

# Billiards Buzz

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**THE  
BEST  
PLAYER  
ON THE PLANET**

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FROM THE  
Head  
Rail

MIKE HOWERTON

**W**hew, another Derby City Classic is complete and I am beat. Working for nine days up in the Accu-Stats Production room is exhausting, and somehow Pat Fleming just keeps on going. I do not understand how he does it.




We had a lot less technical problems this year, thankfully. There were still a handful of glitches, but they were very small. That is mostly thanks to the great people behind the scenes every year. Without the tireless work of Julian Robertson, Merlyn Glodek, Chris Renfro, Zach Goldsmith, "Upstate" Al Leon, Michael Smith, Joel Peck, Dorothy Potkay, John Baker and Carol Whiteside, our coverage at Accu-Stats would be a disaster.

Without the voices of Jeremy Jones, Mark Wilson, Scott Frost, Bill Incardona, Nick Varner, Corey Deuel and Bobby Chamberlain, those videos wouldn't be nearly as enjoyable as they are.

It was so much fun this year, I can hardly wait until next year. With the idea being floated of an extra day of action next year, I will gladly wait though.

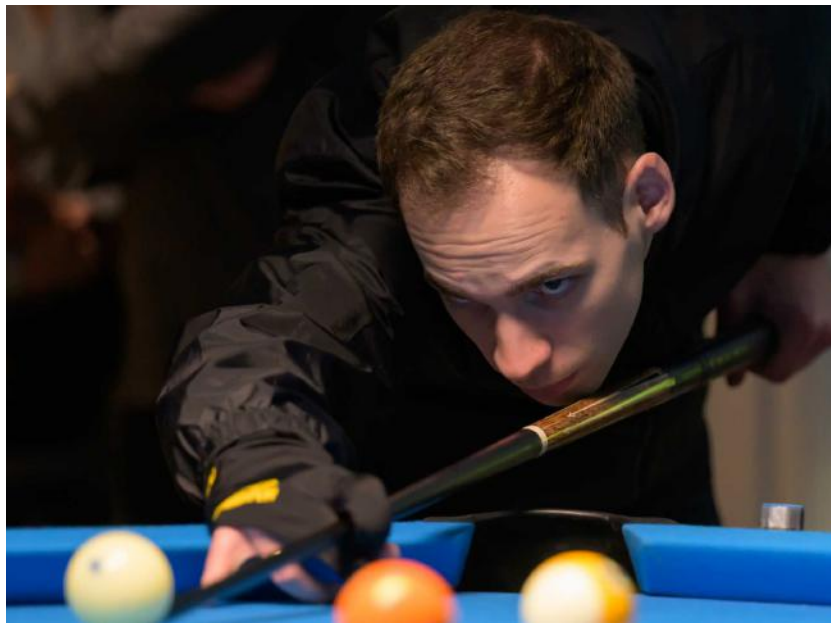
Until next time,  
Mike



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Photos courtesy Erwin Dionisio



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# STRAIGHT SHOTS BONANZA

## INTRODUCTION

Four pages devoted to practicing mostly straight-in shots, and a few nearly straight in shots provide an encore. Now I ask you, what could be a better way to sharpen your game?

When facing a dead straight in shot, let's assume that you make it and stop the cue ball dead in its tracks. With an outcome like this, there is a temptation to believe that you made a perfect stroke. But, in truth, your "perfect stroke" was composed of a series of self-cancelling errors, and that your eye/brain/hand coordination (EBHC) played a big (and largely ignored) role in making your well-played shot possible.

Indeed, when you play straight in shots of varying distances – OB to the pocket and OB to the cue ball – that these self-cancelling movements may not produce the same desired result. And that is one reason why it's a good idea to practice a wide variety of straight in shots, such as the ones in this feature.

## GIVE EVERY SHOT YOUR BEST

When you set up and play the shots below and throughout this feature, approach every one as if you are playing it in a game. Go through your entire routine. Start with making a plan. For these shots that will include 1) choosing your speed, 2) considering your acceleration pattern, 3) choosing your tip position, and 4) setting an ending target for the cue ball (these shots are not all stop shots).

Once you are committed to the shot, stand facing the cue ball's path and then land as precisely as possible on the Line Of Aim. Make small adjustments as needed until you feel just right. Next, take as many Warm-up Strokes as needed to develop the feeling that you are in a state of Maximum Readiness. Once you feel like it's all systems go, make your final stroke.

## SETTING UP FOR STRAIGHT IN SHOTS

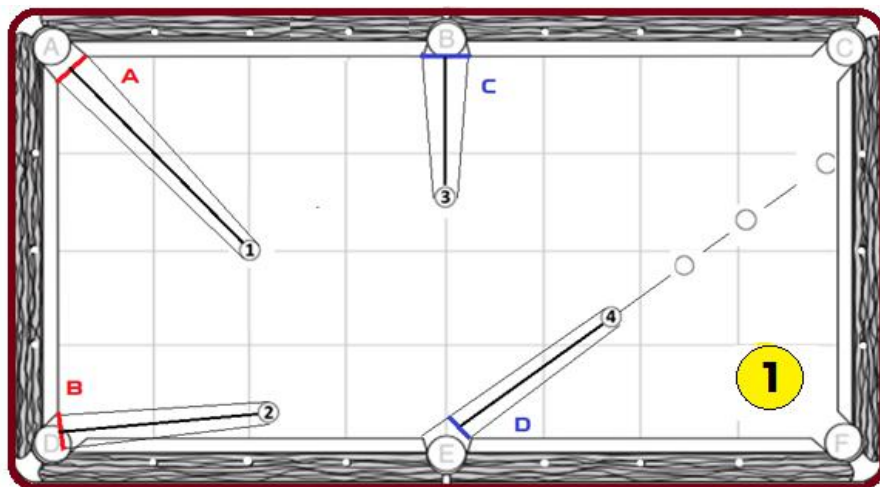
The shots in the exercises illustrated in Diagram 1 are dead straight in. Use string (dental floss) or a laser to set up the donuts in a perfectly straight line. Keep in mind that the effective center of the pocket varies depending on the shot.

Let's now take a look at some extremes on the Pocket Target Spectrum. When shooting balls into the corner, the center is equidistant from either point only when the ball is on

a diagonal line that runs to the opposite side pocket, as shown by the object ball in Position A. As the object ball rests closer and closer to a rail, the effective pocket center moves towards the rail as shown in Position B. So, when shooting balls down the rail, when the ball is close enough to the cushion, then it will, most of the time, actually brush it on its way to the pocket!

The side pockets are a completely different animal. When the object ball is directly in front of the side, as shown in Position C, then the pocket opening is at its maximum. As the angle to the pocket increases, as shown in Position D, then the pocket opening effectively shrinks in size. At some point the opening shrinks to a ball width before it becomes so small that you can't make the shot in that pocket.

As many readers know, my aiming method, which I call Natural Aiming, is based on recognizing the huge variety of Shot Pictures that you will regular-



ly encounter. These Shot Pictures are always made up of the pocket, object ball, and cue ball, and they may also include your cue and a nearby cushion. This is especially true for the 2-ball in Position B where the ball is close to the rail.

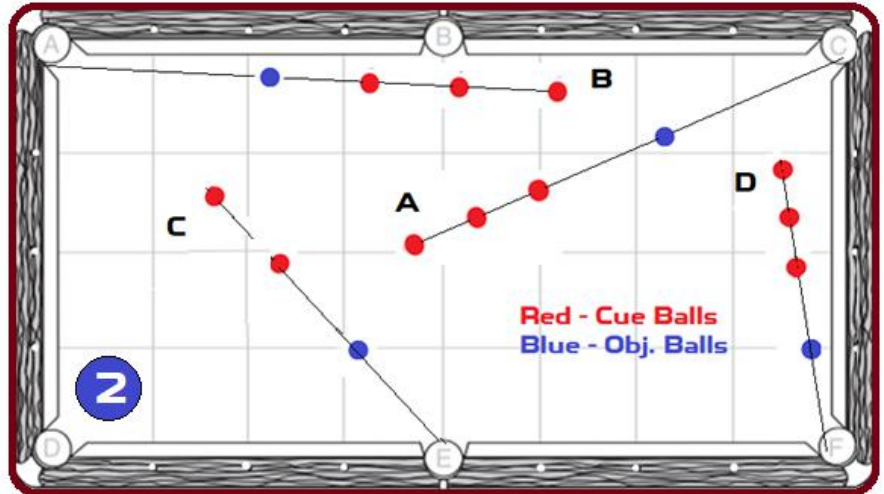
I suggest that you place the object balls in the four positions as shown. Then set up the cue ball in a straight line to each ball at various distances, such as is done in Position D. I think you will discover that the Shot Pictures for this straight in shot looks quite different in the three cue ball positions shown, especially when the cue ball's frozen to the rail.

The lesson here is that even though a shot may be straight, their Shot Pictures may look quite different. In addition, these shots have a degree of difficulty that varies from super simple to extremely challenging. (Note: for more on Shot Pictures, see my 2006 book, *Capelle's Practicing Pool*. On pages 80-86 you will find a detailed explanation of how Shot Pictures work, and on pages 87-108 there are plenty of examples of the most commonly played shots and their Shot Pictures that you will encounter in game conditions.)

## VARIETY IS THE SPICE OF POOL!

In these and other shots below, set up all of the donuts before begin your practice. Doing this will enable you to jump from one shot to another straight in with a different Shot Picture. Skipping here and there will enable you to more closely mimic game conditions. And this will avoid the boredom of drills that would have you play the same shot, over and over again.

The shots shown in Diagram 2 are but a mere sampling of the many possibilities. Position A shows three cue ball positions for a ball that's away from the rail. You can play these as shown,



and you can also move the object ball closer or further from the pocket – and the same goes for the cue ball.

Position B shows three possible distance for a shot down the rail. On this one, the rail is now part of the Shot Picture, and there is a good chance that the object ball will brush it on its way to the pocket. Position C shows a couple of shots into the side. When viewing these shots while in your stance, it is clear that their Shot Pictures look totally different from the shots into the corner pockets. In a moment, I will present you with a bevy of possible shots into the side pockets.

Our last shot is a straight in near the end rail. You may be surprised at how often top players inadvertently leave themselves with shots like these when they wanted to end up with an angle to exit this part of the table.

Again, these are but a few of the countless possibilities. So, as you go through a straight in workout, get creative and place the balls all over the table!

## SIDE POCKET SPECTACULAR

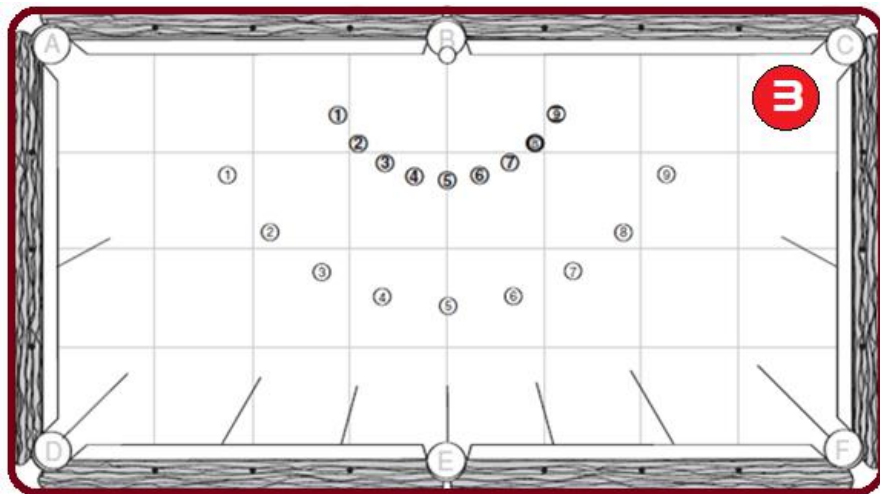
Some commentators give viewers the impression that side pockets are to be avoided at all costs. This is complete nonsense. You must get used

to, and even look forward to, playing shots into the side when it is the best pocket. And you need to play shots, whether into the side or corner that enable you to make the ball and preserve your chosen pattern. So, if this dictates that you play certain shots in the side, so be it.

