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an **A Z B** publication

vol.1, Issue 7- Feb. / Mar. 2017

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## COVER PHOTO:

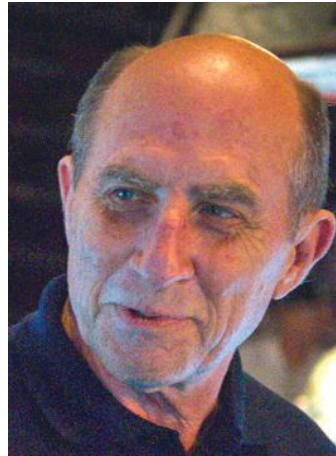
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# The Head Rail a message from the Editor



**Christmas in March!** This month we get to give away Accu-Stats DVDs, a nice Lucasi Custom Cue, get you a great deal on "More Pool Wars" by Jay Helfert, and bring you in-depth articles that break some new ground to boot!

Our **Gold Member Giveaway** now features Accu-Stats Videos with a twist. The twist is that with most DVD giveaways, the winner does not get to choose the prize. But with AZB you do. When we announce our Gold Member Winners on March 1 they will all win their choice of any Accu-Stats video in the entire Accu-Stats library. We will send each winner an Accu-Stats catalog and they may then choose their free video. As an extra bonus, should

the winner see more than one video that they would really like to have, they will get 50% off of every video they order when they order their free one. That offer is not limited to a low number of titles. It is 50% off for as many as you wish to get on that first order!

Plus, the First-Place Gold Member will also win a **Lucasi Custom Cue**, Model LZ2008, the Zero Flexpoint Cue. This cue has an antique-stained super birdseye maple forearm with six-point ebony, white polymer and black-veined recon stone inlays. See the full details on the front page of [AZBilliards.com](http://AZBilliards.com) on March 1.

Our second-place winner will receive a JB "Rugged" case that is a rarity. Inside the case lid JB has installed the AZB logo. Less than a dozen of these were made. Again, see the full details on [AZB](http://AZB) March 1.

You must be a Gold Member by March 1 to qualify. Go to <http://forums.azbilliards.com/payments.php> to sign up for Gold!

**Jay Helfert** is making a very special offer to Buzz readers. Jay is having a special sale on his latest book "**More Pool Wars**" for the readers of the *Billiards Buzz*. You can now buy this book for only \$14.95 plus shipping for a total of \$19.90. You must Paypal Jay at [jayhelfert@yahoo.com](mailto:jayhelfert@yahoo.com) to take advantage of this special. For more info on the book and other items (and to obtain an autographed copy) go to <http://www.jayhelfert.com/poolwars.html>

We have some really great articles for you this month. David Thomson of [MediumPool.com](http://MediumPool.com) wraps up the Derby City Classic for you, and Ted Lerner - the WPA Press Officer - fills you in on all the goings-on at the first World Pool Series event in New York. Plus, we have an in-depth interview with Mark Griffin of CSI. Mark has just opened a new room in Las Vegas called Griff's and we take you all the way from Anchorage to Las Vegas in this far-ranging article. This article is also our first time sending you to the Buzz Cloud. The first part of this article is here in the magazine. To read the rest you will click and be taken to the cloud to finish the read. Obviously, you will need internet access to finish the article.

Have fun inside! ~ **Jerry Forsyth**



# The Official Table of **MATCHROOM POOL** 2016 - 2018

## VICTORY II

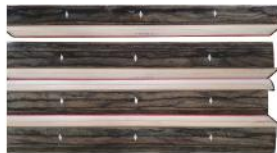


1.30 mm Pro Slate



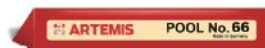
The 9ft table is comprised of precision cut 30mm (1.181") thick 3pc premium RASSON slate, grinded and then sanded flat within a tolerance of less than 0.1mm. 30 instead of regular 18 rail holes of other tables on the market on each slate tighten the rail and slate better, provide a fine resistance to collision, seismic and abscission; and offer a more average and accurate ball response.

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7.Pockets



Our redesigned pocket buckets are made from TPR (Thermo-Plastic-Rubber) in the ideal density necessary to eliminate scuffing (and resulting skidding), reduce ball rejection (bounce out) and dampen impact noise. Specially designed with our patent pending T-shape slot device, the pockets offer a precision fit with fast assembly. Each pocket can hold 10 balls and pockets are available in a variety of colors to match the cloth.

8.Cloth



The default color is Simonis 860 Tournament Blue. Other Simonis cloth colors could be available upon request.



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BY TED LERNER & AZB STAFF - England's Darren Appleton promised his fellow players that his new World Pool Series would give the players exactly what they've always wanted.



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BY AZB STAFF - Line Kjorsvik finally fulfilled the dream of winning a WPBA title at the 2017 WPBA Masters.

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BY MATCHROOM SPORT - Johan Ruijsink, the authoritative Dutchman who led the European side undefeated through seven Mosconi Cups, makes a return to the competition after a two year absence as he takes the reins of Team USA in an attempt to revive America's flagging fortunes in the transatlantic team event.

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# How Do You Know How Much Side to Put on a Cue Ball?

by Karen Corr



This is a very interesting question that requires a lot of experience and experimenting.

Here are a few examples that I think will help you...

## Drill 1

Speed: Slow, smooth stroke.

This shows a center ball hit. The cue ball comes back to where the cue ball started.

The cue ball starts in the same position 3 diamonds up from the corner pocket. One tip of left English should take you down towards the one ball one diamond down from the cue ball.

Two tips of left English will take you 2 diamonds down from the cue ball starting position. Three tips of left English will take you 3 diamonds down from the cue ball starting position.



(The 1, 2, and 3 balls are not object balls. They represent the final positions of the cue ball hit with 1, 2, and 3 tips of left English applied.)

## Drill 2

This drill set-up is the 9-ball on the spot and the cue-ball lined up for a  $\frac{3}{4}$  ball hit.

The path indicated by the cue ball is a center ball hit, where the cue will go into the rail and rebound towards the center.

The path indicated by the 1-ball is 1 tip of left English (9 o'clock), the 2-ball is 2 tips of left English, and the 3-ball is 3 tips of left English.



## Drill 3



Master track — 2 tips of left English, aiming through the second diamond on the lower rail, should take you to the corner. The hit can change with bouncy rails or new sliding cloth.

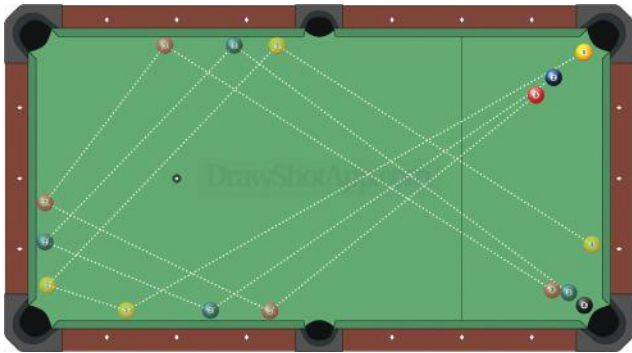
## Drill 4

Path 1 (indicated below using the 1-ball): 1 tip of

right hand English aiming through the 1st diamond on the long rail which will hit 3 rails going towards the 8-ball but it goes long.

Path 2 (2-ball): 2 tips of right hand English aiming through the 2nd diamond on the long rail. This is accurate to hit the corner pocket, knocking the 8-ball in.

Path 3 (3-ball): 3 tips of right hand English aiming through the 3rd diamond on the long rail. You can aim higher with more English to achieve the same effect, accurately hitting the corner pocket and making the 8-ball.



~ Karen

## About Karen Corr:

Karen Corr was inducted into the **BCA Hall of Fame** in 2012 as one of the most deserving players ever to earn the honor.

Karen owns four **World Snooker Titles**, three **World English Pool Titles**, and scores of **WPBA Event Titles**.

She won the **Challenge of Champions** three years in a row.

Her game continues to sharpen and she is feared not only by other women but also by the top male pros as she makes a habit of taking them down in style.

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# Mind of Steel

## Do Superstitions Help in Pool?

by Dr. Christopher Stankovich  
www.drstankovich.com

Does playing pool wearing your lucky shoes, keeping 4-leaf clover in your pool case, or eating a specific meal the day of big tournaments really make a difference with the way you play? The answer to this question might actually surprise you when I say YES (but only if you believe those things “work”).

Most people have some kind of superstition they use to manage their way through life. In most cases the thought, ritual, or behavior is something quirky or fun, and while it may not have any magical power it does provide the believer a sense of comfort. In science we call it the placebo effect when something with no value (i.e. a 4-leaf clover) appears to have had a positive effect (the clover appears to have helped you to play your best).

### Why superstitions “work”

Superstitions “work” in the sense that they provide the believer with confidence that he or she is doing everything within reason to be successful. When we feel comfortable with our approach, our nerves settle, our focus becomes more refined, and inevitably all of this combines to allow for our minds and bodies to work in perfect synchrony and make shots on the pool table.

As you can see from this example, the superstition itself does not have any power by itself, but often what superstitions do is allow us to take our mind away from negative distractions (i.e. the person we are playing, or

the crowd that is watching) and instead refocus on the table and making the shots we know how to make. If this sounds simple it is, but it is also often the difference between wins and losses, and between good and great.

### When superstitions don’t work

As I previously mentioned superstitions are not magic, and when they do “work” it is anchored in the belief that the superstition works, not the superstition itself. What this also means is that if you don’t believe in something it’s likely you won’t see any difference with your game, either.

Bottom line: only develop superstitions that mean something to you and that you believe help calm your mind and body!

For more help on developing mental toughness for pool please visit [www.drstankovich.com](http://www.drstankovich.com)

Dr. Christopher Stankovich is a nationally acclaimed expert in Sport & Performance Psychology and the Founder of Advanced Human Performance Systems. Develop your mental toughness and your game will go to levels previously not witnessed! Learn more by checking out our #1 best selling video *Mind of Steel for Pool Success*, now streaming at: <https://drstankovich.cinevee.com/mind-of-steel--mental-toughness-for-pool-success>



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# TO BANK OR NOT TO BANK!

by Anthony Beeler

It was January 21st, 2012 and the Derby City Classic, World Bank Pool Championship was in full swing. The 5th round draw had just taken place and my upcoming match had just been posted on the scrolling marquis. I walked over to the projector to see who my next opponent was, but before my name appeared, a call went over the loudspeaker, "Shane Van Boening and Anthony Beeler table 5."

At that point, I realized I was going to have my hands full. Shane was playing some of the best pool of his life and I knew I was going to have to play perfect just to stay close. Shane won the lag and handily disposed of the first rack. I knew it was imperative that I win the next game. Under pressure, I won rack two and started to become more comfortable.

Shane won rack three by a score of 5-3. I then returned the favor in rack 4 by besting Shane 5 to 1. At that point, we were starting to draw quite a bit of attention. Many onlookers gathered to see me break the balls in the case game.

As I executed the break shot, a loud noise was the only thing that I made. Shane walked to the table and proceeded to bank in one shot after another. Pow ... pow ... pow ... was the sound coming from his cue as he riffled in 4 banks in a row. The sound of each bank hitting the back of the pocket was like that of a dagger being driven through my heart. Amazingly, when I returned to the table I hit Shane with a 4-pack of my own.

With a 4 to 4 deadlock in the final game you could feel the tension in the air. If I made the bank I would win the match. If not, I would probably lose. Unfortunately for me I was left with a difficult off-angle shot pictured below.

*"It was at that point that I began to understand that there are multiple rules for determining whether or not a bank will kiss."*



*To bank or not to bank?* was the question I asked myself repeatedly. In fact, I kept hearing the words of Grady Mathews echoing through my head. Grady's mantra was "If you can't shoot the cue ball past the object ball into the corner pocket there is a kiss." However, this rule only applies only to shots hit with inside English and at the time of the match I wasn't aware that his rule did not apply to shots hit with no English and a rolling cue ball.

After carefully contemplating what to do, I attempted a difficult safety that fell short of the mark. Shane calmly approached the table and pocketed the match ball.

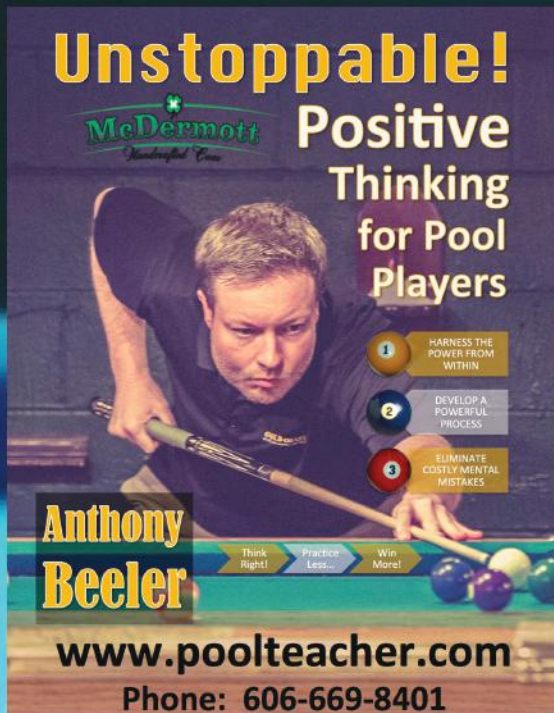


After winning the match, Shane came over and said shoot this shot again, but this time with a rolling cue ball. Surprisingly, I shot the bank and pocketed the ball. It was at that point that I began to understand that there are multiple rules for determining whether or not a bank will kiss.

I learned that nearly all banks kiss if the cue ball and object ball are lined up with the facing of the corner pocket nearest the rail the ball is being banked from (see the diagram labeled "DOUBLE KISS"). On the other hand, those lined up with the back of the pocket do not kiss provided they are shot with no English and a rolling cue ball.



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# Unforgettable Characters

by Jay Helfert

In the old days pool players had to be a one man road show to generate action. They couldn't just walk in and get games. They had to get people excited enough to make them want to get up and gamble. Otherwise they would end up sitting on their butts and no one would play them. Thus we had many interesting personalities populating the pool firmament in the 60s and 70s.

There was "Canton" Don Willis who would get in your face and tell you he was the best pool player in the world and no one could beat him. He would brag so much that someone just had to try him. Then he would luck in balls (usually the money balls — five and nine) and tell you he played it just that way. The funny thing is it looked like a lucky combo or billiard but he really did play these kind of shots. After he won the money playing pool he would brag about his prowess at ping-pong, again exclaiming himself the best there was. Truth be known, he may well have been the best ping-pong player in the country. He was kind of short and dumpy looking so when he challenged the youngest fittest guy in the room to a backwards foot race, people would laugh at him. He never lost a race!

Bunny Rogoff aka Pots and Pans was another funny character who might come in wearing a bellman's uniform (he actually worked for a time as a bellman in Miami) and tell people it was his day off and he just got paid, flashing a bankroll around for all to see. He would brag about all the big tippers there were at the Fountainbleu hotel where he worked. Naturally players flocked to get a crack at this sucker. On other occasions Bunny would come in carrying a brand new set of pots and pans, supposedly looking to sell his last set. He would explain that he sold out all the rest and needed to unload the last one and he was done for the day. He would then sell it for a cheap price and flash a fat bankroll when putting the money away. In his next breath he

would let everyone know how much he liked to play pool and was anyone interested in playing with him. Bingo!

Omaha Fats looked like a fat slob and talked a mile a minute about how tough his life was and that he never could win a pool game. He was always down to his last few dollars and was ready to go off for all he had in his pocket. He would then produce a small wad of bills and ask if anyone would play him for \$2 a game. The first guy who said yes, Omaha would automatically say "you play too good for me sir." He liked to start by either playing kids or getting an outrageous spot. As soon as he saw someone make a ball, he would complement them on their game and ask for weight. He didn't mind sitting around talking (and eating) until he finally got the game he wanted. He liked to appear reluctant to play, constantly complaining about his own ability. When someone got so frustrated with his conversation that they gave him a spot he would stall around until he won five or six games and they would quit. Omaha would let them know how lucky he had been and offer to lower the spot and play some more. This pattern might net him twenty or thirty dollars a day and he was content with that. He had his hot dog money for another day.

I'll save Johnny Ervolino and Boston Shorty for another time.

**Editor's Note:** Jay is having a special sale on his latest book "More Pool Wars" for the readers of the Billiards Buzz. You can now buy this book for only \$14.95 plus shipping for a total of \$19.90. You must PayPal Jay at [jayhelfert@yahoo.com](mailto:jayhelfert@yahoo.com) to take advantage of this special. For more info on the book and other items go to <http://www.jayhelfert.com/poolwars.html>

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# Mechanics of a Good Stance

by Jerry Briesath



Let's talk for a little bit about the mechanics of a good stance. First, I want you to know that there are many good stances, from the European snooker stance to the more traditional American stance where the body is turned more to the side. Even

though the stances look completely different, there are several common elements that make them similar. The first in common element is the weight distribution, which should be about 50-50 on each leg. Second, the chin must be directly over the cue stick when a player is in his shooting position. Some players choose to have their chin touching the cue, while other players prefer to keep their chin several inches above the cue stick while shooting. And third, the shooting arm must have clearance to swing the cue back and follow-through without touching any body parts, including the chest or belly. Sometimes when a player follows through, the hand will strike the chest area and that is acceptable as long as the hand does not strike the chest area until the follow-through has proceeded at least six inches through the cue-ball. If the hand strikes the body before six inches of follow-through, the player must change his stance and/or body position slightly to correct the problem.

