

# Billiards Buzz

an  publication

6, Issue March 2021



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# Billiards Buzz

Volume 6, Issue #53

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**COVER PHOTO:**

Courtesy Erwin Dionisio  
with special thanks to Susie Ok  
at New City Billiards

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# FROM THE Head Rail

MIKE HOWERTON

**F**or our cover this month, we feature two top players from Russia. World Champion Fedor Gorst and Kristina Tkach are back in the states and they picked up right where they left off, with tournament wins everywhere they went. We have reports from Gorst's win in Georgia, as well as wins for Tkach in Texas and Virginia. Get used to reading about wins for these two players, as we think the longer they are here in the states, the faster they are going to climb that AzBilliards Money List.

All of the good news that I talked about last month was brought back to reality with the announcement of Jeanette Lee's cancer diagnosis. Her agent has put together a Go Fund Me campaign to raise money for Jeanette's daughters and they have raised just over \$170,000 as of the time of this writing. The APA has already held a big fundraiser for Jeanette and I am hearing of many similar fundraisers scheduled all around the country. If anyone can beat this, it's Jeanette and we wish her all of the success in the world. Head out to <https://www.gofundme.com/f/jeanette-lee-legacy-fund> if you would like to help support this cause.

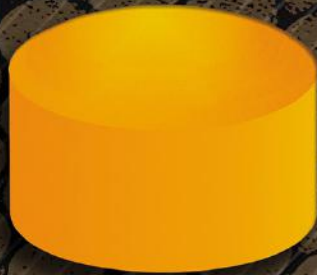
Until next time,  
Mike



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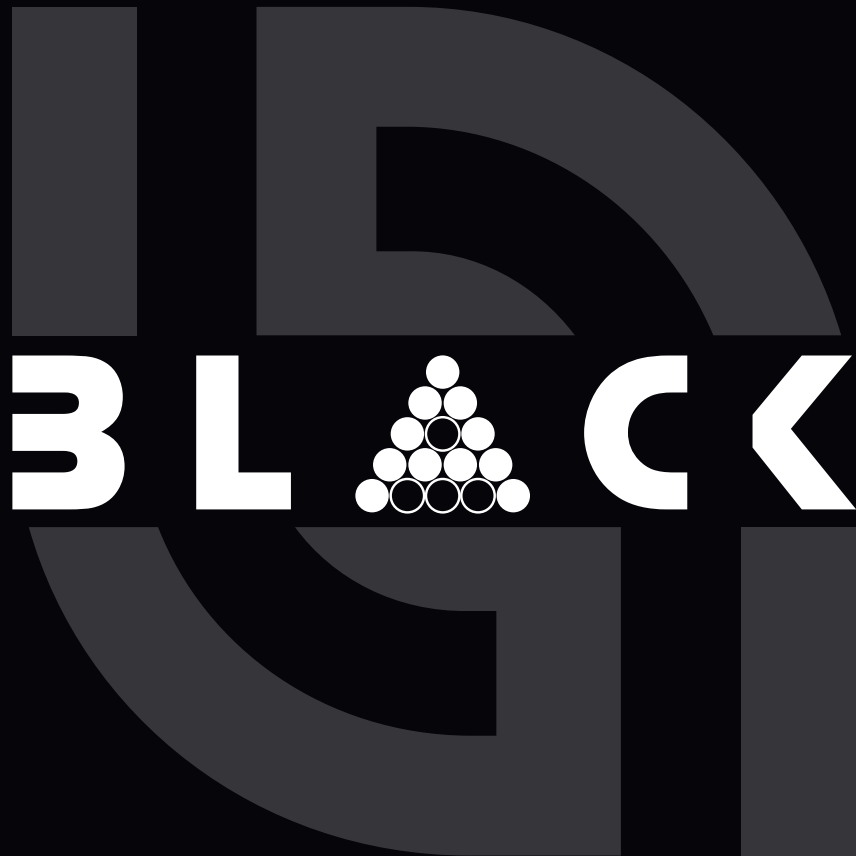
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# DO THE NEXT THING BEST

The Sports Doc - Dr. CHRISTOPHER STANKOVICH

[www.drstankovich.com](http://www.drstankovich.com)

**One very powerful, albeit it seemingly simple, piece of advice I was given long ago in my life is to *always do the next thing best.***

**O**ften in life we get caught up trying to think about and problem solve many challenges at the same time, and the result ends up being that we do none of those things anywhere near as well as we could. Our below average results, produced primarily because our thinking was scattered, leaves us vulnerable to feeling less confident and with the mindset that we aren't very good. As you might imagine, when we begin to feel like we have little talent, we end up trying less in the future, again producing poor results...and the cycle continues. It is at this very point where the advice *do the next thing*

*best* can be a very powerful approach to quickly getting back on track – in pool, and in life.