My Side Pocket Bonanza shown in Diagram 3 was lifted from page 105 of *Capelle's Practicing Pool*. In this column I am going to add a few wrinkles to this super critical exercise. You can shoot the shots in Diagram 3 in the order shown, which is 1 through 9. Shoot stop shots, and watch the object ball like a hawk so you can see where it enters the pocket. Then take a look at the cue ball. Did it stop dead in its tracks, as desired?

You can add a bit of realism to these shots by shooting them in random order. Also, use follow and try to make the cue ball barely topple into the pocket. This will improve your stroke and speed of stroke on shots in the 2-3 range of my Spectrum of Speeds, which is featured on many of my books.

Next, try to draw straight back to the point where the lines the come out from the rail on the diagram for balls 2 through 8. Your goal is to make the cue ball barely reach the rail on each shot for balls 3, 4, 6, and 7. On balls 2,



5, and 8 the goal is to draw back into the pocket! If you can do this, your speed control and accuracy on short range draw shots should improve dramatically.

Balls 1 and 9 are at an extreme angle to the pocket. As a result, due to the speed needed, it could be difficult if not impossible to make these and draw back to the rail. Your ability to execute these two shots with draw depends on the size of your side pockets and your level of skill.

### THE 88 EXERCISE

In his book, *The Science of Pocket Billiards*, Jack Kohler revealed his discovery that, on straight in shots, when the object ball is midway between the pocket and the cue ball, that the shot is at its maximum degree of difficulty. You can prove Kohler's findings to yourself by shooting my 88 Shot.

Stretch a string from the center of one corner pocket diagonally across the table through the middle of the opposite corner pocket as illustrated in Diagram 4. Then measure 44" out from the center of Pocket C and place a donut for the object ball. Measure another 44" and place a second donut for the cue ball. You now have the toughest version of the 88 Shot. After shooting it a few times with the object ball in Position A, try it with the

object ball in Positions B and C. I think you will quickly discover that these two versions are much simpler.

There are several ways to practice this shot, so mix them up as you go as this adds a dose of realism to the shot.

**Shot 1** – Shoot a stop shot. This will test the accuracy of your stroke. Your goals are to make the ball, preferably in the center of the pocket, and to stop the cue ball on a dime.

**Shot 2** – Play the 88 Shot as a follow shot. Use a speed that enables the cue ball to topple into Pocket C on top of the object ball. This will fine tune your long range medium soft (4) follow stroke. Master this and you will have a weapon that few of your competitors will possess. If you can follow the cue

ball in on top of the object ball, you have played one fine shot. And if you can send the cue ball into the center of the pocket, a round of applause is in order!

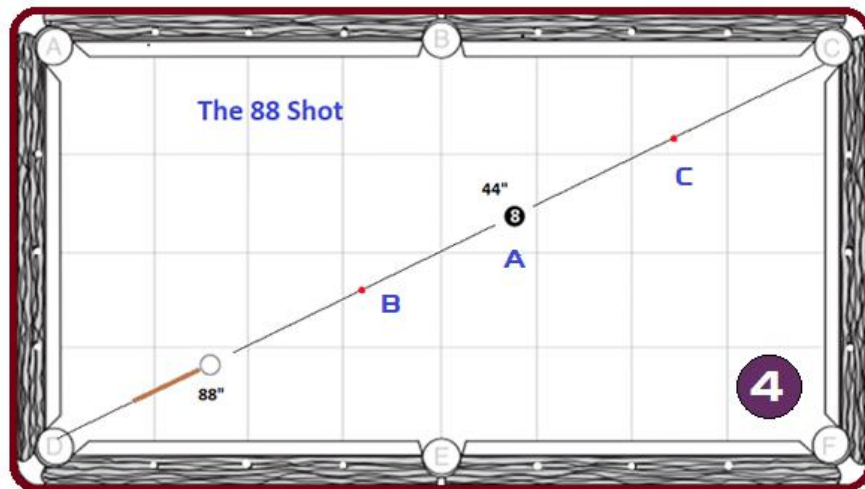
**Shot 3** – Try to draw the cue ball straight back in increasing increments of about a diamond each. If you can draw back into the Pocket D, a standing ovation is warranted.

**Shot 4** – Try these shots with the object ball in Positions B and C. It should be easier to draw back into the pocket with the object ball in Position B, and to follow it in when it's located in Position C.

### NEARLY STRAIGHT SHOTS

By now you have worked on a wide variety of straight in shots, each with its unique Shot Picture. These Shot Pictures have an impact on your approach to each shot – how you stand and land, and your WUS routine. Each one will also create your perception of each shot's relative difficulty. Go through your complete routine with total confidence in what you are doing, and in your ability to make the ball AND control the cue ball.

Most shots have a cut angle. These include shots where you may have been trying for a straight in shape, but have left yourself with a small cut angle. In this example, use the straight

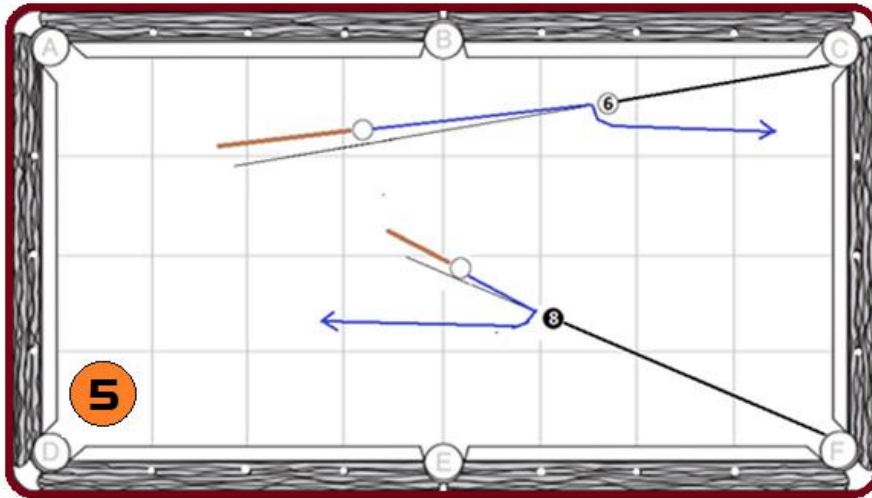


just how much the cue ball veers off of the straight in path after contact!

I think that a few hours doing these exercises will work wonders for your straight in shots from ball positions all over the table. Good luck!

**ABOUT PHIL CAPELLE**

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



in positions you have created with the donuts, and/or set up some new ones.

be difficult for some to see their Shot Pictures.

Place the object ball or cue ball on the table, move it a half ball width to a full ball width from the straight in position as shown in Diagram 5. When you play these nearly straight in shots, you will need to aim with care as you allow for the very small cut angles, which can

When executing these shots, play them like a stop shot, and then play them with a variety of follow and draw speeds. This exercise will serve as a baby step away from aiming for straight in shots. As you practice them, you will gain valuable intel on

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ANTHONY **BEELER**

**This month, I'm going to show you how to use a theory called "labeling" to create a positive pool identity and raise your overall performance. Labeling theory suggests people tend to conform to labels (roles) assigned to them by other people or themselves.**

**T**his was all based on deviant behaviors, suggesting that people labeled as "criminals" by society are increasingly likely to partake in delinquent behaviors compared to those who don't have the label.

In fact, labels can create a self-identity that shapes our behaviors. It doesn't always have to be negative. In fact, we can apply the theory of labels to help us with our pool game!

### **Negative Labels:**

Pool players may unintentionally create negative labels about their game such as:

- "I can't make a straight in shot."
- "I miss this shot every time."
- "I always over draw this shot."
- "My break is horrible."
- "I can't close out a match."

Negativity is quite common, especially when we are not playing at our peak performance. However, this type

of self-talk establishes an undesirable identity for our subconscious to fulfill. Whether it is intentional or unintentional, these labels can create a self-fulfilling prophecy.

For instance, if you've developed the belief that you "miss this shot every time"... And this is the only thing you think about ... You may start to tense up or become increasingly worried about the outcome of the shot, leading to another miss. The more we repeat these labels, the more likely it

will affect our self-belief, our behaviors, and outcome on the pool table.

### **Breaking Negative Labels:**

So, how do we break free of negative labels?

1. Exercise Mindfulness in Our Words:

- Increased awareness can help players control negative self-talk.
- Being more mindful can help put a stop to those negative things we sometimes say about ourselves.

2. Acknowledge your Mistakes and Weaknesses, but Be Objective:

- Instead of saying things such as "I can't make a straight in shot", be objective by saying... "I can make straight in shots but, I just missed the last one. "



3. Reframe Negative Self-Belief:

- To counteract negative self-beliefs, we have to form positive ones about ourselves.
- In fact, it's quite alright to give yourself a compliment when you do well!

**Positive Labels:**

If negative labels can create negative outcomes, then the same applies to positive labels. Self-fulfilling prophecy can work both ways. Developing positive self-identities can provide a positive frame for your subconscious to fulfill.

Examples of positive labels you can develop:

1. "I am a winner."
2. "I am the best shot-maker in the league."
3. "I shoot straight."
4. "I have pin-point cue ball control."

Create positive affirmations about yourself. Find traits, skills, and qual-

ities that you possess that are positive, label yourself as such, and let the good times roll!

**Developing a Positive Pool Identity:**

I challenge you to develop a statement about yourself as the player you want to become. Take a moment and think about all the qualities you believe the best pool players have. List these qualities and develop an identity statement about yourself incorporating the traits of your IDEAL player.

- My ideal player is confident → I am a confident player.

- My ideal player shoots straight → I am a straight shooter.
- My ideal player is calm under pressure → I am calm under pressure.

Developing a positive identity statement with all the traits you want to possess as a player, creates a framework for your subconscious, leading to better self-image and outcome on the pool table. Research has shown that positive affirmations really do make a difference. Everyone gets labeled. Other people are going to label you. It's how you overcome those labels, is what counts.

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

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# ***THE BEST PLAYER ON THE PLANET***

**It's a ballsy title for a pool player; "The Best Player On the Planet". If there is an event on the schedule that can be used to determine that title though, it is definitely the Derby City Classic.**

**T**his annual event, held at the Horseshoe Casino in Elizabeth, Indiana, is a nine day pool extravaganza with hundreds of players of all skill levels, competing in Banks, One Pocket and 9-Ball. Throw in a 10-ball event on the Diamond 10 Foot table, a banks ring game and more action on side tables than can be found

almost anywhere in the country and that is the Derby City Classic.

The 2024 Derby City Classic was the 25th running of this event and it took twenty five years for a single player to win four of the five major titles on offer. Twenty five year old Joshua "The Killer" Filler, the pride of Germany did what had never been done before,

winning the 10-ball, Banks, 9-Ball and All Around Master of the Table titles, in one week.

Back to that "Best Player On the Planet" moniker for a second. Most fans will not be surprised that the idea of this title came from the mind of Joshua Filler. Filler has displayed a level of confidence over the last couple of



Joshua Filler

years that is really only matched by the level of play he has shown the fans. He was the 2023 AzBilliards Player of the Year, winning over \$325,000 in prize money for the year. The interesting thing though, is that when Filler first coined the title, he wasn't even referring to any particular player.

### **Bigfoot 10-Ball Challenge**

The idea for the title came up at the end of the four day Diamond Bigfoot Challenge, one of the only events of the year that sees the players competing on a Diamond 10-Foot table. With just under 25% more table size to deal with, the Bigfoot has humbled many players.

Filler eked out a 10-8 win over Poland's Mieszko Fortunski that could have honestly gone either way, in the first round, but found his form in the second round, running to a dominating 10-3 win over Canada's "Mr. Smooth" John Morra.

Filler's Semi-Final match against Fedor Gorst was a hill-hill masterpiece. Filler looked to have everything under control, leading at 8-4, but Gorst sandwiched two table runs on his own break around another table run on a dry Filler break, and the



**Pia and Joshua Filler**

match was 8-7 within a matter of minutes. Sometimes a player will mount a big comeback on the Bigfoot because their opponent tightens up near the end of the match, but that wasn't the case in this match. Gorst made his comeback by sheer force of will. With the match tied at 9-9, Gorst fouled on a 3-ball and that was all the opportunity that Filler needed to finish off the match. "I was 8-4 up and then I was trailing 9-8. The alternating break was hard for me. The only thing I could do was stay positive. Stay in the match,

and wait for an opportunity. I knew it was his break at 9-9. I broke and ran at 8-9, so that made it 9-9. I got my chance and I took it." recalled Filler.