As you watch pro players, you will notice many different stances and body positions, but you will always notice that these three common elements are in place.

**Good Luck! ~ Jerry Briesath**

*“Even though the stances look completely different, there are several common elements that make them similar.”*

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# Robley Fontenot Interview

by Melinda Bailey



**Robley**, who is 38 and lives in Louisiana, can be found all over online in many places—Facebook, AZBilliards forums, talking on streams, etc., but it's his approach away from the computer that also makes him stand out. See for yourself:



**1. Let's get the uncomfortable question out of the way first: Do you think I would kick your butt at a game of 8-Ball on a bar table?**

*Answer:* Well, I respect your game a ton and you are a great player, but I would win on a bar box. Would love to play you someday to find out! I might lose, but would be an honor to play you.

**(Melinda: for the record, I think I would win!)**

**2. You have Spinal Bifida and also clubbed feet. I'm curious what made you get into pool and did you see any benefits that help your condition?**

*Answer:* I got into pool because it looked fun and some friends were playing, so I played with them. I fell in love with it! It didn't help my condition, but definitely helped take my mind off of everything going on in my life, including my physical condition. Pool helped me from getting too down and depressed because of my situations in life.

**3. When did you start playing pool and why?**

*Answer:* Well, I was 12 years old when I picked up my first cuestick and have been playing ever since. I started playing because it was something to do at the time to occupy my time. I really couldn't do anything else — work, for example -

*so I started playing pool. :)*

**4. When did you move from California to Louisiana and why?**

*Answer:* Hmm, I believe we moved to Mamou, Louisiana when I was really young, probably 5 or so. That was a long time ago ... so not sure why we moved. I guess we wanted a slower-paced life and we found it in a smaller town.

**5. What is the farthest you have traveled to play pool and what did you like most about the event?**

*Answer:* I'm been to Vegas 5 times, but I would say Jamaica Joes in Oklahoma is my favorite venue — the tournaments are always very well run, they treat the players well, have top notch customer service, good food, and awesome diamond pool tables. Will be back for sure!

**6. Who is your favorite player?**

*Answer:* Well, there are a lot of great pros/ champions out there ... But I would have to say without a doubt my all-time favorite player would be Charlie "Hillbilly" Bryant. He doesn't get to compete too much anymore, but I like him because he plays phenomenal. He's so methodical and he uses systems (instead of feel), which I use, also. He's very precise and he has a love for the game of billiards, just like I do. I met him and his wife (Heather) 10+ years ago and we have been friends ever since. He and his wife are the nicest and most thoughtful people you will ever meet; very humble, too.

**7. Who were you playing when you had your most memorable match? Tell us about that.**

*Answer:* Hmm, that's a tough one... I suppose it would be when I was playing in the White Diamonds Big 9-Ball event (128 player field filled with champions), and I was playing Joey Aguzin to make it the final 4 of the winners bracket. I had to bank the 9-Ball long rail hill-hill to move on. And yes, I made that crucial bank. :)

**8. What cue do you shoot with?**

*Answer:* A cheap, but good-hitting \$50 Rhino cue.

**9. You do cue work — how did you start getting into that and what do you like best about it?**

Well, a friend of mine had a lathe setup for sell and he offered me a great deal, so I bought it with money I saved up. I always wanted to work on cues and build cues and thought it would be a good start to do cue repairs. The best thing about doing cue work is I can do my own tip work and my girlfriends' tip work and not pay for it ha-ha-ha. Plus, we don't have anything like this close by (closest is 45 min+ away) so my friends are saving money at the same time I'm also making a little money. But most of all, it's like a passion. I love doing it — it's like fine art. :)

**10. Does anyone ask you about your condition?**

*Answer:* Oh yea, all the time lol.

**11. Does it affect you so that you have to shoot or stand differently?**

*Answer:* Well, no, not really. I mean my feet aren't flat like normal feet so I have to try and stand certain ways to get the best balance as possible.

**12. Have you ever taken lessons?**

*Answer:* Yes. A few years ago I went to Ohio and received lessons from the professional pool instructor Mr. Denny Stewart. He's a great guy and all-around great pool instructor. And currently I started getting lessons from Charlie "Hillbilly" Bryant. He is also another top-notch professional pool instructor and has also helped my game a lot. My philosophy is you are never too good to get lessons :)

**13. What is your most important accomplishment in pool?**

*Answer:* A few years ago I won the ACS Louisiana State Singles 8-Ball Open (over 100 players). And then right after that, I come out 5th at that big White Diamonds Pro 9-Ball tournament (128 players).

**14. Have you ever thought about playing pro?**

*Answer:* Oh yea, definitely always wanted to. I know I could be a pro if I put long hours into my practice. I know what it takes to have great talent, just have to prove it (and would need sponsors to help out with funds). Not sure if they have any handicapped players already playing with the pros, but I would love to be the first. That would be awesome!

**15. Can you handle long hours of playing in an event that lasts days with your disability?**

*Answer:* Yes, although my feet would be sore and also my back. But other than that, if I sit as much as possible during my matches and also get a lot of rest while waiting, I am fine.

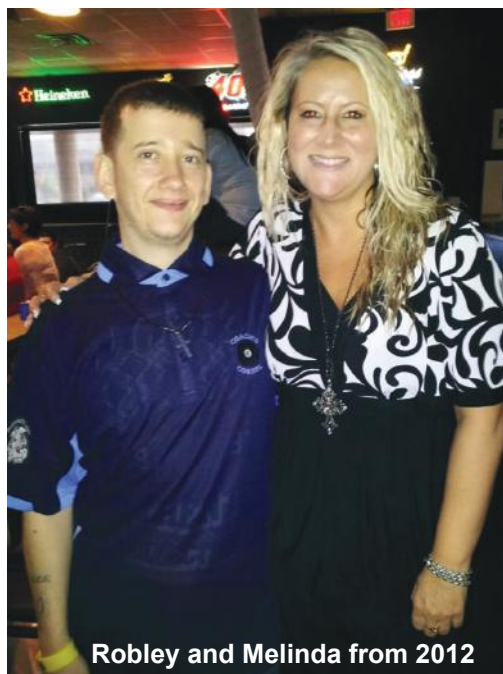
**16. Do you think it helps your confidence to play pool?**

*Answer:* Oh yea for sure. Playing pool gives me a lot

of confidence on and off the table. It's the best feeling in the world to get to meet and make great friends. And if it wasn't for pool, I am not sure where I would be in life (death or jail). And I wouldn't have met the love of my life. :)

**17. Do you see yourself as an inspiration to others because you don't let Spinal Bifida get in the way of your passion?**

*Answer:* Yes, definitely. When I started playing pool and was getting good at it, I knew then that I wanted to be a professional pool player so I practiced hard and here I am today playing in more and more big tournaments. I am proof that you shouldn't let your disability or any other thing get in the way of what you want to be in life. If you have a goal or want to be someone or something, go out and get it! You cannot achieve anything in life sitting home feeling sorry for yourself. :)



Robley and Melinda from 2012

## Author's Bio

Melinda "akatrigger" Bailey has been in the pool scene as a player and ambassador for pool for over 25 years. She is a loyal blogger, a top player in Texas, and holds numerous BCA/ACS Texas State and National titles (singles, doubles, and teams). She currently runs the successful Omega Billiards Tour across north Texas.

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# Derby City Classic XIX Round-Up

by Dave Thomson & AzB Staff

The Accu-Stats Arena Big Foot opening act cast Mosconi Cup teamster Skyler Woodward against Oklahoman John Gabriel. John, whose home room is McGoo's, has a reputation as a formidable Diamond bar box competitor. There's a Diamond 10 foot nearby, too. He admittedly didn't attend with expectations of winning but more for the experience of being pitted against the big boys on Big Foot. Sky's start was a little slow. It was around 6 apiece when he decided to stop the rot. His concentration kicked in and off he ran to the finish line.

The most dramatic and eagerly anticipated match was with fellow Filipinos Lee Vann Corteza and Johann Chua. Lee Vann, winner of the 2013 DCC 9-Ball event, was the 10-Ball runner-up to Van Boening in 2015 so, he knew his way around Big Foot.

This was Johann's first trip to the US. He's 24 years young and has been playing since he was 13. How would he perform, in unknown territory, with his first Stateside, professional encounter under the heat of the Accu-Stats lights? His only battleground was the Philippines, where recently he had beaten both Orcollo and Biado in \$10K challenge matches. Lee wasn't impressed and soon took an early 4-1 lead. Chua, as he's called, caught a gear and masterfully and unemotionally leapt to 7-4.

Then, they parried until Corteza got inspired and was ahead 10-8. Breaking, and making balls, the last orb rolling snookered him for the one. He pushed. Deftly, Chua sent the cue ball on a slow drag 3/4 the length of the table until it deflected inches off the one to nestle underneath the 9. Corteza was stuck. He missed the kick, yet was still on the hill at 10-9. Breaking, Johann's eyes glistened with excitement. There was a confidence in his stroke; he could do this. About 8 strokes later, it was hill-hill. The balls burst open and as whitey headed for the side pocket it was intercepted, only to be kicked straight into the upper corner pocket.

Now it was Corteza's eyes that glistened. How many times had he been here, needing that one last rack? It's a walk in the park. Calmly and methodically, he ambled around the table. Like a sniper the balls were picked off to fall into their designated pockets. Slumped in his seat, resignation written all over his

face, Chua knew it was over. He'd grown up watching, learning, as Lee administered similar death blows time and time again.

The evening session was one of pool's all-time great rivalries: Van Boening and Orcollo. In the opening racks it was all Shane ... until he hooked himself. What looked like a dominating 7-3 lead with Shane breaking, was decimated to 6-4. The difference was huge, especially, as Dennis was now breaking. Van Boening's snookering, overrun cue ball turned the tide of the match. At every opportunity, the balls punished him. It was especially evident when, as aggressive as ever, he made a superb, thinly cut combination only to be snookered again. Shane grimaced for the remainder of the games when at 8 Dennis sat atop the hill. It was there he stumbled. He hung the case 10-ball!

Shane's big break spread the balls like butter on bread. He ran until, with only 4 balls left on the table, he committed the ultimate sin. Playing shape, he landed on the wrong side of the object ball. The final blow to one of his more frustrating matches in recent memory. Dennis quietly avenged their 2016 BIG Foot encounter.

Jayson Shaw vs. Nick Ekonomopoulos was one of the most powerful, error free manifestations of pure pool prowess ever recorded. Shaw, still high from his well-deserved AZ Billiards Player of the Year award, compounded by his 5th Turning Stone Victory in 6 years, had the new Nick the Greek 10-0 after delivering an unconceivable Accu-Stats TPA of .989. A .989 TPA on a 9-foot is an exemplary accomplishment but on Big Foot it's extraordinary.

His effortless stroll around the table was facilitated by a play-for-shape-on-the-one-ball that had it sit near the top corner pocket after most of his blistering break shots. His taming of the one ball contributed to the mighty 6 pack that had Nick nailed to his chair, powerless. At 10-0 after Jayson's break, the one ball, as directed, waited patiently near the corner pocket. Alas, no balls had fallen. Nick, hypnotized now by Jayson's display, was numb: He missed the dangling orb! Shaw was so shocked he fumbled shape on the 2. (Down goes that TPA) He attempted a low-percentage carom off the 6, "I should have played safe," he later confessed, and Nick, somewhat composed, saved the

whitewash. Needless to say, it was to no avail. Jayson gently coached an early combo to seal his unsparing victory and verify his reputation as a true marvel in rotation games.

As we all know, Big Foot is a beast. Especially, if you've had only a few hours prior practice time on it. The Diamond Pro Cut pockets that were once forgiving now tightened up as the Simonis 860 cloth got broken in. There were more balls jawed on day two than one day one, which certainly affected player confidence and how soon they could warm to the conditions which, ultimately, could lower their Accu-Stats TPA score.

In Thorsten Hohmann's opening bout with 2015 US Open finalist Karl Boyes, "Toasty" certainly acclimatized quicker than Karl, who was playing catch up from the get go. Neither player had competed on Big Foot before, but within a few games Hohmann was running out like he would on a 9 foot. His highest TPA was a very respectable .943. It lowered a little to .931 before Karl succumbed at 11-6.

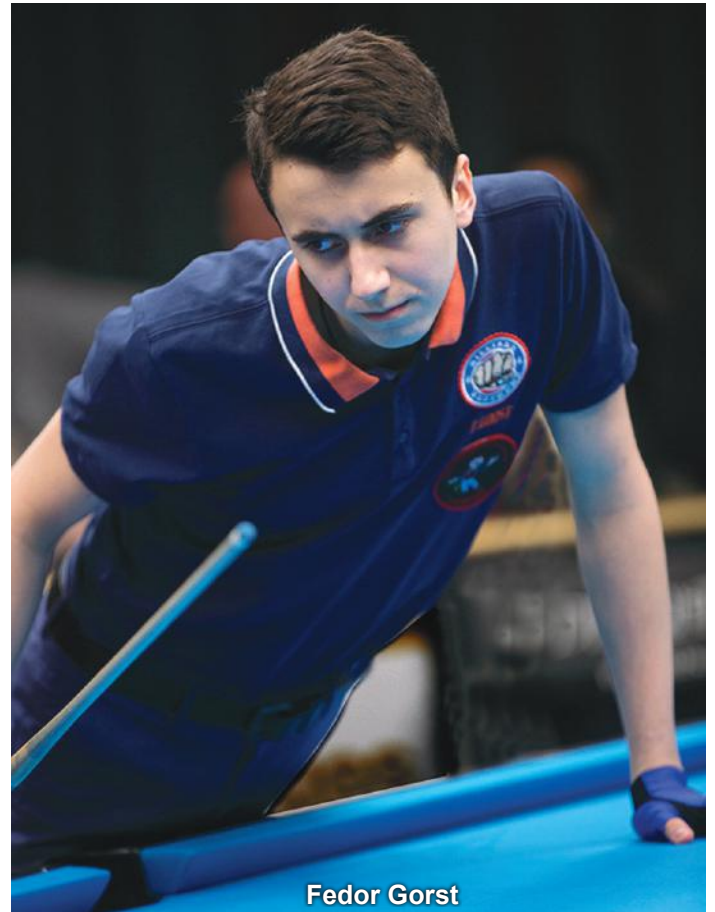
Up next was Alex Pagulayan against the second half of the Greek contingent, the somewhat unknown Alex Kazakis. Slow and deliberate, Kazakis showed considerable promise as he broke and ran before getting out of line on the 9. The Lion was left an uncomfortably long opening shot on the 10. The Cyclop orb bit into the jaw and was spat out to leave the Greek a one - nil lead. Kazakis then broke and ran the next 4 racks!

Alex P was unusually quiet. He got a look at a ball but, as position was difficult, his inning didn't last long. 6-0. Kazakis then ran two more racks: 8-0 with a TPA of .949. A back and forth rack gave Alex a look at a hook that he kicked so well the ball sped to the pocket to allow him his first rack; 8-1. Kazakis was soon back at the table: 9-1, and a dry break.

The closer Kazakis got the finish line, the harder it got to close. Alex mustered 5 more wins before Kazakis got on the hill. Then, in true championship style, he broke and ran the last rack. Neither Alex nor the audience knew what just hit them. This unknown quantity had shown up on these shores and taken total control of the match from its onset. Was this pulverizing of Pagulayan an upset? After closer inquiry, not quite. Kazakis, hailing from Athens, was 25. He'd gotten 2nd on a couple of Euro Tour events when falling to Mosconi Cup teammates Niels Feijen and Mark Gray. He was a both a recent European 10-Ball Champion and the winner of Moscow's Kremlin Cup. There he beat Thorsten Hohmann.

Next in the line of fire was a 16 year old. Fedor

Gorst, an amiable Russian prodigy who has taken pool very seriously. He was smitten so severely that by 10 he'd asked his parents to pay for a personal coach. He wanted to know more. Since then, his achievements include taking two European Junior Championship titles, one in 14.1 and one in 10-Ball. He won his first Pro event at the Lamia Open 9-Ball Championship in Greece last year.



Fedor Gorst

Now he was in the twilight world of Derby City Big Foot, with an hours practice on it, and his opponent was Darren Appleton. Fade that with the additional pressure of the worldwide Accu-Stats audience. Appleton opened quite well and soon attained a comfortable 4-1 lead before the young Muscovite made his move. Ahead 7-4 Darren got stuck. Seeing Appleton falter, Fedor lunged and led for most of the remainder of the match.

Physically, and emotionally, Darren was visibly cold. He had donned another top to beat the chill of the arena's over-amped a/c. He was offered an opportunity at 9-10. Appleton applied himself and got to the hill. Again, he had control of the table, and the match, but it wasn't to be. He just couldn't muster the fire, or will power to complete the deal. The youngster

pounced and ran an admirable closing rack to add another notch to his belt. Ironically, the player he'd beaten to get to the quarters in Lamia was Appleton.