## Stay in the moment

There are potential dangers in both thinking too far back in the past, or too far ahead into the future. How does this apply to pool players? If you find that your focus tends to ruminate over the shot you missed last game, or you are focusing ahead on who you will play next in the tournament, you are not giving your undivided attention to the only thing that matters: *Doing the next thing best.* The “next thing,” in this example, is *the next shot you need to make* – not the one you missed three turns ago, or how you are going to play the guy waiting for you in the winner's bracket.

Believe it or not, attentional focus is a tough skill to master – even though on the surface it seems so simple. So many pool players would immediately improve their game if they could learn to simply bear down and direct all their attention and energy to mak-



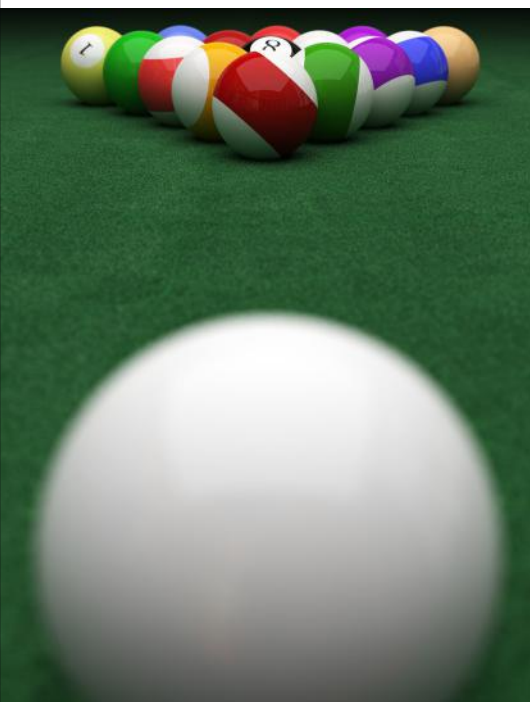
ing the shot right in front of them. Think right now about how many easy “bunnies” you have missed, not because you didn't know where to aim or how to address the cue ball, but instead because your mind temporarily wandered.

## What is the “next thing?”

The philosophy of doing the next thing best extends well beyond playing a game of pool. For example, from the time you wake up each moment there are a number of important things we do where we can put our absolute best effort toward, including being kind to those we love, giving our all to our jobs, and of course, bearing down on every shot in every pool game. The “next thing” is also an *attitude* challenge, meaning that in addition to focusing 100% at the task at hand, that we also embrace what is in front of us as a healthy challenge rather than going in with a defeatist attitude.

So, what's the “next thing” you are going to put all your attention and effort toward today?

*Dr. Christopher Stankovich is a nationally acclaimed expert in Sport & Performance Psychology and the Founder of Advanced Human Performance Systems. For more information on performance-enhancement products, including the popular “Mind of Steel for Pool Success” conveniently streamed to your phone/pad please visit [www.drstankovich.com](http://www.drstankovich.com)*



# SEVEN STEPS TO A TOURNAMENT VICTORY

ANTHONY BEELER

## 1. BELIEVE YOU CAN DO IT

I still remember my first big tournament, the 1992 9-Ball championship in Lancaster, KY. There were over 100 players. Back then I didn't play a lot of pool and I certainly didn't understand the game like I do now, but I wanted to see how good the players were. After paying my entry fee, I went two and out. When I got done, I decided to follow the best players to see how my game compared. After watching them for about 6 hours, my evaluation was

this: They shot straighter than I did, they played better position and they broke better than me. But I left there believing that if those guys could win, so could I. I worked on my game, and over time I got better. One summer, I watched numerous instructional videos, read books, and worked on ball running drills. Twelve years after I first competed, I made a long straight in shot to win that same tournament (with several pro caliber players competing).



## 2. PLAY IN THE PRESENT MOMENT

How can Mike Sigel get to the finals and not know where he stands? It's called playing in the present moment, and it's a philosophy all players should embrace. It means not allowing yourself to think about the score or winning until you run out of shots. Instead, you become engrossed in the process of executing each shot and you completely accept the results no matter what they are.