Filler's opponent in the finals, Lee Vann Corteza had wins over Shane Van Boening, Roberto Gomez and last year's runner-up Konrad Juszczyszyn to make his way to the finals. Of note in the last two of those wins, Corteza was tied with both opponents at 5-5 before winning five in a row for 10-5 wins. He would find himself at 5-5 again in the finals, but this time it was Filler who won five straight racks to recapture the BigFoot 10-Ball Challenge title that he last won in 2022.

After the 10-ball match, Filler commented on the finals. "At 5-5, I sat there in the chair and was waiting for an opportunity. Same mindset as against Fedor or anybody. Because when you sit in the chair, you have no influence as to what your opponent is doing. You just wait for an opportunity and you want to take it. "

Although riding high after the 10-ball win, the 10-ball title isn't the biggest thing that these players are shooting for at Derby City. The banks, one pocket and 9-ball events all accumulate



**Lee Vann Corteza**

## Derby City Classic

points based on a player's finish, with the highest points winner earning an additional \$20,000 prize for Master of the Table. "It's totally different. This is the hardest event in the world. I mean you swap from discipline to discipline, from table to table, you don't really have time to relax. Of course, the mindset for each game is so hard but that's why this tournament is about winning the all around. Winning the all around means you are the best player in each discipline. Or the most consistent player. This shows actually who is the best player on the planet. I think. "

### Banks

Filler was right back in the Accu-Stats arena one night later as the 483 player banks event crowned its winner. With five players left, Filler made quick work of Can Salim 3-0 while American Justin Hall was eliminating Tony Chohan. (Shane Van Boening took advantage of a later round bye).

The next round saw Hall with the ever important Bye and Filler facing Van Boening to determine Hall's opponent in the finals. At this level of play,



Justin Hall

it is often said that one mistake can determine a match, and there was no better example of that adage than this match. With the match tied at 1-1, Van Boening made a bank to give himself a 3 to -1 lead in rack three, but he scratched as he made the ball. That would be his last shot in this match, as Filler ran six banks to win the third rack and then followed that up by breaking and running five more banks in the next rack for the 3-1 win.

If the packed house in attendance thought the finals between Hall and Filler couldn't live up to the excitement of the semis, they were way off base. Filler faced America's Justin Hall in a race to three to determine the event champion. The bad taste of multiple Mosconi Cup losses at the hands of Filler might have been involved for the American contingent of fans watching this one as an early controversy over a shot clock violation by Hall swung the very vocal fans behind him for the rest of the match. "You could see that we are playing with a shot clock. He played a cross side bank and he said "extension applied" so he took his extension first. He was thinking about his next bank, but didn't shoot. Time ran over and obviously, it's a foul. If it would have happened to me, I would have said 'ok, it's a foul' said Filler after the match.

Hall rode the momentum of that vocal crowd to 5-2 and 5-1 wins in racks one and two, for a quick 2-0 lead. Hall was one game away from hanging his first banner in the rafters at Derby City, a feat that only the elite of the game have accomplished. This was familiar territory for Filler though. "I was only thinking about the World Team Championships" said Filler, "because



Fedor Gorst and Kristina Tkach



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Shane Van Boening

we were 2-0 down and we turned it around against Chinese Taipei. The same funny things happened actually.”

Filler mounted his comeback, winning racks three and four by 5-4 scores and then taking control of the final rack for a 5-2 win and the Banks title.

Filler was questioned after the match as to whether he thought his “Best Player On the Planet” title belonged to him. “Well, if I say yes then everybody keeps saying I’m arrogant or something. If I say no, he’s humble. But I’m just honest. I say I am the best on the planet. “ Filler would get his opportunity to back that up.

### One Pocket

The 402 player One Pocket event finally crowned a winner on day eight of the event. The day started with three players remaining; Shane Van Boening, Fedor Gorst and Joshua Filler all had rebuys, which meant a long day of one pocket for these three players.

The option was given to the players to eliminate their buybacks and just play two matches to determine a winner,

but the players voted that idea down.

Gorst got the first bye of the day, with Van Boening beating Filler, Filler then got the bye, and Gorst defeated Van Boening. Van Boening then got the bye, and Gorst eliminated Filler, leaving just Van Boening and Gorst in the event, with Gorst owning the only buyback.

It was a more aggressive Van Boening that got the finals underway, as he knew he would have to beat Gorst twice. Van Boening raced out to a

2-0 lead and won the set 3-1, to send Gorst to the buyback desk.

“I had two bullets so the first set, he had to be extra aggressive.” said Gorst after the match. “I didn’t play the way I was supposed to. Sold out when I didn’t try to do anything aggressive. So I lose the first one, just like in the banks last year against Lunda. Somehow I managed to get my nerves back and played a little bit different in the second set.”

The short trip to the rebuy desk brought a refreshed Fedor Gorst back to the feature table. Van Boening shifted gears and tightened up his game but it was to no avail as Gorst won the final set 3-0 for the tournament win.

“Yeah, he (Van Boening) was trying to play the right game of one pocket. The way it’s supposed to be played. I’m just glad I won the first game because I feel like I could lost a couple of times.” said Gorst.

### Banks Ring Game

Even later on day eight, Michael Delawder broke through to earn his first Derby City Classic Banks Ring Game title. Delawder made his way through Skyler Woodward, Max Ad-



Billy Thorpe, Mike Delawder, Skyler Woodward and Max Adams

ams, Shane Wolford, Robert Frost and Billy Thorpe to earn the title and \$5000 in prize money.

## **Nine Ball**

One thing that Derby City is notorious for is long nights of pool. Last years event didn't end until nearly 9am on the morning of day ten (of the nine scheduled days of the event). Changes were made this year with, capped fields and looser pockets, to try to end things at a more reasonable time. Tournament staff will be back at their computers after this event though, as a final winner was not determined until nearly 11am on day ten.

The Master of the Table points list was basically a dead heat between Filler, Van Boening and Gorst, which left players concentrating on more than just the match in front of them in later rounds. The All Around Winner was finally determined after round twelve as Jayson Shaw unscrewed his cue at 5-0 down against Filler and Lithuania's Pijus Labutis eliminating Gorst in 6th place.

"So many things going on, because this morning, me, Shane and Fedor were still fighting for the All Around. That put more pressure on the 9-ball. I saw Fedor was deep. It was hard to focus on myself, because I was looking at what he was doing, which I shouldn't have done." recalled Filler. "After I had beat Jayson, I knew already that I am the Master of the Table, so that took that pressure off."

The final four players were Filler, Labutis (with a buyback), Ukraine's Vitaliy Patsura and John Morra. Having the All Around title locked up seemed to loosen up Filler's stroke, as he shot nearly perfect in his 9-5 win over Morra in round thirteen. Meanwhile, Labutis held on for a hill-hill win over Patsura and the final two players were finally known.



*Pijus Labutis*

With Patsura's buyback, Filler would have to beat him twice to earn another title for the week. Filler never trailed the first match, owning leads at 3-0, 6-3 and 7-5 before finishing off the match 9-5 to force yet another match between these two.

In the wee hours of the morning, the fans would be treated to one last dramatic match to determine the events final winner. Filler took complete control of the second match, leading 7-1 in the race to nine. Patsura wasn't done though, as he mounted a comeback to take his first lead of both sets at 8-7.

"I was playing really really well. I was playing so well, actually, and all of a sudden I made a foul and he got back. He played good safeties and I couldn't kick the balls well. He punished me for every mistake. He broke well then and it was 8-7." remembered Filler.

Labutis would be unable to get out in rack sixteen, leading to a tie at 8-8, but Filler broke dry to give Labutis control of the table. "I had to break again and couldn't make a ball again as well. The one ball hit both points and was

wide open. I thought he was going to run out for sure, the way he played." said Filler.

Labutis ran down to a thin cut on the 5-ball and would be unable to pocket the ball. The miss left a couple tough shots, but they weren't nearly tough enough to keep Filler from the finish line, running out the final five balls for his third title of the week.

"He played a bad shot on the 5-ball. He missed and then from there, I just ran out. I had a tough six ball still, but I was like 'don't think about it. Just shoot it in' and I did. It was a hell of a ride." said Filler after the match.

The most important question of the week came in the post match interview with a visibly exhausted Filler as his wife Pia was hurriedly packing up his cues with the hopes they could still make their flight back home. "You know what's coming. Are you the Best Player on the Planet?" Filler was asked. He didn't have to think about it for long. "I think so, yeah" he humbly said. And for a week in January, he was.

# THE DUCHESS OF (AMERICAN) DOOM GOES UNDEFEATED TO WIN IRON CITY BILLIARDS INVITATIONAL III

**It was Allison Fisher's first tournament in which she represented the United States of America. Having requested from the WPA and the BCA a change in her "UK" representation status, she was informed just prior to her arrival in Birmingham, AL for the WPBA's Iron City Billiards Invitational III (Jan. 11-14) that the change from "UK" to "US" had been approved.**

In the presence of her mother and many of her close friends in the pool community, Fisher went on to go undefeated and claim the event title. As coincidental as the two events were, their proximity was hard to ignore.

"I think it's quite relevant really, isn't it?" Fisher asked, rhetorically. "I made a big change and won my first tournament since 2021. It's quite a big deal, actually. I'm quite proud of (the new US designation) and I'm proud to be back in the winners' circle, as well."

"Got a bit of a monkey off my back there," she added. "There were a lot of (recent) tournaments where I didn't quite finish the job. A lot of results that could have gone other ways and it was beginning to be a bit of a grind."

"This," she said, "was a fantastic way for me to begin this year."

Shane Tyree, CEO of the BCA, agreed.

"The Billiard Congress of America is thrilled that Allison has chosen to represent the United States," he said. "Allison is a Hall of Fame player and is also a great woman who is going to add value to what it means to represent America as a pool player, both on and off the table."

"It's clear that she values her life here in the States," he added, "and we can't wait to see her stand on the podium with the stars and stripes waving in the background."



It didn't take long. A matter of days, as it turned out. And although there wasn't a podium, she did take a post-event opportunity to express her appreciation for the community that had helped make her ability to represent the US a reality.

"I think the thing for me is that ever since I set foot in America, I've been very well-supported by fans and my sponsors," she said. "I felt at home here immediately and the support over many, many years has really been something else, really, really good."

"My children are American and my mother just moved over here, so it's a family affair, really," she added. "It all makes sense."

And in a strange sort of a symbiotic way, so did her undefeated run through a field of 48 entrants, many of whom were an integral component of the support network that led her to make the representation request.

"I'm very happy," she said. "It's still sinking in for me. I'm going to think about it and post something (soon) on social media."

The WPBA's \$15,000-added, Iron City Billiards Invitational III drew a total of 80 entrants to, as you might imagine, Iron City Billiards in Birmingham, AL. In Stage 1 of the event, 48 entrants competed for 16 slots (eight from each side of a double-elimination bracket). Those 16 advanced to join 32 seeded WPBA competitors in a final, double-elimination bracket.



Tzu-Chien Wei and Allison Fisher

Allison Fisher's six-match trip to the winners' circle opened up against one of the unseeded players, Nina Torvund, who'd advanced from the winners' side of the qualifying, preliminary bracket. An 8-2 win for Fisher led to a win over Susan Williams (4) and in a winners' side quarterfinal, Briana Miller, who came into this event as Tour Director of the J. Pechauer Northeast Women's Tour (JPNEWT) and winner of 15 of its last 19 events over the past two years. Fisher downed Miller 8-4 and drew Kristina Tkach in one of the winners' side semifinals.

While Fisher earned the event headline, it should be noted here that

eventual runner-up, Tzu-Chien Wei (known affectionately as 'Wei-Wei' to her friends), lost her opening match to Turkey's Eylul Kibaroglu 8-4 and set out on a nine-match, loss-side winning streak. That series of wins fueled a momentum boost that gave Tzu-Chien an early, formidable lead in the finals. Kibaroglu followed Tzu-Chien over when Kristina Tkach defeated her in a winners' side quarterfinal.

