

# Billiards Buzz

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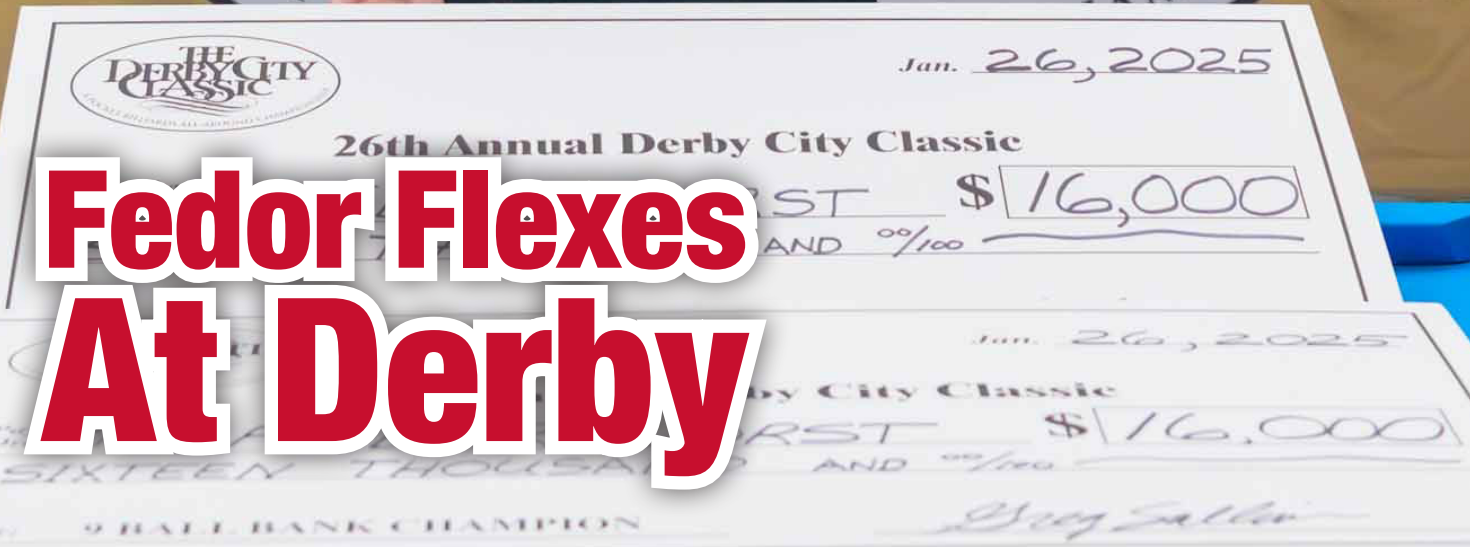
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**Fedor Flexes  
At Derby**

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# FROM THE Head Rail

MIKE HOWERTON

**H**aving just returned from producing some of the matches at Derby City recently, I always enjoy the chance to listen to the elder statesman of the game providing commentary. An hour spent listening to someone like Nick Varner is always time well spent.

It's not too tough to tell that I am more of a fan of the old school side of the game. With all of the great talent we have at the table these days, I still count Earl or Rodney or Buddy as some my favorite players to watch. Hearing the old school players tell stories about each other is always a blast.

I do know that the elder statesmen aren't going to be around forever and I always wonder about the history of the game that is going to be lost to time, because it only exists in the minds of those great players.

Makes me want to head down to my favorite room and offer to buy a drink/meal for one of the OG players that hangs out there, with the hopes of just hearing some of the history of this great game. I do believe it would be money very well spent.

Until next time.

Mike



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Story by Mary Kenniston /  
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# LESSONS FROM TURNING STONE, PT. 1

As part of my coverage of Turning Stone Classic XL (#40) I watched every match on the streaming table provided by UpState AI. I kept notes and wrote stories on each one, which I posted on my Facebook page. In this and next month's columns I am going to focus on one or two takeaways from each one. These short lessons can serve as reminders for some aspects of your game, or they might provide you with some new ideas that you can add to your game. Happy hunting.

## 1 – EARLY TOURNAMENT TUNE UP

Ruslan Chinahov was a heavy favorite (805 Fargo) in his opening match against Derek Hart (578), and the match bore this out as he went on to win, 9-3, taking the last 6 games. When a great player has a first round match such as this they can, basically, work on their fundamentals, get used to the table, and prepare for tougher matches to come. So, from Ruslan's perspective, this was an early tournament tune up where he got to display his long and smooth stroke, his open bridge, his uptempo pace, and his continuous motion style of play.

Hart, on the other hand, gained some valuable experience playing an 800+ player (one of only 58 in the world). I would certainly hope that some of Ruslan's picture perfect game and his precision position will rub off on Derek, and he'll be a better player for it.

## 2 – THE DOUBLE INHALE

Jesse Piercey was a slight underdog, with a Fargo of 676 to Dave Pinkston's 687. Still, he won a close contest, 9-7. The difference was Pinkston's miss on the 9 in game 7 and one on the 8 in game 13. So, the math is easy: take 2 from Piercey and add them to Pinkston's side and he's the winner, 9-7!

I cannot peek inside Pinkston's mind to discern why he missed those two critical shots. But if it was because of late-game pressure, which may have come from playing on the streaming table, then I have an antidote.

It's called the double inhale or the physiological sigh. When standing on the line-of-aim, inhale twice through your nose, then do a long exhale out of your mouth. According to Nicole Vignola, the author of *Rewire*, this process "... signals to your brain that you're no longer experiencing anything threatening. This allows your heart rate to come down, which in turn brings you back to a relaxed state." Indeed, a "more relaxed state" is just what you want when playing high pressure shots, especially towards the end of a rack and/or a match.

## 3 – ON BEING A FRONTRUNNER

Tyler Henninger (678) demonstrated his version of the continuous motion style of play in his match with Brad Guthrie (665). After they split the first 2 games, Henninger won the next 3, lost a game, then won 3 more to open up a 6-2 lead. He then closed with a rush, winning the last 2 to take the match, 9-5.

**Frontrunners are experts  
at playing with a lead.**

In this match Henninger showed his skill as a frontrunner – which is a player who, once they get a lead, is able to continue with their strong play – which keeps their opponent from mounting a serious comeback. While some deride the label of a frontrunner, to me it is one of the most valuable skills in pool – and all the more so when you couple it with the ability to come from behind. In short, you can play your game no matter what the score!

## 4 – DIAGNOSING A PLAYER'S METHOD

You can see that Eric Hjorleifson's 750 Fargo rating is no accident once you take a closer look at his game, as I did during this match. For starters, he uses the continuous motion style (and yes, I sound like a broken record on this, but I want you to consider using it if you don't already). His hold hand (I'm phasing out grip) is nice and relaxed, which enables him to cock and release his wrist fully on the final forward stroke.

Eric also stands precisely on the line-of-aim prior to taking his stance. He plays at a rapid clip, which enables

him to enter into the flow state. In sum, there is a lot to like about Eric's game, and it is one with so many elements worth copying. For the record, he won this match, 9-1, against Jason Robichaud (668), and went on to finish 5-6.

## 5 – THE VARIABLE FARGO

Dwight Dixon (595) eliminated Ron Casanzio (713) from the event, 9-5. With a difference of 118 in the Fargo ratings, this was the biggest upset in the event on the streaming table. At one point the score was 5-5, but then Dixon won 4 straight to close out the match. This unlikely outcome got me to thinking about a new term which, for now, I'm calling the Variable Fargo.

As you know, a Fargo rating shows a player's skill when they play their so-called "average game." But most of the time a player's game is a little to a lot better, or worse, than their Fargo would indicate. When you consider a player like Joshua Filler (854) his best game is just a little above that rating. But he so good and so consistent that, on a bad day, he might "only" play at the 830 level.

**A player's current game is better, or worse, than their Fargo indicates.**

The further you go down the ratings, the wider the variations are likely to be between a player's best and worst versions of their games. As a consequence, Dixon might have played at a 660 level while Casanzio played at the 600 level. While these are just guesses, that makes them part of the fun of being a player and a fan – estimating the current level of play versus the expected level, which is a player's Fargo rating.

## 6 – SHOW UP ON TIME

I am not sure why Ruslan Chinahov showed up late for his second round match with Jayson Shaw, but he did and it cost him a one game penalty.

So now he had to outscore Shaw 9-7 to win the match on perhaps Shaw's favorite spot on earth – the stream table at Turning Stone where he's won the finale 9 times. But, alas, Shaw put together a strong run out in game 2 and cruised to a 9-2 win.

The lesson here is simple: know when your match begins, find out what penalty, if any, will be imposed for arriving late, and then make it a practice of arriving at least 10-15 minutes before the match begins.

This extra time will enable you to get used to the table and to do what is needed (possibly including one or more double inhales) to get nice and relaxed before the start of play.

## 7 – CLOSING STRONG

Alvin Thomas (623), the favorite, closed strongly to seal the deal against Sean "Pancake" Santoro (546), 9-6. At one point the score was tied at 3-3, but Thomas then put together 4 nice runouts, including the last 2 games for the final margin of victory. There are so many ways to win pool matches, but nothing beats closing strongly, and playing above your average game, as Thomas did in this contest. From my view, he played more like a 680 rated player to end the match in style.

## 8 – TALL PEOPLE CAN PLAY

Christoph Neumayer (736), who on paper was a slight underdog to Eric Hjorleifson (750), won the match by taking the last 4 games after missing the 9 in game 11, which allowed Eric to take a 6-5 lead. In this match, which was a course on the many ways to win, Christoph showed true grit as he bounced back strongly, and he closed the contest with a break and run, which is always a great way to end a set as it builds confidence for upcoming matches.

Way back in the early 70s Black Bart (Bob Ogburn) came to town (San Diego) and I sadly watched him beat Jay Swanson, my idol, quite handily at

9-ball in The Billiard Tavern, Swanee's home room. This was the first time I had seen a player as tall as him (I'm guessing he was at least 6'5") play that well. With his size, he made the table look more like an 8 footer.

Fast forward to Turning Stone XL and I was, as I've mentioned before, impressed with Eric's game. So, though he lost this match, he has proven over and over that tall people (he's 6'5") can play great pool.

I asked Eric for his thoughts and his reply on playing doubles was so insightful. According to Eric, "I play doubles with average height players and I just tell them before the tournament that I can't even consider leaving more distance – usually (the) cue ball (is) further away from the object ball cause it never really crosses my mind. I just play position wherever I need without worrying about stretching." Chalk up one big advantage. On the other side of the coin, Eric mentioned that "They (tall players) have a bigger wing span and have to stand longer so it's harder to stay stable and to cue straight." He manages to meet that challenge as is shown by his play.

## 9 – COMING BACK FOLLOWING A STREAK

Martin Daigle (734) was a solid favorite to beat New York City's Jonathan Smith (690). Still, Jonathan, an excellent straight pool player, is more than able to apply his skills at 14.1 to 9-ball, as he showed in orchestrating an upset. As is often the case, players go on streaks as Jonathan did, winning the first 5 and moving ahead, 6-1. Daigle then went on a streak of his own, winning 5 straight to pull to within a game. But Jonathan got up off the matt and took 3 of the last 4 to win the match, 9-7.

**Stay patient and be ready to counter a streak with one of your own.**

The lesson: streaks come and go, so you need to stay patient and be ready to counter them with one of your own, as both of these players did so well in this match. I can only guess what kind of self-talk they were engaged in while spending so much time in the chair. But it obviously had to be the kind that refreshed and energized them, and that enabled them to counter with some fine play of their own once they got control of the table.

## 10 – THE ART OF THE STREAK

In the previous lesson I wrote about The Art of The Streak, but there are few players on the planet that can get in top gear and trample over their opponents with a string of Ws than Jayson Shaw and Mika Immonen are able to do. In this case study, Mika took 4 straight to lead, 4-1. Jayson then countered with eight straight to win going away.

**Playing at a rapid pace can enable you to get into the zone.**

Both players are known for their ability to orchestrate hot streaks in large part because they shoot so straight and play with such confidence. And, when in top form, they play at a rapid pace, which enables them to get in the zone where each shot is aided by the positive lingering effects of the ones they've just played. In his recent 832 ball run, Jayson took an average of only 13.3 seconds to play each one. At that pace, there was virtually no time for a hint of rust to develop on his shooting arm. Indeed, his arm and hand must have stayed as loose as that proverbial goose!