## 3. MAINTAIN A POSITIVE ATTITUDE

The worst thing you can do for your prospects of winning a tournament is to get down on yourself after a bad shot. If you start feeling sorry for yourself, you're not focused on the next shot and this will become very problematic. In fact, it's almost like a rolling snowball, your problems will just keep getting bigger and bigger.

## 4. PATIENCE IS A VIRTUE

You must make quality high-percent-age decisions. Every time you have the urge to make an aggressive shot, go with the more conservative one. The moment you get impatient, is

when bad things happen. It's the patient hunter that gets the pray.

### 5. IGNORE OTHER PLAYERS

Not too long ago, I was working with a young player who was struggling. But a couple of strong finishes later he was feeling much better. At the next tournament he won his first four rounds. Now he's feeling really good. In between matches a player he knows walks up to him and says: "I don't know what you're doing with your stroke, but that's not the way you used to do it." A few minutes later another player comes over: "I noticed that you aren't coming straight through with your stroke." Now the poor fella goes from making everything he shot at to being a total mess.

You'll have lots of well-meaning friends who want to give you advice. Stop them before they can say a word. Their comments will creep into your mind when you're at the table.

### 6. FOLLOW A ROUTINE

I tell my students to follow the same pre-shot routine before every shot. It keeps you focused on what you have to do, and when the pressure is on, it helps you manage your nerves. A good pre-shot routine helped a top pro win the U.S. Open. Afterward he discussed the final match with some of the other players. He told me they kept commenting on how "cool" he was. "They can't be talking about me," he said. My heart was jumping out of my chest." He said he just hit one shot at a time and tried not to think about what it would mean to win the U.S. Open.

### 7. DON'T PUT UNNECESSARY PRESSURE ON YOURSELF

I've seen beginners not used to competing arrive an hour before their match and start make changes with their pool stroke. They become panicked and try to change their mechan-

ics. Pro players do this, too. I've seen guys come to the Derby City Classic, invite all of their family and friends. Eventually they start worrying: *What if I don't finish in the money and disappoint everyone?* Just embrace the present moment. You can't be afraid of messing up.

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

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# Gospel Trick Shot #13

## It Is Finished

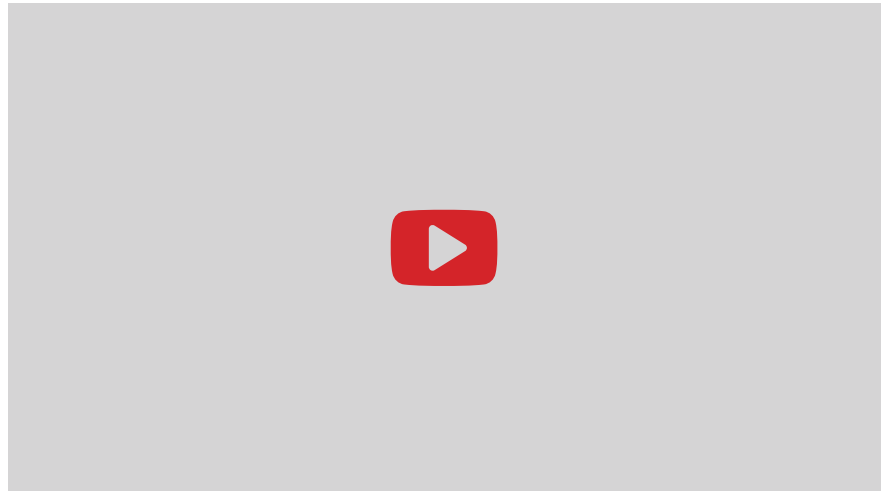
**History of the Trick Shot:** This shot was invented by my road partner Mike Massey. After Mike, Tom “Dr. Cue” Rossman, and I did dozens of Gospel Trick Shot shows together at various billiard industry events in the early 2000’s, Mike felt inspired to come up with this fantastic shot. This shot was also featured on my life story in a made for TV documentary for the 700 Club and the Christian Broadcasting Network (CBN) in 2007. The show was called the “Pastor Shoots Pool – The Steve Lillis Story.”

