7 ft

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Diamond tables, Shooter's has positioned themselves as a premier billiards destination. Shooter's has been a long-time supporter of NAPT, hosting several Division I Women's events and is very excited to host the Open players!

The only ways for players to earn entry into these events is through NAPT personal invitation, or by competing in a Division II Regional tour. Visit www.playnapt.com to find a regional tour map and a regional tour near you.

If you are a player, tour director or sponsor looking for more information on the NAPT Open Division, feel free to contact mikehowerton@playnapt.com for additional details or to answer any questions you might have.

In our effort to continue to provide quality opportunities to promote our sport, as well as provide national exposure for businesses, NAPT is actively considering sponsorship bids for individual tour stops and annual tour title sponsorships for both the Women's and Open Divisions. With many options available, we can accommodate every budget. We welcome representation from all industries. Please contact, Adrienne Beach (adriannebeach@playnapt.com) or Mike Howerton (mikehowerton@playnapt.com) to discuss detailed partnership options.

The North American Pool Tour (NAPT) was formed in early 2016 to provide an additional opportunity for semi-professional and professional players to participate in highly competitive billiard events across North America. For more information, contact: Adrienne Beach 206-755-3847 adriannebeach@playnapt.com, PO Box 170637, Austin, Texas 78717. Or visit: www.playnapt.com

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THE BUZZ SPOTLIGHT

AZB Staff

Our Spotlight this month shines on the World Pool Championship held in Manila in 2006. Our reporting was done by Luke Riches of Matchroom Sport in his daily press reports and our photographer was Raol Roa. Below begins the copy from Mr. Riches.

Matchroom Sport is delighted to announce that the 2006 Philippines World Pool Championship breaks off with 128 players from 42 countries scheduled to take part. The event boasts a record US\$400,000 prize-fund including \$100,000 to whoever is crowned champion on Sunday 12 November. All of the game's biggest names will be taking part including defending champion Wu Chia-ching,

2001 winner Mika 'Iceman' Immonen of Finland, 2002 champion Earl Strickland and 1999 champ Efren Reyes of the Philippines.

Florida based former Englishman Tony Crosby caused a huge shock on the opening day of the 2006 Philippines World Pool Championship as he edged out national hero Efren Reyes in an 8-7 thriller at the PICC in Manila.

In front of a highly enthusiastic 600-strong crowd, both players had chances to win it before Reyes missed a simple 9-ball to effectively hand the match to Crosby.

"I was so happy when I drew Efren as I've never played him before and al-

ways wanted to play him," said Crosby. "Win or lose I'd have been happy to have been there. But before the match I thought I'd win as I'd been playing well and I know I can beat anyone. I'd beaten Strickland, Hohmann, Sambajon so I knew I could mix it with the best."

It was all Crosby for the majority of the match as 32 year-old Crosby built up a handy 7-4 lead against an off-form 'Bata'. At 7-4 down Reyes missed a simple black into the bottom left pocket leaving Crosby the 8 and 9 for a big upset. The American though missed a tight cut into the middle pocket and Reyes wrapped up the rack to take it to 5-7.

Crosby though, pulled off a top drawer shot in the next to clip the 1-ball in rail first and he then tied up Reyes in a tight snooker. Reyes escaped and Crosby lost the initiative as he left himself a hard shot on the blue 2. From there, the Filipino legend cleared to reduce the deficit to a single rack.

Reyes broke and ran the next to take the match to hill-hill but there was more drama in the final rack as nerves got the better of Crosby. He missed an orange 5 ball by inches and that left center stage for Reyes to run out for victory in front of his adoring faithful but he missed the case 9-ball as the capacity crowd gasped in unison.

The 9-ball trundled toward the center pocket leaving Tony Crosby the simplest of shots for the shock of the tournament so far.

He added: "I played good at the start but at 7-4 up I missed that 8 ball.