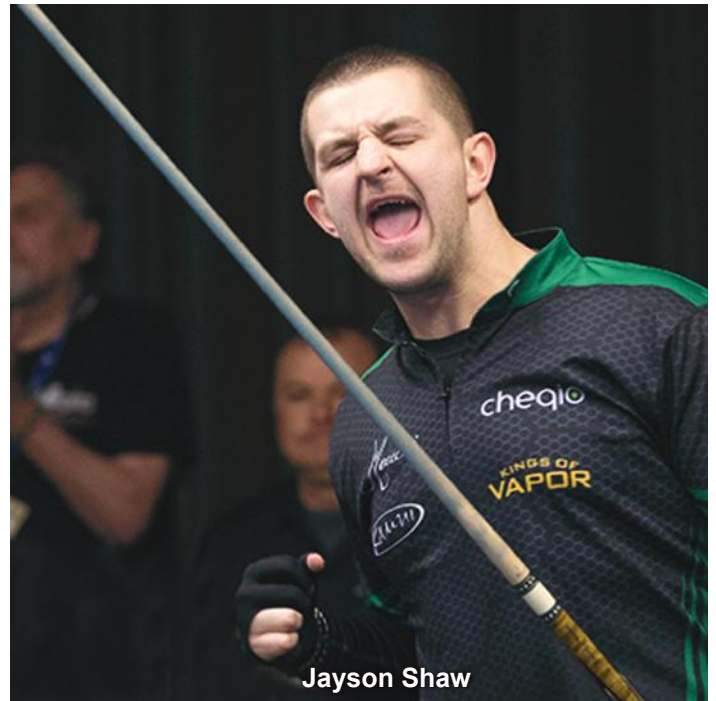
Orcollo vs, Shaw. The railbirds had figured that the winner of this match was the favorite to win the tournament, although the upcoming contenders would have something to say about that! It took experimentation for Shaw's signature playing-shape-on-the-one in the upper corner pocket to come into focus. Dennis was determined to show Shaw that his prior performance was yesterday and that this was today. They battled back and forth until the business end of the set when Orcollo inexplicably hooked himself. Instead of tying the match at 8, it was 9-7 Shaw and he was breaking. His one ball, now tamed, was responding. He had total control of the table and Dennis' future in the tournament. It ended at 11-7, Shaw!

Later, during Shaw's one pocket match upstairs overlooking the Accu-Stats Arena, he observed Corteza practicing for their semis scheduled next on Big Foot. Jayson, later entering the arena asked casually, "Lee Vann, how long have you been here?" Lee, in that harmless yet quintessential pool player understatement, responded, "About 10 minutes." Jayson smiled wryly. And, that's the way their match began. Jayson in one pocket stroke and Corteza all warmed up on Big Foot. So, not so surprisingly, Corteza got swiftly into the lead while Shaw was still looking for his fast and loose stroke.

It didn't take long. Shaw couldn't string much together as his break was plagued by scratches. Corteza capitalized at every opportunity. At around 6, Jayson got a game ahead but not for long. Corteza summoned his Big Foot experience, rallied to 10-8 where he had a marginally higher Accu-Stats' TPA, .859 to Shaw's .826. Not exactly record breaking, yet still substantial. Then, he faltered. He allowed Jayson another point on the scoreboard. Again, Jayson's break proved unproductive. Pressure building while running out at 10-9, Lee Vann faced the 8 with the 9 and 10 pretty much hangers.

It was over. The audience knew it was over, Jayson, low in his seat, jaw hanging on his chest, knew it was over. Lee Vann's Filipino brethren were already counting the cash. Corteza, stroking cautiously yet with authority, coaxed it into the jaws of the pocket. It rattled a little yet everyone knew it was destined to fall. Suddenly, the rattling stopped. The ball hadn't dropped. The deep shelf had held the 8 on the tabletop. Jayson jumped out his chair and stared at the black orb in disbelief. Careful not to breathe too heavily as his inhale might have sucked it into the pocket, he quickly

approached the table. The remaining 3 balls were sunk with ease for hill-hill. Emotions in check, careful not to get too big on the break, Shaw ran faultlessly to the finish line. There, he allowed himself relief. Elated, he let loose to run screaming into the Finals.



Jayson Shaw

Semi's #2: Phillipines vs Greece, again: Carlo Biado and Alex Kazakis. First timers on Big Foot and in the semi's! Both players were overjoyed to have accomplished so much. Biado was wary of Kazakis as he'd seen what he'd done to Pagulayan. His "A" game hadn't shown up. In fact, truth be told, he hadn't approached his potential all tournament. Kazakis seemed to play off of Biado's "B" game rather than his reach for his own capability. As they struggled, Carlo managed to get atop the hill two games ahead of Alex. There, his real struggle began. He couldn't complete the deal. The pressure he put on himself was palpable. The weaker his performance got, the more the Kazakis killer instinct kicked in. Before long, Biado had allowed Alex to join him on the hill.

Even though both competitors were emotionally wrecked, Biado's fate was sealed. Kazakis, when dropping the winning 10-Ball was so relieved that he fist-pumped his way to face Shaw in the finals. The good news for Biado? His salary had doubled from \$4K to 8. Now, Kazakis had 2 hours to regroup ... and prepare for the biggest payday of his life: \$16 thousand, The runner up would garner 8.

Shaw was well ready. His year was off to a flying start. He was AZ Billiard's 2016 Player of the Year and he won his 5th Turning Stone title out of 6. Plus, he had

the emotional cushion of knowing that he'd beaten, arguably, the sport's greatest rotation player, Shane Van Boening, in last year's Big Foot final. A formidable opponent indeed. In this match's final encounter, Shaw was a little surprised: Kazakis had come to compete. He'd picked up on the two-stroking Scot's pace and, pretty much, held serve until they were tied at 7. Then, his momentous bombshell exploded. He, inexplicably, fumbled ball-in-hand. Kazakis later confessed, "I was feeling so good, so confident, that I lost focus. I still can't believe I missed that 5 ball."



Shaw could. He'd seen it with his own eyes. He then, mercilessly, ran out the set! 35 balls disappeared in about 10 minutes. And, he was the back-to-back Big Foot Challenge Champion. It had looked dark for a moment. Only Corteza had challenged Shaw's prowess. His Final's .911 TPA wasn't only an enviable accomplishment, it was also a distress call for the upcoming 9-Ball field.

BTW: Jayson went immediately upstairs to the George Fels Memorial Straight Pool Challenge and ran 98 balls in about 21 minutes. The 9 foot, Diamond Pro AM looked like a bar box.

### The DCC Bank Pool Championships

435 entries prove that Bank Pool is the most popular cue sport around. Where else in the world could draw such attendance to a tournament—any tournament—not just Bank Pool? Only Kentucky. As a previous short stop, Diamond's Greg Sullivan certainly knows his demographic.

All the big names were competing; Efren Reyes, John Brumback, Jayson Shaw, Alex Pagulayan, Shannon Daulton, Scott Frost, Justin Hall, Francisco Bustamante, Corey Deuel, just to name a few of the recent finalists, were all into the second round.

In search of his 4th title, 2016 DCC Bank Pool

Champion, John Brumback, drew DCC 2013 #3, Shannon Murphy, in reputedly one of the best banks matches ever played. As the word spread, about 150 spectators huddled along the rail sweating it along with them. In the race to 3, each player had missed only one ball. Brumback had the lead at 2-1 when Shannon tied it at 2 ... and broke the deciding rack, dry. John ran 5 and out! He later reported, "I was so deep in the zone that I didn't even know I'd won. I was walking to shoot the next ball when Shannon stood up and took my hand. That's when it sank in."

Ten players remained as the sun rose on the final day. Some of them were still up. It's all part of the DCC charm. If you're part vampire, they'll send a limo. You belong here. The wiser ones have learned that whether you're here for the tales to tell or the titles, and you want a realistic shot at the very respectable prize money, you'd better honor your body and get to bed. The daily draw is at 10 am and if you snooze, you do lose. And lots do. "My opponent didn't show so I won by default," is more of a complaint than anything else, "I came to play. This is no way to win."

One of our last day fighters was the undefeated Billy Thorpe. His record of 27 and 3 was soon dismantled to 27 and 9 by Shannon Murphy and Francisco Bustamante, respectively. They were hard fought sessions and Billy had battled. "I tried, I really tried. But now I have a One Pocket match." That was then, this is now, The Teflon warrior forges forward.

Back to the Banks: Hatch went out to Kiamco who had previously KO'd SVB, Shannon D, Jayson Shaw, Jason Miller and given Larry Nevel his first loss. Ike Runnels got a bye. Murphy had eliminated Olinger, Daulton, and Thorpe. He now faced Nevel in Semi's # 1. Nevel's accomplishments included Chohan, Melling, and Runnels. Filipino Francisco Bustamante had given Murphy, Daulton, Olinger, and Thorpe their losses and now faced fellow countryman Warren Kiamko in semi's # 2 on the Accu-Stats TV table. The staid Kiamko couldn't compete with Bustey's flair and at 3-1 was, simply, put to rest.

Simultaneously, in the main arena, the railbirds' oohs and aahs were overheard as Larry and Shannon battered balls 3 rails to jar in the jaws. At 3-2, on his 5th ball, Larry prevailed as, finally, one of the previously elusive 3 railers fell into the pocket. He was in the finals with Francisco. Nevel performed flawlessly. The audience now realized what all that oohing and aahing was about as his banks were cleanly pocketed. Bustey, stoic now, was soon down 2 games ... and 4 balls! Larry needed one to become DCC Bank Pool Champion. "It was over, I really thought it was over," Bustey later reflected. "I hadn't had a look at a bank in

3 games.” Then Larry missed a makeable one. And, one ball at a time, Busty stole his first game.



Francisco "Bustey" Bustamante

Then, he meticulously crafted his 2nd. Nevel, nervous now after a near miss, bounced the butt of his cue off the floor. Soon, it's 2-2 in the 3rd and they both have 2 balls. Tension rising, Busty jawed one and pounded the rail with his fist. He later kicked at a pocket as it spat out a ball. Nevel missed to slump in his chair and repeatedly slap his shaft off his forehead. His fans commiserated, they knew what he must be thinking, "I only needed one ball! How could this happen?" Busty scrambled to 4 and, Larry at 3, fluffed the safe and opened up 2 balls from the spot. BANG! Nothing but net! Francisco Bustamante, in a miraculous recovery, was the 2017 Diamond Derby City Bank Pool Champion. "When I won that 2nd game, I knew I had him," he effused. "There was no way I was going to lose."

### The George Fels Memorial Straight Pool Challenge

Dennis Orcollo got the annual event off to a rocketing start with the high-run of the day of 198. Shaw was fast on his heels with a 168, Taiwan's Li Wen Lo: 138, Johann Chua: 115; Thorsten Hohmann, 112; Lee Vann Corteza, 105; John Schmidt, 98; Alex Pagulayan, 91.

By the end of the fourth day Chris Melling's 225

was in contention as Dennis Orcollo surpassed his previous 198 with impressive consecutive runs of 103, 111, and 215. Alex Pagulayan was 3rd with 197 and, Johnny Archer jumped in with a 182. 6 thru 8 place were Jayson Shaw, 168; Darren Appleton, 154 and Mika Immonen, 146. Dennis, Johnny, and Jason won \$300, \$200, and \$100, respectively, for the day's high runs.

In the single elimination stage of the event, in their race to 125 points, Chris Melling's mesmerizing 78 ball run exited Li Wen Lo, Jayson allowed Johnny Archer only 6, Pagulayan extracted only 59 from Appleton, and Mika got Orcollo at 97 as they parried for the \$22,000 prize fund. On Saturday, in the semi's, Melling would face Shaw while Mika would play Appleton.

Both Appleton and Shaw defaulted to leave Chris Melling and Mika Immonen in the finals on the Accu-Stats TV table. Needing 11 balls, and the pressure of Mika with 79, Melling babied the break shot to leave a possible cut down the long rail that could probably carom into the pocket. It rattled and hung. Mika, wisely, took a time out. 4 racks, plus a few, that's all he required. He could make that in his sleep. With the easy starter, the balls opened nicely. Soon, a scratch got him and Melling was back at the table. Goodnight, Mika. Chris Melling took the title for 2017.

It did not take long for the original 347 players in The **DCC One Pocket Championships** to dwindle down to only 17. Efren Reyes, in search of his 7th DCC One Pocket title, was at this undefeated and, in late night action, gave Corey Deuel his first loss. Orcollo, Pagulayan, Thorpe, and Woodward all had buy-backs. Jeremy Jones ousted Tony Chohan. Shannon Daulton put Bustamante to bed while Josh Roberts eliminated Appleton. Dee Adkins KO'd Kiamco before Sky Woodward sent Dee packing. Lastly, with the jousting Justins, Hall ejected Bergman.

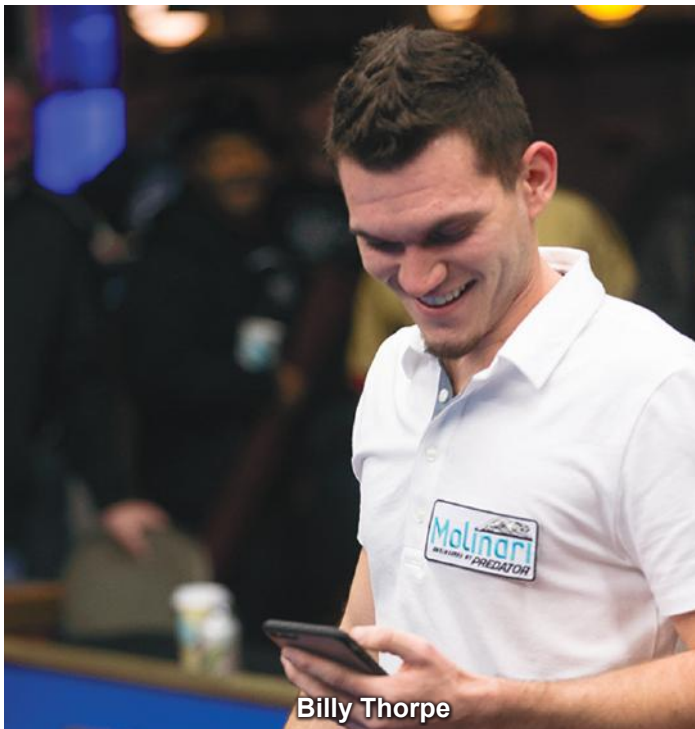


(L-R) Shannon Daulton, Truman Hogue, Skyler Woodward & Jayson Shaw

In the past, One Pocket had the reputation of being the game that aging players resorted to when they lost their stroke. For the novice cue man the word was, don't play One Pocket, it will ruin your 9-Ball game. Woodward, Bergman, and Hall—to name a few—have revolutionized that concept. These young whippersnappers are following in the footsteps of Efren, Joyner, Frost, and Daulton who, arguably, as a teenager reset the age limit on wagering with the old guard. At DCC, the fortyish Daulton had come full circle to face 23 year old Skyler Woodward. And Woodward was winning.

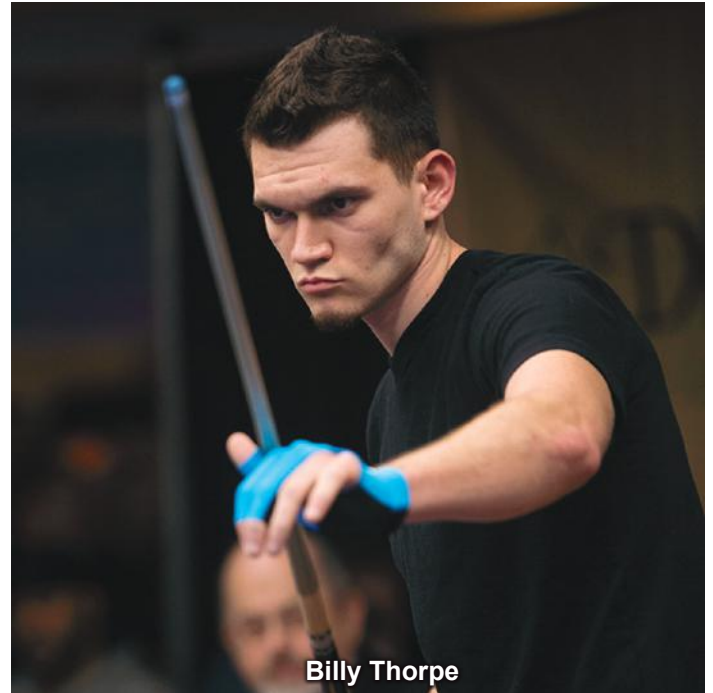
Early errors allowed Sky a ball then, later in the rack, an impressive 7 and out. Daulton had almost secured the second game until Sky scooped it from under him. In the 3rd game Woodward wisely took that oh-so-important intentional foul. Daulton didn't have much to look at when Woodward, inspired, ran 8 and not quite out—he still owed one from the intentional. It didn't take long for him to find it. "All I did was make sure that I didn't sell out and, when I had my chances, I ran with them," relayed Skyler later.

Banking Billy Thorpe, also undefeated, showed patience and promise in the ring with the very competent 29 year old Oklahoma City resident, Chip Compton. Chip charged and put a chokehold on the 1st game. Potentially, he had the second one, until Billy, always in contention, clawed to 8. Then, they each took a game until, in the decider, Billy pulled out to a 5-0, then, 6-2 lead. Compton couldn't catch him.