## 11 – VARIABLE FARGO RATINGS, PART 2

In the lesson for game 5 I introduced the notion of a Variable Fargo, which is basically an estimate of how far above

or below a player's Fargo that they are currently playing. The further a player can play, at times, above their Fargo, the more dangerous they are when they get on a roll.

A case in point is Holden Chin, who is rated at 658. However, Holden plays fast and loose, so when he gets in top form, he gives the appearance of a player with a much higher rating. In this match, he was the heavy favorite, yet found himself trailing to Steve Motilal, 8-5. But he won games 14 and 15, then broke and ran to reach double hill – and he won the decider to avoid being upset.

While on his closing roll, I would estimate that he was playing more like a 710 rated player. With this kind of ability to get hot, I would advise Holden's opponent's not to underestimate him because the man can play. It's just a matter of when his top game will make its appearance.

## 12 – PLAYERS WITH COMMONALITIES

Harold Rousseau is rated 691, but lost this match to Eric Hjørleifson, 9-5 as was expected. However, I enjoyed watching him play because he's a lefty like me (and Joshua Filler), and because he uses the continuous motion style of play. He also stands with his head well above the cue, as do I.

The lesson: when you see a player with a number of commonalities, as I share with Rousseau, pay special attention to their play and you may pick up a technique or an idea that you can use in your game.

## 13 – OLDIES BUT GOODIES

Dave Shlemperis (605) was the underdog in his match with Pat Fleming (654) of Accu-Stats, but he managed to close out the win when Pat missed an easy 8 ball in what turned out to be the final game. Pat had not been able to practice much lately as we listeners were told by his good friend, Ed Cul-

hane. On top of that, Pat is in his 70s, which adds to the challenge of playing this great sport.

I visited Dr. Google and he informed me that as we age our muscles get tighter. This was certainly in evidence for 3 of the oldest players in the field, who each exhibited some degree of tension on their follow throughs. And yet Pat and the other two, with Fargos of 654, 669, and 713, still play a mean game of pool. That they are out their competing on a live stream at their age against such fierce competition is further proof that pool is the game of a lifetime.

As far as the tightness goes, there are a few possible solutions. These include creams that purport to loosen up you muscles, a hand warming glove to use while between turns, and exercises to loosen up your fingers and wrists.

This match took over 2 hours and 30 minutes to complete, which is proof that either or both players had to be taking a long time to choose and plan their shots. This, of course, is in violation of the Laws of Pool, which state that "just because you have all of the time in the world to think through your shots before playing them does not mean that you should."

## ABOUT PHIL CAPELLE

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

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# WHEN YOU'RE BEHIND, YOU'RE REALLY AHEAD!

ANTHONY BEELER

**In bar table 8-ball, shot-making skills alone won't take you to the top. The best players know that strategy is just as important—if not more—than pure shot-making ability.**

**O**ne of the biggest mistakes amateurs make is trying to run out too soon. You should never attempt to run out unless you're at least **70 percent sure** you can finish the rack. If you fail, you've handed your opponent a golden opportunity.

Every ball left on the table carries strategic value and removing them too soon can leave you without options. Understanding how to manage your balls properly is crucial to winning more games.

## Every Ball Is a Soldier on the Battlefield

Think of your object balls as soldiers. Every time you pocket one, you remove a tool for defense or offense. If you can't complete the run, you may be weakening your position.

A well-placed ball serves multiple functions:

- **A safety net** – You may need it to play a defensive shot later. More balls on the table offer more places to leave your cue ball.
- **A strategic shield** – A ball in the right spot can block your opponent from running out.
- **A run-starting option** – Spread-out balls give you better choices when it's time to finish.

If you pocket balls without a clear path to victory, you may soon run out

of options while your opponent controls the table.

## Using Your Balls for Defensive Play

Many players underestimate the importance of safety play in 8-ball. Every ball you leave on the table is another opportunity to play safe. A well-placed shot can limit your opponent's ability to run out or hook them behind one of your balls.

- If you don't have a clear shot, leave a ball near a pocket creating a higher percentage shot for later.



- Use your balls to block lanes and force difficult shots.
- If your opponent is aggressive, hook them and force a foul. Ball-in-hand can be a huge weapon.

Patience wins games. Sometimes, the best move is to wait for a better



opportunity rather than take a risky shot.

### The Illusion of Being Behind

A unique aspect of 8-ball is that **being behind on the scoreboard can actually mean you're ahead**. If your opponent has cleared most of their balls but isn't positioned to finish, they're now in a weak spot. They have no blockers, no safety options, and no way to stop you from running out.

If you still have several balls, you have more ways to dictate the game's pace. You can play safe, block their shots, or maneuver until you're ready to go.

### Don't Be a Go-Fer: Commit to the Run Only When It's Time

One of the biggest mistakes players make is **being a go-fer**—pocketing balls without thinking. They see an

open shot and take it, never considering whether it's the right time to run out.

When you decide to run out, you must **fully commit**. Running 6-7 balls and then getting stuck is the worst-case scenario—you've done all the hard work for your opponent and left them an open table.

To avoid this mistake, ask yourself:

1. **Do I have a clear path to all my balls?**
2. **Can I control the cue ball effectively?**

3. **Do I have a backup plan?**

4. **What happens if I miss?**

Winning in 8-ball isn't just about making shots—it's about **making the right decisions**. Be patient, use your balls wisely, and don't be a go-fer who pockets balls aimlessly. Good strategy always beats reckless shot-making.

**Every ball you leave is a problem for your opponent. Every ball you remove is an option you lose. Play smart, and a higher percentage of wins will follow.**

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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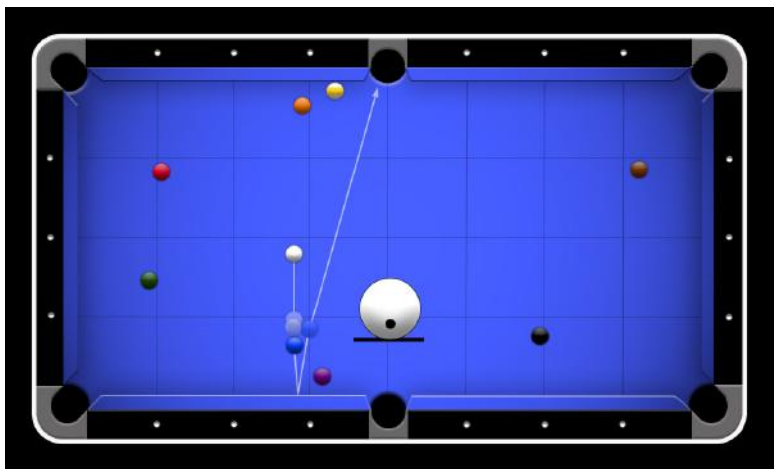
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**F R O M**



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

This month, we are staying with the 2023 International Open 9-Ball Championship.

Jesus Atencio came with this beauty in a match against Pijus Labutis.

It's easy to say that this was just a lucky shot, but Atencio reminded us after the match that it was a pretty standard one pocket shot, and he sure didn't look surprised that it went in.



*Meucci*



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# Gospel Trick Shot #60

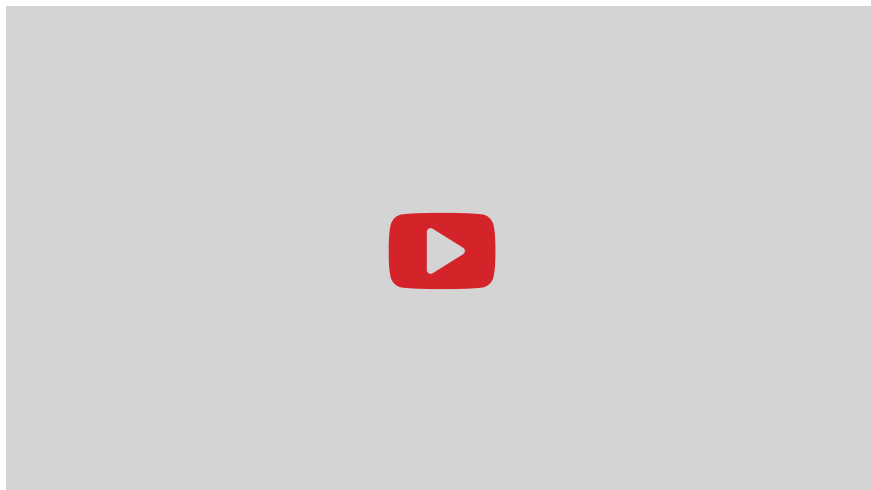
## Relationships

**History of the Trick Shot:** This show was created by Pastor Michael Hewitt using one of the shots from our professional program that will be shot in a few weeks at the World Championships.

**GTS Name and Why:** Michael named this shot “Relationships”, it highlights the relationship that we have with our Lord Jesus Christ. Seek the one with your one and you when come to life’s challenges, God will pour his influence in to help you.

**Scripture References:** Deuteronomy 4:29 “But if from there you seek the Lord your God, you will find him if you seek him with all your heart and with all your soul.”

**Cue Ball Placement:** In hand per diagram, one-two ball widths from the slate cut. You will want to set the cue ball in such a way that the



one ball is pointed to the left center of the opposite side pocket.

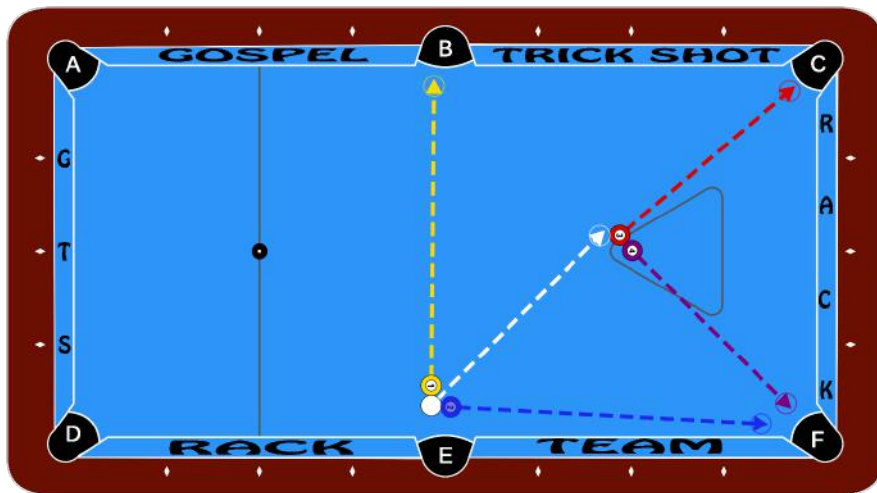
**Object Ball(s) Placement:** One ball frozen to cue ball and aimed toward the left center of side pocket B. Two ball is frozen to cue and aimed at the right point of pocket F. Four ball is on foot spot with the Three ball frozen to it. The Three-

Four combo is aimed at the right center of pocket F

**Objective:** Using a firm stroke, aim a tip outside the Three ball to allow the cue ball to hit the combo with enough force to split the balls to the corner pockets. The shot is made best with a long follow thru to keep the cue ball in line with target.

**Special Notes:** If you find that the combination doesn’t find the pocket, make sure all balls are frozen. You may need to adjust you aim further left.

**Crowd Reactions:** This shot was shot at the Derby City Classic this year to the delight of those in attendance. This shot reminds us to keep our focus on God. He can help us in our daily lives if we seek Him first.



becue



*Alesandro*

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# 26<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL DERBY CITY CLASSIC IS IN THE BOOKS

**Greg Sullivan and Diamond Billiard Products welcomed scores of players and fans from all over the world to the 26th anniversary of the greatest show in pool!**

Attracting a record number of players, the tournament featured five events – the Bigfoot Ten-Ball Challenge, Nine Ball Banks, the Banks Ring Game, One Pocket and Nine Ball.

This year's tournament had a major change in that a day was added and the finals of the Banks, One Pocket and Nine Ball championships were all held on that additional day.