“ WHEN EFREN WAS RUNNING OUT TO WIN I FELT A LITTLE EMBARRASSED AS I PLAYED A GOOD MATCH AND ONLY MADE A COUPLE OF BAD SHOTS. THE PEOPLE BEHIND ME WERE SAYING “WELL DONE, UNLUCKY” AND TO BE HONEST I WAS THINKING THE SAME THING! – Tony Crosby ”



Figure 1: Tony Crosby Shocked Efren Reyes

Normally I make that but with the TV lights the cloth was a little slicker. I then missed that 4 ball by miles but that was nerves and pressure”, said Crosby afterwards. “When Efren was running out to win I felt a little embarrassed as I played a good match and only made a couple of bad shots. The people behind me were saying “well done, unlucky” and to be honest I was thinking the same thing! “When he missed the 9 though I was just praying that it was going to be easy and it turned out it was. This is by far the best I’ve ever played a tournament and the excitement here is incredible. The crowd was so happy that I couldn’t help but laugh and joke with everyone. This has helped my chances a lot. Playing Efren first match has helped me a lot because you want to play the best player in the opener so you know where you stand. My chances of reaching the knockout stages have been given a huge boost.”

Reyes believed opposing players always raised their game when playing him. He said: “I lost some confidence after my opponent was able to make some tough shots. He got me at the beginning and the important thing



Figure 3: Steve Davis Overcome by Fu

is to win the lag. I still had a chance to win it in the last match but didn’t take it. I have to play better in the next two games if I want to go to the next round. Opponents always play best when they play against me so I have to be so careful.”

Among the Filipinos who saw action today Ramil Gallego scored an impressive 8-6 win over favored Rob Saez of the US to advance to the knockout

phase after an earlier 8-4 victory over Tepwin Arunnath of Thailand. Promising young lefty Jeffrey De Luna, an emerging star who will represent the Philippines in the Asian Games in Qatar this December scored a masterful 8-6 win over England’s Kevin Uzzel to the delight of Billiards and Snooker Congress of the Philippines president Ernesto Fajardo who predicted a great future for De Luna.

Another Taiwanese player has made it into the quarter-final shake-up at the 2006 Philippines World Pool Championship Fu Che-wei he took care of [Steve Davis](#), the UK ‘s sole remaining hope in the competition. He now joins Wu Chia-ching and Liu Cheng-chuan in the last eight and strengthens the chances of Taiwan retaining this title.

Fu was in control of the match throughout although Davis made a late rally to give Fu a scare. The Taiwanese though, was too good for him in most aspects of the game. It was the six-times World Snooker Champion’s second best run in this event following a quarter final appearance in 2000, but he clearly ran out of steam at the PICC on Friday night. The match was close in the early stages as they



Figure 2: Jeff De Luna

The Buzz Spotlight

were tied up at 3-all but some mistakes from Davis allowed Fu to take three racks on the spin to pull ahead.

Fu got to 9-5 ahead as all looked lost for the Englishman but he characteristically dug deep to win three racks and get back to 9-8 down. Fu, the 32 year-old from Ping-dong, seized the initiative to close out the last two racks for victory. Said Davis “I missed too many balls during the game so my main concentration was to not miss. I’m looking forward to tomorrow and I hope I can be confident.” He added. “I was beaten by the better man on the day and although I came back towards the end it was a bit of a bridge too far. I’ve had a fantastic time here though. Manila is a great place and I’ve enjoyed every minute of my stay here. It really is pool crazy here and the level of talent in the competition is unreal. There are so many players unknown to me who are as good as any I’ve seen.”

Lanky [Ronnie Alcano](#) put an exclamation mark to his amazing run in the 2006 Philippines World Pool Championship with a stunning 17-11 triumph over German machine [Ralf Souquet](#) 17-11 after earlier thrashing defending champion and overwhelming favorite Wu Chia-ching of Chinese-Tai-



Figure 4: Rinnie Alcano



Figure 5: Ralf Souquet

“ WITH HIS LEFT UPPER ARM APPARENTLY STIFF ALCANO APPLIED SOME VICKS IN-BETWEEN BREAKS AND FROM THEN ON NEVER LOOKED IN TROUBLE AT ALL. ”

pei in the quarter finals before ending the equally impressive advance of soft-spoken Li He-win of China with an 11-8 semi-final victory on Saturday.