Billy Thorpe

Let's begin talking of the final day by speaking of how it ended. With Billy Thorpe crying. Tears of joy streamed down his cheeks as he had a little "FaceTime" on the phone with his dad. "I did it, dad. I won it." He'd dismissed Alex Pagulayan, the back to back DCC Bank Pool Champion. He'd beaten the odds and, as the underdog, spread smiles thru the jam-packed Accu-Stats Arena. At 20 years old, he was the youngest DCC champion ever. Bill Incardona, the knowledgeable Voice of Accu-Stats, stated that Billy was the greatest banker in the world. Under the utmost pressure-filled moments, he administered some of the most steady, match-closing strokes ever captured on camera.



Billy Thorpe

Billy was ready. He'd had an incredible run through to the 12th round in the Banks Division. Until the 10th, he'd only lost 3 games—unprecedented! Now, compounded with the 100 points for this win tonight, he was the undisputed leader for, arguably, pool's highest accolade, The DCC All Around Champion. It's certainly the toughest title to win. 9-days, 3 divisions, averaging around 400 players, back to back switching of disciplines, never knowing when, or whom, you are going to play. It takes stamina, skill, guts and, perhaps most of all, heart—qualities that Thorpe proved that he has in spades. Maybe we know where Billy received some of those values. His dad, on hanging up the phone, instructed: "Now go get that 9-Ball title."

Billy's day started by being tossed into the TV arena against the thriving Josh Roberts. With Thorpe ahead, Roberts fought back and then nabbed that first

rack with some elegant endgame banking. Thorpe responded with a 7. The match was soon tied at 2. Josh had the first crack at a runnable rack. He managed 3. Billy whacked at one that was spat out by the tight, pro-cut pocket. "I'm goin' out swinging," he laughed, nervously. Then, wisely, they sent the balls up-table so there was not much chance of either player making a run of it. Nip and tuck ensued until the banking prowess of Thorpe was manifest. He back-cut 2 balls close to the short rail that so impressed Accu-Stats commentator Mark Wilson that he stated. "I can't believe he made that, or even went for it!" All was not lost, Josh had achieved his best result ever.



We were down to 3 contenders: Billy, still undefeated, was playing Pagulayan, who had previously ejected Jeremy Jones. If Billy won he would go directly into the Finals with Orcollo who'd just sent Skyler packing. Dennis would have to beat Billy twice to win the title. If Pagulayan won, Billy would be off to the buy-back booth and the 3 men would re-draw. One lucky player would get a bye and an automatic berth in the Finals. The remaining pair would battle to meet him there.

On the outer table Billy and Alex were tied at 2. Game 5 had Billy seriously in contention with 7 balls to Alex's minus 2. Then, there were some scratches. Alex, the master of nipping and ducking, scrambled his way back until, when down 4-5, he miraculously ran the last 4 balls to send Billy to the buy-back booth ... and the re-draw. Billy got the bye! Alex, looking to 3-peat, and Dennis, no slouch, a 2 time US Open One Pocket Champion.

Orcollo ran out the opening rack. After Dennis' miscue opened the rack, Alex, with runs of 3 and 5, took the 2nd. Orcollo, breaking, made a ball and nothing much else. A careless cue ball deflecting from a missed combo cost Orcollo the game—and with Alex breaking—lessened his odds of winning the match. A

crossing ball kiss cost Alex 6 balls. Our score now was 2-2. In the decider, Alex was down 6-2. At 6-4, Orcollo banked a long, short railer. Needing 2, if he made it, he'd have natural shape and be out, and into the Finals with Thorpe. It hung in the jaws. Alex needed to make a thin cut and carom into two balls on the spot. They opened to leave a makeable bank with tricky shape to the match closing ball. The miracles continued. He accomplished it all with the added pressure of Dennis' ball waiting in his pocket.

Now to the drama-filled finals. It was about one o'clock in the morning now. Alex and Billy had been in combat since 10 am—playing 9-Ball, too. Alex broke first, yet within 3 shots Billy had the situation reversed by moving 4 balls in front of his pocket. He had out-moved the miracle worker. Alex was forced to give him one as he cleared Billy's pocket. He also left a bank and Thorpe ran 7. Alex, aggressive as always, jawed a short rail bank leaving Billy the one ball he needed and the first game. In game 2, Alex took an intentional, his 6th of the day. Billy made 2 consecutive (unintentional) scratches. Alex ran 8 and then 1 to tie the match. Game 3, Thorpe just plain stole from a very surprised Pagulayan. Game 4: Billy never faltered—never strayed from his belief. He needed 2. Pagulayan needed another miracle. Visibly stressed, Alex made some of the deadliest shots ever seen to stay alive. He played what he thought was a safety. That's when Billy banked an incredible shot #1. Alex left another "safe." Thorpe pulled up on the throttle and let his last ball slowly rebound off the short rail to trickle steadily into the gaping jaws of his pocket. Then, uncontrollably, Billy erupted, as did the arena. The underdog had overcome the two-time past champion. Like dad said: onward to the 9-Ball.

### The DCC 9-Ball Championships

At daybreak of the final day we had 22 players remaining from the original 321. With 170 points, Billy Thorpe was ahead in the race for the DCC All Around Champion title and the \$20,000 bonus money. He was also the current cash leader with \$12,000 for the One Pocket title and \$1400 for 5/6th in Banks. Dennis Orcollo was next on the list with 107.5. To put this in perspective, if Dennis were to win the 9-Ball, Billy would need to get 3rd to keep his points lead intact and maintain as All Around Champion.

Shaw, after a self-imposed thrashing from Skyler, unscrewed his cue mid game and departed the arena, apparently disgusted with his performance. Mistica put Corteza out of his misery, Shawn Wilkie ejected Josh Roberts, Appleton applied the exit strategy on Brandon Shuff while Melling chewed on Chinahov.

Then, Biado showed Chohan the door. After bagging Brumback, Efren ran into the fearless Albanian, Eklent Kaci who exacted great fortitude as he clawed from a 7-9 deficit to break and calmly run the closing rack. Orcollo later eliminated Appleton and Thorpe overpowered Hohmann.

Dennis Orcollo, at 38 years old on this fateful day had, potentially his most memorable birthday ever! Undefeated, "Robocop" faced the blistering Shane Van Boening for the umpteenth time, the only difference being that, to lose the elusive DCC 9-Ball title, Dennis had to be beaten twice. How many times had they faced off in the past? That was then, this is now, The burning question? "Who's turn was it going to be today?" Either way, Dennis' birthday was going to be memorable.

A little history: When down to 5 players, Efren was still in the running. At hill-hill, he had to pull off an incredible endgame performance against Damianos Giallourakis, another Greek who verified that these guys came to play. Earlier, Efren had threatened Billy Thorpe's All Around aspirations eliminating him in another hill-hill nail biter. At 62, where was Reyes getting the heart to stave of these advances? He'd even given Shane his first loss. Now, down to 4 players, Reyes had to contend with Orcollo. Efren held his ground until Dennis turned up the volume. Bye, bye Efren.

Three players left. Sneaking all that way thru the racks was one of the world's most respected instructors of our sport, the unsuspecting Filipino Ramil Mastica. Now, using the US as base, he travels from Bangladesh to Baltimore, and everywhere in between, teaching, giving clinics, etc., to those aware of his reputation as a master tutor. Now we are as well. He had ended Pagulayan's hopes. Now, at 9-7, he eliminated the intimidating Donny Mills to join the illustrious company of Orcollo and Van Boening.

So we were down to three players. You know what that means at DCC; there is a re-draw. And some lucky guy gets a bye. If the undefeated Orcollo had to play and lost both matches he's automatically



Carlo Biado

third in the tournament and 2nd in the All Around as Billy Thorpe, with his 9-Ball points tallied, had an impressive 197.5 up there already on the board. If Dennis got to the Finals, he was an undisputed, two-time All Around Champion. Guess what? Dennis drew the \$20,000 bye!

Van Boening and Mastica are in the Semi's. It wasn't really much of a contest. Shane was breaking well and it was around 6-0 when Ramil got his first look at a ball. At 9-2, it was Van Boening and Orcollo vying for \$16,000.

Dennis and Shane: The rivalry continued. But, not much, as on this day Shane's pulverizing break deserted him as did his penetrating ball pocketing. Dennis, capitalizing on every error, was off and running. Dennis stumbled, too, but Shane just couldn't step up. At 8-3, Orcollo, looking to close, had an unproductive break and left an open one ball. The exciting thing about Shane is that you never really believe that it's over. He can come with it. He could get on a roll and run 9, again! The drama in the arena was palpable as he quietly approached the table. The 2 was positioned a little funny. Always aggressive, he rebounded the cue ball off the rail to open it ... and hooked himself. Dennis didn't stumble this time. The rack was his and he knew it. And in 6 elegant strokes he had repeated. Orcollo the 2014 All Around Champion is now Orcollo the 2017 All Around Champion.



Billy Thorpe. Dennis Orcollo & Francisco Bustamante

Dennis finished with 227.5 All Around points; Billy Thorpe, 196.5; Francisco Bustamante, 136.8 and Shane Van Boening, 121.5.

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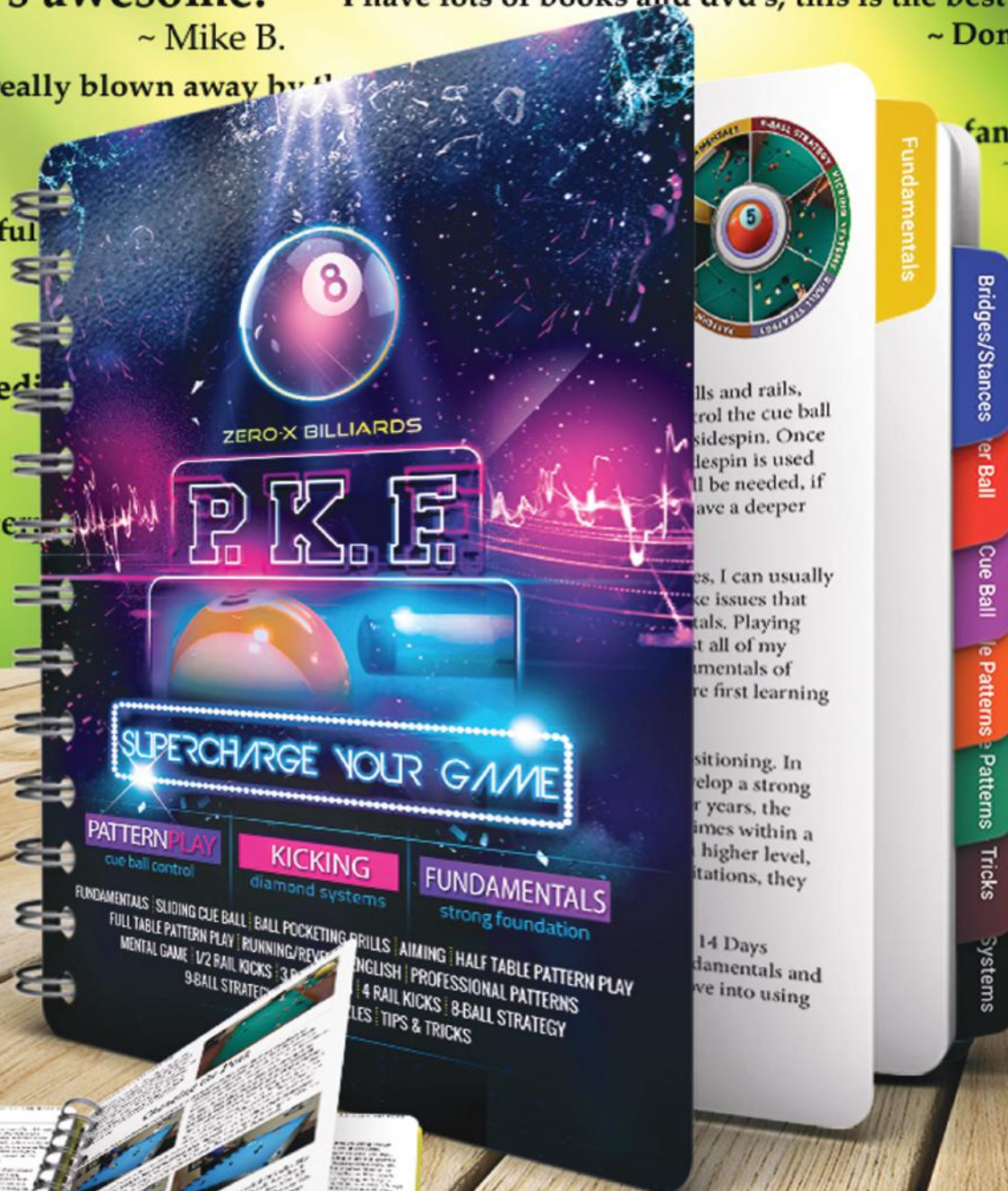
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# Ruslan Chinakov Wins First WPS

By Ted Lerner and AzB Staff

All Photos Courtesy of JP Parmentier and WPS

England's Darren Appleton promised his fellow players that his new World Pool Series would give the players exactly what they've always wanted; a players' centered tour with rules and a setup designed to test the world's best pool players to the limits of their skills.

Long races, pockets at a stingy 4.25 inches, breaking outside the center box, having to "take what you make" on the break, 3-foul rule, shootouts on hill-hill matches, and single elimination; these tweaks to traditional 8-Ball rules all came together Saturday to prove that the world's most popular cue game can truly be a hardcore test of pool.

In a long grind of a day at New York's famed Steinway Billiards in Queens that began at 10 am and ended past midnight, 56 matches were completed with nearly the half the field already being shown the exit into the cold New York night. (8 top seeded players received byes.)

It was perform or take a hike, and even then there was no guarantee, as American pool great Johnny Archer found out. Archer and Finland's unheralded Kim Laaksonen engaged in a back and forth battle, until the Finn pulled away at the end for a hard fought 13-11 win. Laaksonen's win wasn't the only good news for Finland and bad news for the USA. Petri Makkonen took down the USA's Mike Dechaine by an identical score line. Both Finns move on while both highly regarded Americans were out. Another Finnish player also advanced, this time in dramatic fashion. Matti Väyrynen's match with Frenchman Pierre Palmieri went to 12-12, and the two engaged in a thrilling shootout, will both pocketing pressure packed spot shots on the 8-Ball until the Finn came out on top.

With a large field of Americans it certainly wasn't all doom and gloom for the USA. Rodney Morris, Earl Strickland, Jeremy Jones, Max Eberle, Shaun Wilkie,



Darren Appleton

Raphael Debreo and Jennifer Barretta all advanced. Barretta was one of four women players entered into the field and one of two to make it through, along with Norway's Line Kjorsvik.

Appleton's idea is to showcase the very best talent from all facets of the game, and this led to several wheelchair players being entered into the field. In what will surely be one of the feel good stories of year, Sweden's Henrik Larsson, a four time WPA World 9-Ball Champion wheelchair player, defeated able bodied Canadian Erik Hjorleifson 13-9 to advance to the final 64. Larsson, who once had a run of 97 balls in straight pool, is a marvel to watch up close as he exhibits top tier position play and a super confident demeanor.



Russia's Ruslan Chinakov claims the Molinari Players Championship with an emphatic 16-6 win over the Philippines Lee Vann Corteza in New York City.



**Wheelchair world champ, Henrik Larsson shines along with Brits, Filipinos and Finns on a tough Day 6 at the World Pool Series in New York.**

The always strong Filipino contingent performed well on day one. Dennis Orcollo, Johan Chua, Lee Vann Corteza, Israel Rota and veteran Ramil Gallego all advanced with solid wins. The only Filipino of note to stumble was Hall of Famer Francisco Bustamante. Bustamante lost a hard fought slog with Hungary's Vilmos Foldes, 13-11.

For several years up through 2015, Billy Thorpe made a name for himself on the American pool scene as a dashing young talent with a hot stroke who dared to play-and win-ridiculously high stakes money games. Then in 2016 the then 19-year-old decided he wanted to transition into being a real pro, and for the last year he has slugged it out with the big boys in tournaments big and small, attracting attention from pool fans eagerly looking for the next great American player.

Thorpe did create some noise in 2016, but history will surely show that it was in New York City on a cold Sunday in January, 2017, when the brash Dayton, Ohio native truly arrived as a professional, and stamped his mark as possibly that next great American pool player.

Playing with a panache and heart that belied his years, the now 20-year-old Thorpe created one of the biggest stories of the first 8-Ball event of the four-tournament World Pool Series, by taking down two world champions and barging into the final 16 of the Molinari Players Championship.

In a round of 64 TV table match, Thorpe played marvelously in defeating heavily favored three-time world English 8-Ball champion Mick Hill, 13-11. Then, in the final 32, Thorpe roared back from an 11-8 deficit to tie former World 9-Ball Champion Alex Pagulayan, 12-12. The young American then dramatically won the match by sinking all five shots in the thrilling shootout

to advance to the final 16 on Monday.

Within moments Thorpe, who has been playing pool since he was three years old when his dad would let him walk on top of the family pool table and slap balls, had become nothing short of mini-sensation inside the packed Steinway Billiards in Queens, accepting congratulations from fans and posing for photos. The good looking and infectiously excitable American had become an instant hit, and he relished every moment of it.

"These wins tonight really opened my eyes a little bit for me," Thorpe said. "I've worked hard. I'm always at tournaments and I'm always playing. I knew I could hang with these guys but I was always making too many mistakes and that would cost me against these players. So I'm trying to minimize my mistakes and take advantage if they make a mistake."