Kicking off the tournament was the Bigfoot Ten Ball Challenge played on the ten footer. Sixteen players competed in this single elimination, race to ten, alternate breaks event.

Whittled down to four players, the first semi-final saw defending champ Joshua Filler face 2018 Bigfoot champ Roberto Gomez. Filler cruised into the finals with a 10-6 victory over Gomez.

The second semi-final pitted Lithuania's Pijus Labutis against Peruvian Gerson Martinez. Martinez went down in a 10-5 thrashing and Labutis cruised into the finals.

With their eyes on the prize, the formidable German came up short as The Lithuanian Lion took the 2025 Bigfoot crown 11-7!

While the Bigfoot Challenge was in progress, the Nine Ball Banks Division was underway with 476 players and after scores of matches, 2024 Player of the Year and last year's Master of the Table, Fedor Gorst, locked up his seat in the finals. His opponent, Tony Chohan, reigning Buffalo's Pro Classic

One Pocket champ, claimed the other berth and was looking for his first Derby City banks title and banner.

While the Banks was winding down, the 400 player One Pocket had cranked up. Locking up another finals berth was Louisville transplant Fedor Gorst. His opponent was none other than Captain America – Shane Van Boening. The Billiard Digest's last Player of the Decade hadn't had a Derby City title since 2016.

Friday night was the fan favorite – the Nine Ball Banks Ring Game! To no one's surprise, it came down to whom many consider to be America's best bankers in addition to being best friends – Billy Thorpe and Sky Woodward. When the smoke cleared, it was Woodward who took the cheese.

Saturday saw the elimination of many players in the 501 player field as the Nine Ball wrapped up. Alex Pagulayan, the 2016 Master of the Table, was

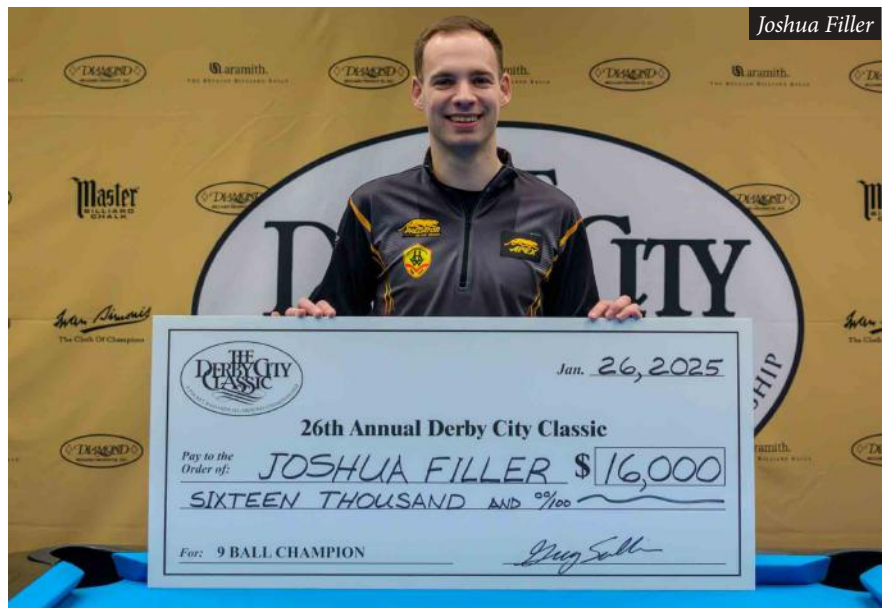
the first to arrive at the final match. Fighting to prevent Fedor Gorst from making a possible sweep of all three events was defending champ and last year's Master of the Table, Joshua Filler. Killer Filler made short work of Gorst and rocketed into the finals.

Sunday rolled around for the big day! The Bank Pool final was first featuring Gorst and Chohan. Fedor steamrolled through the match blitzing Tony 3-0 to claim the title.

The One Pocket final was next. Playing flawless one pocket, Gorst claimed his second Derby City title of the weeks by defeating Van Boening 3-1.

And, finally, Filler successfully defended his title after defeating Pagulayan 9-6.

Congratulations to Joshua Filler for winning back-to-back Nine Ball titles and Fedor Gorst for taking both the Bank Pool and One Pocket titles to become the 2025 Master of the Table!



# PIJUS LABUTIS

## WINS 2025 DERBY CITY CLASSIC BIGFOOT TITLE

Story and Photos by AzB Staff

**A year ago, it was Pijus Labutis dropping back to back matches in the finals of the 2024 Derby City Classic 9-Ball Division, but what a difference a year makes.**

**T**his year, Labutis started off his Derby City Classic with an undefeated run through the Diamond Bigfoot 10-Ball Championship, capping that event off with a statement victory against Joshua Filler in the finals.

Labutis started the final day of the event with a 10-5 win over Gerson Martinez. Martinez's quick pace of play keeps making him fans at Derby City, but Labutis comfortably dispatched the young Peruvian player.

Meanwhile, Filler was advancing to his second straight Bigfoot final with a 10-6 win over Roberto Gomez. Filler had won the Bigfoot event and that victory launched him into his Master of the Table title win last year.

The finals went back and forth with neither player able to build a lead, but when digging into the quality of play, it was Labutis who was the better player by far. Based on that level of play, Labutis should have been able to build a good sized lead, but that was not the case.

As the match neared its ending, fans were wondering if Filler's experience in the finals of major events would be the deciding factor but instead, it was Labutis who dug down to win the last three racks (breaking and running the final rack) for a 10-7 win and his first major Derby City Classic title.

At the beginning of the day on Tuesday, the Banks division was down to

seven players and Fedor Gorst was the only player with a buyback. Gorst was scheduled to play Van Boening, with Mickey Krause set to play Tony Chohan and Billy Thorpe set to play Shannon Murphy. Skyler Woodward had the bye. Those matches are scheduled for 6:00 PM EST tonight.

While the Banks was winding down, the 400 player One Pocket had cranked up. Locking up another finals berth was Louisville transplant Fedor Gorst. His opponent was none other than Captain America – Shane Van Boening. The Billiard Digest's last Player of the Decade hadn't had a Derby City title since 2016.

Friday night was the fan favorite – the Nine Ball Banks Ring Game! To no one's surprise, it came down to whom many consider to be America's best bankers in addition to being best friends – Billy Thorpe and Sky Woodward. When the smoke cleared, it was Woodward who took the cheese.

Saturday saw the elimination of many players in the 501 player field as the Nine Ball wrapped up. Alex Pagulayan, the 2016 Master of the Table, was the first to arrive at the final match. Fighting to prevent Fedor Gorst from



making a possible sweep of all three events was defending champ and last year's Master of the Table, Joshua Filler. Killer Filler made short work of Gorst and rocketed into the finals.

Sunday rolled around for the big day! The Bank Pool final was first featuring Gorst and Chohan. Fedor steamrolled through the match blitzing Tony 3-0 to claim the title.

The One Pocket final was next. Playing flawless one pocket, Gorst claimed his second Derby City title of the weeks by defeating Van Boening 3-1.

And, finally, Filler successfully defended his title after defeating Pagulayan 9-6.

Congratulations to Joshua Filler for winning back-to-back Nine Ball titles and Fedor Gorst for taking both the Bank Pool and One Pocket titles to become the 2025 Master of the Table!

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# OUSCHAN BATTLES TKACH TWICE

## TO WIN WPBA OLHAUSEN IRON CITY INVITATIONAL IN BIRMINGHAM

Story by Skip Maloney - AzB Staff / Photos courtesy Gabriel Abruzzese and Erwin Dionisio

**Austria's Jasmin Ouschan picked up her first WPBA title in over two years this past weekend (Jan. 31-Feb. 2), when she claimed title to the WPBA's \$25,000-added Olhausen Iron City Billiards Invitational in Birmingham, AL.**

**S**he shared a title with Monica Webb in a Scotch Doubles event during Biker Week in Laconia, NH last year, but prior to that, she had not won a WPBA event since she came from the loss side to win WPBA's Aramith/Dr. Pool Classic in December of 2023 and earlier, her second straight WPBA Masters title in July.

Ouschan and runner-up Kristina Tkach, who came into and out of the event as the WPBA's top-ranked competitor over the last year, have met at the tables before, most recently, last November when they faced each other in the semifinals of the World Pool Association's (WPA) VenBilliards World 10-Ball tournament in Puerto

Rico. Tkach prevailed and advanced to claim the title. They also met in the quarterfinals of the 2023 Kamui WPA Women's World 9-Ball Championships in Atlantic City, with Tkach, once again, advancing.

Not this time. Though Tkach would defeat Ouschan in the battle for the



Kristina Tkach and Jasmin Ouschan  
(courtesy Gabriel Abruzzese)

hot seat, Ouschan came back from a semifinal victory over Tzu-Chien Wei to defeat Tkach and claim the title.

The Olhausen Iron City Invitational featured two, double-elimination stages. Stage 1 drew 48 entrants, who competed until eight from each side of the bracket advanced to meet 32 previously seeded competitors in Stage 2. There were a few surprises that emerged out of Stage 1, though one of them was not the eventual winner, Jasmin Ouschan, who worked her way through three opponents to qualify for advancement to Stage 2 with an aggregate score of 21-2. It was Shanna Lewis who chalked up the two racks against her in what was the last qualifying round of play preceding advancement to Stage 2.

Bearing in mind that ‘surprise’ is a relative term, because it is rarely a first-time rodeo for any competitors at a WPBA event, there were two names that had a way of ‘jumping off the (Stage 1 bracket) page’ at first glance. One was Judie Wilson, a long-time veteran of the J. Pechauer Northeast Women’s Tour (JPNEWT), who advanced to Stage 2 from the winners’ side of the Stage 1 bracket. In races to 7, she got by three opponents with higher FargoRates; Billie Billing (4) and Natae Goldman (5), before locking up in a double-hill battle versus Cathy McDaniel. Wilson dropped the last 9-ball and advanced to Stage 2.

The other ‘surprise’ was 13-year-old Jordan Helfrey, who chalked up her first professional finishes at last year’s WPBA Fairfield Invitational (17th) in March, finished 9th at the Americas Heyball Women’s Championship in July and won the 19 and under Girls title at the International Open just over a month ago. Helfrey got by her first three opponents, all with lower FargoRates, by an aggregate score of 21-3, eliminating Kaley Sullivan (2), Dulcencia Jones (0) and Laura Semko (1). Helfrey, along with teenaged com-



Allison Fisher

patriot Savannah Easton, and two JPNEWT veterans (Briana Miller and Ashley Benoit) finished, overall, in the tie for 13th.

Also advancing to Stage 2 from the winners’ side of the Stage 1 bracket were Vietnam’s Nguyen Bich Tram, Jessica Barnes, Jeannie Seaver, Turkey’s Eylul Kibaroglu and Spain’s Mayte Ropero. Advancing from the loss side were Kia Burwell, Betsy Sundholm, Debbie Schjodt, Marianne Merrill, Susan Mello, Shanelle Lorraine, Joanne Ashton and Dawn Hopkins.

In races to 8, Tkach didn’t give up more than three racks to anybody during her trip to the hot seat. She opened with three straight 8-2 wins over Jessica Barnes, Ashley Benoit and April Larson and then, in one of the winners’ side semifinals, got even stingier versus Kelly Fisher, giving up only one. Ouschan, in the meantime, had her share of short ‘racks against’ as well, though not as many. She, too opened with an 8-1 win over June Maiers, only to run into Pia Filler, who put up an almost-double hill

fight against her. Ouschan prevailed 8-6 to chalk up her second 8-1 victory against Eylul Kibaroglu. This was followed by two 8-4 victories over Kristina Zlateva and in the other winners’ side semifinal, Tzu-Chien Wei.

Some would contend that ‘easier’ trips to the hot seat match can lead to a touch of overconfidence and complacency, while strong challenges along the way can keep a player sharp. Not this time. Though Ouschan would chalk up more racks against Tkach than any of her previous opponents, it was Tkach who claimed the hot seat 8-3.