Alcano whose soft break was almost impeccable throughout played a series of marvelous safeties to put Souquet on the defensive from the opening rack when Souquet won the break but Alcano took the rack before racing to a 3-0 lead. With his left upper arm apparently stiff Alcano applied some vicks in-between breaks and from then on never looked in trouble at all.

Alcano continued to play precision pool and dictated the tempo of the match from then on to win one safety battle



Figure 6: Alcano Claims \$100,000

after another to race to an 8-2 lead. After Souquet pulled one rack back Alcano sank a fabulous 3-9 combo. Souquet tried desperately to claw back but nothing went right for him and when Alcano set himself up beautifully for a 6-9 combo to establish a 14-6 lead things looked hopeless for the former world champion. Souquet got his rhythm going and with his first break and runout cut the lead to seven racks and with his third break back made it 14-8.

The German completed only his second break and runout to threaten at 14-9 but Alcano responded with a superb break and runout of his own and when Alcano exhibited a touch of nerves and missed a long shot on the 9-ball when he had a chance to get on the hill by breaking Souquet's break the German made it 15-10. With the huge crowd chanting "Ronnie! Ronnie!" the Calamba native behind a couple of spectacular bank shots made it 16-10 before Souquet, in one desperate bid sank the 9-ball for a golden break and a 16-11 count.

Alcano smiled, strode to the table and after Souquet was drawn into a foul shot after an excruciatingly long safety battle and Alcano ended Souquet's anguish and fulfilled his own dreams with a 1-9 combo that earned him the biggest prize of his life, a cool \$100,000 or P5 million. Souquet settled for \$40,000 or P 2 million.