"I'm playing by far the best pool of my life. I'm really happy with my game. I'm grinding every shot, trying to keep nerves down, taking it ball by ball, playing my heart out like I always do."

"It means a lot. Hopefully I'm going to be on their level one day, be a world champion myself. I love that pressure. I love that adrenalin. I love being out there playing with these guys."



**20-year-old American Billy Thorpe upsets two world champions to storm into the final 16 at the Molinari Player's Championship in New York City.**

Thorpe's feats were just one part of a brilliant and long day of hardcore 8-Ball at the highest levels on Sunday as the Molinari Players Championship moved into the money rounds. The day began at 10 am with 64 players and ended past midnight with just 16 players remaining. These 16 represented the full spectrum of some of pool's great talents, from legends and world champions, to up-and-comers like Thorpe, and from nearly all corners of the globe.

The Philippines is not normally known as an 8-Ball playing country, but the Filipinos love of 15 ball rotation seems to serve them well in a heavy traffic game like 8-Ball and the four Pinoys remaining in the event have looked exceptionally strong. Former World 8-Ball Champion Dennis Orcollo breezed into the final 16 with two easy wins and his positive demeanor boded well for the veteran. After coming back to defeat American Frankie Hernandez, Lee Vann Corteza headed to the TV table where he turned on the gas and defeated talented Greek Nikos Ekonomopoulos. The exciting and good looking Johann Chua looked unflappable with two wins. Carlo Biado also played rock solid, and his round of 32 win against very tough Englishman Mark Gray proved that the young Filipino had the goods to go all the way.



Earl Strickland

Some more names in the final 16 represented a who's who of pool heavyweights from the past generation. Germany's two legends, Thorsten Hohmann and Ralf Souquet, made it through. So too did the USA's Hall of Famer Earl Strickland. Another Hall of Famer, Mika Immonen, had to come back from a deep deficit to tie Filipino veteran Ramil Gallego, then promptly won the dramatic shootout to secure his place in the final 16. Also advancing to the final 16 were Russia's Ruslan Chinakov, Greece's Alexander Kazakis and Japan's Naoyuki Oi.

*"I have practiced a lot the last two years. And I've been hoping that one day it would pay off. ~ Ruslan Chinakov"*



Darren Appleton

As a regular at the top of the pool world, Darren Appleton has found himself in a more than a few tricky situations, funny positions on the table, and emotional roller coasters that are unique to pool at the professional level. But late Monday night in New York City, the multi-world champion simply could not stop shaking his head in disbelief at his latest position, which actually didn't look too shabby indeed.

That's because after two matches and a hard day's slog on the table, the Englishman found himself in the semi-finals of the Molinari Players' Championship, the very 8-Ball tournament he conceived, and had spent the last few months promoting. Sure the ultra-competitive Appleton wanted to win, but deep down he found he really didn't have a desire to take the crown, "after all the hospitable Englishman is the host here" and has actually been overheard saying just that at various times during the week at Steinway Billiards in Queens. But perhaps Appleton has just discovered an elusive key to sporting success; when you really don't care either way, the lack of stress and pressure releases you to actually play your best.

In the round of 16 Appleton issued a beat down of Hall of Famer Earl Strickland, 15-8. He then headed over to the TV table, where he put in a typical workman-like performance against the Philippines' surging Dennis Orcollo, who had earlier stopped the charge of young American upstart Billy Thorpe. Appleton rebuffed the Filipino great at every turn and took the match 15-12, to enter the semi-finals. "I feel like have a certain freedom," Appleton said afterward. "It doesn't really matter if I win or lose because I'm also the promoter so maybe that's why I'm playing good. I think I've practiced only two racks all week because I've been so busy helping run the tournament. I honestly don't really care. But maybe that's why I'm playing good."

Appleton's opponent would be the Philippines'

Lee Vann Corteza, and the Filipino was playing superb 8-Ball pool. Corteza took down two of the sport's best, first outlasting a typically stingy Mika Immonen in the final 16, 15-13, then holding off a furious late charge by Japan's Naoyuki Oi in the quarterfinals to escape by the same score. Against Oi, Corteza had cruised to a nearly insurmountable 14-8 lead. But breaking for the match and a spot in the semis, the Filipino came up dry. Oi proceeded to park Corteza in his chair for the next 30 minutes, closing the gap to 14-13. Corteza needed to stop the bleeding, and quickly, so he called a legal timeout and headed to the men's room.



Lee Vann Corteza

"I was up 14-8 and I was thinking I was going to win the match," a smiling Corteza said afterward. "I broke hard in the next rack, but I didn't get a ball down, then he runs five racks in a row. Then I took a time out. Then when we got back to the table, he broke and didn't make a ball. Then I ran out. It was really good timing."

With his legendary English pool background combined with his incredible talent on the pool table, Appleton is a master of 8-Ball strategy, and it might seem the Englishman had the advantage in their race to 15, winner breaks semi-final. But the super talented Filipino revealed a little known facet of his successful career that might change a few minds. Corteza had participated several times in the SEA games, an Olympic-style gathering of South East Asian nations held every two years. His regular discipline in the SEA Games? 8-Ball. His results? 4 gold medals. "Actually we play a lot of rotation pool in the Philippines and that is much harder than 8-Ball," Corteza said. "After you play rotation, 8-Ball seems easy. You just have to get a good break."

While veterans Appleton and Corteza would do battle in the one semi-final, the other semi-final featured two of pool's sharpest young guns as the Philippines' Johann Chua took on Russia's Ruslan

Chinakov.



Sebastian Chua

The 23 year old Chua has spent the last few years establishing himself, along with Carlo Biado, as the future of Philippine pool. Wildly talented, fearless, and articulate, Chua brings the complete package to any event he enters. The Molinari Players Championship represented Chua's first ever trip to the US. In just a few short days he clearly wowed American pool fans.

Playing on the TV table in the round of 16, Chua found himself up against the hottest player on the planet, Scotland's Jayson Shaw. The hard charging Shaw looked like he would take the match as he raced out to an 11-6 lead. But the Scotsman would come to rue one simple miss on a bank in the 18th rack. Chua, unfazed by the score line and his opponent, stood up and promptly put Shaw in his chair for the next 30 minutes, running five straight racks. Shaw got a few looks after that, but Chua slammed the door shut, taking 9 straight racks in all for an emphatic 15-11 win.

Chua looked to be on the ropes in his quarterfinal match against England's Chris Melling, who had earlier beaten hall of fame Ralf Souquet. Melling held a 13-11 lead when he snookered himself and squandered the rack. In the next frame the pressure got Melling again when he missed an easy 8-Ball. The match ended up tied at 14 and went down to the shootout, where each player was given 5 cracks at a spot shot on the 8-Ball. Chua was down early, but held his nerve yet again and took the shootout to advance to the semis.

Chua's semi-final opponent Chinakov, also 23 years old, logged in a terrific day of pool, first beating Greece's Alexander Kazakis, 15-10. In the quarterfinal against England's Karl Boyes, the Russian surged back from an 11-7 deficit to take 8 straight racks and an impressive 15-11 win.

Chinakov admitted that as he gets older, he often

struggles with nerves. "Against Karl we both made mistakes and he was leading 11-7. Then we took a break and I told myself stop being nervous, you have to relax if you want to win. Then after that, I was really lucky with the break and it started to work and I ran five racks in a row. I ran the last rack and, well, this is a great success to start the year.

"I have practiced a lot the last two years. And I've been hoping that one day it would pay off. The last few years I've had a lot of problems with my nerves. I get very nervous in important matches. When I was younger I didn't get as nervous, but now that I'm older I seem to get very nervous and can't control it. But now I see that everything is working much better. Tomorrow, I don't know what's going to happen, I might miss a hundred times in a race to 15. Every day is different. One day you can control your emotions and the next day you can't."



The next day Chinakov, employing an absolute monster break shot combined with some seriously solid potting and pattern play handily won both his matches, including an emphatic 16-6 finals win over the Philippines Lee Vann Corteza, and captured the inaugural Molinari Players Championship at Steinway Billiards in New York City.

Chinakov's success represents the biggest win of the 23-year-old's career. Since he began his international career at the tender age of just 13 years old, the young Russian, a veritable pool prodigy since the very beginning, has been a fixture on the pro scene around the world. At 15 years old he won the WPA Jr. World 9-Ball Championship. He also captured two straight Kremlin Cup titles. And he's had many solid finishes in tournaments globally.

This win in the Big Apple surely represents a new level of accomplishment for Chinakov, and signals a new phase in the towering and talented Russian's career. The Molinari Players Championship, the first

of four 8-Ball tournaments that make up Darren Appleton's brand new tour called the World Pool Series, attracted a seriously world class field of 120 players from over 35 countries. They played a version of 8-Ball that was designed to be as tough a test as players could possibly face. And when the four-day slugfest concluded, it was Chinakov who clearly stood well above this amazing field.

That last day of contest will be a day that Chinakov, and those that watched it, won't soon forget as he manhandled two of the Philippines best on route to the winners circle. In his semi-final match against hot shot Pinoy Johann Chua, the Russian wasted little time in stamping his class on the proceedings. Chinakov lived up to his nickname, "the Siberian Express" as he won the lag and proceeded to run the first six racks on the Filipino, and quickly pushed his lead up to 9-1 with his smashing break shot and crafty shot making. Chua did manage a brief fight back, but the Russian rebuffed him at every turn and walked into the final with a 15-8 victory.

Corteza came into the final playing some of his best pool in the last two years, but he nearly didn't even make it out of his semi-final match with Appleton. The Englishman was still playing care free and as strong as ever. Appleton looked to be on his way to a finals date as he powered out to a 9-4 lead. Corteza, though, would have none of it as he stormed back with six straight racks to lead 10-9.

From there the two greats went toe to toe, and headed straight for the cliff. Down 14-13 and with the pressure bearing down, Corteza took advantage of a dry break by Appleton and cleared a very difficult layout to tie, and send the match into a dramatic shootout. In the shootout Corteza shot first and made his first attempt at the full table spot shot on the 8-Ball. From there he never trailed, eventually winning 4-2 to advance to the final against Chinakov.

At over three and a half hours long, Corteza's match against Appleton had clearly drained the Filipino as he only had one hour to get ready for Chinakov, while the Russian had rested for 6 hours. In the end, however, it probably made little difference as Chinakov was playing too good to be stopped.

The pair traded several racks to open the race to 16, winner breaks final. When Corteza missed a makeable 8-Ball while down just 4-3, Chinakov pounced and never looked back. His towering break shot led to balls dropping and patterns opening up, and soon the Russian was up 7-3. Chinakov kept feeding off the momentum while Corteza had few answers and the score quickly went to 12-4. The Filipino tried to mount a comeback with two racks of his own, but

the day belonged to Chinakov, who was just too strong, too good and clearly destined for victory. Chinakov took the next four racks, and when he dropped the final 8-Ball he had claimed an emphatic, awe-inspiring 16-6 win.

Afterward a clearly delighted and overwhelmed Chinakov basked in the glow of his sensational victory. Already a hard worker, he said he had doubled his efforts over the last two years, even hiring famed Dutch coach Johan Ruijsink to help him build up not just his technical skills, but also his mental toughness to deal with his sometimes uncontrollable nerves. The work had clearly paid off on all fronts. The future for 2017 and beyond was suddenly looking very bright indeed.

"This is probably the biggest event I have ever won," Chinakov said. "It's a great feeling. I still can't believe I just did this. I didn't really think about winning today, I just tried to play good and show what I can do. I didn't play 100% but I still won. Even at this level anyone can miss balls, I just missed less than the other guys. That's why I'm quite happy about it.

"This is very satisfying because I've worked hard for the last two years. This is definitely going to give me a very big boost going forward and hopefully I can keep winning. I also know that this win will help me to perhaps win even more this year. When you can compete and then win against the best players in the world, world champions and other greats, I think 40 of them, and you can even win the tournament, it really tells me that I am headed in the right direction."

"We both made some mistakes and that's to be expected in a race to 16, these are really long sets and there's a lot of ups and downs. When it was up 4-3 I made a few good runs, some break and runs and my lead kept increasing. I think that put him under pressure and he then made a few mistakes, and I just cleaned the table."

As befitting the always classy Filipinos, Corteza took the loss on the chin and gave credit where it was clearly due. The Filipino took solace in the fact that



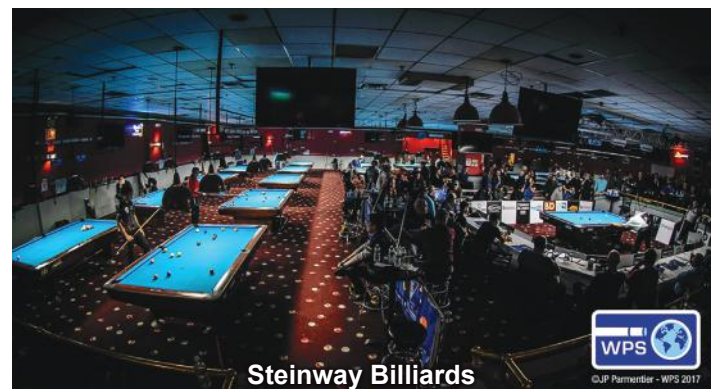
he started 2017 with one of his best finishes in the last two years. "I missed a couple of shots, the 8-Ball in one rack, then the 10-Ball in another," Corteza said. "I just had bad luck today. I couldn't get good layouts on the break shot, or I have no shot on the break. It was very difficult to figure out what to do. He broke fantastic and was always getting shots and he had the momentum. I was also feeling a bit tired. But he deserved to win. He broke better than me, he really had power on the break. I'm still happy because I played good this week. This is one of my best finishes in a while so I just have to go to the next event and I feel really good about my game."

With the biggest win in his ten-year career to date, Chinakov deservedly felt even better about his game and prospects for the coming months. "After you win big tournaments, you just come to believe in yourself more and more," Chinakov said. "And that means in the next big match, I might be less nervous and have better concentration, and that means you have more chances to get the title or finish quite close to the title. "This is the best start of the year that I could ever imagine."

By winning the Molinari Player's Championship Chinakov received \$20,000. Corteza took home \$8500.



(L-R) Lee Van Corteza, Darren Appleton, Ruslan Chinakov and Johann Chua



# 2017 WPBA Masters

February 1st - 5th at the Soaring Eagle  
Resort and Casino in Mt. Pleasant, MI

By AzB Staff, Photo by JP Parmentier



It took nearly 20 years of playing (with a short break in the middle), and a new outlook on her pool life, but Line Kjorsvik finally fulfilled the dream of winning a WPBA title at the 2017 WPBA Masters, held on February 1st - 5th at the Soaring Eagle Resort and Casino in Mt. Pleasant, Michigan.

Kjorsvik, hailing from Trondheim Norway, started her pool career way back in 1999 and competed on the WPBA tour until mid-2004, when she decided to take a little break from top level women's pool. "I tried to live a normal life for a little while" Kjorsvik said. Normal life didn't seem to suit Kjorsvik, and she was back on the WPBA trail by mid-2008.

With the years of experience playing WPBA events, Kjorsvik had only managed to make it as far as the semi-finals. "I made it to the semi's three or four times, but never made it past there", she said. So with that experience in the semi-finals, her appearance in the semi's at Soaring Eagle was nothing new to her. What was new though, was Kjorsvik's opponent, 16-year-old April Larson. "I had heard about April playing for Team USA in the Atlantic Challenge Cup last year, but hadn't played her before. I was really impressed with her game and her positive attitude at the table", said Kjorsvik. Larson's "game and positive attitude" were on full display in their semi-final match, where the players raced to four in back to back sets, with a single-game tiebreaker if they split the first two sets. Kjorsvik won the first set 4-3, but Larson came back to control the second set 4-1, to force the tie breaker. Larson won the lag, but a poor push after the break spelled doom for the youngster as Kjorsvik ran the rack for her spot in the finals.

Kjorsvik wouldn't get long to enjoy her first berth in the finals, as Karen Corr had already defeated

Tamara Peeters from the Netherlands in the other semi-final match, and was setting her sights on her first WPBA Classic Tour title in 10 years.

Kjorsvik took the first set of the finals 4-3, but just as she had against Larson, she fell behind in the second set and watched Corr score a 4-1 win to force the sudden death game. "I kind of gave up halfway through the second set and just started thinking about the sudden death game. I think that helped me to calm down a little bit heading into that rack". That preparation may have helped as Kjorsvik pocketed a ball on the break and saw an open table before her. "I knew if I gave her a shot, it wouldn't be good" said Kjorsvik. It wasn't pretty in the end as nerves almost got the better of her, but Kjorsvik ran out the rack for her first WPBA title. As always, Corr had nothing but compliments for her opponent. "Line played great and deserved to win. She has worked at the game a long time and it was her time."

When asked about what she credited this first win to, Kjorsvik talked about her new outlook on life. "I've been helping to run Stix Billiards in Georgia with Monica (Webb) and Helena (Thornfeldt), and the business keeps us pretty busy" she explained. "I've got a house and five cats and I can't be on the road all of the time. It's a very stable life and I don't feel like I need pool like I used to. I just have a different perspective on life. Maybe I stopped trying so hard."

Even with this new perspective, Kvorsvik isn't going to retire anytime soon. She is playing in Darren Appleton's World Pool Series this year, saying she prefers 8-Ball or straight pool over rotation games, and will certainly be defending her title next year at Soaring Eagle.