Kelly Fisher and Tzu-Chien Wei arrived at the loss side of the bracket to end the two, three-match, loss-side winning streaks of Margarita Fefilova and Veronique Menard. On any given day, the six competitors on that side of the bracket who were still in contention when Fefilova and Menard joined them could well have challenged either Tkach or Ouschan for the title. Fisher picked up Fefilova, who’d eliminated Pia Filler 8-6 and Kaylee McIn-



Tzu-Chien Wei

tosh 8-3 (previously, Filler had eliminated Briana Miller and McIntosh had defeated Kristina Zlateva). Tzu-Chien Wei got Menard, who'd eliminated

Maria Teresa (Mayte) Ropero Garcia 8-3 and Brittany Bryant 8-6 (previously, Garcia had eliminated Savannah Easton, while Bryant had dispatched

the teenager Jordan Helfrey and the once-upon-a-time teenager April Larson).

Tzu-Chien Wei and Kelly Fisher gave up a combined total of one rack (Fisher over Fefilova) and advanced to the quarterfinals. In the match that concluded just minutes before the hot seat match did, "Wei-Wei" (as Fisher calls her) defeated Fisher 8-5. Separated by only two FargoRate points (753-751) Ouschan and Wei went at it for advancement to the finals. Ouschan (the 753) earned her second chance against Tkach with an 8-3 win.

Ouschan had the FargoRate advantage in the race-to-10 final against Tkach, as well, giving her 753 a 60% advantage over Tkach's 736. It was an almost-double-hill affair as Ouschan chalked up 55% of the racks, claiming the 2025 WPBA Olhausen Iron City Billiards Invitational title with a 10-8 victory.

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# LEE VANN CORTEZA

## Captures Second Career Turning Stone Title

The Turning Stone Classic XL got underway on January 9th, with its usual field of 128 players made up of top pros and the best regional players from the Northeast and Canada.

For the longest time, this event has been thought of as “belonging” to Eagle Eye Jayson Shaw, who has won this title a record nine times. Some fans were boasting online that it was an “even money” bet to take Shaw against the field of 127 other players. That field of 127 other players included Mika Immonen, Lee Vann Corteza, John Morra, Erik Hjorlie, Danny Hewitt, Jeremy Sassei, Matt Krahn, Bucky Souvanthong, Frankie Hernandez and more though.

Shaw lived up to those fans expectations early, going undefeated for his first four rounds of play. An early 9-2 win over Russian Ruslan Chinahov looked to be a good omen for Shaw. The fifth round of play changed things though, as 2007 Champion Lee Vann Corteza made quick work of Shaw 9-4.

Also looking strong was reigning Champion Germany’s Moritz Neuhausen, who’s fifth round 9-2 win over German transplant to New York Christoph Neumayer, kept him on the winner’s side. Canadians Danny Hewitt and Jesse Piercey filled out the top four unbeaten spots in the brackets.



Lee Vann Corteza

Round six saw Corteza blank Piercey 9-0, while Neuhausen had quite a bit more trouble with Hewitt before dispatching him hill-hill. Corteza then took the hot-seat with a 9-6 win over Neuhausen.

Neuhausen’s time on the one loss side was not very long after his hot-seat loss, as he handed Neumayer another 9-2 loss to setup the rematch between the two former champions Neuhausen and Corteza in the finals.

The final match was another true battle with both champions looking to earn their second career Turning Stone titles. Corteza kicked things off with a 3-1 lead, but Neuhausen knotted things back up at 3-3 very quickly. Neuhausen took his first lead with a 9-ball break for a 6-5 lead, but Corteza fought back to regain the lead at 9-8. Corteza took control of things from there and earned a 13-10 win for Turning Stone Classic Title #2.



Moritz Neuhausen

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# A Journey from Tradition to Innovation

This is the key concept behind Becue's new billiard cue, and it also encapsulates the deeper meaning of the company's mission.



**“W**e have always looked at tradition with great respect and gratitude,” says Alessandro Bressan, Owner and Founder of the Italian company Becue, together with his partner, Michele Carniel. “We started from the best of tradition and projected it into the future by introducing new materials, design, and technological innovations.”

Becue is the only company in the world that exclusively offers products made from carbon fiber. “We don’t have any wooden cues or shafts in our catalog,” Bressan notes. “Michele and I come from the world of competitive billiards, and we still play whenever time allows,” he laughs, “but we specialize in materials, especially composite fibers, which struck us right

away as the key to giving every player the best possible playing experience. These materials, if mastered correctly, have endless potential, though they do come with certain constraints...”

## What are these constraints?

“It depends on how you look at it. We live in a world where the constant message is: ‘Push your limits!’ And people think that with the right product, they’ll achieve results they never dreamed of. I don’t believe it’s that simple. Let me explain: equipment—like any sports gear—is critical. Over the last few years, we’ve seen top athletes break records partly because they used equipment that best supported them. But there’s also the factor of mindset, hard work, and sacrifice that a person is willing to devote to their goals. Without that passionate determination, no piece of equipment can do the work for you.”

## What does this have to do with your new product?

“Everything. It’s at the very core of this product. For the first time, we at Becue faced a new kind of ‘limit.’ All these years, we’ve focused on performance while respecting a design dictated by the properties of carbon fiber. Mechanically, the material has near-infinite potential and combinations, but from an aesthetic perspective, it presents more constraints than opportunities.”

## Can you elaborate?

“I mean we’ve spent years working day and night in the pursuit of the best possible performance. It might sound bold, but I believe we’ve succeeded. I say that respectfully and with pride, especially when I look at our growth figures. Today, Becue competes with the main players in the market; we’re no longer just a niche





final endpoint but a fresh starting line. At Becue, we work knowing we must always move our horizon forward in constant search of improvement,” Bressan explains. “It sounds poetic, but believe me, it’s also extremely challenging because it means continually investing in research and development, sourcing materials, and often customizing our machinery. Yet it’s absolutely worth it.”

### **Tell us more about Horizon.**

Horizon is a limited edition of 20 pieces, created to celebrate a truly unique moment. Each cue is numbered and signed by me, the one who designed it, and comes with our exclusive K2 genuine leather grip. The model is enhanced by inlays made from premium materials, starting with wood—skillfully treated to serve as an inlay—and extending to resins specially developed for Becue. Completing the ensemble are Damascus-style carbon rings, an extremely complex technique, applied for the occasion also to the joint ring of the shaft, also in a limited version. Becue has introduced a new paradigm in the world of billiards.

### **And what can we expect in the future?**

“That’s simple: new horizons.”

or alternative option like we were four or five years ago—we’re now a highly desired brand.”

### **What comes next?**

“Well, with that sense of achievement, we decided to turn a limit into an opportunity. To put it simply: we created Horizon, the world’s first carbon fiber cue with inlays—a brand-new horizon.”

The name is both evocative and significant: “I’d say it represents what we are and want to become. The horizon is captivating, a source of inspiration, always shifting. It’s a goal that isn’t a



# JAYSON SHAW

## Runs 832 to Break his Own World Record

Story by AzB Staff - Photo courtesy Erwin Dionisio

**Jayson Shaw has done the unthinkable again, breaking his straight pool record of continuous balls ran with an amazing run of 832 balls on January 6th, 2025.**

Shaw had ran 714 balls nearly three years ago, but as with everything in the billiards world today, the 714 run was surrounded with drama that Shaw wanted to put to rest. “A lot of things happened in that last run and that kinda put the bit between my teeth to go out there and do it without anybody having anything to say about it. All of that stuff just made me want to beat the record even more” said Shaw.

So, Shaw was back at it again, running balls under the streaming cameras at the ‘members only’ BAK Room Billiards Studio in Lorton, VA on January 5th and 6th as part of the Legends of Pocket Billiards Challenge. Bobby Chamberlain in the founder of Legends of Pocket Billiards and a co-owner at BAK Room Billiards Studio. After an early attempt ended with 278 balls, Shaw hit the zone and started making history yet again, and after 3 hours and thirteen minutes of pocketing balls, he pocketed his 715th in a row.

After a very short break to gather himself, Shaw got back to work pocketing balls to find out just what his final mark would be. Twenty five minutes later, he would pocket a 14 ball that would be the 832nd ball in a row, before an 8-13 combo got the better of him. “It was strange. I wasn’t really nervous so much as my adrenaline was going. I was in the zone for so long and then snapped out of it when I realized what was going on” he said.

Along with the thoughts of “what if” when looking back at that combination, Shaw has other reminders of his run to deal with now. “I’m not gonna lie. I’ve got like a pinched nerve in my arm from playing. It’s just a little off. I can’t feel the two fingers on my hand that I hold the cue with. They are numb most of the time. I’m getting acupuncture and I need an MRI scan on my arm.” said Shaw.

“People don’t understand. It wears you down. If you play a normal match, you are playing a number of different shots. With straight pool, you are playing the same thing repeatedly without moving very much. It’s mostly stop, stun, stop stun” Shaw continued.

Even with the physical issues involved with a run like this, Shaw says he still

isn’t done. “My goal is 1000” he said. “I think 1000 is there. I know I’ve got the grind, the determination, the willpower. Just the brain to get through the punishment that it takes to go through all of that.” Shaw elaborated.

Shaw says that goal of 1000 will be it for him though. “I think if I get to 1000, I’ll be done. If somebody comes along and beats it, then good for them. I will be happy to get on my knees and praise them and tell them they are the new man in town. Good luck with your back for the next ten years” he joked.

Until the day that he runs that 1000 balls, Shaw will have to settle for “just” 832 and the knowledge that there isn’t a “new man in town” anywhere near that accomplishment at the moment.



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# MCMINN & KIBAROGLU TAKE MUSIC CITY OPEN

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

**For the past 37 years, the legendary JOB Billiards Club in Madison, TN – a short hop from Nashville – has kicked off the new year with its annual Music City Open Nine Ball Championship. Owner Ricky Gamble and his general manager, Jeannie Casey-Hutto, and their staff rolled out the red carpet for all the players and fans.**

**T**his year's iteration saw \$7,000 added and featured five events. They included an open mini tournament, the open nine ball division, the ladies nine ball division and both open and ladies Midnight Madness divisions. All events were played on seven foot Diamonds using World BCAPL Nine Ball rules.

Presented by JOB Billiards Club and PoolActionTV.com, local sponsors included Lomax Custom Cues, Simonis, Aramith, Diamond Billiard Products, Inc., Hanshew Jump Cues, JB Cases, Bull Carbon, Durbin Custom Cues, Savage Billiards, the Action Palace of Dayton, OH and the Fort Worth Billiards Superstore of Fort Worth, TX.

Looking to add another title to their resumes were BCA Hall of Famers Kim Davenport and Johnny Archer. Four-time Music City Open champ Johnathan Pinger ("Hennessee") and 2023 Music City Open Ladies Champ Tina Malm aimed to repeat. The red hot Eylul Kibaroglu – winner of this year's Skinny Bob's Nine Ball Classic, the Scotty Townsend Memorial Ladies Nine Ball, the Texas Open Ladies Nine Ball and the Space City Open Ladies Nine Ball championships was there as well as former southeast regional champ Tracie Majors looking to shake off the rust. Other straight shooters such as Shane McMinn, Robb Saez, Devin Poteet, John Gabriel, Mitch Ellerman, Hunter White, Jamie Baraks and Mark Estiola joined the fray.

On Wednesday evening, the Mini Nine Ball was held. A full field of 64 players entered this single elimination tournament. The format was races to seven with winner breaks. The final two men standing were Scott Roberts and Mark Estiola – Scott took the win.

The following night, the main event – the \$6,000 added Open Nine Ball – kicked

off after the players auction, players meeting and draw. This double elimination event drew 115 players playing races to eleven and winner breaks.

Played down to the final eight on the winners side, Mark Estiola survived a squeaker over Ron Frank (11-10), Shane McMinn defeated Robb Saez (11-9), Mitch Ellerman beat Kim Davenport (11-



*Shane McMinn and Mark Estiola*

On Saturday evening, both divisions of the Midnight Madness events were played. Eight ladies posted a \$250 entry to play in this single elimination event. It came down to Eylul Kibaroglu and Lisa Porter with Eylul taking the win. Eight players paid a \$500 entry in the open mini and they battled down to Matt Wiseley and Johnny Archer. Matt took the win.

While the Open Division was underway, the \$1,000 added Ladies Division began with a players auction, meeting and draw.