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AUGUST 02 - SEPTEMBER 29

2018 Dynamic Billard Veldhoven Open

08/02 - 08/04

NH Hotel Koningshof,
Veldhoven

Website: <http://www.eurotouronline.eu>

Sunshine State Pro Am Tour 2018 Stop

08/04 - 08/04

Park Avenue Billiards
Orange Park, FL

Website: <http://www.sunshinestateproamtour.com/>

DFW 9-Ball Tour Stop

08/04 - 08/05

Wizards Sports Cafe
Richardson, Texas

Website: <https://dfw9bt.com>

Gulf Coast Women's Regional Tour 2018 Stop 5

08/04 - 08/05

Skinny Bob's Billiards
Round Rock, Texas

Website: <http://gulfcoastregionaltour.com>

Lone Star Billiards Tour 2018 Stop 7

08/04 - 08/05

Skinny Bob's Billiards
Round Rock, Texas

Website: <http://www.lonestarbilliardstour.com/>

Sunshine State Pro Am Tour 2018 Stop

08/05 - 08/05

Park Avenue Billiards
Orange Park, FL

Website: <http://www.sunshinestateproamtour.com/>

8-Ball Classic Championship

08/07 - 08/10

Club IDM,
Bucharest

Diamond Pool Tour 2018 Stop 4

08/11 - 08/12

Bullshooters
Phoenix, AZ

Website: <http://www.diamondpooltour.com>

New England 9-Ball Tour Stop #29

08/12 - 08/12

Snookers - Sports Billiards, Bar & Grill
Providence, RI

Website: <http://mdpromotions.com/>

2018 NAPT Summer 10-Ball Classic

08/16 - 08/19

Shooters
Grayslake, Illinois

Website: <http://www.playnapt.com/>

Arizona Women's Billiards Tour 2018 Stop 5

08/18 - 08/19

Pockets Billiards
Tucson, AZ

Website: <http://www.awbt.net>

Q City 9-Ball Tour Stop

08/18 - 08/18

Gate City Billiards Club
Greensboro, NC

Turning Stone Classic XXX 9-Ball Open

08/23 - 08/26

Turning Stone Casino
Verona, NY

Website: <http://www.joss9balltour.com>

Sunshine State Pro Am Tour 2018 Stop

09/01 - 09/02

K & K Billiards
Miami, Florida

Website: <http://www.sunshinestateproamtour.com/>

2018 China Open Men's Division

09/02 - 09/09

Shanghai
Shanghai

Houston 9-Ball Open

09/07 - 09/09

Legends Billiards
League City, TX

DFW 9-Ball Tour Stop

09/08 - 09/09

Click's Billiards
Arlington, Texas

Website: <https://dfw9bt.com>

New England 9-Ball Tour Championship

09/08 - 09/09

Bo's Billiards
Warwick, RI

Website: <http://mdpromotions.com/>

Florida Pool Tour 2018 Stop 8

09/08 - 09/09

Stroker's Billiards
Palm Harbor, FL

Website: <http://uspoisontour.com/>

Upcoming Tournaments

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AUGUST 02 - SEPTEMBER 29

Diamond Pool Tour 2018 Stop 5

09/08 - 09/09

Griff's
Las Vegas, Nevada
Website: <http://www.diamondpooltour.com>

Cliff Joyner Fundraiser

09/13 - 09/16

Good Timez Billiards
Huntsville, Alabama

2nd International Open Las Americas

09/14 - 09/16

Club Billar La Bolivar,
Santo Domingo

2018 Desert Challenge

09/20 - 09/23

Griff's
Las Vegas, Nevada
Website: <http://www.playnapt.com/>

AllOutPool Tour 2018 Stop 6

09/22 - 09/23

Park Avenue Billiards
Orange Park, FL

The Maine Event XII

09/22 - 09/23

TJ's Classic Billiards
Waterville, Maine
Website: <http://www.joss9balltour.com/>

NAPT Inaugural 10-Ball Invitational

09/27 - 09/30

Shooters
Grayslake, Illinois
Website: <http://www.playnapt.com/>

Sunshine State Pro Am Tour 2018 Stop

09/29 - 09/29

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



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Tourney Results

06/27 - 07/01

Mid-West Pro Am 10-Ball

Big Dog Billiards

Des Moines, IA

- 1 Shane McMinn \$7,400
- 2 Roberto Gomez \$4,500
- 3 Fedor Gorst \$2,600
- 4 Alex Pagulayan \$1,800
- 5 Corey Deuel \$900
- 5 Ruslan Chinakhov \$900
- 7 Mitch Ellerman \$900
- 7 Chip Compton \$900

06/27 - 07/01

Mid-West Pro Am Banks Ring Game

Big Dog Billiards

Des Moines, IA

- 1 Billy Thorpe \$3,000

06/27 - 07/01

Mid-West Pro Am One Pocket

Big Dog Billiards

Des Moines, IA

- 1 Alex Pagulayan \$8,200
- 2 Dennis Orcollo \$5,400
- 3 Josh Roberts \$3,600
- 4 Billy Thorpe \$1,800

06/30 - 07/01

6th Annual Cole Dickson 9-Ball

Family Billiards

San Francisco, CA

- 1 Jeffrey De Luna \$2,300
- 2 Tony Chohan \$1,600
- 3 Lance Salazar \$1,000
- 4 Neal Vichiensaen \$800
- 5 Ian Costello \$700
- 5 Jason Williams \$700
- 7 Aldrin Geminano \$500
- 7 Gerald Bustos \$500
- 9 Yoli Handoko \$300

- 9 Julio Burgos \$300
- 9 Kevin Schiefer \$300
- 9 Ronnie Alcano \$300
- 13 Ernesto Dominguez \$200
- 13 Fidel Coloma \$200
- 13 Antonio Chachiolo \$200
- 13 Robert Ohashi \$200
- 17 Skott Ota \$100
- 17 Canyon Dimaio \$100
- 17 Chris Chua \$100
- 17 Peter Leung \$100
- 17 Kenny Koo \$100
- 17 Andi Iwan \$100
- 17 Shan Damani \$100
- 17 Bonnie Og \$100