From the opposite end of the final 48 bracket, Canada's Brittany Bryant set out on her trip to the hot seat match. She opened with an 8-3 victory over Jeannie Seaver, an 8-2 win over Emily Duddy and an 8-3 win over Bulgaria's Kristina Zlateva. In the other winners' side semifinal, Bryant drew Kelly Fisher, who entered the tournament as its #1 seed.

At this point in the proceedings, there was a familiar buzz in the air about a possible hot seat match featuring the two Fishers. Allison, though not inclined to think too far ahead in a tournament ("No point to it," she would

**“ I MADE A BIG CHANGE AND WON MY FIRST TOURNAMENT SINCE 2021. IT'S QUITE A BIG DEAL, ACTUALLY. I'M QUITE PROUD OF (THE NEW US DESIGNATION) AND I'M PROUD TO BE BACK IN THE WINNERS' CIRCLE, AS WELL.**

**Allison Fisher**



say later), she did think about it. She downed Tkach 8-6, leaving the facility before the Kelly/Bryant match was over, with a 'soft' assumption that Kelly would go on to defeat Bryant.

"I did get my head around the idea that I was going to be playing Kelly in the morning," Allison said. "It was in my mind on Sunday morning."

Kelly and Bryant had gone on to double hill in their match and was Bryant who advanced to the hot seat match on Sunday afternoon. In the meantime, the loss-side combatants were at it, ahead of the hot seat match.

Tzu-Chien Wei opened her loss-side campaign on Friday night with an 8-2 win over Nicole Keeney. On Saturday, commencing at around 1 p.m., she continued to win by that score through the next three matches, against Stephanie Mitchell, JoAnn Mason Parker (in the first 'money' round) and Ashley Benoit. Then, she drew Briana Miller, who delivered something of a surprise to all but those aware of her ascension to the tour directorship of the JPNEWT and her string of victories since that happened. Tzu-Chien and Miller battled to double hill before Tzu-Chien closed it out. Tzu-Chien finished her Saturday with a rematch, 8-5 win over Eylul Kibaroglu.

On Sunday morning (11 a.m.), Tzu-Chien faced her seventh loss-side opponent, a good friend, against whom she had competed (among many other times and places) in what became known as 'ghost' matches during COVID, Kelly Fisher. Tzu-Chien ended any further speculation about a 'two Fisher final' by defeating her 8-4 and as a result, moving ahead of Fisher into the #1 slot in the WPBA rankings. Meanwhile, Kristina Tkach downed Pia Filler 8-4, advancing to the quarterfinals against Tzu-Chien.

The quarterfinals and hot seat match began at about the same time on Sun-



**SOMETIMES IT JUST COMES TOGETHER. IT'S ALL ABOUT THE BREAK AND GETTING SHOTS AND THE 'FLOW,' BUT THAT WASN'T HAPPENING UNTIL THE LATTER PART OF THE MATCH.**

**Allison Fisher**



day; 1 p.m. Tzu-Chien got by Kristina Tkach 8-4 in the quarterfinals, as Allison was busy downing Bryant 8-3 to claim the hot seat.

"I'd posted on FB the day before that I was remaining patient and looking to see if I could go up a gear," she said. "Against Brittany, I certainly went up that gear."

Tzu-Chien and Bryant came into the semifinals with a (presumably) good night's sleep and a single preceding match in the morning. Tzu-Chien gave up just a single rack to Bryant in those semifinals and turned to face the other Fisher on her 'dance' card.

Things did not start out well for Allison in the final match versus Tzu-Chien.

"I was kind of behind, right from the get-go," she would recall. "I wasn't breaking well, couldn't get into a flow, not like the hot seat match against Brittany, where I got off to an amazing start."

That initial 'off-balance' in her game put her down by four racks at 7-3. And then, things started to shift.

"I just hung in there and kept a good attitude," Allison said, "and Wei-Wei started to miss a couple of balls. That shifted my whole thought process and things started to work better, were working better."

In the clichéd manner of taking things one ball, one game, one match at a time, Allison began chipping away

at Tzu-Chien's lead. As that lead kept dwindling, commentator April Larson accurately conveyed the excitement, shared by a couple of thousand people watching the live stream on the WPBA's YouTube channel, that this match was going to come down to a final game. As it did.

"Sometimes," Allison said, "it just comes together. It's all about the break and getting shots and the 'flow,' but that wasn't happening until the latter part of the match."

But it did happen and though Tzu-Chien, leading at 7-3 would chalk up two of the next eight games to force a single, deciding game for the whole (literal) shooting match, she ended up 'doomed by the Duchess.' Allison's exultation was evident, as were the tears in her eyes when she noted, to those who were there and at home, that her mother had been present to watch it happen.

WPBA representatives, including tournament director Jerry Stuckart, thanked the ownership and staff at Iron City Billiards for their hospitality, along with sponsors Diamond Billiard Products, Iwan Simonis Cloth, Servitude Photography, Aramith Billiard Balls, Jam Up Apparel and Outsville. Next up for the WPBA will be the \$15,000-added Fairfield Invitational, scheduled for the weekend of March 21-24 and hosted by the Fairfield Arts and Convention Center in Fairfield, Iowa.



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# GORST DEFENDS TURNING STONE CLASSIC TITLE

The Turning Stone Classic has seen its fair share of multiple event winners. Jayson Shaw has nine career Turning Stone Classic titles.

Shane Van Boening and Johnny Archer both have six. Mika Immonen and Francisco Bustamante both have two career Turning Stone Classic titles, and they are now joined by Fedor Gorst, after a dominating 13-5 win over Jayson Shaw in the finals of the Turning Stone Classic XXXVIII, held on January 4th – 7th at the Turning Stone Resort and Casino in Verona, NY.

Gorst and Shaw both came into Sunday play undefeated, along with BCA Hall of Famer Rodney “The Rocket” Morris and Canadian “Big Red” Erik Hjørleifson. Shaw made quick work of Morris in a 9-5 match that really wasn’t as close as the scoreline would indicate, and Gorst made even quicker work of Hjørleifson 9-2.

The hot-seat match looked like it was going to be a lopsided win for Gorst, as he led Shaw by the score of 4-0, right out of the gate. Just as quickly as Gorst raced to that 4-0 lead though, Shaw quickly knotted things at 4-4 and then pulled ahead at 6-5. Shaw kept control of things and got to the hill at 8-5. Gorst clawed back one rack to 8-6 but a dry break by Gorst led to a safety battle that was won by Shaw as he ran out for the 9-6 win.

Gorst went out to another early 4-0 lead in the semi-final against Erik Hjørleifson, but this time he didn’t stop. Gorst was on the hill at 8-0 before Hjørleifson could win a rack, and

all Hjørleifson could do was get back to 8-2 before Gorst finished off the match at 9-2.

Fans at the Turning Stone Casino are familiar with the dominance of Jayson Shaw in the finals, but this time, it appeared to be a much less comfortable Shaw in the finals. He led the race to 13 extended final match at 2-1 early, but uncharacteristic misses combined

with Gorst’s stellar play, led to an early 8-2 lead for Gorst. Gorst extended that lead to seven racks at 11-4. Both players were making balls on the break with ease and coming back from a seven rack deficit was too much, even for Jayson Shaw. Shaw got the score back to 12-5, but that would be his last surge with Gorst finishing off the match 13-5 for his second straight Turning Stone Classic title.



Fedor Gorst and Mike Zuglan

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# Filler and Fisher Named 2023 Players of the Year

The beginning of a new year is always the time to choose the previous year's "AzBilliards Player of the Year" award winners.

**O**n the Women's side of the equation, we felt it came down to three players, but the year was truly a testament to the level of play of several players.

Jasmin Ouschan netted two WPBA events for the year, while Chieh Yu Chou won the Women's World 9-Ball title and the Wisconsin Open.

Our award though, will be another for the trophy case of Kelly Fisher, who won four WPBA titles for the year.

In our article for the 2022 Men's Player of the Year, we mentioned how Joshua Filler was the favorite early in the year. 2023 was so far in the other direction that Filler found himself reconsidering whether Billiards was really what he wanted to do.



Joshua Filler

"The first two months were probably the worst and the hardest for myself. I changed my shaft. I played with a carbon shaft at the Derby and I played so bad. People kept asking me 'How can you make the change?'. I put more pressure on myself obviously, so it got to me.

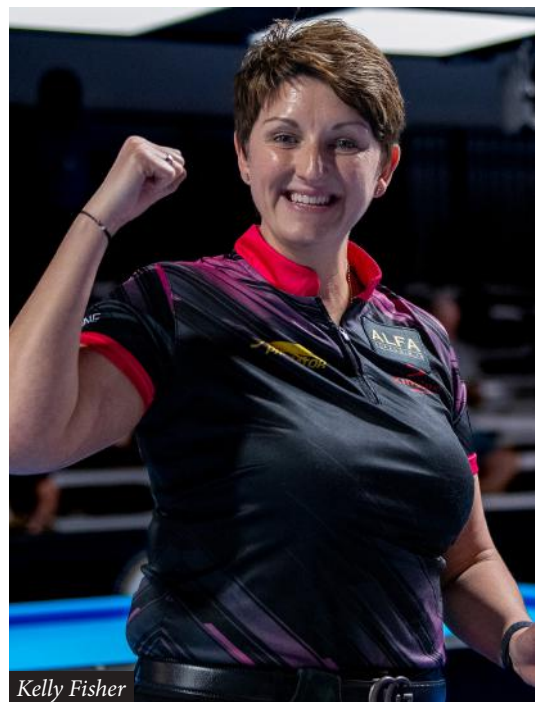
After I lost in the last 64 at the World 9-Ball, and then I had a really bad Derby in my opinion, because I just played bad. I played really bad at the World 9-Ball and I was like 'ok, here we go. Maybe I should quit pool.' I was thinking like that because I played so badly," remembered Filler.

Filler's year turned around though, and he gave credit to his wife, his coach, and a different frame of mind. "I worked hard with my wife and my coach about my mindset and everything, and I turned everything around. Tried to think different and set different approaches.

I got to Vegas and took 3rd in the World 10-Ball and I was like 'ok, this is my time now to get back on track'. I turned the year into the best year I ever had." he said.

The "best year that Filler ever had" encompassed eight major titles, including the China Open, the Qatar Open, four Eurotour titles, a World Teams title (alongside his wife), and an MVP performance at the Mosconi Cup.

Filler looked back on the year and the lessons that were learned. "For



Kelly Fisher

anybody out there who is going to read this, you need to just grind and stay positive. It doesn't matter how hard your losses were or how bad you played. The first two months were so hard on me. The way I turned it around showed me that you need to just focus even harder and try to stay positive. It doesn't matter what happens." said Filler.

Filler doesn't look like he is slowing down in 2024, with his amazing performance at this year's Derby City Classic. If Filler can keep up this level of play, we could be writing about him again at the end of the year for another Player of the Year award.

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# HENNESSEE & LOVELY MAKE SWEET MUSIC

Article courtesy MARY KENNISTON - Photos courtesy Pool Action TV

**Ricky Gamble, owner of the legendary JOB Billiards Club in Madison, TN – just outside Nashville – welcomed players and fans to the \$8,000 added 36th Annual Music City Open. Featuring several minis in addition to the Open and Ladies Nine Ball divisions, there was something for everyone!**

**J**OB's and PoolActionTV.com joined local sponsors including Diamond Billiards Products, Aramith, Simonis, Savage Billiards and the Fort Worth Billiards Superstore in presenting this event.

In attendance was BCA Hall of Famer Kim Davenport, defending champs Roberto Gomez and Tina Malm, Jonathan Pinegar ("Hennessee"), Chip

Compton, Robb Saez, Josh O'Neal, Chuck Raulston and Liz Lovely among many others.