By Saturday night, the field had been whittled down to four on the winners side. Predictably, it was Tina Malm and Eylul Kibaroglu who faced off in the upper portion of the bracket. Kibaroglu took the win (7-4) and moved into the hot seat match. In the lower portion of the bracket, it was Michelle Dunn who defeated Lisa Porter (7-4). Dunn took the other berth in the hot seat match.

The hot seat match was all Kibaroglu as she smoked Dunn (7-0) to secure her spot in the finals. Dunn moved to the one loss side to await an opponent.

Waiting for Malm was Tracie Majors and it was a close one! Malm earned the hard fought win (7-6) and then defeated Porter (7-2) to face Kibaroglu again in the finals. As mentioned previously, Tina would have to defeat Eylul twice to take the title. The finals, however, was over in one set as Eylul claimed another title with a 7-3 win over Tina.

Congratulations to Shane McMinn and Eylul Kibaroglu for becoming this year's Music City Open champions!

We'd like to again thank Ray Gamble, General Manager Jeannie Casey-Hutto and their staff for making all the players and fans feel at home.

Thanks to Tournament Director Ian Jones for keeping the trains running on time in addition to Larry Schwartz and Ray Hansen for their excellent commentary.

We can't wait until next year for the 38th Annual Music City Open!



*Eylul Kibaroglu and Tina Malm*

6) and Hunter White notched a win over Lee Uhles (11-8).

Now playing to get into the hot seat match, Ellerman edged out White (11-10) and McMinn defeated Estiola (11-7).

The former junior champ Shane McMinn sent Mitch Ellerman west with a score of 11-6. Shane moved into the finals.

On a side note, Mitch is an electrician and might be one of the best players with a full-time profession!

On the one loss side, notables such as Archer, Davenport, Hennessee, Saez, Poteet, Estiola and Gabriel were fighting to survive. Saez dusted off Hennessee (11-4), Archer (11-8) and White (11-7) and Uhles defeated Davenport (11-8) only to be eliminated by Mark Estiola (11-4).

It was the end of the line, however, for Saez as he was thumped by Estiola (11-3).

Robb finished in fourth place.

Ellerman was waiting patiently in the wings for a survivor. In a close match to see who would face McMinn in the finals, it was Estiola who took the win (11-9). Mitch would end up with a well-deserved third place finish.

As this was true double elimination, Mark would have to defeat Shane two

sets to take the title. Shane shot out to a 5-0 lead with Mark taking the next three games to make it 5-3.

Shane then took the next two games – score 7-3. Always trailing, Mark had his work cut out for him. He won the next two games and closed the gap to 7-5.

Unbelievably, he scratched on the break again! Back at the table, Shane missed early and left Mark an off angle combination. He miscued on the shot and Shane returned to the table and ran out – now 8-5 and he won the following game to make it 9-5.

On the following break, Shane parked the cue ball in the center and got smacked into the side!

Mark got ball in hand and ran out the next three games to come within one – 9-8!

He broke the balls and left a long reverse cut on the one. He missed and scratched allowing Shane to run out and get to the hill – 10-8. Looking to close out the match, he broke the balls – and scratched again!

Mark ran out the rack to make it 10-9 and then broke tough in the following game. He attempted a bank/safety and left Shane a jump shot. He made the jump and ran out the remaining balls for the title!

# DENMARK'S MICKEY KRAUSE COMES FROM THE LOSS SIDE TO WIN 2025 MINI DERB 9-BALL IN LOUISVILLE

Story by Skip Maloney - AzB Staff / Photos courtesy Erwin Dionisio

**In a short field of 30 entrants, dominated by American competitors that signed on to compete in the 3rd Annual Mini Derby in Louisville, KY this past weekend (Jan. 11-14), Denmark's Mickey Krause got by, in (not strict) order, Fedor Gorst, Shane Van Boening, Billy Thorpe, Shane Wolford and in a double-hill final, Tony "T Rex" Chohan. Not a bad day's work.**

**K**rause opened with a 9-6 victory over Gorst, which is a recommended way to get started in any tournament. He followed with wins over Dale Ding and Joe Pierce, both 9-5, before being sent to the loss side in a double-hill battle versus Shane Wolford, which certainly was a highlight of his efforts. Krause would return to claim title to the \$5,000-added 9-ball division of the Mini Derby,

hosted by Railyard Billiards in Louisville. It's an acknowledged 'warm up' for the Derby City Classic, set to get underway in three days (Jan. 17-26) and there's little doubt at this point that Krause is good to go.

It was Shane Wolford and Tony Chohan who met up in the hot seat match, each with their own claim to sending tough opponents to the loss

side. Chohan got by Corey Tipton (1) and Riley Richardson (4), ahead of his meetup with Sky Woodard. He gave up three to Woodward and drew Fracasso-Verner in one of the winners' side semifinals.

Wolford, in the meantime, started strong with a shutout over Johnny Hammontree, before meeting and defeating Shane Van Boening 9-6. He fol-



Mickey Krause

lowed that with a victory over Landon Hollingsworth 9-1 and drew Krause in the other winners' side semifinal.

T Rex gave up just a single rack to Fracasso-Verner and advanced to the hot seat match. Wolford and Krause battled to their double-hill, winners' side semifinal and it was Wolford advancing to meet Chohan. Chohan claimed the hot seat 9-5.

Over on the loss side, where any number of potential 'spoilers' for the title remained, Fracasso-Verner and Krause showed up to draw two of them, both members of last month's US Mosconi Cup Team. It's something of a 'toss up' as to who got the better deal in that draw. Fracasso-Verner drew Billy Thorpe and Krause got Van Boening. Both Thorpe and Van Boening had lost their second-round, winners' side match – Thorpe to Woodward, Van Boening to Wolford – and won four in a loss-side row, eliminating a few of the other po-

**“ KRAUSE SETTLED IT, DROPPING THE LAST 9-BALL IN THE 21ST RACK, CLAIMING THE MINI DERB TITLE... ”**

tential 'spoilers,' like Ukraine's Vitaliy and Woodward (by Van Boening) and Landon Hollingsworth (by Thorpe).


Krause ended Van Boening's loss-side run 9-7. Thorpe extended his with a 9-3 win over Fracasso-Verner. Krause then ended Thorpe's day with a 9-5 quarterfinal win and turned to face the guy, who'd made his 'day' three matches longer than it might have been, Wolford.

Krause returned the 'favor' by eliminating Wolford 9-5 in the semifinals to earn his shot against Chohan. Though their paths have likely crossed over the past few years, it was, to the best of our knowledge, the first time that the two had ever met in a match any-

where. This could potentially have been an advantage for T Rex, who cuts an imposing figure at the tables, even before he's taken cue in hand to execute his known and respected skills.

It should have come as no surprise to anyone that the two battled to double hill before the matter was settled. Krause settled it, dropping the last 9-ball in the 21st rack, claiming the Mini Derb title and presumably packing up for the hop, skip and jump (over the Ohio River) to Elizabeth, IN and its Caesars Southern Indiana facility, about half an hour (depending on traffic) away. Krause and quite a few other Mini Derb attendees are expected to compete there in the 2025 Derby City Classic's events.

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# WOODWARD COMES FROM THE LOSS SIDE

## DOWNS VAN BOENING TO WIN MINI DERB ONE POCKET

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

**Mosconi Cup teammates Sky Woodward and Shane Van Boening met twice in the One Pocket division of the 2025 Mini Derb, which began on Sunday, Jan. 12 and finished up on Tuesday, Jan. 14.**

It didn't go so well for Woodward in the hot seat battle, but he returned from a semifinal victory to defeat Van Boening in the final, claiming title to the \$6,000-added event that drew 16 entrants to Railyard Billiards in Louisville, KY.

There were early thoughts that the finalists in the Mini Derb's 9-Ball di-

vision, Mickey Krause and Tony Chohan, might battle through the field and meet in a One Pocket rematch. They did, but they met on the loss side, eliminating any 'rematch in the final' ideas. They both began their quest for a second weekend title by engaging in a shutout. In the opening round, Chohan ended up on the

losing side of his match, shut out by Shane Wolford, whom he'd defeated to claim the 9-ball hot seat. Krause shut out his first opponent, Adrian Puckett, in a '788' versus '439' FargoRate matchup, which calculated that Puckett had a .1% chance of winning. Krause advanced and followed Chohan over, when Lukas Fra-



*Skyler Woodward*

casso-Verner defeated him 4-2 in the next round.

With the two 9-ball finalists tucked away, at work on the loss side, Woodward and Van Boening headed out separate roads to the hot seat. Woodward opened with a 4-1 victory over another of his Mosconi Cup teammates, Billy Thorpe, and followed that with a 4-2 win over 'young gun' (14) Payne McBride. Woodward drew Louis DeMarco in one of the winners' side semifinals.

Shane Van Boening appeared to be a 'man with a mission' at this outing. He didn't give up a single rack until he played in the finals against Woodward. Van Boening defeated, in order, Leo Kincannon and Paul Age, to pick up Lukas Fracasso-Verner in the other winners' side semifinal.

Van Boening continued his 'unscored upon' streak by shutting out Fracasso-Verner, as Woodward chalked up

his first shutout, sending Demarco to the loss side. Van Boening shut Woodward out to claim the hot seat.

On the loss side, the Chohan/Krause matchup took place in the second round. In his first loss-side round, Chohan shut out Shawn Miller and picked up Krause, playing in his first loss-side round. Not surprisingly, their match, won by Krause, went double hill, and became the first of three straight double-hill matches for him. He followed by eliminating Billy Thorpe and, coming over from the winners' side semifinal, Louis Demarco, which put Krause into the quarterfinal.

Fracasso-Verner picked up Leo Kincannon, who'd followed his opening-round loss to Van Boening with double-hill wins over two teenagers in a row, Hayden Ernst and Payne McBride. Kincannon then gave up another one to another teenager, Kash Keaton, and advanced to meet Fracasso-Verner.

Krause and Demarco battled to double hill before Krause prevailed, advancing to the quarterfinal. Fracasso-Verner shut Kincannon out to join him. Krause gave up a single rack to Fracasso-Verner and then locked up in his fourth, double-hill, loss-side battle in the semifinals versus Woodward. Woodward 'punched his ticket' to the final with the win.

Given Van Boening's shutout victory in the hot seat match, it was hard to know on the face of it what the odds (for and against) victory in the final was going to be. FargoRate calculations, which, by the way, don't differentiate the odds for different games (9-ball, 10-ball, One Pocket), gave Woodward (811) only a 37% chance of defeating Van Boening (842) in the extended-race to 5. Woodward beat the odds, defeated Van Boening 5-2 and claimed the Mini Derb's One Pocket title.

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# LONGONI SET TO TITLE SPONSOR ITALIAN OPEN

**With the opening event on the 2025 EuroTour calendar scheduled to get underway on Thursday 6th February, the EPBF are delighted to announce that long-standing Italian billiard company Longoni srl will be title sponsors of both the men's and ladies' tournaments. Henceforth the tournaments will be known as the Longoni Italian Open.**

**L**ongoni, who is celebrating 80 years in business in 2025, has a long association with the EPBF which in more recent times manifested itself as the Longoni 9-ball League, a fun team event which took place prior to each EuroTour tournament.

Commented Pierluigi Longoni, the esteemed company head, "We are excited to renew our collaboration with the EPBF, with whom we have had a strong partnership for several years.

"Thanks to this collaboration, we have the opportunity to further expand the visibility of our brand among European pool players, especially the new generations. We are also happy to announce that, starting this year, Predator, with whom we share a long-standing relationship, will be even more involved in the European circuit, bringing new opportunities and exciting challenges."

Appropriately, Longoni is title-sponsoring in their home country, a fact that elicits some pride, "This year, our brand proudly celebrates 80 years of activity, and we are excited to dedicate even more focus to pool, a sector in which we have been growing for over 30 years.

"Seeing our brand sponsor the first European tournament of the year is a great source of motivation and opens the door to new challenges. Today, the Longoni brand is widely recog-




nized worldwide, but our goal is to further strengthen our presence in the world of pool and beyond."