07/04 - 07/06

West Coast Challenge One Pocket

California Billiard Club

Mountain View, Ca

- 1 Tony Chohan \$3,200
- 2 Shane Van Boening \$2,200
- 3 Dennis Orcollo \$1,400
- 4 Alex Pagulayan \$1,000
- 5 Warren Kiamco \$700
- 5 Chris McDaniel \$700
- 7 Ian Costello \$500
- 7 Brandon Shuff \$500
- 9 Jayson Shaw \$300
- 9 Amar Kang \$300
- 9 Tres Kane \$300
- 9 Omar Alshasheen \$300

07/06 - 07/08

West Coast 10 Ball Pro Challenge

California Billiard Club

Mountain View, Ca

- 1 Dennis Orcollo \$7,000
- 2 Ruslan Chinakhov \$4,600
- 3 James Aranas \$2,800
- 4 Shane Van Boening \$2,000
- 5 Omar Alshasheen \$1,300
- 5 Roberto Gomez \$1,300
- 7 Jayson Shaw \$925

- 7 Warren Kiamco \$925
- 9 Thorsten Hohmann \$600
- 9 Amar Kang \$600
- 9 Rada Anghel \$600
- 9 Corey Deuel \$600
- 13 Canyon Dimaio \$400
- 13 Jeffrey De Luna \$400
- 13 Ronnie Alcano \$400
- 13 Alex Pagulayan \$400

07/07 - 07/08

Arizona Women's Billiards Tour 2018 Stop 4

Main Street Billiards

Mesa, AZ

- 1 Amanda Pulley \$870
- 2 Susan Williams \$460
- 3 Pearl Ortiz \$320
- 4 Dawn Polotto \$190
- 5 Pati Martinez Muehling \$135
- 5 Sara Sorg \$135
- 7 Geraldine Guintu \$80
- 7 Tammy Holben \$80
- 9 Beth Orth \$35
- 9 Rae Evans \$35
- 9 Sonia Flores \$35
- 13 Nancy Ann Kennedy \$20
- 13 Jaye Succo \$20
- 13 Justine Bishop \$20
- 13 Ilyana Flores \$20

07/07 - 07/08

Gulf Coast Women's Regional Tour 2018 Stop 4

Bogies Billiards & Games

Houston, TX

- 1 Courtney Peters \$520
- 2 Robyn Petrosino \$350
- 3 Yvonne Asher \$230
- 4 Ellen Robinson \$140
- 5 Kim Pierce \$70
- 5 Ming Ng \$70

07/07 - 07/08

Lone Star Billiards Tour 2018 Stop 6 Amateur Division

Bogies Billiards & Games

Houston, TX

- 1 Joey Bourgeois Jr. \$620
- 2 Steve Lenz \$400
- 3 Randy Nickerson \$280
- 4 Chuck Adams \$160
- 5 Clint Palaci \$70
- 5 Todd Hinson \$70
- 7 Cesar Arechiga \$40
- 7 David Leal \$40
- 9 Brandon Stewart \$30
- 9 Aaron Springs \$30
- 9 Michael Pickering \$30
- 9 Chad Reece \$30
- 13 Chris Young \$25
- 13 Marshal Ward \$25
- 13 Shane Hvamstad \$25
- 13 Kevin Frauenberger \$25

07/07 - 07/08

Q City 9-Ball Tour Stop

Borderline Billiards

Bristol, TN

- 1 JT Ringgold \$775
- 2 Dalton Messer \$525
- 3 Gwen Sharpton \$350
- 4 Trey Frank \$250
- 5 Steve Thomas \$125
- 5 Ricky Bingham \$125
- 7 Ikey Maynard \$75
- 7 Jose Irizarry \$75
- 9 William Cloud \$50
- 9 Matt Shaw \$50
- 9 Keith Maranville \$50
- 9 Dustin Coe \$50

07/07 - 07/08

Predator Pro-Am Tour 2018 Amateur

Amsterdam Billiard Club

New York, NY

- 1 John Francisco \$1,400
- 2 Ehmunrao Toocaram \$1,000
- 3 Ron Bernardo \$700
- 4 Han Clark \$450
- 5 Alex Osipov \$300
- 5 Corey Avallone \$300
- 7 Kunami Chau \$200
- 7 Robert Mendoza \$200
- 9 Elvis Rodriguez \$145
- 9 Chickie Romero \$145
- 9 Erick Carrasco \$145