Played on seven foot Diamonds, the action kicked off on Wednesday night with a single elimination race to seven mini tournament. Played down to two players, Roberto Gomez and Greg Taylor split the pot. Other minis included Saturday night's three min-

is – Liz Lovely defeated Kelly Wyatt to take the ladies mini, Matt Moore beat Robert Wilkerson to win the open mini while Josh O'Neal and Chip Compton split the pot in the 8 man mini. The last of the minis was held on Sunday night – Ricky Evans and Mark Krech also split the pot.

Thursday evening, a players auction, meeting and draw was held for the



*Allison Hardwick and Liz Lovely*

\$6,000 added Open Nine Ball Championship. A full field of 128 players entered this double elimination, race to eleven, winner breaks event.

On his way to the hot seat match, Michael Banks recorded wins over Kyle Stack 11-1, Bobby Day 11-4 and Michael Jackson 11-3 before a squeaker over Josh O'Neal 11-10. Down went Scott Roberts 11-6 and Bobby Conner 11-3 where he awaited an opponent from the lower portion of the bracket.

Matt Wisely began his march to the hot seat match with victories over Mike Newberry 11-6, Bernard Walker 11-2, Ricky Chitwood 11-8, Rick Patterson 11-5, Ryan Williams 11-4 and the always tough Hennessee 11-6.

In dead punch, Banks sent Wisely packing to await an opponent on the one loss side. Score – 11-5.

After being unceremoniously dumped into the one loss side in the third round by Robb Saez 11-8, Roberto Gomez drew a forfeit and then sliced through the bracket to meet Chip Compton. Chip went on a winning streak after a first round loss but Roberto was too much for Chip – he lost 11-7. Next up was Hennessee and that was it for the defending champ. He went down 11-8.

Next up for Hennessee was 1990 Billiards Digest's Player of the Year, Kim Davenport. Kimmer was eliminated 11-4 and finished in fourth place. Matt Wisely was next – he was defeated 11-3 and recorded a third place finish.

Hennessee advanced to the finals and since this was true double elimination, he'd have to defeat Michael Banks twice to claim the title. Banks lost the first set 11-6 – now to the decider!

Mike shot out to a 5-0 lead and it looked like Hennessee was toast. However, he clawed his way back into the match and won the first set 11-8.

One set for it all!

This time, it was pretty much all Hennessee as he stretched out to an 8-2 lead. The final few games were neck and neck but the gap between the score was too much for Mike to overcome. Final score – 11-6 Hennessee!

Congratulations to both for a great tournament!

## Allison Hardwick and Liz Lovely

Friday evening was the \$1,000 added Ladies 9 Ball Championship. A full field of 48 players entered to play in this double elimination, race to seven, winner breaks tournament. After the players auction, meeting and draw, play began.

No stranger to the winner's circle, Liz Lovely shot out of the gate with a first round bye followed by victories over Beverly Cook 7-3, Amber Jordan and Dawn Christian – both 7-1 and then Allison Hardwick 7-3 to meet Tina Malm at the hot seat match.

Tina's path also included a first round bye and then wins over Alex Smith, Kim Giglia and Joanna Marr – all 7-1 and finally, April Dobbins 7-2.

The defending champ kept it close but was defeated 7-5. Liz locked up her seat in the finals and Tina headed west to see who would emerge from the pack.

Her opponent was Allison Hardwick and dealt Tina a tough loss – score 7-6. Tina finished in third place and Allison advanced to the finals.

She had her work cut out for her as she had to defeat Liz twice to win the tournament but it was not to be. Liz won the match 7-5 and claimed the title!

Congratulations to both Liz and Allison for a great event!



Jonathan Hennessee

PoolActionTV.com would again like to thank Ricky Gamble and his staff for another great event. We'd also like to thank Tournament Director Jason Hill for another great job!

We'd also like to thank our Larry Schwartz, Kim Davenport and Ray Hansen for their excellent commentary.

In addition, we'd also like to thank our sponsors and fans. Our sponsors include JB Cases, Lomax Custom Cues, Aramith, Simonis, Hanshew Jump Cues, Savage Billiards, Durbin Custom Cues, Diamond Billiard Products, Inc., Bull Carbon, the Action Palace of Dayton, OH and the Fort Worth Billiards Superstore of Fort Worth, TX.

Our next stop is the 25th Annual Derby City Classic in Elizabeth, IN – dates are January 19th-27th. As always, we hope to see you there and in our Aramith Action Room!

PoolActionTV.com would again like to thank Ricky Gamble and his staff for another great event. We'd also like to thank Tournament Director Jason Hill for another great job!

# FLORIAN 'VENOM' KOHLER

## 48 HOUR POOL TRICK SHOTS RECORD BREAKING MARATHON

**Florian 'Venom' Kohler who already owns 11 Guinness World Records just came back from a very successful week-end at the League Room in West Virginia where he was able to set 4 new World Records.**

**W**hile the main focus was 'Most Trick Shots Completed in 48h' he was also able to grab 'Most Trick Shots in 1h', 'Most Trick Shots in 24h' and 'Longest Pool Trick Shots Marathon' in the process.

"After a very successful 24h World Record during COVID I always entertained the idea of pushing the limits even further so the idea of the Most Pool Trick Shots completed in 48h came naturally. Little did I realize how

difficult it would be to actually complete this challenge."

Difficult it was indeed since Guinness World Record only allowed 5 minutes of break per hour of shooting com-



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pleted. That equaled to less than 3h30 of break taken by Kohler in the course of the full 48h.

He had three attempts to perform each trick shot with every one of those being part of the approved WPA Artistic Pool program. Once the 120 shots of that program had been attempted, he simply had to start over and repeat the process until 48 hours passed.

According to 'Venom' the biggest issue was a persistent back ache due to retrieving the balls.

'The ball return was really the biggest oversight. The 9ft Diamond coupled with the new Dynaspheres Paladium we used really played fantastic but after 8h or so I started to feel some pain in my lower back. I did not think much of it at first but the more I continued the worst it got to the point of being almost unbearable. About 18h in we had to pick up a back brace for me to keep going.'

While the ball return was clearly an unforeseen difficulty, Kohler also mentioned it most likely allowed him to beat the previous records easier. Indeed, he went on to beat the 1h record by a margin of 11 shots pushing it to 69 shots completed (previously 58) and smashing the 24h one by a margin of over 430 shots as he completed 1,185 trick shots versus 753 in 2020.

With those records under his belt, he was able to considerably slow down the pace but the hardest part was yet to come. While he kept a solid rhythm all the way through the next evening, exhaustion really started to set at the 32h mark.

'From there it really was a mental and physical fight. My stroke as well as my legs were getting slower and on top of the lower back pain, I also started to get shoulder, neck pain, blisters and even burns on my fingertips. Nevertheless, I kept pushing until 4am the next day where I started to have mild



hallucinations and disorientation. At that moment I really had to take a break and opted for a 1h nap. While it certainly helped, after I came back the clock still showed 9h left and I cannot begin to explain how long that felt. Every movement was painful and every shot got slower.'

After another 6h session he opted to take the remainder of the breaks which equaled to approximately 30 min and finished the last couple of hours strong.

During the event, he clocked 5 miles around the pool table, made over 5,000 balls and attempted 2445 shots for 1816 completed which made for an outstanding success rate of over 74%.

The event was recorded in Full HD, with commentary by none other than Hall of Famer Mike Massey and Artistic Pool Pros Jason Lynch & Brian Pauley while the official referee was Vincent Enderlin from France.

Viewers can watch Kohler's newest world record attempts in its entirety on his YouTube channel at <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCJ5Cb-ZcEPyD2qA6PNFkrZWg>.

This event was proudly sponsored by PoolDawg, The League Room, APA, Cuetec, Kamui, Diamond, Integrity Cues & AN9HIL8ION.



For more information on Kohler's World Record Attempts, please contact [venom@venomtrickshots.com](mailto:venom@venomtrickshots.com)



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# J. PECHAUER CUSTOM CUES WELCOMES WORLD CHAMPION POOL PLAYER DAVID ALCAIDE TO EXCLUSIVE PARTNERSHIP

GREEN BAY, WI – February 2, 2024

**J. Pechauer Custom Cues, a world-renowned pool cue manufacturing company, proudly announces the signing of professional pool player David Alcaide to an exclusive partnership.**

**T**his collaboration marks a significant milestone for both Pechauer and Alcaide, a partnership that will combine expertise and excellence in the world of pool.

Recently concluding an exceptional 2023 season, Alcaide ended the year as the #9 ranked player in the world, according to the WNT World Rankings. Alcaide claimed victory at the 2023 European Open Championship and played a pivotal role within Europe's Mosconi Cup Team, among other achievements. Alcaide's accomplishments are remarkable, but it is his sportsmanship, respect within the community, and strong character that makes this partnership even more fitting.

"We could not be more thrilled to have David join the Team Pechauer family," says Joe Pechauer, President of Pechauer Cues. "David's core values and talent, coupled with his commitment to the products that we have spent decades carefully perfecting, will make for a very exciting partnership," says Pechauer. "As we begin this journey together, we look forward to achieving new milestones and developing a lasting relationship rooted in mutual respect, hard work and shared ambition," Pechauer expressed.

Alcaide is also very excited about the journey ahead with Pechauer. "I have arrived at a point in my life where I am conscious of every unique moment and special experience in my career. Because of this, I am extremely grateful for the opportunity that this very

special team at Pechauer has given me," says Alcaide. "I am excited to both improve my game and help Pechauer continue to innovate new products in their brand. To work with Joe and the rest of the team and be a part of an exciting partnership is the best thing that could have happened to me. It feels like a new life. With these new wings, I am motivated to work harder than ever, achieve my goals, and make Pechauer proud of me."

Pechauer feels it is a special moment for both the company and those who use Pechauer equipment, stating "It is a proud day to bring our line of products to the highest level of competition and hopefully make those who have put their trust in our brand for the last 60 years equally as excited as David and we are for this journey ahead." Early discussions are already in motion for a David Alcaide cue line.

### About J. Pechauer Custom Cues:

J. Pechauer Custom Cues has been supplying art and performance to the

billiard community for over 60 years. Pechauer Cues was founded in 1963 and has since established itself as a trusted name in the world of cue manufacturing. As a family-owned and operated business with a forward-thinking approach, Pechauer Cues takes pride in delivering the highest quality American-made products around the globe. For more information about J. Pechauer Custom Cues, please visit [pechauer.com](http://pechauer.com).

### About David Alcaide:

David Alcaide has been playing pool since the age of eight years old in his hometown of Málaga, Spain. By the age of 12, Alcaide became runner up in the yearly national Spanish Championships. By age 14, he became a champion, and the rest is history. On top of many more championships in Spain, Alcaide has gone on to become a two-time World Pool Masters Champion, World Cup of Pool Champion, three-time Mosconi Cup Champion, and six-time European Champion.



 Mezz Cues®

GMC-35PC  
Limited Edition



GMC-35WC  
New color

# JUNIOR AMERICAN SERIES

LAUNCHED BY PREDATOR GROUP AND JUNIOR INTERNATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS

**New tour launches with 8 stops in 2024, finals in November**

**P**redator Group and the Junior International Championships are proud to announce a new partnership which brings the launch of the Predator Junior American Series, a dedicated tour for America's next generation of billiards talent.

The Predator Junior American Series will feature eight stops in 2024, with five divisions of boys and girls competition in 14 & under (formerly 13 & under), 18 & under, 20 & under age groups (formerly 'Pro-Am'). The Junior American Series will then conclude in November, with details of location and date of the Final event to be revealed in due course.

The launch of the Junior American Series is a progression of Ra Hanna's Junior International Championships, which have supported boys and girls winners in multiple divisions with funding to compete in the BEF Junior National Championships and the Predator WPA World Junior Championships over the last three years.

The Series will give junior players from across America the opportunity to improve and develop their game in tournament conditions. It will help promote the growth of the sport across the United States while preparing the next generation of players for the professional level of the sport.

The 2024 Predator Junior American Series will begin February 2nd-5th at Wolfs Den, VA with stops at Breaktime Billiards, NC (March 22nd-24th), Michaels Billiards, OH (May 3rd-5th), Railyard Billiards, KY (June 21st-23rd) and Skinny Bobs Billiards, TX (July 26th-28th). Griffs, NV (Aug23rd-25)

September and October are being finalized and will be announced soon.