For Longoni's full product line, visit <https://www.longonicues.com/>

The 2025 Longoni Italian Open takes place at the Best Western Premium

BHR Treviso Hotel. The men's event runs from 6th to 8th February and is currently full on 176 players. The ladies' tournament runs on the 8th and 9th and has a few spots left, topping out at 64 players.

Further details can be found at [www.epbf.com](http://www.epbf.com)



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# “TKON” AND “AN NHIET”

## SIGN SPONSORSHIP CONTRACT WITH IWAN SIMONIS AND ARAMITH

**Vietnam is becoming the beating heart of billiard around the world. And when we are talking about pool, this nation has been providing the most promising talents.**

This is why today major international tournaments are now taking place there like Matchroom’s Hanoi Open Pool Championship or Peri’s 9-ball Open.

Nguyễn Anh Tuấn, aka Tkon Nguyen, is today the emblematic figure of this nation’s passion for pool. This 35 year-old professional player claimed 8 national championships and distinguished himself at the SEA games, Hanoi Open and Premier League Pool in the US. Tkon is also a major boost to Vietnam’s success on the international scene by sponsoring young athletes and giving training to more than 500 players. He is also sponsoring tens of tournaments each year in his home country.

Bui Truong An, aka An Nhiệt, is the youngest Vietnamese athlete to have become professional player. He is an inspiration for an entire generation who now thrives to pursue their passion and reach new heights. Owner of 14 clubs, he plays a major role in the development of pool in his country.

As World’s leading billiard cloth and ball manufacturers, it was logical for Iwan Simonis and Aramith to support such iconic players and to contribute to the extraordinary development of pool in Vietnam. Also, to ensure players benefit from the best equipment, Iwan Simonis and Aramith signed a partnership agreement with RA Billiards Co., Ltd who becomes one of the main distributors of these brands in Vietnam.

Tkon Nguyen: “I am very happy and proud to join the Iwan Simonis-Aramith team. This gives me extra motivation to keep contributing to the development of our nation in this exciting sport.”

An Nhiệt: “To become a brand ambassador for Iwan Simonis and Aramith is a dream come true. I’m committed to promote our sport and to keep inspiring the younger generation to push them to follow their passion.”

Hoang Nhat (Owner RA Billiards): “We are proud to be partnering with Iwan Simonis and Aramith. Our goal is to promote and distribute their products the best we can to enhance people’s playing experience and to give birth to the next generation of champions.”

Jean-François Schmitz (Iwan Simonis Group Commercial Director): “These sponsorship and partnership contracts are the outcome of a long project in order to best identify how we could contribute to the increased popularity of pool in Vietnam. Our work with Tkon, An Nhiệt and Hoang Nhat from RA Billiards will give more visibility to our products and help the development of this beautiful sport.”

For further information, please visit our websites <https://iwansimonis.com/> & <https://www.aramith.com/> or contact our Marketing & Communication manager at [arthur.broudehoux@Simonis-AramithStrachan.com](mailto:arthur.broudehoux@Simonis-AramithStrachan.com)



An Nhiệt, Jean-François Schmitz, Tkon Nguyen and Hoang Nhat

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# WORLD-CLASS POOL PROS TO HOST EXCLUSIVE COACHING ACADEMY AT VNEA WORLD POOL CHAMPIONSHIPS

## VNEA Players Invited to Learn from Top Female Professionals in Las Vegas

**L**AS VEGAS, January 28, 2025 — Amateur pool players attending the VNEA (Valley National 8-Ball Association) World Pool Championships will have a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to learn from two of the world's top female professional pool players. The VNEA is proud to announce a special Billiard Coaching Academy featuring “Kwikfire” Kelly Fisher from the United Kingdom and Wei Wei “The Wave” Wei Tzu Chien from Taipei, Taiwan.

This exclusive coaching event will take place on May 28-29th, 2025, at the prestigious Westgate Resort and Casino in Las Vegas. Participants will receive four hours of intensive training from these world-renowned players, gaining insights into advanced techniques, strategic play, and mental preparation.

“We’re thrilled to offer this unique opportunity to the VNEA players,” said Steve Rau. “Learning from Kelly and Wei Wei is an invaluable experience that can significantly elevate one’s game. It’s not every day you get to receive personal coaching from champions.”

The two-day academy will feature morning and afternoon sessions, running from 10:00 AM to Noon and 1:00 PM to 3:00 PM respectively, with a lunch break in between. This comprehensive program is designed to cater to various skill levels and playing styles.

The cost for this extraordinary coaching experience is \$250.00, representing an incredible value for the level of instruction provided.

Don’t miss this chance to take your pool game to the next level! Spaces are limited. Only 8 people per coach, per session. Early registration is encouraged. To secure your spot, call or text Steve Rau at (989) 277-4759 or register online at [www.steverauprobilliards.com/vnea](http://www.steverauprobilliards.com/vnea).

About VNEA: The Valley National 8-Ball Association (VNEA) is a leading organization in the world of pool, dedicated to promoting the sport and organizing world-class leagues. With a commitment to fostering talent and sportsmanship, VNEA continues to elevate the game of pool on a global scale.

For more information about the VNEA World Pool Championships and other events, visit VNEA’s official website. [www.vnea.com](http://www.vnea.com)

**Sign Up for coaching**  
 Please text Steve Rau at (989) 277-4759 or register online at [www.steverauprobilliards.com/vnea](http://www.steverauprobilliards.com/vnea)

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29 MAY	Must be pre-registered. Choose between 10AM-Noon or 1:00PM - 3:00PM	29 MAY Play the Pro's! Begins at 7:00 PM



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# THE WORLD NINEBALL TOUR LANDS IN BOSNIA & HERZEGOVINA

European Open Pool Championship and Premier League Pool Set for a Thrilling Debut in Sarajevo, March 2025

The World Nineball Tour is proud to announce the debut of two premier events in Bosnia & Herzegovina, in partnership with the Ministry of Culture and Sports of Sarajevo Canton and Hills Hotel Sarajevo.

The European Open Pool Championship will take place from 11-16 March, live on Sky Sports, Viaplay, and **WNT TV**, followed by Premier League Pool from 20-27 March. Both events will be held in the breathtaking city of Sarajevo for the first time, marking an exciting new chapter for the World Nineball Tour.

**SPECTATOR TICKETS FOR BOTH EVENTS ON SALE SOON**

**The full broadcast list for both events will be announced soon, ensuring fans worldwide won't miss a moment of the action.**

The first Matchroom Major of 2025, the European Open Pool Championship, will feature a 256-player field, including the top 128 professionals from the World Nineball Tour, such as Jayson Shaw, Francisco Sanchez Ruiz, Ko Ping Chung, and Ko Pin Yi. Players from around the world will compete for a \$200,000 prize fund, with the champion set to claim an increased top prize of \$40,000.

Following the European Open, Premier League Pool will bring its exhilarating

round-robin format to Sarajevo for the first time. 16 of the world's best players will compete in an intense, fast-paced showdown of 183 matches across 144 live hours, designed to deliver non-stop world-class Nineball.

A city rich in history and culture, Sarajevo is fast becoming a key destination for professional pool. With a growing fanbase and increasing local support for the sport, Bosnia & Herzegovina is the perfect new home for these prestigious tournaments.

**Minister of Culture & Sports of Sarajevo Canton, Kenan Magoda** stated: "I am proud that Sarajevo will host this tournament for the first time, wel-



coming the world's best players and showcasing the quality of this competition. This is a major step forward for our city and for Sanjin's career, allowing him to compete at the highest level in front of his home crowd. The Ministry of Culture and Sports of Sarajevo Canton is pleased to support both Sanjin and Matchroom in bringing this elite event to Sarajevo. I commend Matchroom and Emily Frazer for their dedication in making it happen."

One of the highlights of the European Open Pool Championship will be the presence of hometown favourite **Sanjin Pehlivanovic**, currently ranked 39th on the World Nineball Tour, who will have the opportunity to compete on home soil in a Matchroom Major for the first time.

**Pehlivanovic** shared his excitement: "The first thing that comes to mind is that I don't want to put too much pressure on myself, but I can't deny that winning this event in my home city would be incredible. Playing in

front of my home crowd is a once-in-a-lifetime experience, and I'm fully focused on delivering my best performance to hopefully bring the European crown home."

The Hills Hotel Sarajevo provides the ideal setting for both the European Open Pool Championship and Premier League Pool, offering a prime location near the airport, top-class facilities, and excellent on-site amenities for both players and fans.

**General Manager of Hills Hotel Sarajevo, Senad Halilovic**, stated: "We are thrilled to host these two prestigious events at Hills Hotel Sarajevo. Our aim is to provide the ultimate setting for world-class sports, bringing top-tier competition to both our hotel and the vibrant city of Sarajevo. We look forward to showcasing the excitement of these events to the passionate local and international pool community."

**CEO of Matchroom Multi Sport, Emily Frazer** commented: "The European

Open has rapidly become one of the premier events on the World Nineball Tour, and we're thrilled to bring it to the stunning city of Sarajevo. Expanding into Bosnia & Herzegovina marks a significant step in our commitment to growing the sport globally and introducing Nineball to new audiences. With both the European Open and Premier League Pool taking centre stage this March, Sarajevo will become a true hotspot for world-class pool, and we can't wait to experience the passion and energy of the fans. Thank you to our partners the Ministry of Culture and Sports of Sarajevo Canton and Hills Hotel Sarajevo for helping us put up these two spectacular events."

Don't miss the opportunity to witness two world-class Nineball tournaments in Sarajevo! Tickets will be available soon—secure your spot early and experience the action live.

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



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# Tourney Results

## Jan 04 - Jan 04

### Q City 9-Ball Tour Stop

#### Borderline Billiards

- Bristol, TN  
 1 Thomas Sansone \$550  
 2 Ikey Maynard \$325  
 3 Eric Roberts \$250  
 4 Anthony Keene \$150  
 5 Cliff Stout \$105  
 5 Ricky Bingham \$105

## Jan 04 - Jan 04

### Mezz Cues LA 9-Ball Series Stop

#### Good Timez Billiards

- Huntsville, Alabama  
 1 Keegan Badour \$1,000  
 2 Julius Argumedo \$550  
 3 Joseph Leon \$350  
 3 Shahdad Zand \$350  
 5 Abet Ng \$200  
 5 Doug Byrd \$200  
 5 Jamal Oussi \$200  
 5 Nelson Hernandez \$200  
 9 Chaokun Li \$100  
 9 David Newcomb \$100  
 9 Jared Pitts \$100  
 9 Jason Wetherald \$100  
 9 Jeff Schaum \$100  
 9 Juan Carlos Carina \$100  
 9 RJ Villasenor \$100  
 9 Sy Nakashima \$100

## Jan 04 - Jan 05

### B & L Billiards 575 8-Ball

#### Bank Shot Bar & Grill

- Laurel, MD  
 1 Bruce Bowers \$360  
 2 James Sanders \$180  
 3 Hunter Hacunda \$120  
 4 Florian Ancho \$90  
 5 Dennis Canales \$60  
 5 Rob Pistorio \$60  
 7 Joe Orla \$40  
 7 John Barshaw \$40

## Jan 04 - Jan 05

### B & L Billiards 575 10-Ball

#### Bank Shot Bar & Grill

- Laurel, MD  
 1 Scott Haas \$400  
 2 Ates Bora Duru \$200

## Jan 08 - Jan 12

### Music City Classic

#### JOB Billiards

- Madison, TN  
 1 Shane McMinn \$4,115  
 2 Mark Estiola \$2,400  
 3 Mitch Ellerman \$1,550  
 4 Robb Saez \$1,000  
 5 Hunter White \$730  
 5 Lee Uhles \$730  
 7 Johnny Archer \$450  
 7 Kim Davenport \$450  
 9 Greg Taylor \$300  
 9 Jonathan Pinegar \$300  
 9 Josh Hillard \$300  
 9 Ron Frank \$300  
 13 Devin Poteet \$200  
 13 John Gabriel \$200  
 13 Robert Wilkerson \$200  
 13 Rusty Jackson \$200  
 17 Brent Harris \$150  
 17 Dakota Harris \$150  
 17 Eric Cunningham \$150  
 17 Matthew Wisely \$150  
 17 Rick Chitwood \$150  
 17 Ronald Hart \$150  
 17 Ryan Dunne \$150  
 17 Ryan Williams \$150