- 9 Jason Goberdhan \$145
- 13 Chris Karp \$100
- 13 Ada Lio \$100
- 13 Carmine Andujar \$100
- 13 Duc Lam \$100

07/07 - 07/08

Predator Pro-Am Tour 2018 Pro

Amsterdam Billiard Club

New York, NY

- 1 Alex Osipov \$800
- 2 Raphael Dabreo \$500
- 3 Hunter Lombardo \$320
- 4 Joe Korsiak \$200
- 5 Jonathan Smith \$100
- 5 Matthew Harricharan \$100

07/07 - 07/08

Lone Star Billiards Tour 2018 Stop 6 Open Division

Bogies Billiards & Games

Houston, TX

- 1 Ernesto Bayaua \$650
- 2 Joey Torres \$455
- 3 Aaron Springs \$310
- 4 Manny Chau \$185
- 5 Cesar Arechiga \$100
- 5 Alejandro Calderon \$100
- 7 Bob Guzik \$50
- 7 Steve Lenz \$50
- 9 Justin Pena \$30
- 9 Chase Rudder \$30
- 9 Joel Acevedo \$30
- 9 Kevin Frauenberger \$30
- 13 Shane Hvamstad \$20
- 13 Sonny Bosshamer \$20
- 13 Tommy Tokoph \$20
- 13 Bobby Perez \$20

07/11 - 07/13

Freezer's Icehouse 1-Pocket Challenge

Freezer's Ice House

Tempe, Az

- 1 Dennis Orcollo \$3,000
- 2 Josh Roberts \$1,700
- 3 Tony Chohan \$1,100
- 4 Warren Kiamco \$750
- 5 Ian Costello \$500
- 5 Alex Pagulayan \$500
- 7 Billy Thorpe \$300
- 7 Jeffrey De Luna \$300
- 9 Scott Frost \$150
- 9 Chip Compton \$150

- 9 Gus Briseno \$150
- 9 Andy Kuchar \$150

07/12 - 07/13

Midwest 9-Ball Tour 2018 One Pocket

Shooters Billiards

Olathe, KS

- 1 Joey Gray \$800
- 2 Charlie Bryant \$550
- 3 Raymund Faroan \$370
- 4 Mike Beehler \$250
- 5 John Gabriel \$175
- 5 Alex Olinger \$175
- 7 Travis Wheeler \$100
- 7 Sean Turner \$100

07/13 - 07/15

Freezer's Icehouse 10-Ball Chal- lenge

Freezer's Ice House

Tempe, Az

- 1 Warren Kiamco \$6,500
- 2 Omar Al Shaheen \$4,000
- 3 Shane McMinn \$2,000
- 4 Dennis Orcollo \$1,500
- 5 Max Eberle \$1,000
- 5 Ruslan Chinakhov \$1,000
- 7 Bobby Emmons \$750
- 7 Jeffrey De Luna \$750
- 9 Eklent Kaci \$550
- 9 Tony Chohan \$550
- 9 Thorsten Hohmann \$550
- 9 Chip Compton \$550
- 13 Josh Roberts \$450
- 13 Kings Santy \$450
- 13 Nick Deleon \$450
- 13 Brandon Shuff \$450
- 17 Tim Daniel \$300
- 17 AJ Jones \$300
- 17 James Aranas \$300
- 17 Chris Robinson \$300
- 17 Chris Byers \$300
- 17 Ruben Silva \$300
- 17 Corey Deuel \$300
- 17 Mitch Ellerman \$300