Karim Belhaj, Predator Group CEO, is excited to launch the new tour: "I sat down with Ra Hanna back in Las Vegas in February 2023 and he shared with me what he was doing and his vision with the junior series. He was passionate about it and I am now really proud to be partnering with Ra to build the best junior tour on the planet.

"It is what Predator is about, making the world a better place one pool game at a time. It goes beyond who is wearing what logo. Whether the juniors are playing with Predator or another cue, I want them to have fun. I want them to become better humans through the sport we all love."

Ra Hanna added: "We have linked up with Predator Group and we're taking the game back to its roots. The Junior International Championships and Predator are teaming up to whip up the Junior American Series – a wild ride designed to train the next gener-

ation of champions while keeping the vibes high.

"We're playing chess at the top tier, and guess what? This right here is our opening move. We're on the lookout for the next wave of warriors – if that's you, roll through. We're ready and waiting, let's go, fam!"

For more information on the Junior American Series and how to enter events, follow the Junior American Series and Predator Group on social media platforms.

Predator's mission is to inspire billiard fans by providing innovative experiences and products that deliver high-performance, with unsurpassed class and style. Predator Group brands focus on performance pool tables, cues, billiard accessories, and precision components.

For more information regarding Predator Group's products, visit [www.predatorcues.com](http://www.predatorcues.com), [www.poisoncues.com](http://www.poisoncues.com) and [www.uni-loc.com](http://www.uni-loc.com).



*Karim Belhaj and Ra Hanna*

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**IMPAKT** BREAK CUES

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13mm

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HALF THE EFFORT**

MLNST\*

\*Multi - Layer Nanotube Seamless Technology

\*Adjustable Weight Bolt System

\*Stainless Steel Tiger Joint

\*Adjustable Weight Bolt System

\*Aluminum Tiger Joint



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Carbon Fiber Shaft



# **KOZOOM RETURNS FOR 2024 EPBF SEASON**

**THE EUROPEAN POCKET Billiard Federation is delighted to announce a resumption of their long-standing relationship with Kozoom as it looks ahead to its events over the 2024 season and beyond.**

**A**fter an absence of a year in which the EPBF used different platforms and providers, the French cue sports production company will be returning for all men's and women's Euro Tours as well as adults, juniors, wheelchair users and seniors European Championship events for this year as well as 2025 and 2026.

Their first event of the season will be the two Euro Tour tournaments, taking place in Tallinn, Estonia, from Thursday to Sunday, 15th to 18th March. Kozoom will be streaming two tables live throughout including the finals. Table 1 will be exclusively on the Kozoom YouTube channel while Table 2 will run on the EPBF's YouTube platform.

Tables 3 upwards will all be live via Kozoom's pay-per-view website and there will be yearly/monthly as well as individual event subscription options available. In addition, the partnership leaves the option open to resume live television coverage of the Euro Tour, should the opportunity arise.

Commented President of the EPBF, Gre Leenders, "For the EPBF, after a year's absence, it is wonderful to announce the renewed cooperation with our former live stream partner, Kozoom. After a one-year hiatus, the paths have crossed again and a 3-year agreement has been agreed.

"A Dutch proverb says, "A good wine needs no wreath", which means that

Kozoom needs no introduction. The high-quality live stream & TV production offered by this broadcast partner is well-known in Europe and far beyond.

"I would like to use this opportunity to thank Reelive, our live stream partner in 2023, for its efforts over the past year and at the same time we look forward to a wonderful three-year cooperation with Kozoom," he added.

Xavier Carrer, founder and CEO of Kozoom said, "We're thrilled to be working together with the EPBF again to capture and bring all these events to the viewers around the world. As the longest continental tour in the world, we are proud to once more be part of these events."



Niels Fejer

PRO CUES LINE

2023 BILLIARD CONGRESS OF AMERICA  
HALL OF FAME INDUCTEE

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Jump Break cue mod. "TJB22"

Game cue mod. "SPARKLE"

Low deflection "LUNA NERA" graphite shaft



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# Tourney Results

## Jan 04 - Jan 07

### Turning Stone Classic XXXVIII

#### Turning Stone Casino

Verona, NY

- 1 Fedor Gorst \$10,000
- 2 Jayson Shaw \$6,500
- 3 Erik Hjorleifson \$4,000
- 4 Rodney Morris \$2,700
- 5 Casper Matikainen \$2,000
- 5 Danny Hewitt \$2,000
- 7 Jonathan Smith \$1,600
- 7 Ron Casanzio \$1,600
- 9 Donny Mills \$1,200
- 9 Jimmy Rivera \$1,200
- 9 Vincent Beaurivage \$1,200
- 9 Waleed Hashem \$1,200
- 13 John Morra \$950
- 13 Kevin Clark \$950
- 13 Matt Krah \$950
- 13 Yesid Geribello \$950
- 17 Brent Boemmels \$599
- 17 Christoph Neumayer \$599
- 17 Dwight Dixon \$599
- 17 Earl Herring \$599
- 17 Frankie Hernandez \$599
- 17 Johnny Archer \$599
- 17 Thorsten Hohmann \$599
- 17 Tom McColluch \$599
- 25 Bucky Souvanthong \$400
- 25 Drew Herbert \$400
- 25 Justin Muller \$400
- 25 Kristina Tkach \$400
- 25 Oleg Tkach \$400
- 25 Steve Mack \$400
- 25 Tyler Henninger \$400
- 25 Vitaliy Patsura \$400

## Jan 06 - Jan 06

### 2nd Annual Rack Race Event One

#### The Rack & Grill III

Aiken, SC

- 1 Josh Roberts \$1,420
- 2 BJ Ussery \$700
- 3 Nick Van Allen \$450
- 4 Cody Sones \$335
- 5 Dave Cook \$195

- 5 Mike Wise \$195
- 7 Calvin Le \$120
- 7 Todd Blackwell \$120
- 9 Darrel Williams \$100
- 9 George Spires \$100
- 9 Jeff Blatell \$100
- 9 Keith Bennett \$100

## Jan 06 - Jan 07

### Q City 9-Ball Tour Stop

#### Break Time Billiards

Winston-Salem, NC

- 1 Rory Dover \$800
- 2 Will Carver \$600
- 3 Joe Hyatt, Jr. \$400
- 4 Jas Makhni \$170
- 5 Brandon McGuire \$80
- 5 Eric Stanton \$80
- 7 Jarett Shotwell \$60
- 7 Jose Irizarry \$60

## Jan 06 - Jan 07

### Garden State Pool Tour Amateur Stop

#### Shooter's Family Billiards

Wayne, NJ

- 1 Anthony Torre \$600
- 2 Ronnie Xu \$360
- 3 Deiby Calderon \$200
- 4 Alfredo Altamirano \$160
- 5 Bryan Valania \$110
- 5 Richard Ng \$110
- 7 Brook Villa \$80
- 7 Joe Valania \$80

## Jan 07 - Jan 07

### Turning Stone Classic XXXVIII 2nd Chance

#### Turning Stone Casino

Verona, NY

- 1 Dave Fernandez \$500
- 2 Steve Mack \$300
- 3 John Vitale \$200
- 3 Nate Marshall \$200
- 5 Chris Tiru \$100

- 5 Garrett Vaughan \$100
- 5 Nick Coppola \$100
- 5 Paul Dryden \$100

## Jan 07 - Jan 07

### Mezz Cues LA 9-Ball Series Stop

#### Gladi8or Billiards

Los Angeles, California

- 1 Joseph Leon \$700
- 2 Abet Ng \$450
- 3 Michael Hansen \$310
- 4 Keegan Badour \$200
- 5 Cody Gragg \$130
- 5 Joshua Farris \$130
- 7 Jonah Vise \$90
- 7 Nuoen Liu \$90

## Jan 10 - Jan 14

### WPBA Iron City Invitational III

#### Iron City Billiards

Birmingham, Alabama

- 1 Allison Fisher \$7,500
- 2 Tzu-Chien Wei \$5,500
- 3 Brittany Bryant \$4,000
- 4 Kristina Tkach \$2,800
- 5 Kelly Fisher \$2,200
- 5 Pia Filler \$2,200
- 7 Eylul Kybaroglu \$1,700
- 7 Kristina Zlateva \$1,700
- 9 Briana Miller \$1,200
- 9 Kennedy Meyman \$1,200
- 9 Loree Jon Hasson \$1,200
- 9 Melissa Herndon \$1,200
- 13 Ashley Benoit \$850
- 13 Emily Duddy \$850
- 13 Savannah Easton \$850
- 13 Veronique Menard \$850
- 17 Caroline Pao \$500
- 17 Janet Atwell \$500
- 17 Jeannie Seaver \$500
- 17 JoAnn Mason Parker \$500
- 17 Kaylee McIntosh \$500
- 17 Nina Torvund \$500
- 17 Susan Williams \$500
- 17 Teruko Cucculelli \$500

## Jan 10 - Jan 17

### Music City Classic

#### JOB Billiards

Madison, TN

- 1 Jonathan Hennessee \$4,000
- 2 Mike Banks Jr. \$2,600
- 3 Matthew Wisely \$1,710
- 4 Kim Davenport \$1,090
- 5 Bobby Jack Connor \$780
- 5 Roberto Gomez \$780
- 7 Billy Young \$470
- 7 Chip Compton \$470
- 9 Greg Taylor \$275
- 9 Mark Krech \$275
- 9 Ryan Williams \$275
- 9 Scott Roberts \$275
- 13 Josh O'Neal \$190
- 13 Mike Saleh \$190
- 13 Rick Chitwood \$190
- 13 Rusty Jackson \$190
- 17 Andy Schroth \$130
- 17 Chuck Raulston \$130
- 17 James Blackburn \$130
- 17 Matthew Deck \$130
- 17 Rick Patterson \$130
- 17 Ricky Evans \$130
- 17 Robb Saez \$130
- 17 Sherwin Vicente \$130

## Jan 10 - Jan 12

### Universal Chinese Taipei Open 2024

#### Taipei City

Taipei City,

- 1 Carlo Biado \$25,000
- 2 Bernie Regaliaria \$12,000
- 3 Aloysius Yapp \$6,000
- 3 Yu-Lung Chang \$6,000

## Jan 10 - Jan 17

### Music City Classic 2024 Ladies Division

#### JOB Billiards

Madison, TN

- 1 Liz Lovely \$1,200
- 2 Allison Hardwick \$820
- 3 Tina Pawloski Malm \$440
- 4 Kelly Wyatt \$320
- 5 April Dobbins \$250
- 5 Christina Perlowski \$250
- 7 Amanda Wilder \$200
- 7 Amber Jordan \$200

- 9 Dawn Christian \$110
- 9 Heather Middleton \$110
- 9 Joanna Marr \$110
- 9 Kim Dodd \$110

## Jan 13 - Jan 15

### 2nd Annual KC Clayton Memorial

#### Raxx Pool Room, Sports Bar & Grill

- West Hempstead, NY
- 1 Thomas Haas \$1,000
  - 2 Eric Adelman \$750
  - 3 Eric Rosen \$425
  - 3 Kang Lee \$425
  - 5 Erland Lami \$275
  - 5 Matthew Harricharan \$275
  - 7 Lionell Swanston \$200
  - 7 Matt Klein \$200
  - 9 Ifzaal Mohammad \$150
  - 9 John Messina \$150
  - 9 Michael Callaghan \$150
  - 9 Mike Pruitt \$150
  - 13 Chris Derewonski \$100
  - 13 David Leggat \$100
  - 13 Jason Goberdhan \$100
  - 13 Tahsin Mujib \$100
  - 17 Alfonso Trinidad \$75
  - 17 Glenn Ramsey \$75
  - 17 Gordon McDaniel \$75
  - 17 Joe Korsiak \$75
  - 17 Mhet Vergara \$75
  - 17 Pablo Ruda \$75
  - 17 Rajeev Chhabra \$75
  - 17 Robert Mendoza \$75

## Jan 13 - Jan 14

### Q City 9-Ball Tour Stop

#### Mickey Milligan's Sports Bar

New Bern, NC

- 1 Wilson Dorsey \$650
- 2 Glenn Weatherly \$400
- 3 Justin Knuckles \$280
- 4 Chris Sparrow \$150
- 5 Danny Todd \$55
- 5 DJ Brads \$55