## Jan 08 - Jan 12

### Music City Classic 2025 Ladies Division

#### JOB Billiards

- Madison, TN  
 1 Eylul Kybaroglu \$1,080  
 2 Tina Pawloski Malm \$750  
 3 Michelle Dunn \$410

- 4 Lisa Porter \$300  
 5 Amy Theriault \$220  
 5 Tracie Majors \$220  
 7 Allison Hardwick \$175  
 7 Amber Jordan \$175  
 9 Casey Baldrige \$100  
 9 Christina Perlowski \$100  
 9 Heather Middleton \$100  
 9 Kelly Wyatt \$100

## Jan 09 - Jan 12

### Turning Stone Classic XL

#### Turning Stone Casino

- Verona, NY  
 1 Lee Vann Corteza \$10,000  
 2 Moritz Neuhausen \$6,500  
 3 Christoph Neumayer \$4,000  
 4 Danny Hewitt \$2,700  
 5 Erik Hjorleifson \$2,000  
 5 Jesse Piercey \$2,000  
 7 Jeremy Sossei \$1,600  
 7 Mika Immonen \$1,600  
 9 Aaron Greenwood \$1,200  
 9 Jayson Shaw \$1,200  
 9 Steve Mack \$1,200  
 9 Tyler Henninger \$1,200  
 13 Chris Szuter \$950  
 13 Hunter Lombardo \$950  
 13 Kevin Clark \$950  
 13 Mhet Vergara \$950  
 17 Aro Majumder \$599  
 17 Caroline Pao \$599  
 17 Earl Herring \$599  
 17 Eric Cloutier \$599  
 17 Frankie Hernandez \$599  
 17 Jonathan Smith \$599  
 17 Matt Krah \$599  
 17 Vincent Beurivage \$599  
 25 Barry Hetherington \$400  
 25 Bucky Souvanthong \$400  
 25 Dave Pinkston \$400  
 25 Dave Shlemperis \$400  
 25 John Morra \$400  
 25 Josh Friedberg \$400  
 25 Ruslan Chinakhov \$400  
 25 Tommy Cayer \$400



*Shane Van Boening*  
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## Jan 09 - Jan 14

### 2025 Mini Derby 9-Ball

#### Railyard Billiards

Louisville, KY

- 1 Mickey Krause \$4,500
- 2 Tony Chohan \$3,000
- 3 Shane Wolford \$1,500
- 4 Billy Thorpe \$1,000
- 5 Lukas Fracasso-Verner \$500
- 5 Shane Van Boening \$500

## Jan 09 - Jan 14

### 2025 Mini Derby One Pocket

#### Railyard Billiards

Louisville, KY

- 1 Skyler Woodward \$5,000
- 2 Shane Van Boening \$3,000
- 3 Mickey Krause \$1,800
- 4 Lukas Fracasso-Verner \$1,000

## Jan 11 - Jan 12

### Michael Fedak Open Handicapped 9-Ball Tournament

#### Paradise Billiards

Lantana, Florida

- 1 Justin Schneider \$2,000
- 2 Jared Bonn \$1,500
- 3 Chris Crum \$1,000
- 4 Anthony Erale \$700
- 5 Anthony Meglino \$500
- 5 Charles Vella \$500
- 7 Rick Boisclair \$350
- 7 Ronald Conill \$350
- 9 Corey Seaman \$250
- 9 Michael DeLawder \$250
- 9 Trevor Gawlikowski \$250
- 9 Wayne Fellows \$250
- 13 Benji Buckley \$150
- 13 Jorge A Nunez \$150
- 13 Rhys Chen \$150

## Jan 17 - Jan 27

### Derby City Classic 2025 Master of the Table

#### Horseshoe Southern Indiana

Elizabeth, IN

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

## Jan 17 - Jan 27

### Derby City Classic 2025 Bigfoot Challenge

#### Horseshoe Southern Indiana

Elizabeth, IN

- 1 Pijus Labutis \$16,000
- 2 Joshua Filler \$8,000
- 3 Gerson Martinez \$4,000
- 3 Roberto Gomez \$4,000

## Jan 17 - Jan 27

### Derby City Classic 2025 Banks

#### Horseshoe Southern Indiana

Elizabeth, IN

- 1 Fedor Gorst \$16,000
- 2 Tony Chohan \$8,000
- 3 Skyler Woodward \$6,100
- 4 Shannon Murphy \$4,600
- 5 Billy Thorpe \$3,200
- 5 Mickey Krause \$3,200
- 7 Shane Van Boening \$3,200
- 8 Moritz Neuhausen \$2,100
- 8 Sergio Rivas \$2,100
- 8 Tim De Ruyter \$2,100
- 11 Ashley Nowlan \$1,300
- 11 Clay Carman \$1,300
- 11 Evan Lunda \$1,300
- 11 Jonathan Pinegar \$1,300
- 11 Louis Demarco \$1,300
- 16 Alex Olinger \$900
- 16 Brandon Shuff \$900
- 16 Eric Roberts \$900
- 16 John Morra \$900
- 16 Joshua Filler \$900
- 21 Anthony Meglino \$600
- 21 Devin Poteet \$600
- 21 Eric Chumbley \$600
- 21 Gary Norton \$600
- 21 Jeffrey De Luna \$600
- 21 Nathan Wallace \$600
- 21 Nick De Leon \$600
- 21 Roberto Gomez \$600
- 21 Ryan Stone \$600
- 21 Shane Winters \$600
- 21 Shane Wolford \$600
- 21 Steve Nevins \$600
- 33 Alex Pagulayan \$400
- 33 Anthony Davison \$400
- 33 Billy Jackson \$400
- 33 Dylan Waugh \$400
- 33 Estel Wilson \$400
- 33 Francisco Bustamante \$400
- 33 Jeff Beckley \$400
- 33 Josh Roberts \$400
- 33 Lee Vann Corteza \$400
- 33 Lukas Fracasso-Verner \$400
- 33 Marc Vidal Claramunt \$400
- 33 Mark Osman \$400
- 33 Max Jenkins \$400

- 33 Michael Yednak \$400
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- 33 Ruslan Chinakhov \$400
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- 52 Bradley Wilson \$300
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- 52 Can Salim \$300
- 52 Corey Deuel \$300
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- 52 David O'Keefe \$300
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- 52 Eli Mathews \$300
- 52 Elliott Sanderson \$300
- 52 Gary Ranson \$300
- 52 Gerson Martinez \$300
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- 52 Jeremy Seaman \$300
- 52 Jerry Matchin \$300
- 52 John Turpin \$300
- 52 Joshua Klonowski \$300
- 52 Justin Hall \$300
- 52 Kevin Brown \$300
- 52 Michael Almodovar \$300
- 52 Michael DeLawder \$300
- 52 Mike Pankoff \$300
- 52 Neil Jacobs \$300
- 52 Nick Van Allen \$300
- 52 Richie Collins \$300
- 52 Robert Hall \$300
- 52 Terry Huelsman \$300
- 52 Tim Richert \$300
- 52 Tyler Styer \$300
- 84 Andrew Poste \$250
- 84 Anthony Shea \$250
- 84 Bill Wright \$250
- 84 Brad Engle \$250
- 84 Brett Hall \$250
- 84 Brian Wilson \$250
- 84 Bruce Broomell \$250
- 84 Charles Elrod \$250
- 84 Charlie Bryant \$250
- 84 Francesco Candela \$250
- 84 Gage Knapp \$250
- 84 Jacob Melton \$250
- 84 Jason Casey \$250
- 84 Jerry Baker \$250
- 84 John Adams \$250
- 84 John Lynch \$250
- 84 John Reese \$250

84 John Weichert \$250  
84 Joshua Burbul \$250  
84 Kaelin Conkright \$250  
84 KC Massey \$250  
84 Kenny Loftis \$250  
84 Kevin Ping \$250  
84 Kristina Tkach \$250  
84 Kyle Richard \$250  
84 Larry Miller \$250  
84 Mark Slye Jr. \$250  
84 Mike Dunn \$250  
84 Pijus Labutis \$250  
84 Preston Hall \$250  
84 Raed Shabib \$250  
84 Rocky Moody \$250  
84 Rodlin Bautista \$250  
84 Ruben Flores \$250  
84 Samuel Kirby \$250  
84 Steve Parsons \$250  
84 Talmadge DeVasure \$250  
84 Ted Reeves \$250  
84 Tim Diaz \$250  
84 Tony Coleman \$250  
84 Travis Keadle \$250

## Jan 17 - Jan 27

### Derby City Classic 2025 One Pocket

#### Horseshoe Southern Indiana

Elizabeth, IN

1 Fedor Gorst \$16,000  
2 Shane Van Boening \$8,000  
3 Mickey Krause \$6,000  
4 Anthony Meglino \$4,000  
4 Brandon Shuff \$4,000  
6 Evan Lunda \$2,600  
6 Roberto Gomez \$2,600  
8 Josh Roberts \$1,800  
8 Joshua Filler \$1,800  
8 Lee Vann Corteza \$1,800  
8 Louis Demarco \$1,800  
8 Tony Chohan \$1,800  
13 Devin Poteet \$1,150  
13 Shane Wolford \$1,150  
13 Tyler Styer \$1,150  
16 Alex Olinger \$600  
16 Dee Adkins \$600  
16 Elliott Sanderson \$600  
16 Jamie Baraks \$600  
16 Jerry Calderon \$600  
16 John Morra \$600  
16 KC Massey \$600  
16 Marc Vidal Claramunt \$600  
16 Marty Turpin \$600  
16 Nathan Childress \$600

16 Nick De Leon \$600  
16 Pijus Labutis \$600  
16 Robb Saez \$600  
16 Shannon Murphy \$600  
16 Vitaliy Patsura \$600  
31 Aaron Goodwin \$400  
31 Alex Pagulayan \$400  
31 Can Salim \$400  
31 Chris Reinhold \$400  
31 Chris Worsham \$400  
31 Danny Smith \$400  
31 David Grossman \$400  
31 Eric Roberts \$400  
31 Francesco Candela \$400  
31 Francisco Bustamante \$400  
31 Jeff Beckley \$400  
31 Jeremy Seaman \$400  
31 Josh O'Neal \$400  
31 Lukas Fracasso-Verner \$400  
31 Robert Talchik \$400  
31 Ryan Stone \$400  
31 Sergio Rivas \$400  
31 Tim De Ruyter \$400  
49 Carman Clay \$300  
49 David Cole \$300  
49 Jason Casey \$300  
49 Jeff Jones \$300  
49 Jeffrey De Luna \$300  
49 Kevin McLaughlin \$300  
49 Matt Daiber \$300  
49 Michael DeLawder \$300  
49 Mike Pankoff \$300  
49 Nick Carson \$300  
49 Richard Moreno \$300  
49 Scott Frost \$300  
49 Shawn Bell \$300  
62 Adam Wheeler \$250  
62 Alex Hepp \$250  
62 Anton Washington \$250  
62 Brent Jackson \$250  
62 Brian Bell \$250  
62 Charlie Bryant \$250  
62 Cliff Stout II \$250  
62 Darin L Neal \$250  
62 Derek Formby \$250  
62 Eric Withrow \$250  
62 Gerson Martinez \$250  
62 Jack Scerca \$250  
62 James McCrary \$250  
62 Jody L Johnson \$250  
62 Jody McLaughlin \$250  
62 John Turpin \$250  
62 Jonathan Pinegar \$250  
62 Justin Hall \$250  
62 Kaelin Conkright \$250

62 Ken Wing \$250  
62 Michael Almodovar \$250  
62 Mike Athens \$250  
62 Mike Bandy \$250  
62 Mike Eck \$250  
62 Mike Lullo \$250  
62 Raed Shabib \$250  
62 Randy Hanson \$250  
62 Riley Adkins \$250  
62 Robert Hall \$250  
62 Ruben Flores \$250  
62 Ryan S Huelsman \$250  
62 Shawn Miller \$250  
62 Steve Hickman \$250  
62 Tim Medley \$250  
62 Tom Milchling \$250  
62 Travis Keadle \$250  
62 Zach Wilson \$250