  
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# WPBA Regional Tour Championship

By Skip Maloney

of in-the-money 32, Seaver among them, to compete in the double elimination phase. Seaver got by Tam Trinh, Kimberly Pierce, and Ricki Casper to move into a winners' side semifinal match against Betty Lea. Gail Eaton, whose career goes back as far as Seaver's, with a number of previous head-to-head matchups, had defeated Angela Garza, Denise Berlander (double hill), and Michell Monk, and faced Leslee Blaikie in the other winners' side semifinal.

Seaver and Eaton moved into the hot seat match with identical 7-3 scores over Lea and Blaikie. Seaver's 'gear' slipped a little in the winners' side final, as she managed only a single rack against Eaton and with Eaton in the hot seat, moved west to the semifinals.

On the loss side, Autumn Duncan, who'd lost her opening round match, double hill, to Debbie Teichert, was in the midst of a six-match winning streak that would take her as far as the quarterfinals. She downed Michell Monk 7-3 and Windy Tang 7-4 (loss-side wins # 4 and #5) to face Betty Lea. Ricki Casper, who'd been sent to the loss side by Seaver in a winners' side quarterfinal, defeated Krista Walsh 5-4 and Jessica Human 7-1, to draw Blaikie.

Duncan and Casper advanced to the quarterfinals; Casper with a double hill win over Blaikie, and Duncan 7-4 over Lea. Casper ended Duncan's loss-side streak 7-5, and then had her own four-match, loss-side effort ended by Seaver 7-4 in the semifinals.

Eaton jumped out to an early, slim lead in the finals, taking a 2-0 lead, before Seaver responded with two racks to create the first of four ties in the match. They traded racks to a 3-3 tie, before Eaton chalked up three in a row. Seaver came right back with three to tie it again. They traded racks to the last tie of the match at 7-7, but Seaver's 7th win was the first of three in a row that gave her the 9-7 win and her first RTC title.

After 17 years as a recognized pro, and a long string of victories that began about three years after she'd picked up a pool cue for the first time, Jeannie Seaver has chalked up a win on the WPBA's annual Regional Tour Championships (RTC). Held on the weekend of January 12-15, the event was the first of three RTC's to be hosted by Zingale's Billiards in Tallahassee, FL, who hosted the 2016 RTC, as well. The event drew 64 entrants, who competed in a combination of round robin and double elimination brackets for \$11,000 in prize money.

"I don't know what made it different this year," said Seaver, who competed in her first WPBA event, the WPBA US Open, in 1999 (finishing 17th), and finished fifth in last year's RTC. "I ran out when I could and played safe when I could.

"I never think I'm going to win," she added. "I just go in trying. I know when I hit a gear, though, and when it happens, it happens."

It happened for her at this year's RTC. By the time the field of 64 completed the round robin phase of the event, half of the competitors were gone, leaving a field

**POISON**  
by PREDATOR 



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## THROUGH THE KEYHOLE:

# Spotlight on Mark Griffin

by AzB Staff

**AZB:** Mark Griffin, founder of CSI, the umbrella organization of the BCA Pool League as well as the USAPL and professional events, was born in Alaska and grew up there. We asked him when he first became involved in pool.

**MG:** "I was first around a pool table when I was in 7th grade, 1959. My dad, who played pretty well, went out and bought a 9' Brunswick Centennial. This Centennial was in the basement of a bar called the Hitching Post. That bar is now the world famous Chilkoot Charlies. (When they moved the table they tried to just carry it up a narrow staircase in one piece. They dropped it and damaged one rail). I wound up owning that table for so long that it went to San Diego in 1997 when I took over a couple of pool rooms. This table was in the Gaslamp Billiard Palace for several years."

**AZB:** But you first worked on that table in Anchorage?

**MG:** I actually had to recover that table when I was a junior in high school (1962-63). I also covered some other local tables. When I went to the University of Alaska in Fairbanks in 1964, I recovered all of the tables in the Student Union and that's how I actually got started refitting tables. I later worked for a friend in Alaska who had some military contracts and I would go to various military bases and recover tables. This would have been in the late 60s.

**AZB:** Did you work as a table mechanic for very long?

**MG:** I used to keep track of how many tables I had recovered but I stopped at around 1,000 and that was over 35 years ago. You wouldn't believe how many tables I have done. Sometimes I don't believe it. In 1967 two guys opened up a new room (Q & 8 Billiard Center) in Anchorage. I set up all of those tables; coincidentally, a few years later (1985) my first wife (Sue) and I owned a Bingo Hall in that same location. When the pool room first went in with 32 tables I put up all of the tables. I burned through three helpers just carrying the slates inside. And I learned a lot of tricks there, like don't use beeswax when the sun shines through the windows and



*hits the tables.*

**AZB:** So when did you first open a room in Alaska?

**MG:** When that room (Q & 8) closed a bit over a year later, I bought a dozen of the tables. I opened up a pool room in Anchorage on March 6, 1969. I kept the name of Q & 8 Billiard Center.

We had a lot of business among the youth and as the drug craze moved north it became one of the drug centers of Anchorage. I was actually in Santa Cruz, the following year at a coffee shop and the guys sitting next to me were talking about the Q & 8 in Anchorage! I guess we got quite the reputation. Our slogan was "Open 8 Days a Week" because we never closed and that was when the Beatles song came out.

**AZB:** Sounds a bit edgy. How long did you keep that place?

**MG:** I kept it for a couple of years and I leased it out a couple of times. It was a crazy time and quite a learning experience. I lived in the office for 6 months when I first opened.

The next year in 1970, I opened up another room in Mountain View, a section of Anchorage, called the Lazy-Q Billiard Center. One of those small upstairs rooms. I sold and leased them out and went back to



school. I was basically out of pool from 1973 until 1987.

**AZB: Pool was not Griffins only foray into recreation. And there was schooling to finish.**

**MG:** I had gone back to school in 1973 and I decided I wanted to go to law school - but I had to get through college first. A full-time college student would take 17 hours of classes each semester. But I needed to hurry things up so I was taking over 33 hours each semester. I was doubling up to get through. And I kept a 3.6 average through that. As it turned out, I did get admitted to a California law school but did not have the money or the time to get my affairs in order — so I had to decline.

**AZB: So what did you do after you got out of school?**

**MG:** While going to school I was also making money on the side by playing pool in the bars and by repairing all the after-hours clubs pool tables, crap tables and other stuff. About this time I decided to open up a miniature golf place in Anchorage. More on that in a minute.

I knew John Young (who had worked for Brunswick back during WWII) and who used to own a couple of small pool rooms in Anchorage.

Young did repair work for the Anchorage Fire Department, including hose repair and pool table repair and so he hired me to do the pool tables. He also got involved in doing pool table repair work for the military. Under his contract I was the first private vehicle to drive the Dalton Highway, the pipeline road that goes from Fairbanks to Prudhoe Bay. The bridges weren't even in yet, they used tow barges to get you across

the Yukon River. I did all this travel just to recover pool tables. Once they even had me do them all by helicopter. We went from pump station to pump station with all our supplies by helicopter.

**AZB: So you went became a traveling table mechanic?**

**MG:** Yeah, and we had some crazy stuff go on up there. One time my helper (Jesse Williams) and I were working at a pump station up north and we heard this noise out in the hallway. We go check it out and a young black bear is half inside the freezer going after the ice cream. Jesse and I were just sort of standing there in shock, and starting to get nervous. The janitor came in and chased that bear back outside with a broom! The bears up there are called camp bears and they know how to open doors, refrigerators and dumpsters. They really could not live out in the wild; they rely on humans for their food.

Other firms started using me. BP would use me every six months to recover their tables. And I got real fast at it. On the old Gandy Big G's I would walk in, take the old bed cloth and rails off and recover them and get them back together level and walk out with my tools in just under an hour. I used to bet folks that I could do a table bed in seven minutes. And that included cutting the holes out for the rail bolts. I was skinny, fast, and I knew what I was doing. I once did a room of fourteen tables in thirteen hours. And those were Murray tables with ball returns.

One side story; while doing the Crown Cue in Anchorage. This was in the middle of the night, and I realized I was running short on staples. I counted all of the remaining staples, divided by the number of rails. So now I know that you can do a table with 48 staples on the end rails and 52 on the side rails. I never used an electric gun. I used an older Bostich staple gun (using 1/4" staples) that wouldn't damage the wood. I quit doing tables when they stopped making those staplers.

Around 1977, I decided to open a miniature golf course. I found this primo piece of property. (In fact there is a mall on it now). I leased the land and built the Golf Course at my house. My small house was very unique — and I had a wooden driveway, which is very slippery in Alaskan winters. A military hangar/warehouse had been torn down and I got access to a lot of lumber and built a wooden drive way. That driveway was great for building a miniature golf course because you could anchor everything to the driveway. While getting that opened, I got introduced to a couple of local guys who wanted to open a go-kart track in conjunction with my miniature golf course. So we made a deal and opened up.

**AZB: What did you name the Miniature Golf Course?**

You can read the rest of the article on the AZ Billiards website at:

<http://azbilliards.com/griffin/>



The Famous Anchorage Billiard Palace

Photos of Griff's LV are courtesy of Mary Coffman of CSI. We would also like to thank photographers JP Parmentier, David Thomson, Rick Shultz and the AZB Staff for their photographs.



# MOSCONI CUP

## Ruijsink is the New Captain America

by Matchroom Sport

JOHAN RUIJSINK, the authoritative Dutchman who led the European side undefeated through seven Mosconi Cups, makes a return to the competition after a two year absence as he takes the reins of Team USA in an attempt to revive America's flagging fortunes in the transatlantic team event.

Ruijsink last captained the European side at Blackpool in 2014 when they ran out comfortable 11-5 winners over the USA. He promptly announced his retirement from an event that he had come to overshadow after turning Europe from regular losers into the dominant Mosconi Cup force.

Following three barren years with Mark Wilson at the helm, it was felt that the Dutchman's fantastic experience and his progressive methods in producing winners were ideally suited to get America competitive again.

Commented Ruijsink, "The reason to take on the job is quite obvious; I am an authentic lover of the game and especially of the Mosconi Cup. In 25 years of coaching, the Mosconi has proven to be by far the most exciting event in the world of pool."

"When Europe was in trouble I thought that was unnecessary — one win in ten years, as I now feel it is

not correct that the US is in trouble. Both sides have great players and the MC should bring this greatness out of every player competing.

"As a coach in pool, there is no higher goal than working in the "home of pool", the USA. Although the number of players is not as big as when I started, there is still a huge number of players and lovers of the game in the US."

"My entire coaching career has been founded on seeing the American players compete at the World Championship in Bergheim, Germany in 1990. There I saw Earl, Varner, Davenport, Mizerak, Mataya, Lebron and a young Johnny Archer and they made me love the game even more. It also ignited the wish to understand why and how they played at this incredible level, so from that time onwards I have been chasing for my players to perfect their performance."

"Now, 25 years later, it hurts to see these great players having trouble to show their high standard in the MC and it is a great honour to be given the opportunity to help them in doing just that."

"I sincerely hope that people will see me neither as an intruder (from the US side) nor a traitor (from the European side) and I hope the pool scene will understand that as a coach, there is no bigger challenge today and as a pool lover it is my greatest wish to see a competitive US squad at the Mosconi Cup. The players, audience and the pool world deserve just that,"he concluded.

Matchroom Sport Chairman Barry Hearn said, "It was a big decision to make in appointing a non-American to guide Team USA. However, in this day and age sport and success is an international business and there are plenty of precedents. For example, the USA men's and ladies' soccer teams both achieved great accomplishments managed by a German and a Swede respectively."

"Johan is passionate about pool and about creating winning mindsets for players. He leaves no stone unturned and I know he will be giving it everything he's got between now and the evening of the 7th December when the outcome of the 24th annual Mosconi Cup is determined."

"Make no mistake, this is one tough job. The Americans have won just once in the past 11 years and there is plenty of work to be done, but I believe that if anyone can get the USA competitive again, Johan can."



# A Book Review: Tor Lowry's P.K.F. - Supercharge Your Game

by Skip Maloney



First and foremost, it was an enormous undertaking, this 260-page, spiral-bound paperback book by Zero-X Billiards, entitled "P.K.F. - Supercharge Your Game." There is no indication anywhere that this is an instructional manual written by Tor Lowry, which, given the man's general aversion to self-promotion, is not too much of a surprise. By the same token, any number of newcomers to the sport, seeking instructional videos, or books, are likely to be curious about the man behind the manuscript.

It's Tor Lowry.

"For me," said Lowry, by way of explanation regarding the absence of his name, "it's about the game and the information, and I kind of took myself out of it."

In addition to it being an 'enormous undertaking' by its author, you're also going to find that getting through its exhaustive approach to the three basics in the title - Pattern Play (P), Kicking Systems (K) and Fundamentals (F) - is an enormous undertaking in and of itself. It'll be time consuming, and as a practical matter, difficult to consume, period. While there is

little doubt that carefully following his approach to all three subjects and actively pursuing practice with (presumably) the book by your side, turned to a relevant page, will improve your pool game(s), it's not really an instruction manual for beginners. It's written and organized well enough, and has its share of information pertinent to beginners, but beginners are less likely to exhibit the patience necessary to read it, and bring it to the table with them on (as an example) an APA League night, or to a solo practice session.

It's basically aimed at people who have decided to get serious about improving their game, and are willing to put in both book and table time to accomplish that objective. All those who show up regularly for their respective pool league nights just looking for a good time and aren't looking to take a serious step in elevating their skill level need not apply. He does, however, have something to say to these people, and he says it right at the outset.

"One of the main reasons people struggle in pool," he writes, immediately after the Table of Contents, detailing the book's eight sections, "is because when they are first learning the game, not much time is spent working on stance or stroke.

"Instead," he continues, "they jump right into pocketing balls, which becomes the main focus."

That, right there, is worth the cost of admission (\$39.95 for the book, available on the Zero-X Billiards Web site - <http://www.zeroxbilliards.com>), because it gets right to the heart of the matter. Anyone who's serious about improving their game has to transition from an approach that focuses on just pocketing balls to one that addresses, among other things, the fundamentals of stance and stroke. More importantly, though, allowing 'pocketing balls' to be the main focus, obscures the value of other options when you step to a table. This can seem to be counter-intuitive. 'I have to pocket balls to win,' goes the thinking, 'so why would I, at any given moment in time, choose not to pocket a ball?'

Lowry doesn't really address this question in

“P.K.F. - Supercharge Your Game,” but by opening the book with this assertion, it has a way of putting the beginner on notice that to make any forward progress in your skill level, you’re going to have to broaden your thinking beyond pocketing balls, to embrace all manner of things, beginning with the titled “F” - fundamentals.

The material in this book was compiled from a series of ‘14-day experiments,’ conducted by Lowry, to determine whether a specific training regimen would improve a player’s game, to include the extent to which it would do so; a lot? a little? at all?

“Because I didn’t know,” said Lowry of his “14 Days to Great Pool Experiment,” which took him around the country, training players over 14 days, between 8 and 10 hours per day.

What he discovered was that every pool player is different, so that some improved their game a lot, some improved their game a little, and some, discovering that the training was a little more rigorous and demanding than they expected, backed out saying something to the tune of “this isn’t for me.”

“P.K.F. - Supercharge Your Game” gives players the opportunity to essentially take it or leave it. You can sit down, and go at the book as rigorously as your personal time and determination will allow (“It’d probably take about a year to go through it,” said Lowry) or pick and choose sections and specific instructions to improve narrower components of your game. Either way, there’s something for pretty much everyone in this book and you’re likely to get good things out of it, even if you’re only eavesdropping.

“It takes an effort to get better,” said Lowry, “It has to be a real concerted effort, and there are a lot of people who don’t want to do the work. There are a lot of people looking for shortcuts.”

Full disclosure: “P.K.F. - Supercharge Your Game” is not a shortcut.

“It does take some of the enjoyment out of the game to train like this,” Lowry acknowledged, “but eventually, you’re going to enjoy playing the game at a much higher level.”

The book is arranged differently than its title might suggest. The first four sections address the “F” (fundamentals) - an opening section (Fundamentals; stroke, stance, grip, head movement, muscle memory and some accompanying drills), followed by sections

on Bridges/Stance, Center Ball, and the physics behind what’s known as the Sliding Cue Ball.

For beginners, and those who may not be prepared to commit themselves to the book’s rigorous training schedule, Lowry suggests, as does the book’s Table of Contents, that you begin with this section.

“I would go through the Sliding Cue Section of the book first,” he said. “Learn the physics, for example, behind the stop shot. You’ll start understanding what the cue ball does and just that, will help a player learn the game better. A lot of players just don’t understand the physics of the game.”

From there, Lowry moves into the “P” sections - pattern play, beginning with Half-Table Patterns and then Full Table Patterns. A half-table pattern, for those unaware, is a set of practice situations, developing a pattern to determine in which order, one is going to pocket a number of balls in a given pattern, using only one half of the table. In other words, whatever pattern you choose to successfully pocket the balls illustrated in the patterns, you have to do so, keeping your cue ball within one half of the table’s length. Full patterns, of course, expand the cue ball’s range to the full table.

There’s a section of Tips & Tricks, with 25 sub-sections, dealing with things like Sliding Cue Ball Safeties, Safety Drill, Side Pocket Shots, Hangers, Extreme Cut Shots and Mosconi Cup Drills (to name only 25% of them). The final section of the book addresses the title’s “K” - Kicking Systems, with 22 sub-sections, all dealing with a variety of systems to perform this essential task. Many of the systems identify the target spot on the table as “Zero,” which is the origin of Lowry’s corporate label - Zero-X Billiards.