## Jan 13 - Jan 13

### New England 9-Ball Tour 2023 Stop #4

#### Strokers Bar & Billiards

Pelham, NH

- 1 Jesus Garcia \$500
- 2 Beau Powers \$280

- 3 Ambriory Minyety \$175
- 4 Dom Souza \$125
- 5 Justin Grant \$100
- 5 Steve Smith \$100

## Jan 19 - Jan 27

### Derby City Classic 2024 Banks

#### Horseshoe Southern Indiana

Elizabeth, IN

- 1 Joshua Filler \$16,000
- 2 Justin Hall \$8,000
- 3 Shane Van Boening \$5,700
- 4 Can Salim \$4,200
- 4 Tony Chohan \$4,200
- 6 Fedor Gorst \$3,050
- 7 Lukas Fracasso-Verner \$2,000
- 7 Roberto Gomez \$2,000
- 7 Roland Garcia \$2,000
- 10 Billy Thorpe \$1,400
- 10 Jonathan Pinegar \$1,400
- 10 Jonathon Demet \$1,400
- 10 Konrad Juszczyszyn \$1,400
- 10 Mickey Krause \$1,400
- 10 Troy Jones \$1,400
- 16 Alex Pagulayan \$900
- 16 Chris Szuter \$900
- 16 Lee Vann Corteza \$900
- 16 Mark Jarvis \$900
- 16 Michael DeLawder \$900
- 16 Pijus Labutis \$900
- 16 Tyler Styer \$900
- 23 Alex Montpellier \$550
- 23 Clay Carman \$550
- 23 Dave Ciancanelli \$550
- 23 Earl Age III \$550
- 23 Evan Lunda \$550
- 23 Frankie Ruiz \$550
- 23 Jacob Melton \$550
- 23 Mohammad Ali Beraoui \$550
- 23 Nathan Childress \$550
- 23 Robert Walker \$550
- 23 Robert Wilkerson \$550
- 23 Scott Cohen \$550
- 23 Sergio Rivas \$550
- 23 Skyler Woodward \$550
- 23 Tim De Ruyter \$550
- 23 Wiktor Zielinski \$550
- 39 Anthony Meglino \$400
- 39 Billy Jackson \$400
- 39 Brandon Shuff \$400
- 39 Brandon Thomas \$400
- 39 Brent Jackson \$400
- 39 Brett Hall \$400
- 39 Jake Weaver \$400

39 Jay Copeland \$400  
39 Jayson Shaw \$400  
39 John Morra \$400  
39 John Turpin \$400  
39 Josh Roberts \$400  
39 Kenny Loftis \$400  
39 Nick De Leon \$400  
39 Oscar Dominguez \$400  
39 Paul Song \$400  
39 Richie Richeson \$400  
39 Ricky Baughman \$400  
39 Robert Frost \$400  
39 Scott Frost \$400  
39 Terry Huelsman \$400  
60 Al Hammond \$300  
60 Brandon Howard \$300  
60 Butch Brumback \$300  
60 Caleb Schumacher \$300  
60 Cody Booth \$300  
60 David Krenzle \$300  
60 Demitrios Jelatis \$300  
60 Derek Fontenot \$300  
60 Jeff Beckley \$300  
60 Jeremy Nelson \$300  
60 Justin Stewart \$300  
60 Kelly Chuberko \$300  
60 Konstantine Davladze \$300  
60 Larry Miller \$300  
60 Louis Demarco \$300  
60 Mikael Hinton \$300  
60 Mike Leek \$300  
60 Mike Ligibel \$300  
60 Naoyuki Oi \$300  
60 Neil Jacobs \$300  
60 Oleg Tkach \$300  
60 Randy Hanson \$300  
60 Richard Kravitz \$300  
60 Robert Ohashi \$300  
60 Tom Matikainen \$300  
60 Vincent Vaughn \$300  
60 Wendell Anderson \$300  
60 William B. Sharkey \$300  
88 Alex Hepp \$250  
88 Ameet Kukadia \$250  
88 Andrew Shultz \$250  
88 Anthony LaRue \$250  
88 Ben Jones \$250  
88 Brandon Johnson \$250  
88 Brian Hebbeler \$250  
88 Chip Compton \$250  
88 Chris Age \$250  
88 Corey Kotarba \$250  
88 Curtis Thornton \$250  
88 David Matlock \$250

88 Doug Moor \$250  
88 Erik Hagen \$250  
88 Gary Link \$250  
88 George Saunders \$250  
88 James Flood \$250  
88 Jason Steman \$250  
88 Jay Pettlon \$250  
88 John Daminato \$250  
88 John Lynch \$250  
88 Juston Groeble \$250  
88 Ken Seitz \$250  
88 Kristina Tkach \$250  
88 Mel Taylor \$250  
88 Michael Dietchman \$250  
88 Mieszko Fortunski \$250  
88 Mark Slye Jr. \$250  
88 Mark Slye Sr \$250  
88 Muqaddium Abdul Haqq \$250  
88 Rahul Vithani \$250  
88 Randy Moody \$250  
88 Robert Hall \$250  
88 Scott Howard \$250  
88 Steven Reno \$250  
88 Stewart Kenny \$250  
88 Tom Paulowske \$250  
88 Vitaliy Patsura \$250  
88 Walter Garrison \$250  
88 Zach Wilson \$250

## Jan 19 - Jan 27

### Derby City Classic 2024 One Pocket

#### Horseshoe Southern Indiana

Elizabeth, IN

1 Fedor Gorst \$16,000  
2 Shane Van Boening \$8,000  
3 Joshua Filler \$6,400  
4 Evan Lunda \$4,100  
4 Louis Demarco \$4,100  
6 Roberto Gomez \$2,400  
7 Brandon Shuff \$1,600  
7 Jayson Shaw \$1,600  
7 Jeremy Seaman \$1,600  
7 Josh Roberts \$1,600  
7 Lee Vann Corteza \$1,600  
12 Billy Thorpe \$1,000  
12 Danny Olson \$1,000  
12 John Morra \$1,000  
12 Justin Hall \$1,000  
12 Lukas Fracasso-Verner \$1,000  
12 Naoyuki Oi \$1,000  
12 Nathan Childress \$1,000  
12 Robert Walker \$1,000  
20 Chip Compton \$600

20 Corey Deuel \$600  
20 Demitrios Jelatis \$600  
20 Jonathan Pinegar \$600  
20 Josh O'Neal \$600  
20 Sergio Rivas \$600  
20 Steve Morrow \$600  
20 Tony Chohan \$600  
20 Tyler Styer \$600  
20 Vitaliy Patsura \$600  
30 Adam Wheeler \$400  
30 Alex Pagulayan \$400  
30 Anthony Meglino \$400  
30 Chris Szuter \$400  
30 David Matlock \$400  
30 Dung Pham \$400  
30 Josh Thielke \$400  
30 Mickey Krause \$400  
30 Mikael Hinton \$400  
30 Oliver Ruuger \$400  
30 Oscar Dominguez \$400  
30 Raed Shabib \$400  
30 Richard Moreno \$400  
30 Shane Wolford \$600  
30 Tom Matikainen \$400  
30 Troy Honeycutt \$400  
30 Wiktor Zielinski \$400  
47 Ben Jones \$300  
47 Darren Everett \$300  
47 Dave Brown \$300  
47 Derek Formby \$300  
47 Dexter Audain \$300  
47 Frankie Ruiz \$300  
47 James Flood \$300  
47 James McCrary \$300  
47 Jay Copeland \$300  
47 Jeff Beckley \$300  
47 Jerry Matchin \$300  
47 John Crenshaw \$300  
47 John Gabriel \$300  
47 John Turpin \$300  
47 Paul Song \$300  
47 Pijus Labutis \$300  
47 Robert Patrick \$300  
47 Shahn Hunter \$300  
47 Skyler Woodward \$300  
47 Steve Mack \$300  
47 Tom Bruno \$300  
68 Archie Hinton \$250  
68 Bill Eisenhard \$250  
68 Can Salim \$250  
68 Chris Age \$250  
68 David Brengle \$250  
68 David Jacobs \$250  
68 Dee Adkins \$250



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68 Joshua Burbul \$250  
68 Konrad Juszczyszyn \$250  
68 Michael Dietchman \$250  
68 Mieszko Fortunski \$250  
68 Miguel Lara \$250  
68 Mike Bandy \$250  
68 Neil Jacobs \$250  
68 Nick Smith \$250  
68 Paul Spaanstra \$250  
68 Peter Lau \$250  
68 Randy Hanson \$250  
68 Ray Shultz \$250  
68 Richard Andrews \$250  
68 Richie Richeson \$250  
68 Rocky Moody \$250  
68 Scott Frost \$250  
68 Shawn Bell \$250  
68 Shawn Johnston \$250  
68 Steve Hickman \$250  
68 Ted Reeves \$250  
68 Yash Ajmera \$250

## Jan 19 - Jan 27

### Derby City Classic 2024 9-Ball

#### Horseshoe Southern Indiana

Elizabeth, IN

1 Joshua Filler \$16,000  
2 Pijus Labutis \$8,000  
3 Vitaliy Patsura \$5,350  
4 John Morra \$5,350  
5 Fedor Gorst \$3,500  
5 Jayson Shaw \$3,500  
5 Roland Garcia \$3,500  
8 Alex Pagulayan \$2,300  
8 David Alcaide \$2,300  
8 Naoyuki Oi \$2,300  
8 Thorsten Hohmann \$2,300  
12 BJ Ussery \$1,400  
12 Danny Olson \$1,400  
12 Raymond Linares \$1,400  
12 Roberto Gomez \$1,400  
16 Alex Montpellier \$900  
16 Can Salim \$900  
16 Chris Reinhold \$900  
16 Konrad Juszczyszyn \$900  
16 Konstantine Davladze \$900

16 Lee Vann Corteza \$900  
16 Mark Estiola \$900  
16 Mieszko Fortunski \$900  
16 Shane Wolford \$900  
25 Dee Adkins \$550  
25 Kevin Guimond \$550  
25 Kristina Tkach \$550  
25 Max Eberle \$550  
25 Michael Yednak \$550  
25 Nathan Childress \$550  
25 Pia Filler \$550  
25 Raed Shabib \$550  
25 Scott Frost \$550  
25 Sergio Rivas \$550  
25 Skyler Woodward \$550  
36 Adam Maloney \$400  
36 Corey Deuel \$400  
36 Evan Lunda \$400  
36 Jake Weaver \$400  
36 Jeff Underwood \$400  
36 Jeremy Seaman \$400  
36 John Gabriel \$400  
36 Johnny Archer \$400  
36 Josh Roberts \$400  
36 Kelly Chuberko \$400  
36 Lukas Fracasso-Verner \$400  
36 Michael DeLawder \$400  
36 Shane Van Boening \$400  
36 Tyler Styer \$400  
36 Yash Ajmera \$400  
51 Adam Wheeler \$300  
51 Adam Wolford \$300  
51 Al Hammond \$300  
51 Ben Jones \$300  
51 Billy Thorpe \$300  
51 Brandon Shuff \$300  
51 Brett Rhea \$300  
51 Chad Wilson \$300  
51 Chris Szuter \$300  
51 Clay Davis \$300  
51 Dale Ding \$300  
51 Jason Steman \$300  
51 Jeff Youngblood \$300  
51 Joe Johnson \$300  
51 John Turpin \$300  
51 Jonathon Demet \$300  
51 Kenny Loftis \$300  
51 Louis Demarco \$300  
51 Mark Horne \$300  
51 Michael Fisher \$300  
51 Mike Bandy \$300  
51 Nicholas Milton \$300  
51 Oscar Dominguez \$300  
51 Paul Song \$300  
51 Randy Hanson \$300