**GTS Name and Why:** The shot was named because with the rack and balls setup accordingly, one can see the head (C, 4, 2 balls), outstretched arms (7 and 6 balls), and feet (8, 5, 3, and 11 balls) of Jesus on the cross. Jesus spoke seven times on the cross, and one of the phrases Jesus said was “It Is Finished.” What Jesus accomplished on the cross, through his death, burial and resurrection was all that was needed to finish the work of man’s salvation.

**Scripture References in NIV Translation:** John 19:30, Romans 11:6, Galatians 2:16, and 2 Timothy 1:9.

**Cue Ball Placement:** Place the cue ball approximately 4 inches from the side pocket (B) as shown.

**Object Ball(s) Placement:** Place two balls frozen to the cue ball (2) & (4) so that the object balls will be pocketed into the corner pockets (D) and (F) respectively. Place the rack in the center of the table, about 10 inches in front of the cue ball, so there is sufficient clearance for the (2) and (4) ball to travel unobstructed towards the corner pockets. Freeze two additional object balls (6) and (7) against the rack so they too will travel to the corner pockets (D) and (F). Lastly, line



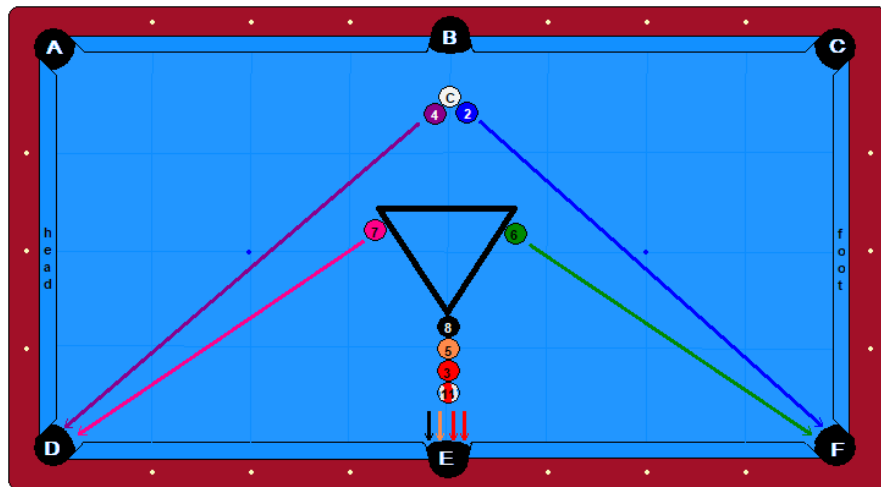
up four additional object balls, frozen together, with the (8) frozen tightly against the front of the rack. Make sure they are lined up so they can all travel straight into the side pocket.

**Objective:** Hit cue ball firmly aiming straight towards the Side Pocket (E). If you hit it perfect the cue ball will bounce back into side pocket (B).

**Special Notes:** Make sure you use a rack that is not too heavy or too light, as a flimsy plastic rack does not cause

enough energy to cause the object balls to reach their destinations and a heavy rack might absorb too much energy.

**Crowd Reactions Through the Years:** The visual of only the rack (cross of Jesus) remaining on the table after all the balls are pocketed is powerful. Many times people are silent for a few seconds after the shot pondering the fact that Jesus not only left the cross but left this world and sent us the Holy Spirit to live inside of us when we believe.



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# Jeanette Lee,

## *“The Black Widow,” Diagnosed With Terminal Cancer*

**Friends and Family of the World’s Most Recognizable Billiards Player Launch “The Jeanette Lee Legacy Fund” to Support Lee’s Three Daughters.**

(TAMPA) Feb. 17, 2021 — One of the most iconic names in billiards, Jeanette Lee, has announced that she has been diagnosed with stage four ovarian cancer. Nicknamed The Black Widow, Lee was the dominant billiards personality of her era who was formerly ranked No. 1 in the sport, a World Games Gold Medalist and a WPBA, BCA and Asian Hall of Fame inductee.

Lee, now 49 years old, has vowed to fight the disease through every means available including chemotherapy, which has already begun, as well as upcoming surgeries to slow the onslaught of her illness.



Winner of more than 30 national and international titles, Lee's greatest achievement is being the mother to three daughters Cheyenne (16), Chloe (11) and Savannah (10). Lee has expressed that her biggest concern is the future of her children.

"I intend to bring the same resolve I brought to the billiards table to this fight," said Lee. "Jim Valvano so eloquently told us to 'Never give up'. I owe it to my three young daughters to do exactly that."