“I just chose ‘X’ because it sounded good,” he said.

There’s a lot to absorb and do with this book in your hand, but none, arguably as important as the statement written at the beginning of its Fundamentals section - “You need to build a strong foundation for your game to reach a higher level.” If reaching that higher level is what you want to accomplish, and you’ve been looking for a few tips on how to go about doing that, you’d be hard pressed to find a better resource than “P.K.F. - Supercharge Your Game.” The extent to which you will accomplish your motivating objective (reaching that higher level) will depend a lot more on you than the lessons themselves.

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Malarkeys dates/info/flyer link here

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March 9 (Thurs), Noon - Play Starts

March 10 (Fri), 7p - 2nd Chance Tournament

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# WPS Raises Money for BEF

On January 14-17, the World Pool Series (WPS) held its inaugural event at Steinway Billiards in Astoria, NY. The 8-Ball event, known as the Molinari Players Championship, brought in a field of pool's top international stars.

Among the 119 total players, thirty-five countries were represented in the battle for over \$100,000 in prize funds. At the end of the four-day championship, Russia's Ruslan Chinahov earned the title and the \$20,000 first prize after a 16-6 win over Lee Van Cortez of the Philippines.

Along with presenting some of the toughest competition in professional pool today, WPS founder Darren Appleton also made a fundraising initiative for the Billiard Education Foundation (BEF) through a series of raffles at the event. 20% of the raffle proceeds will go toward supporting the BEF's junior programs and events, and a total of \$1,000 was raised.

The WPS plans to continue its support of the BEF at each of its forthcoming events in 2017. The next event is scheduled for April 4-7, and will also be held at Steinway Billiards. For more information, visit [www.WorldPoolSeries.com](http://www.WorldPoolSeries.com).



# Upcoming Tournaments

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

## March 1 - March 31:

### **N.E. Pool & Billiard Hall of Fame 9-Ball Open**

**MARCH 4 - 05**

Snookers - Sports Billiards, Bar & Grill  
Providence, RI

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

### **Chinook Winds Open 8-Ball Open Division**

**MARCH 9 - 11**

Chinook Winds Casino  
Lincoln City, OR

### **Northeast 9-Ball Open XXIX**

**MARCH 11 - 12**

Trick Shot Billiards  
Clifton Park, NY

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

### **Norcal Pool Tour 2016-2017 Stop 10**

**MARCH 11 - 12**

Edgie's Billiards  
Milpitas, California

Website: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/297634297243311/>

### **Inaugural Scotty Townsend Memorial**

**MARCH 13 - 19**

Arena Billiards  
West Monroe, LA

### **2017 CBSA "YAQI Group Cup" Chinese Pool World Championships**

**MARCH 13 - 16**

YuShan China

### **2016 Mezz West State Tour Top Gun/Little Gun**

**MARCH 18 - 19**

Hard Times Billiards  
Sacramento, CA

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

### **Joss Tour Stop #13 at King Smiley Billiards**

**MARCH 18 - 19**

King Smiley Billiards  
Fort Edward, New York

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

### **Falcon Cues Quebec Tour Stop #12**

**MARCH 18 - 19**

Billard Lounge L'Abasie  
Trois-Riveres, Quebec

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

### **Ride the 9 Tour 2016-2017 Stop 8**

**MARCH 19**

Bo's Billiards  
Warwick, RI

Website: <http://www.ridethe9tour.com>

### **Dixieland Classic**

**MARCH 23 - 26**

Cue Time Sports Bar & Grill  
Spartanburg, SC

Website: <https://www.facebook.com/pages/The-Great-Southern-Billiard-Tour/252833964374>

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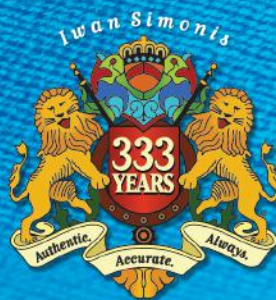


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# Upcoming Tournaments

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

## April 1 - April 30:

### Falcon Cues Quebec Tour Stop #13

**APRIL 1 - 2**

Dooly's Edmunston  
Edmunston, Quebec  
Website: <http://www.falconcuesquebectour.com>

### World 8-Ball Series 2017 Stop 2

**APRIL 4 - 7**

Steinway Billiards  
Astoria, NY

### Joss Tour Stop #14 at Salt City

**APRIL 8 - 9**

Salt City Billiards  
North Syracuse, NY  
Website: <http://www.joss9balltour.com/>

### Joss Tour Stop #15 at Union Station

**APRIL 29 - 30**

Union Station Billiards  
Portland, Maine  
Website: <http://www.joss9balltour.com>

### Falcon Cues Quebec Tour Grande Finale

**APRIL 29 - 30**

Dooly's Billiards  
Valleyfield, Quebec  
Website: <http://www.falconcuesquebectour.com>

### Ride the 9 Tour 2016-2017 Stop 9

**APRIL 30**

Amazin Billiards  
Malden, MA  
Website: <http://www.ridethe9tour.com>



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# Monthly Results

Tournament results from January 2017

## 01/05 - 01/08

### Turning Stone Classic XXVII

#### Turning Stone Casino

##### Verona, NY

1 Jayson Shaw	\$8,000
2 Rodney Morris	\$5,000
3 Dennis Hatch	\$3,600
4 Amar Kang	\$2,600
5 Thorsten Hohmann	\$2,000
5 John Morra	\$2,000
7 Oscar Dominguez	\$1,600
7 Johnny Archer	\$1,600
9 Jarrod Clowery	\$1,200
9 Jorge Rodriguez	\$1,200
9 Darren Appleton	\$1,200
9 Sebastien Laramee	\$1,200
13 Tom D'Alfonso	\$850
13 Nelson Oliveira	\$850
13 Joey Cicero	\$850
13 Tom Theriault	\$850
17 Tom Zippler	\$550
17 Karen Corr	\$550
17 Hunter Lombardo	\$550
17 Jeremy Sossei	\$550
17 Spencer Auigbelle	\$550
17 Del Sim	\$550
17 Ernesto Dominguez	\$550
17 Phil Davis	\$550
25 Tony Antone	\$300
25 Luc Salvas	\$300
25 Eric Cloutier	\$300
25 Brandon Shuff	\$300
25 Danny Hewitt	\$300
25 Ed Saur	\$300
25 Erik Hjorleifson	\$300
25 Bucky Souvanthong	\$300

## 01/07 - 01/08

### Predator Pro-Am Tour 2017

#### Stop 1

##### Steinway Billiards

##### Astoria, NY

1 Max Watanabe	\$1,550
2 Abel Rosario	\$1,000
3 Brooke Meyer	\$650
4 George Poltorak	\$475
5 Rhys Chen	\$350
5 Troy Deocharran	\$350
7 Thomas Schreiber	\$225
7 Annie Flores	\$225
9 Dev Bhattacharya	\$125
9 Ross Lacy	\$125
9 Bryan Toolsee	\$125

9 Jose Kuilan	\$125
13 Andrew Cleary	\$80
13 Shawn Sookhai	\$80
13 Yusuf Khan	\$80
13 Gary Bozigian	\$80

## 01/07 - 01/08

### Florida State Open

#### 10-Ball Championship

##### Zingales Billiards

##### Tallahassee, Florida

1 Daniel McKenney	\$2,500
2 Benji Buckley	\$1,500
3 Butch Croft	\$1,000
4 Stoney Stone	\$700
5 Manny Perez	\$500
5 Denny Singletary	\$500
7 Shane McMinn	\$250
7 Robb Saez	\$250
9 Skyler Woodward	\$175
9 Tony Crosby	\$175
9 Clint Nichols	\$175
9 Tommy Kennedy	\$175
13 Howie Gordon	\$125
13 Randy Jordan	\$125
13 Rob Melrose	\$125
13 Detroit Griffin	\$125

## 01/07 - 01/07

### Western New York Pool Tour

#### 2017 Tour Stop

##### Bison Billiards

##### Buffalo, NY

1 Nick Brucato	\$1,000
2 Dave Grau	\$480
3 Cory Welfare	\$230
4 Santo Merlo	\$100
5 Mark Hatch	\$35
5 Eddie Ashman	\$35

## 01/07 - 01/08

### Robert Dionne

#### Memorial Tournament 2017

##### Crow's Nest

##### Plaistow, New Hampshire

1 Mike Dechaine	\$1,000
2 Paul Coorey	\$600
3 Francisco Cabral	\$370
4 Dan Martis	\$195
5 Charlie Matarazzo	\$110
5 Kerry McAuliffe	\$110
7 Steve Sutton	\$60
7 Rick Bergevin	\$60

## 01/10 - 01/15

### Joy Billiards World Chinese

#### 8-Ball Masters 2017

##### Qinhuangdao Olympic Sports

##### Center Stadium

##### Qinhuangdao, Hebei province

1 Gareth Potts	\$43,869
2 Kun Peng Zhang	\$14,632
3 Chong-Yang Shen	\$7,316
4 Hong-Yu Xi	\$5,852
5 Ru-Liang Zhao	\$4,097
6 Francisco Diaz-Pizarro	\$3,658
7 Yu-Bo Zheng	\$3,365
8 Peng Wang	\$2,926
9 Hai-Feng Gong	\$2,194
9 Yun-Biao Zhao	\$2,194
9 Zhi-Song Fan	\$2,194
9 Yong Dai	\$2,194
13 Albin Ouschan	\$1,463
13 Denis Grabe	\$1,463
13 Guang Hao Zhang	\$1,463
13 Myint-Kyaw Phone	\$1,463
17 Zhao-Hui Xie	\$731
17 Justin Campbell	\$731
17 Tongle Wan	\$731
17 Zak Shepherd	\$731
17 Zhen Yu Wu	\$731
17 Hui Li	\$731
17 Yu Ting	\$731
17 Corey Deuel	\$731
25 Chen Qiang	\$438
25 Hao Wu	\$438
25 Xin Liu	\$438
25 Jack Whelan	\$438
25 Yun Wang	\$438
25 Yi Dong	\$438
25 Andrey Seroshtan	\$438
25 Fan Yang	\$438

# Monthly Results

Tournament results from January 2017

## 01/11 - 01/15

### Music City Classic 2017

#### Open Division

##### JOB Billiards

##### Madison, TN

1 Jonathan Hennessee	\$4,000
2 Skylar Woodward	\$2,600
3 Roberto Gomez	\$1,700
4 Shane Winters	\$1,100
5 John Gabriel	\$780
5 Shane McMinn	\$780
7 Sean King	\$470
7 Daniel McKenney	\$470
9 Bobby McGrath	\$275
9 Chuck Raulston	\$275
9 David Anderson	\$275
9 Nicholas Hickerson	\$275
13 Josh O'Neal	\$190
13 Taylor Anderson	\$190
13 Robert Frost	\$190
13 Joe Keith	\$190
17 Lee Alford	\$130
17 Steve Wiggins	\$130
17 Tommy Najar	\$130
17 Jerry Clayman	\$130
17 Lee Uhles	\$130
17 Anthony Green	\$130
17 Cliff Joyner	\$130
17 Charlie Taylor	\$130
25 Mitchell Perry	\$100
25 Matt Bulfin	\$100
25 Joe Coleman	\$100
25 Raed Shabeb	\$100
25 Jack Campbell	\$100
25 Wade Keeling	\$100
25 Bobby Emmons	\$100
25 Chris Crawford	\$100

## 01/11 - 01/15

### Music City Classic 2017

#### Midnight Madness

##### JOB Billiards

##### Madison, TN

1 Skylar Woodward	\$4,000
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## 01/11 - 01/15

### Music City Classic 2017

#### Ladies Division

##### JOB Billiards

##### Madison, TN

1 Allison Hardwick	\$1,000
2 Jessica Mollinet	\$695
3 Lisa Porter	\$380
4 Robin Parker	\$275
5 Michelle Hicks	\$210
5 Sharon Miller	\$210
7 Brenda Anderson	\$175
7 Beverly Cook	\$175
9 Erin King	\$85
9 Heather Middleton	\$85
9 Kathy Sanders	\$85
9 Michelle Dunn	\$85

## 01/12 - 01/15

### WPBA Regional Tour

#### Championship 2017

##### Zingales Billiards

##### Tallahassee, Florida

1 Jeannie Seaver	\$2,000
2 Gail Eaton	\$1,150
3 Ricki Lee Casper	\$950
4 Autumn Duncan	\$800
5 Betty Lea	\$650
5 Leslee Davis-Blaikie	\$650
7 Jessica Karacia-Human	\$500
7 Windy Tang	\$500
9 Lisa Cossette	\$350
9 Michell Monk	\$350
9 Krista Walsh	\$350
9 Tam Trinh	\$350
13 Kim Pierce	\$200
13 Yvonne Asher	\$200
13 Debbie Teichert	\$200
13 Marianne Merrill	\$200
17 Angela Garza	\$150
17 Toni Esteves	\$150
17 Kelly Coyle	\$150
17 Loretta Lindgren	\$150
17 Vanessa Hood	\$150
17 Vanessa Seaver	\$150
17 Tina Williams	\$150
17 Denise Belanger	\$150
25 Kristen Bennington	\$100
25 Sabra MacArthur-Beahn	\$100
25 Jessica Farris	\$100
25 Shanelle Loraine	\$100
25 Sara Bork	\$100
25 Mercedes Vasquez	\$100
25 Tiffany Munne	\$100
25 Lisa McElroy	\$100

## 01/13 - 01/14

### Western New York Pool Tour

#### 2017 Dutch Mill Holiday Classic

##### 8-Ball

##### Dutch Mill Restaurant, Party

##### Room and Pool Hall

##### Greece, NY

1 Geoff Montgomery	\$440
2 Dan Niosi	\$245
3 Dave Dreidel	\$145
4 Jason De Wolf	\$30

## 01/13 - 01/13

### Western New York Pool Tour

#### 2017 Dutch Mill Holiday Classic

##### Warm Up

##### Dutch Mill Restaurant,

##### Party Room and Pool Hall

##### Greece, NY

2 Phil Johnson	\$150
3 Nick Brucato	\$50
3 Mark Hatch	\$50
1 Geoff Montgomery	\$0

## 01/14 - 01/15

### Falcon Cues Quebec Tour

#### Stop #9

##### Dooly's Levis

##### Levis, Quebec

1 Danny Hewitt	\$1,000
2 Sylvain Gingras	\$750
3 Sylvain Grenier	\$575
4 Patrick Adam	\$400
5 Michael Bernier	\$300
5 Francis Crevier	\$300
7 Andre Pelletier	\$200
7 Eric Cloutier	\$200
9 Pierre Theriault	\$100
9 Richer Francoeur	\$100
9 Jeff Blais	\$100
9 Jacques Cyr	\$100
13 Jean-Francois Berube	\$50
13 Louis Martin Pratte	\$50
13 Sebastien Binette	\$50
13 Yanic Bedard	\$50

# Monthly Results

Tournament results from January 2017

## 01/14 - 01/17

### Molinari Players Championship

#### Steinway Billiards

##### Astoria, NY

1 Ruslan Chinahov	\$20,000
2 Lee Vann Corteza	\$8,500
3 Darren Appleton	\$5,250
3 Johann Chua	\$5,250
5 Chris Melling	\$3,500
5 Naoyuki Oi	\$3,500
5 Dennis Orcollo	\$3,500
5 Karl Boyes	\$3,500
9 Carlo Biado	\$2,000
9 Billy Thorpe	\$2,000
9 Earl Strickland	\$2,000
9 Thorsten Hohmann	\$2,000
9 Mika Immonen	\$2,000
9 Ralf Souquet	\$2,000
9 Jayson Shaw	\$2,000
9 Alexandros Kazakis	\$2,000
17 Raj Hundal	\$250
17 Marc Vidal Claramunt	\$250
17 Stephan Cohen	\$250
17 Vilmos Foldes	\$250
17 Imran Majid	\$250
17 Mark Gray	\$250
17 Petri Makkonen	\$250
17 Jeremy Jones	\$250
17 Pat Holtz	\$250
17 Brandon Shuff	\$250
17 Rodney Morris	\$250
17 Li Wen Lo	\$250
17 Ramil Gallego	\$250
17 Alex Pagulayan	\$250
17 Nick Ekonomopoulos	\$250
17 David Alcaide	\$250

## 01/14 - 01/15

### Action Pool Tour 2017 Stop 1

#### Open Division

##### Magic 8 Cue Club

##### Cockeysville, Maryland

1 Tom Zippler	\$725
2 Brett Stottlemeyer	\$425
3 Andy Lincoln	\$275
4 Tina Pawloski-Malm	\$175
5 Clinton Clayton	\$120
5 Trevor Dentz	\$120
7 William Moon	\$60
7 Tom Helmstetter	\$60