51 Robert Frost \$300  
51 Robert Patrick \$300  
51 Shane Feeney \$300  
51 Tobias Felbermeier \$300  
51 Tom Matikainen \$300  
51 Tony Chohan \$300  
51 Wiktor Zielinski \$300  
83 Anthony Gunn \$250  
83 Ario Pratama \$250  
83 Bill Eisenhard \$250  
83 Bill Horne \$250  
83 Bill McCollin \$250  
83 Bora Anar \$250  
83 Brent Grenier \$250  
83 Brett Underwood \$250  
83 Chris Helman \$250  
83 Cody Booth \$250  
83 Corey Ditter \$250  
83 Darren Everett \$250  
83 Donny Mills \$250  
83 Gwen Sharpton \$250  
83 James Davee \$250  
83 Jason Casey \$250  
83 Jay Glasco \$250  
83 Joshua Burbul \$250  
83 Justin Hall \$250  
83 Justin Lazzaro \$250  
83 Kyle Arensdorf \$250  
83 Marty Sawinski \$250  
83 Michael Niver \$250  
83 Michal Juraszek \$250  
83 Mickey Krause \$250  
83 Mike Durbin \$250  
83 Mohamad Ali Berjaoui \$250  
83 Neil Jacobs \$250  
83 Nick De Leon \$250  
83 Nickolas Kontos \$250  
83 Oliver Ruuger \$250  
83 Rahul Vithani \$250  
83 Ray Shultz \$250  
83 Robb Saez \$250  
83 Robert Sopha \$250  
83 Scott Cohen \$250  
83 Steve Fleming \$250  
83 Steve Hickman \$250  
83 Terry Wright \$250  
83 Tye Wang \$250  
83 Yu Gu \$250

## Jan 19 - Jan 27

### Derby City Classic 2024 Master of the Table

#### Horseshoe Southern Indiana

Elizabeth, IN

- 1 Joshua Filler \$20,000
- 2 Fedor Gorst \$3,000
- 3 Shane Van Boening \$2,000

## Jan 19 - Jan 27

### Derby City Classic 2024 Bigfoot Challenge

#### Horseshoe Southern Indiana

- Elizabeth, IN
- 1 Joshua Filler \$16,000
  - 2 Lee Vann Corteza \$8,000
  - 3 Fedor Gorst \$4,000
  - 3 Konrad Juszczyszyn \$4,000

## Jan 19 - Jan 27

### Derby City Classic 2024 9-Ball Mini

#### Horseshoe Southern Indiana

- Elizabeth, IN
- 1 Stacy Coffey \$800
  - 2 Jerry Bellovich \$400
  - 3 Frankie Ruiz \$250
  - 3 Keith Young \$250
  - 5 Ike Runnels \$125
  - 5 Juergen Hoelgert \$125
  - 5 Zi Shan Cai \$125
  - 9 Adam Wheeler \$50
  - 9 Anton Lockwood \$50
  - 9 Dave Mills \$50
  - 9 David Lee \$50
  - 9 David Wang \$50
  - 9 Jay Harris \$50
  - 9 Mike Clevinger \$50
  - 9 Philip Howk \$50

## Jan 19 - Jan 27

### Derby City Classic 2024 Banks Mini

#### Horseshoe Southern Indiana

- Elizabeth, IN
- 1 Grant Berg \$600
  - 2 Zach Wilson \$600
  - 3 Juergen Hoelgert \$250
  - 3 Zi Shan Cai \$250
  - 5 Earl Age \$125
  - 5 Joel Peck \$125
  - 5 Mark Osman \$125
  - 5 Rahul Vithani \$125
  - 9 David Lee \$50
  - 9 Derek Houston \$50
  - 9 Jason Beaty \$50
  - 9 Khan Yilmaz \$50

- 9 Michael Donsi \$50
- 9 Peter Lau \$50
- 9 Richard Jones \$50
- 9 Steve Settles \$50

## Jan 19 - Jan 27

### Derby City Classic 2024 Bank Ring Game

#### Horseshoe Southern Indiana

- Elizabeth, IN
- 1 Michael DeLawder \$5,000
  - 2 Billy Thorpe \$3,000

## Jan 20 - Jan 21

### BluFelt CT State Women's 9-Ball Championship

#### Racks Billiards & Bar

- Vernon, Connecticut
- 1 Briana Miller \$1,250
  - 2 Ashley Benoit \$870
  - 3 Rachel Lang \$560
  - 4 Stacie Bourbeau \$360
  - 5 Erica Testa \$220
  - 5 Jocelyn Hurley \$220
  - 7 Chrstine Cockrell \$140
  - 7 Dawn Luz \$140
  - 9 Elise Vaillancourt \$80
  - 9 Kymberly Barta \$80
  - 9 Pamela Burgon \$80
  - 9 Renee Lafferty \$80

## Jan 20 - Jan 20

### 2024 DL Billiards Tour Open Stop 1

#### Big Tyme Billiards

- Spring, Texas
- 1 Shahram Changezi \$504
  - 2 Tommy Tokoph \$378
  - 3 Jantzen Miller \$252
  - 4 Felix Rivera \$126

## Jan 20 - Jan 21

### 2024 DFW 9-Ball Tour Stop 1

#### Rusty's Billiards

- Arlington, TX
- 1 Shane McMinn \$825
  - 2 Tim Larson \$600
  - 3 Jonathan Rawlins \$450
  - 4 Gus Briseno \$375
  - 5 Clint Freeman \$300
  - 5 Clint Palaci \$300
  - 7 Juan Parra \$180
  - 7 Robert Reighter \$180

- 9 Blake West \$120
- 9 Chris Woody Smith \$120
- 9 Jay Grant \$120
- 9 Tony Top \$120
- 13 Corey Bleau \$80
- 13 Eric Terry \$80
- 13 Fahad Alrawi \$80
- 13 Mark Szabo \$80

## Jan 27 - Jan 28

### APT Tiger Pool Tour 2024 Stop 1 Division 1

#### Q-Master Billiards

- Virginia Beach, VA
- 1 Jimmy Bird \$530
  - 2 David Hairfield \$350
  - 3 Jerry Jenkins \$250
  - 4 Chip Hanbury \$150
  - 5 Mike Tolmich \$80
  - 5 Scott Guschel \$80
  - 7 Christian Youngers \$50
  - 7 Roger Robitaille \$50

## Jan 27 - Jan 28

### APT Tiger Pool Tour 2024 Stop 1 Division 2

#### Q-Master Billiards

- Virginia Beach, VA
- 1 Shane Sullivan \$700
  - 2 Marlin Foster \$450
  - 3 Kenny Marple \$350
  - 4 Henry Mundie \$240
  - 5 Chris Pureza \$120
  - 5 Josh Setterfield \$120
  - 7 Bob Steake \$80
  - 7 Ronnie Williams \$80
  - 9 Colt Tyndall \$50
  - 9 Kevin Boggs \$50
  - 9 Matthew Pursley \$50
  - 9 Scott Vzatek \$50

## Jan 27 - Jan 28

### APT Tiger Pool Tour 2024 Stop 1 Womens Division

#### Q-Master Billiards

- Virginia Beach, VA
- 1 Iris Cabatit \$380
  - 2 Courtney Hairfield \$200
  - 3 Rebecca Edwards \$120
  - 4 Nancy Harned \$80
  - 5 Joyce Murphy \$50
  - 5 Stacey Dunn \$50

# 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.

## FEBRUARY

### Massachusetts State 9-Ball Championship II

**Feb 03 - Feb 04**

Amazin Billiards  
Malden, Ma

### 2024 WPA World Artistic Pool Championship

**Feb 07 - Feb 10**

Bay City Boys and Girls Club  
Bay City, MI

### Joss Tour 2023-2024 Stop 12

**Feb 17 - Feb 18**

Sharpshooters Billiards & Sports Pub  
Amsterdam, NY

### 2024 Alfa Las Vegas Open

**Feb 21 - Feb 24**

Rio All-Suite Hotel & Casino  
Las Vegas, NV

### Alfa Women's Las Vegas Open 2024

**Feb 22 - Feb 24**

Rio All-Suite Hotel & Casino  
Las Vegas, NV

### Apex Mixed Doubles Invitational

**Feb 25 - Feb 25**

Rio All-Suite Hotel & Casino  
Las Vegas, NV

### Predator Women's Showdown

**Feb 27 - Mar 01**

Rio All-Suite Hotel & Casino  
Las Vegas, NV

### WPA World 10-Ball Championship 2024

**Feb 27 - Mar 02**

Rio All-Suite Hotel & Casino  
Las Vegas, NV

### 14th N.E. Pool & Billiard Hall of Fame 9-Ball Open

**Mar 02 - Mar 03**

Snookers - Sports Billiards, Bar & Grill  
Providence, RI

### US Open 10-Ball Championship 2024

**Mar 03 - Mar 06**

Griff's  
Las Vegas, Nevada

### US Open 8-Ball Championship 2024

**Mar 06 - Mar 09**

Griff's  
Las Vegas, Nevada

### Joss Tour 2023-2024 Stop 14

**Mar 09 - Mar 10**

Utica Billiards On The Boulevard  
Utica, New York

### 2024 US Open Bank Pool Championship

**Mar 10 - Mar 13**

Griff's  
Las Vegas, Nevada

### McDermott Classic 2024

**Mar 12 - Mar 17**

Amazin Billiards  
Malden, Ma

### 2024 US Open One Pocket Championship

**Mar 13 - Mar 16**

Griff's  
Las Vegas, Nevada

### Polish Dynamic Billard 10-Ball Open

**Mar 14 - Mar 17**

Kielce, Poland

### Monica Webb Battle of the Junior Champions II

**Mar 15 - Mar 17**

Stix Billiards  
Villa Rica, Georgia

### Joss Tour 2023-2024 Stop 15

**Mar 16 - Mar 17**

Brickhouse Billiards  
N. Syracuse, New York

### Premier League Pool 2024

**Mar 18 - Mar 25**

US 1 Billiards & Bar  
West Haven, CT

### WPBA Fairfield Invitational

**Mar 21 - Mar 24**

Fairfield Arts and Convention Center  
Fairfield, Iowa

### FSR Nineball Open 2024

**Mar 28 - Mar 30**

Lugo, Spain

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# AZBILLIARDS MONEY LIST

	NAME	COUNTRY	\$ AMOUNT
	Joshua Filler	 GER	\$74,400.00
	Fedor Gorst	 RUS	\$39,550.00
	Carlo Biado	 PHI	\$25,000.00
	Shane Van Boening	 USA	\$16,100.00
	Bernie Regalaria	 PHI	\$12,000.00
	Jayson Shaw	 SCO	\$12,000.00
	Lee Vann Cortez	 PHI	\$11,400.00
	Justin Hall	 USA	\$9,200.00
	Pijus Labutis	 LTU	\$9,200.00
	John Morra	 CAN	\$7,700.00



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FEBRUARY 6-11, 2024

New Iberia  
LOUISIANA

EMERALD BILLIARDS PRESENTS  
THE SECOND ANNUAL

# BAYOU STATE CLASSIC \$20,000 ADDED

## \$13,000 ADDED 1 POCKET

AUCTION WEDNESDAY 7PM PLAY ASAP  
MODIFIED ENTRY BASED ON FARGORATE  
RACES TO 3/3-FINALS ONE RACE TO 4  
3 FOUL RULE-48 PLAYER LIMIT  
EXPRESS RULES APPLY

## \$5,000 ADDED OPEN 9 BALL

AUCTION FRIDAY 7PM  
PLAY ASAP AFTER THE AUCTION  
DOUBLE ELIM RACES 9/7  
\$100 ENTRY INCLUDES 20 GREEN FEE  
128 PLAYER LIMIT 7FT VALLEY'S

## \$2,000 ADDED ONE BALL 1 POCKET

AUCTION 7PM TUESDAY PLAY ASAP SINGLE ELIMINATION  
RACES TO 4 32 PLAYER LIMIT \$200 ENTRY

<b>ONE POCKET</b>	FARGO RATE USED BASED ON A
ENTRY FEE BASED ON FARGORATE	ROBUSTNESS OF 300 OR MORE
619 AND BELOW: \$200	MATCHES OR PLAYER'S KNOWN
620-739: \$400	ABILITY. FINAL RATINGS FOR PLAYERS
740 AND OVER: \$600	ARE BASED ON THE SOLE DISCRETION
	OF THE EVENT PROMOTER/DIRECTOR
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Tommy Terrebonne (337)-658-5623



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