07/13 - 07/15

Midwest 9-Ball Tour 2018 Open 9-Ball

Shooters Billiards

Olathe, KS

- 1 Alex Olinger \$2,200
- 2 Manny Perez \$1,500
- 3 Raymund Faroan \$800

- 4 Mike Beehler \$600
- 5 Nick Hanson \$450
- 5 Anthony Asher \$450
- 7 John Gabriel \$300
- 7 Billy Dyke \$300
- 9 Brad Blankenship \$250
- 9 Tony Klima \$250
- 9 Jesse James \$250
- 9 Joey Gray \$250
- 13 Russell Pace \$200
- 13 Steve Boucher \$200
- 13 Dustin Gunia \$200
- 13 Dan Kuhl \$200
- 17 Neil Drews \$100
- 17 Keiser Kaufman \$100
- 17 Mike Nagaki \$100
- 17 Matt Edwards \$100
- 17 Dakota Summers \$100
- 17 Jamey Cockrum \$100
- 17 Brady Behrman \$100
- 17 Ryan Cobb \$100

07/13 - 07/15

Strachan Cup

Players Pool and Snooker Lounge

Newcastle, UK

- 1 Phil Harrison \$6,566
- 2 Liam Dunster \$3,939
- 3 Jon McAllister \$2,626
- 3 Mick Hill \$2,626
- 5 Ronan McCarthy \$1,313
- 5 Harjeet Singh \$1,313
- 5 Jordan Church \$1,313
- 5 Karl O Donoghue \$1,313

07/14 - 07/14

Sunshine State Pro Am Tour 2018 Stop

Stroker's Billiards

Palm Harbor, FL

- 1 Nathan Rose \$1,000
- 2 Jason Sheerman \$680
- 3 Chris Gentile \$500
- 4 Dale Stanley \$355
- 5 Bobby Garza \$250
- 5 Sam Kantar \$250
- 7 Matt Menes \$180
- 7 Stephanie Mitchell \$180
- 9 Alec Saputo \$130
- 9 Les Duffy \$130
- 9 Mark Wathen \$130
- 9 Kim Dyer \$130
- 13 Angel Martinez \$100
- 13 Robert Batson \$100
- 13 Joselito Martinez \$100
- 13 Jason Richko \$100

07/14 - 07/15

Q City 9-Ball Tour Stop NC State 10-Ball Open

Brass Tap Billiards

Raleigh, NC

- 1 Mike Davis \$800
- 2 Reymart Lim \$600
- 3 Justin Martin \$400
- 4 JT Ringgold \$250
- 5 BJ Ussery \$125
- 5 Jason Evans \$125

07/14 - 07/16

Japan Open 2018 Open Division

Tokyo

Tokyo,

- 1 Lee Vann Corteza \$10,623
- 2 Naoyuki Oi \$5,311
- 3 Kun Lin Wu \$2,655
- 3 Yoshihiro Kitatani \$2,655
- 5 Yu-Hsuan Cheng \$1,327
- 5 Yukio Akagariyama \$1,327
- 5 Inagawa Yuichi \$1,327
- 5 Antonio Lining \$1,327
- 9 Tadasu Sugihara \$663
- 9 Hiroshi Takenaka \$663
- 9 So Onishi \$663
- 9 Takayuki Kamata \$663
- 9 Masahiro Shimano \$663
- 9 Hidetaka Kitatani \$663
- 9 Lo Ho Sum \$663
- 9 Li Wen Lo \$663

07/14 - 07/16

Japan Open 2018 Ladies Division

Tokyo

Tokyo,

- 1 Szu Ting Kuo \$3,541
- 2 Akimi Kajitani \$1,770
- 3 Chihiro Kawahara \$885
- 3 Chia Hua Chen \$885
- 5 Keiko Yukawa \$442
- 5 Kazuko Taniyama \$442
- 5 Mariko Niibo \$442
- 5 Tomoko Kubota \$442

07/15 - 07/15

New England 9-Ball Tour Stop #27

Crow's Nest

Plaistow, New Hampshire

- 1 Peter Copland \$465
- 2 Rob Rogan \$275
- 3 Mike Minichello \$180
- 4 Xavier Libby \$140

- 5 Mathew Treglia \$95
- 5 Mike Galinat, Sr. \$95
- 7 Tyler Dunbar \$75
- 7 Dillon Nickerson \$75
- 9 Kerry McAuliffe \$50
- 9 Justin Fournier \$50
- 9 Jenn Brown \$50
- 9 Shane Perron \$50