## Jan 17 - Jan 27

### Derby City Classic 2025 9-Ball

#### Horseshoe Southern Indiana

Elizabeth, IN

1 Joshua Filler \$16,000  
2 Alex Pagulayan \$8,000  
3 Fedor Gorst \$6,600  
4 Shane Van Boening \$5,200  
5 Billy Thorpe \$4,000  
6 Anthony Meglino \$2,900  
6 Gerson Martinez \$2,900  
6 Jesus Atencio \$2,900  
6 Skyler Woodward \$2,900  
10 Moritz Neuhausen \$2,000  
10 Pia Filler \$2,000  
10 Pijus Labutis \$2,000  
10 Raed Shabib \$2,000  
10 Roberto Gomez \$2,000  
15 Can Salim \$1,200  
15 Chris Reinhold \$1,200  
15 Chris Szuter \$1,200  
15 Devin Poteet \$1,200  
15 John Morra \$1,200  
15 Mickey Krause \$1,200  
15 Mika Immonen \$1,200  
15 Tim De Ruyter \$1,200  
15 Tyler Styer \$1,200  
24 Brandon Shuff \$700  
24 Demitrios Jelatis \$700  
24 Francesco Candela \$700  
24 Gary Gullett \$700  
24 Jeffrey De Luna \$700  
24 Kristina Tkach \$700  
24 Lukas Fracasso-Verner \$700  
24 Marshall Wooten \$700  
24 Matt McComb \$700

24 Matt Ross \$700  
24 Randy Hanson \$700  
24 Shane Feeney \$700  
24 Shane Wolford \$700  
37 Brandon Thomas \$300  
37 Clay Davis \$300  
37 Derek Pogirski \$300  
37 Gregorio Sanchez \$300  
37 Jay Pettlon \$300  
37 Jeff Beckley \$300  
37 Jeremy Seaman \$300  
37 John Turpin \$300  
37 Kaleb Hixon \$300  
37 Kenny Loftis \$300  
37 Lee Vann Corteza \$300  
37 Louis Demarco \$300  
37 Marc Vidal Claramunt \$300  
37 Michael DeLawder \$300  
37 Nick De Leon \$300  
37 Riley Adkins \$300  
37 Willie Butler \$300  
54 Aaron Blumenstock \$200  
54 April Larson \$200  
54 Ashley Nowlan \$200  
54 Brandon Howard \$200  
54 Brian King \$200  
54 Carlos Nurinda \$200  
54 Chuck Roth \$200  
54 Dale Ding \$200  
54 Elliott Sanderson \$200  
54 Eric Roberts \$200  
54 Felix Luna \$200  
54 Gary Lutman \$200  
54 Jeff Underwood \$200  
54 Jerry Bellovich \$200  
54 Jonathan Pinegar \$200  
54 Josh Roberts \$200  
54 Mark Estiola \$200  
54 Michael Yednak \$200  
54 Mitch Ellerman \$200  
54 Nathan Childress \$200  
54 Oscar Dominguez \$200  
54 Ricky Evans \$200  
54 Rocky Moody \$200  
54 Sergio Rivas \$200  
54 Shannon Murphy \$200  
54 Shawn Miller \$200  
54 Tony Chohan \$200  
54 Tony McCumbers \$200  
82 Adam Cooley \$150  
82 Adam Maloney \$150  
82 Al Hammond \$150  
82 Andre Schickling \$150  
82 Austen Russell \$150  
82 Ben Jones \$150

82 Boone Wagner \$150  
82 Brad Barton \$150  
82 Brad Engle \$150  
82 Brett Rhea \$150  
82 Brett Snowden \$150  
82 Brett Underwood \$150  
82 Chad Schlumbaum \$150  
82 Evan Lunda \$150  
82 Francisco Bustamante \$150  
82 Hugh Cuff \$150  
82 Jamie Bruce \$150  
82 Jesse Draper \$150  
82 Jody McLaughlin \$150  
82 John Allen \$150  
82 Joshua Burbul \$150  
82 Kenny Nguyen \$150  
82 Kevin Brown \$150  
82 Kevin Mullins \$150  
82 Kevin Murphy \$150  
82 Kyle Arensdorf \$150  
82 Lance Chrisman \$150  
82 Matt Carman \$150  
82 Matthew Deck \$150  
82 Mikael Hinton \$150  
82 Mike Athens \$150  
82 Mike Bandy \$150  
82 Nathan Hunt \$150  
82 Nick Van Allen \$150  
82 Oleg Tkatch \$150  
82 Peter Lau \$150  
82 Preston Hall \$150  
82 Richard Lacourciere \$150  
82 Robb Saez \$150  
82 Robert Moreno \$150  
82 Romeo Malonzo \$150  
82 Ruben Flores \$150  
82 Ryan Hollingsworth \$150  
82 Steve Christian \$150  
82 Steve Hickman \$150  
82 Steven McGaughey \$150  
82 Tim Medley \$150  
82 Tim Smith \$150  
82 Tony Brandon \$150  
82 Tony Lovejoy \$150  
82 Vitaliy Patsura \$150  
82 Willie Butler \$150  
82 Zach Wilson \$150

## Jan 17 - Jan 27

### Derby City Classic 2025 Banks Ring Game

#### Horseshoe Southern Indiana

Elizabeth, IN  
1 Skyler Woodward \$5,000  
2 Billy Thorpe \$3,000

## Jan 18 - Jan 19

### 2025 DFW 9-Ball Tour Stop 1

#### Stixx And Stones Billiards

Lewisville, Texas  
1 Fahad Alrawi \$1,180  
2 Daniel Herring \$820  
3 Qurram Nasiri \$630  
4 Payton Bernard \$430  
5 Gus Briseno \$320  
5 Tara Williams \$320  
7 Avah Weems \$240  
7 Rosenbaugh JR \$240  
9 Doug Winnett \$170  
9 Jay White \$170  
9 John Rawlins \$170  
9 Sammy Downs \$170  
13 Clint Freeman \$95  
13 Eric Smith \$95  
13 Jesus Sorto \$95  
13 Roger Patridge \$95

## Jan 19 - Jan 19

### Kraken 640 & Under 8-Ball Championship

#### Griff's

Las Vegas, Nevada  
1 David Lanthier \$8,000  
2 Bob Campbell \$5,000  
3 Trevor Sickendick \$2,800  
4 Rene Rendon \$1,500  
5 Christopher Seckinger \$950  
5 Mike McCullah \$950  
7 Johnny Bass \$650  
7 Savannah Easton \$650  
9 Blake Kamiab \$500  
9 Jeff Gray \$500  
9 Jorge Bermudez \$500  
9 Tom Kitka \$500

## Jan 19 - Jan 19

### ARK Tournaments Sunday Funday

#### Classic Billiards

Lauderhill, Florida  
1 Danny Ramirez \$600  
2 Mark Jaramillo \$300  
3 Keith McQuin \$150  
4 Doug Cooke \$90  
5 Erick Poveda \$65  
5 Todd McKinney, Jr. \$65  
7 Carlos Alberto Gomez \$40  
7 Josh Carmusin \$40

## Jan 25 - Jan 26

### MVP Tour Stop

#### Carom Cafe

Flushing, NY  
 1 Demarco Tran \$1,000  
 2 Charles Vergara \$800  
 3 Brian Vasquez \$550  
 3 Duc Lam \$550  
 5 Jubert Balisi \$320  
 5 Leo Zhang \$320  
 7 Eduardo Agulay \$200  
 7 Siddhant Patel \$200  
 9 Amir Uddin \$120  
 9 Chris Derewonski \$120  
 9 Erika Alban \$120  
 9 Max Watanabe \$120  
 13 Eric Molina \$80  
 13 Jason Hugh Sam \$80  
 13 Jonathan Damian \$80  
 13 Ron Gabia \$80

## Jan 26 - Jan 26

### Yale Billiards Hector Sanchez Birthday Tournament

#### Yale Billiards

Wallingford, Connecticut  
 1 Marcos Cecchetto \$1,200

2 Rebecca Hilton \$630  
 3 Fernando Perez \$375  
 4 Tom Schine \$220  
 5 Jack Passamano \$140  
 5 Nathanael Rocha \$140  
 7 Austin Cofrancesco \$100  
 7 David Andreoli \$100

## Jan 26 - Jan 26

### Garden State Pool Tour Open Stop

#### Bergen Billiards

Palisades Park, NJ  
 1 Christoph Neumayer \$700  
 2 Kang Lee \$400  
 3 Joao Sias \$300  
 4 Marco Dy \$200  
 5 Doug Youmans \$120  
 5 Mike Salerno \$120

## Jan 29 - Feb 02

### WPBA Iron City Invitational V

#### Iron City Billiards

Birmingham, Alabama  
 1 Jasmin Ouschan \$11,000

2 Kristina Tkach \$7,000  
 3 Tzu-Chien Wei \$4,500  
 4 Kelly Fisher \$3,100  
 5 Marharyta Fefilava \$2,500  
 5 Veronique Menard \$2,500  
 7 Brittany Bryant \$2,000  
 7 Kaylee McIntosh \$2,000  
 9 April Larson \$1,500  
 9 Kristina Zlateva \$1,500  
 9 Maria Teresa Roper Garcia \$1,500  
 9 Pia Filler \$1,500  
 13 Ashley Benoit \$1,100  
 13 Briana Miller \$1,100  
 13 Jordan Helfrey \$1,100  
 13 Savannah Easton \$1,100  
 17 Angela Janic \$700  
 17 Caroline Pao \$700  
 17 Eylul Kybaroglu \$700  
 17 Kennedy Meyman \$700  
 17 Lisa Cossette \$700  
 17 Monica Webb \$700  
 17 Sofia Mast \$700  
 17 Teruko Macklin \$700

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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.

## FEBRUARY/MARCH

### Massachusetts State 9-Ball Championship III

**Feb 01 - Feb 02**

Amazin Billiards  
Malden, Ma

### Mezz Cues LA 9-Ball Series Stop

**Feb 02 - Feb 02**

Good Timez Billiards  
Huntsville, Alabama

### 2025 Bayou State Classic

**Feb 04 - Feb 09**

Emerald Billiards  
New Iberia, LA

### Joss Tour 2024-2025 Stop 11

**Feb 15 - Feb 16**

Sharpshooters Billiards & Sports Pub  
Amsterdam, NY

### 2025 Las Vegas Open

**Feb 19 - Feb 26**

Rio All-Suite Hotel & Casino  
Las Vegas, NV

### Women's Las Vegas Open 2025

**Feb 25 - Mar 01**

Rio All-Suite Hotel & Casino  
Las Vegas, NV

### Mixed Doubles Open

**Feb 25 - Mar 01**

Rio All-Suite Hotel & Casino  
Las Vegas, NV

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

**Mar 01 - Mar 02**

Snookers - Sports Billiards, Bar & Grill  
Providence, RI

### Joss Tour 2024-2025 Stop 13

**Mar 08 - Mar 09**

Utica Billiards On The Boulevard  
Utica, New York

### Joss Tour 2024-2025 Stop 14

**Mar 15 - Mar 16**

Brickhouse Billiards  
N. Syracuse, New York

### Joss Tour 2024-2025 Stop 15

**Mar 22 - Mar 23**

Yale Billiards  
Wallingford, Connecticut

### Joss Tour Junior 9 Ball Championship 2025

**Mar 29 - Mar 30**

Sharpshooters Billiards & Sports Pub  
Amsterdam, NY

# AZBILLIARDS MONEY LIST

	NAME	COUNTRY	\$ AMOUNT
	Fedor Gorst	 USA	\$58,600
	Joshua Filler	 GER	\$28,700
	Shane Van Boening	 USA	\$22,900
	Skyler Woodward	 USA	\$19,000
	Pijus Labutis	 LTU	\$18,850
	Mickey Krause	 DEN	\$16,700
	Tony Chohan	 USA	\$13,000
	Lee Vann Corteza	 PHI	\$12,500
	Billy Thorpe	 USA	\$11,200
	Jasmin Ouschan	 AUT	\$11,000

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# ARIZONA OPEN

DOZER'S GRILL, MESA, AZ  
FEBRUARY 14-16 2025