## 01/14 - 01/15

### Action Pool Tour 2017 Stop 1

#### Ladies Division

##### Magic 8 Cue Club

##### Cockeysville, Maryland

1 Tina Pawloski-Malm	\$200
2 Lai Li	\$80

## 01/14 - 01/15

### Omega Billiards Tour 2017 Stop 1

#### Rusty's Billiards

##### Arlington, TX

1 Juan Parra	\$1,000
2 Alberto Nieto	\$665
3 Kenny Rowell	\$520
4 Corey Anderson	\$410
5 Mike Voelkering	\$320
5 Phillip Palmer	\$320
7 Jeff Georges	\$240
7 Steve Raynes	\$240
9 Doug Winnett	\$100
9 Hector Guerrero	\$100
9 Daniel Herring	\$100
9 George Merchan	\$100
13 Crispian Ng	\$75
13 Steve Horne	\$75
13 Adam Stevens	\$75
13 Donnie Gregory	\$75
17 Corey Flud	\$50
17 Highway Sigadi	\$50
17 Frank Cherry	\$50
17 Josh Horne	\$50
17 David Crowell	\$50
17 Doc Reyes	\$50
17 Viet My	\$50
17 Mike Roundtree	\$50

## 01/14 - 01/17

### Cheqio Challenge

#### Steinway Billiards

##### Astoria, NY

1 Francisco Sanchez-Ruiz	\$4,000
2 Imran Majid	\$2,000
3 Petri Makkonen	\$1,000
3 David Alcaide	\$1,000
5 Vilmos Foldes	\$650
5 Erik Hjorleifson	\$650
5 Mike Dechaine	\$650
5 Zion Zvi	\$650
9 Paddy McLoughlin	\$450
9 Justin Sajich	\$450
9 Pat Holtz	\$450
9 Hunter Lombardo	\$450

9 Martin Daigle	\$450
9 Li Wen Lo	\$450
9 Damianos Giallourakis	\$450
9 Matti Vayrynen	\$450

## 01/14 - 01/14

### Q City 9-Ball Tour Stop

#### The Clubhouse

##### Lynchburg, Virginia

1 Greg Taylor	\$600
2 Travis Guerra	\$300
3 Aaron McClure	\$250
4 Zachary Hampton	\$150
5 Stevie McClinton	\$60
5 Keith Arnold	\$60

## 01/20 - 01/28

### Derby City Classic 2017

#### 9-Ball Banks Mini

##### Horseshoe Southern Indiana

##### Elizabeth, IN

1 Kevin Nicholas	\$800
2 Louis D'Marco	\$400
3 James Davis Jr.	\$250
4 Tim Diaz	\$250

## 01/20 - 01/28

### Derby City Classic 2017 Bigfoot

#### 10-Ball Challenge

##### Horseshoe Southern Indiana

##### Elizabeth, IN

1 Jayson Shaw	\$16,000
2 Alexandros Kazakis	\$8,000
3 Lee Vann Corteza	\$4,000
3 Carlo Biado	\$4,000

## 01/20 - 01/28

### Derby City Classic 2017

#### 9-Ball Banks Division

##### Horseshoe Southern Indiana

##### Elizabeth, IN

1 Francisco Bustamante	\$10,000
2 Larry Nevel	\$4,000
3 Warren Kiamco	\$2,000
3 Shannon Murphy	\$2,000
5 Dennis Hatch	\$1,400
5 Ike Runnels	\$1,400
5 Billy Thorpe	\$1,400
8 Chris Melling	\$1,100
8 Tony Chohan	\$1,100

# Monthly Results

Tournament results from January 2017

8 Justin Bergman	\$1,100
11 Evan Lunda	\$850
11 Glen Rogers	\$850
11 Dennis Orcollo	\$850
11 Tim Heath	\$850
15 Shane Van Boening	\$600
15 Samuel Kirby	\$600
15 Justin Hall	\$600
15 Fedor Gorst	\$600
15 John Gabriel	\$600
15 Tim De Ruyter	\$600
15 John Brumback	\$600
15 Jason Brown	\$600
23 Caleb McIntire	\$400
23 Jason Miller	\$400
23 Jonathan Pinegar	\$400
23 Richie Richeson	\$400
23 Danny Smith	\$400
23 Mike Leek	\$400
23 Scott Frost	\$400
23 Jonathon Demet	\$400
23 Jerry Calderon	\$400
23 Bobby Alli	\$400
23 Mark Coats	\$400
23 Shannon Daulton	\$400
23 Louis D'Marco	\$400
36 Jerry Matchin	\$300
36 Alex Olinger	\$300
36 Darren Appleton	\$300
36 Jayson Shaw	\$300
36 Troy Jones	\$300
36 Neil Jacobs	\$300
36 Mike Hughes	\$300
36 Dan Louie	\$300
36 Mike Eck	\$300
36 Ruslan Chinahov	\$300
36 Charlie Bryant	\$300
47 Marc Vidal Claramunt	\$200
47 Josh Roberts	\$200
47 Drake Niepoetter	\$200
47 Dustin Morris	\$200
47 Jan Wolf	\$200
47 Gary Bradshaw	\$200
47 Michael Delawder	\$200
47 Bernard Walker	\$200
47 Jason Klatt	\$200
47 Scott Evans	\$200
47 Gerald Reichle	\$200
47 Anthony Meglino	\$200
47 Jason Kirkwood	\$200
47 Tres Kane	\$200
47 Matt Clark	\$200
47 Kaelin Conkright	\$200
47 Jim Fulcher	\$200
47 Robb Saez	\$200
47 Ricky Baughman	\$200

47 Mike Williamson	\$200
47 Chip Compton	\$200
47 Chris Esker	\$200
47 Chris Gentile	\$200
47 Ryan Hollingsworth	\$200
47 Mark Horn Jr.	\$200
72 Kevin Ping	\$150
72 Richey Orem	\$150
72 Dale Niepoetter	\$150
72 Sean Mitchell	\$150
72 David Likens	\$150
72 Cody Kozarian	\$150
72 Shane Knight	\$150
72 Gordon Knauer	\$150
72 Alexandros Kazakis	\$150
72 Alvin Randall	\$150
72 Paul Rawski	\$150
72 Christian Young	\$150
72 Butch Wolfe	\$150
72 Shane Winters	\$150
72 Dennis Wilson Jr	\$150
72 Johnny Willis	\$150
72 Shaun Wilkie	\$150
72 Patrick Troutman	\$150
72 Christopher Span	\$150
72 Dave Siltz	\$150
72 Cliff Joyner	\$150
72 Jeremy Jones	\$150
72 Tim Diaz	\$150
72 Corey Deuel	\$150
72 Tony Coleman	\$150
72 Stephen Chaplin	\$150
72 Evgeny Buslaev	\$150
72 Kenneth Brisbon	\$150
72 Mike Bratcher	\$150
72 James Adams	\$150
72 Wayne Elliott	\$150
72 Paul Fenwick	\$150
72 Charlie Guilfoyle	\$150
72 Truman Hogue	\$150
72 Danny Hiner	\$150
72 Mark Hatch	\$150
72 Rob Hart	\$150
72 Tom Harris	\$150
72 Randy Hanson	\$150
72 Shosuke Hamada	\$150
72 Brandon Hallett	\$150
72 Angel Acevedo	\$150

**01/20 - 01/28**

**Derby City Classic 2017**

**One Pocket Division**

**Horseshoe Southern Indiana**

**Elizabeth, IN**

1 Billy Thorpe \$12,000

2 Alex Pagulayan	\$6,000
3 Dennis Orcollo	\$4,150
4 Skyler Woodward	\$3,000
5 Jeremy Jones	\$2,000
5 Shane McMinn	\$2,000
5 Josh Roberts	\$2,000
8 Efren Reyes	\$1,375
8 Shannon Daulton	\$1,375
8 Lee Vann Corteza	\$1,375
11 John Schmidt	\$850
11 Dennis Hatch	\$850
11 Justin Hall	\$850
11 John Gabriel	\$850
11 Corey Deuel	\$850
11 Carlo Biado	\$850
17 Chip Compton	\$500
17 Alex Olinger	\$500
17 Anthony Meglino	\$500
17 Jeff Jordan	\$500
17 Jason Brown	\$500
17 Justin Bergman	\$500
17 Dee Adkins	\$500
24 Brandon Shuff	\$350
24 Rod Rentz	\$350
24 Rob Melrose	\$350
24 Warren Kiamco	\$350
24 Cliff Joyner	\$350
24 Roberto Gomez	\$350
24 Scott Frost	\$350
24 Louis Demarco	\$350
24 Tony Chohan	\$350
24 Francisco Bustamante	\$350
24 Darren Appleton	\$350
24 Fedor Gorst	\$350
36 Chris Melling	\$250
36 Jason Miller	\$250
36 Bernie Pettipiece	\$250
36 Charlie Philippou	\$250
36 Jonathan Pinegar	\$250
36 Clay Rhinehart	\$250
36 Marc Vidal Claramunt	\$250
36 Jason Klatt	\$250
36 Alexandros Kazakis	\$250
36 Mark Jarvis	\$250
36 Eddie Abraham	\$250
36 Dexter Audain	\$250
36 Charlie Bryant	\$250
36 Matt Bulfin	\$250
36 Michael Delawder	\$250
36 Joey Gray	\$250
36 Neil Jacobs	\$250
54 Randy Jordan	\$200
54 Sean King	\$200
54 Steve Lillis	\$200
54 Mike Medley	\$200
54 Jeremy Melber	\$200

# Monthly Results

Tournament results from January 2017

54 Dustin Morris	\$200
54 Shannon Murphy	\$200
54 Larry Nevel	\$200
54 Drake Niepoetter	\$200
54 Richie Richeson	\$200
54 Ike Runnels	\$200
54 Mike Sardelli	\$200
54 Kevin West	\$200
54 Ken Jordan	\$200
54 Ryan Hollingsworth	\$200
54 James Adams	\$200
54 Paul Age	\$200
54 Jerry Berry	\$200
54 Mitch Brown	\$200
54 Benji Buckley	\$200
54 Evgeny Buslaev	\$200
54 Jason Chance	\$200
54 Justin Cone	\$200
54 Chris Esker	\$200
54 Shannon Fitch	\$200
54 James Flood	\$200
54 Robert Frost	\$200
54 Chris Gentile	\$200
54 Dennis Wilson Jr	\$200

## 01/20 - 01/28

### Derby City Classic 2017 9-Ball Division

#### Horseshoe Southern Indiana Elizabeth, IN

1 Dennis Orcollo	\$16,000
2 Shane Van Boening	\$8,000
3 Ramon Mistica	\$5,650
4 Donny Mills	\$3,500
4 Fedor Gorst	\$3,500
6 Enrique Rojas	\$1,500
6 Justin Hall	\$1,500
6 Damianos Giallourakis	\$1,500
6 Ruslan Chinahov	\$1,500
6 Efren Reyes	\$1,500
11 Shaun Wilkie	\$900
11 Billy Thorpe	\$900
11 Tomoo Takano	\$900
11 Dennis Hatch	\$900
11 Carlo Biado	\$900
11 Darren Appleton	\$900
17 Chris Melling	\$600
17 Eklent Kaci	\$600
17 Martin Daigle	\$600
17 Jayson Shaw	\$600
17 Li Wen Lo	\$600
17 Alexandros Kazakis	\$600
23 Jason Klatt	\$400
23 Jason Miller	\$400
23 Shannon Murphy	\$400

23 Jeremy Seaman	\$400
23 Josh Lewis	\$400
23 Shosuke Hamada	\$400
23 Josh Roberts	\$400
23 Chris Szuter	\$400
23 Josh O'Neal	\$400
23 Johnny Archer	\$400
23 Karl Boyes	\$400
23 Johann Chua	\$400
23 Corey Deuel	\$400
23 Thorsten Hohmann	\$400
23 Mika Immonen	\$400
23 Neil Jacobs	\$400
39 Evan Lunda	\$300
39 Dustin Morris	\$300
39 Rod Rentz	\$300
39 Brandon Shuff	\$300
39 Tyler Styer	\$300
39 Skyler Woodward	\$300
39 Ed Hancock	\$300
39 Ramil Gallego	\$300
39 Eddie Abraham	\$300
39 James Adams	\$300
39 Bobby Alli	\$300
39 John Brumback	\$300
39 Evgeny Buslaev	\$300
39 Lee Vann Corteza	\$300
53 Randy Jordan	\$250
53 Thomas Lindloff	\$250
53 Zak McKee	\$250
53 Rodney Morris	\$250
53 Drake Niepoetter	\$250
53 Alex Pagulayan	\$250
53 Sergio Rivas	\$250
53 Ike Runnels	\$250
53 Brad Shearer	\$250
53 Jeremy Sossei	\$250
53 Corey Sykes	\$250
53 Phillip Tieu	\$250
53 Jan Wolf	\$250
53 Chris Gentile	\$250
53 John Gabriel	\$250
53 Justin Bergman	\$250
53 James Blackburn	\$250
53 Chris Brown	\$250
53 Charlie Bryant	\$250
53 Benji Buckley	\$250
53 River Burke	\$250
53 Francisco Bustamante	\$250
53 Stephen Chaplin	\$250
53 Tony Chohan	\$250
53 Louis Demarco	\$250
53 Jonathon Demet	\$250
53 Nick Ekonomopoulos	\$250
53 Shannon Fitch	\$250
53 Christian Young	\$250

## 01/20 - 01/28

### Derby City Classic 2017 Master of the Table

#### Horseshoe Southern Indiana Elizabeth, IN

1 Dennis Orcollo	\$20,000
2 Billy Thorpe	\$3,000
3 Francisco Bustamante	\$2,000

## 01/20 - 01/28

### Derby City Classic 2017 Bank Pool Ring Game

#### Horseshoe Southern Indiana Elizabeth, IN

1 Shannon Daulton	\$8,000
2 Skyler Woodward	\$4,000

## 01/20 - 01/28

### Derby City Classic 2017 Straight Pool Challenge

#### Horseshoe Southern Indiana Elizabeth, IN

1 Chris Melling	\$8,000
2 Mika Immonen	\$4,650
3 Jayson Shaw	\$2,400
3 Darren Appleton	\$2,000
5 Dennis Orcollo	\$1,700
5 Alex Pagulayan	\$1,300
5 Johnny Archer	\$1,300
5 Li Wen Lo	\$1,200
9 John Schmidt	\$100

## 01/21 - 01/22

### Joss Tour 2016 - 2017 Stop 9 Salt City Billiards

#### North Syracuse, NY

1 Jorge Teixeira	\$1,000
2 Jeremy Sossei	\$700
3 Spencer Auigbelle	\$550
4 Bucky Souvanthong	\$400
5 Jose Mendez	\$300
5 Dave Grau	\$300
7 Jerry Crowe	\$200
7 Geoff Montgomery	\$200
9 Ed Saur	\$100
9 Bruce Nagle	\$100
9 Jon McConnell	\$100
9 Aaron Greenwood	\$100

# Monthly Results

Tournament results from January 2017

## 01/21 - 01/22

### Joss Tour 2016 - 2017 Stop 9

#### Second Chance

##### Salt City Billiards

###### North Syracuse, NY

1 Hendrik Drost	\$300
2 Jamie Garrett	\$200
3 Brian Lipes	\$140
4 Jason Oot	\$80
5 Lance Kellogg	\$40
5 Nate Marshall	\$40

## 01/21 - 01/22

### Q City 9-Ball Tour Championship

#### Brass Tap Billiards

##### Raleigh, NC

1 Joshua Padron	\$1,200
2 Hunter White	\$800
3 Greg Burke	\$500
4 Peter Abantangelo	\$300
5 Barry Mashburn	\$200
5 Travis Guerra	\$200
7 George Crawford	\$150
7 Blade Best	\$150
9 Danny Farren	\$100
9 Dave Brown	\$100
9 Daniel Adams	\$100
9 Earl Davis	\$100
13 Andy Bowden	\$50
13 Johnny Walker	\$50
13 Cory Morpew	\$50
13 Mike Rowe	\$50

## 01/28 - 01/28

### Tiger Florida Tour 2017 Stop 1

#### Brewlands Bar & Billiards

##### Lakeland, FL

1 Asia Cycak	\$425
2 Donna Favors	\$300
3 Nicolle Cuellar	\$185
3 Michell Monk	\$185
5 Kaylee McIntosh	\$100
5 Jessica Karacia-Human	\$100

## 01/28 - 01/28

### Q City 9-Ball Tour Stop

#### Gate City Billiards Club

##### Greensboro, NC

1 Josh Williams	\$550
2 Rocky Hawk	\$350
3 Travis Duncan	\$200
4 Morgan Sutherland	\$100
5 Bo Blakely	\$50
5 Tim Nelson	\$50

## 01/28 - 01/29

### Predator Pro-Am Tour 2017

#### Stop 2

##### Steinway Billiards

##### Astoria, NY

1 Lukas Fracasso-Verner	\$1,750
2 Atif Khan	\$1,000
3 John Cullen	\$700
4 Duc Lam	\$500
5 Kanami Chau	\$300
5 Nick Liberatos	\$300
7 Tommy Hagan	\$200
7 Junior Singh	\$200
9 Matthias Gutzmann	\$140
9 Kevin Shin	\$140
9 Matthew Harricharan	\$140
9 Tim Fitzsimmon	\$140
13 Shawn Sookhai	\$80
13 Max Watanabe	\$80
13 Abel Rosario	\$80
13 Troy Deocharran	\$80

## 01/29 - 01/29

### Tri State Tour 2016-2017 Stop

#### Clifton Billiards

##### Clifton, New Jersey

1 Dan Praport	\$500
2 Plummer Walker	\$280
3 Rich Boschulte	\$180
4 Adrian Daniel	\$110
5 Dennis Quinn	\$65



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