07/15 - 07/15

Tri State Tour 2018-2019 Stop

Steinway Billiards

Astoria, NY

- 1 Duc Lam \$770
- 2 Mike Mele \$505
- 3 Philip Pearce \$310
- 4 Max Watanabe \$200
- 5 Patrick Meyers \$120
- 5 Ryan Dayrit \$120
- 7 Daniel Feliciano \$90
- 7 Jason Goberdhan \$90
- 9 Ron Gabia \$70
- 9 Amy Yu \$70
- 9 Ed Medina \$70
- 9 Mac Jankov \$70

07/18 - 07/21

US Open 10-Ball Championship 2018

Griff's

Las Vegas, Nevada

- 1 Shane Van Boening \$10,000
- 2 Alex Pagulayan \$7,000
- 3 Mitch Ellerman \$4,500
- 4 Eklent Kaci \$3,000
- 5 Dennis Hatch \$1,800
- 5 Dennis Orcollo \$1,800
- 7 James Aranas \$1,000
- 7 Thorsten Hohmann \$1,000
- 9 Omar Al Shaheen \$600
- 9 Ian Costello \$600
- 9 Corey Deuel \$600
- 9 Ernesto Dominguez \$600

07/21 - 07/24

US Open 8-Ball Championship 2018

Griff's

Las Vegas, Nevada

- 1 Shane Van Boening \$9,000
- 2 Alex Pagulayan \$6,000
- 3 Thorsten Hohmann \$4,000
- 4 Dennis Orcollo \$2,700
- 5 Eklent Kaci \$1,700

- 5 Oscar Dominguez \$1,700
- 7 James Aranas \$1,000
- 7 Warren Kiamco \$1,000
- 9 Josh Roberts \$600
- 9 Shane McMinn \$600
- 9 Dennis Hatch \$600
- 9 Skyler Woodward \$600

07/21 - 07/21

Tri State Tour 2018-2019 Stop

Clifton Billiards

- Clifton, New Jersey
- 1 Frank Sieczka \$500
 - 2 Joe Romeo \$250
 - 3 Joe Bossert \$150
 - 4 Roberto Hung Ho \$110
 - 5 Greg Partlow \$65
 - 5 Jake Kisowski \$65

07/21 - 07/21

Q City 9-Ball Tour Stop

The Clubhouse

Lynchburg, Virginia

- 1 Collin Hall \$500
- 2 Wes Campbell \$325
- 3 Shane Wolford \$175
- 4 Dustin Coe \$100

07/28 - 07/28

Tri State Tour 2018-2019 Stop

Shooter's Family Billiards

- Wayne, NJ
- 1 Fernando Galeas \$550
 - 2 Kevin Scalzitti \$250
 - 3 Mark Halvorsen \$150
 - 4 Paul Madonia \$100

07/28 - 07/29

Q City 9-Ball Tour Stop

The Steakhorse Restaurant and Billiards

- Spartanburg, SC
- 1 Matt Bulfin \$1,300
 - 2 Derek Pierce \$1,000
 - 3 Dalton Messer \$700
 - 4 Dustin Coe \$400

- 5 JT Ringgold \$250
- 5 Steven Ellis \$250
- 7 Brian White \$175
- 7 Rob Hart \$175
- 9 Marty Opyd \$100
- 9 Collin Hall \$100
- 9 Donnie Stewart \$100
- 9 BJ Hucks \$100
- 13 Tom Manley \$50
- 13 Kinesh Patel \$50
- 13 Mark Duncan \$50
- 13 Jacob Brooks \$50

07/29 - 07/29

New England 9-Ball Tour Stop #28

Stix and Stones

- Abington, MA
- 1 Mark Ruzzano \$300
 - 2 Bob Lucas \$175
 - 3 Joe Dupuis \$115
 - 4 Bill Phillips \$70
 - 5 Henry Leighton \$35
 - 5 Eli Davenport \$35



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