In response to that need, a group of her friends, family and business associates have launched a GoFundMe effort. The "Jeanette Lee Legacy Fund" is a trust designed to provide for the care, well-being and education of her three daughters. Donations to the Jeanette Lee Legacy Fund can be made by visiting: <https://www.gofundme.com/jeanette-lee-legacy-fund>.

**“WINNER OF MORE THAN 30 NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL TITLES, LEE’S GREATEST ACHIEVEMENT IS BEING THE MOTHER TO THREE DAUGHTERS CHEYENNE (16), CHLOE (11) AND SAVANNAH (10).”**

With ESPN's broadcasts of the WPBA in the 1980's and 1990's, Lee's combination of competitive excellence, unique style and beauty made her the fan favorite and extended billiards to a broader audience. She graced ESPN

Magazine's "The Body" issue, was a contestant on Korea's Dancing with the Stars, was featured in an ESPN SportsCenter commercial, and made a cameo appearance in the Disney film, The Other Sister.

Consistently ranked as one of the Most Powerful People in the sport by Billiards Digest, Lee's career was cut short by her battle with Scoliosis that, over the last dozen years, had limited her ability to compete at the game's highest level.

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# **BILLIARDS SPORTS NETWORK** launches The Dynaspheres Cup Series with Junior Championships

***Raleigh NC's Joey Tate and Shenandoah, VA's Garret Vaughan win their divisions***

There have always been junior players, far more of them than the numbers that have actually graduated to professional levels of competition. In an off-the-top-of-one's-head category of examples, Johnny Archer was a junior player once.

**S**o was Shannon Daulton and a lot of other now well-known professionals like Billy Thorpe and Chris Robinson, to name just a couple. Events capable of accommodating the development of junior

players have, however, lagged behind the increasing 21<sup>st</sup> century numbers of interested juniors.

Until recently, the only widely-known avenue for junior competition was the

Billiard Education Foundation's annual Junior National Championships, preceded by a number of nationwide qualifying events. Last month, January 7-9, On the Wire Creative Media launched a Junior International Tour,



with five junior events held at Wolf's Den in Roanoke, VA (see related article in our News Archive, dated January 13), with eight other events planned through October. On the weekend of February 20-21, the Maryland-based Billiard Sports Network (BSN) joined the list of organizations looking to promote further junior competition for the increasingly growing number of junior players interested in competing. Their efforts were initiated with the first of two planned junior events for this year, nestled in the midst of a broader "collection of tournaments," all under the 'umbrella' title of the Dynaspheres Cups.

Originally engaged in streaming live pool events, BSN and its founders, Jake Lawson and Josh Setterfield, had always projected that they would eventually start and run their own events. The pandemic brought those ideas to the forefront.

"We were going to start a collection of tournaments throughout the year," said Lawson, "and we started reaching out to folks with whom we had relationships in the industry."

This led BSN to Dynaspheres Balls, a subsidiary of Championship Fabric, LLC. Lawson also owns BreakOut Apparel (formerly LightsOut Apparel) and had a distribution deal with Dynaspheres Balls.

"When we decided to do this collection of tournaments," said Lawson, "Dynaspheres came back and said they were interested in getting involved."

**“ JOEY TATE AND RUNNER-UP IN THE 15-TO-18 YEAR-OLD EVENT, LANDON HOLLINGSWORTH CAME TO THE EVENT WITH A DEGREE OF AMATEUR TOUR EXPERIENCE, PARTICULARLY WITH THE VIKING CUES' Q CITY 9-BALL TOUR ON WHICH THEY BOTH PLAY REGULARLY. ”**



Joey Tate

Though the events were originally going to utilize the name, BSN Cups, the nature and commitment to the deal arranged with Dynaspheres Balls led Lawson and Setterfield to give them title sponsorship.

"It was the right thing to do," said Lawson, adding that the decision to open their "collection" with a junior event was part of the ongoing response to the need for more of them. "There are just not enough junior events out there."

This first Dynaspheres Cup Juniors 9-Ball Championship, this past weekend, crowned two champions; Raleigh, NC's Joey Tate (15-18) and

Shenandoah, VA's Garrett Vaughan (14 and under). It was, in fact, a bit of a family affair for both of the winners. Tate's younger sisters, Bethany and Noelle competed in the 14-and-under event, while Garrett's brother, Grayson, competed with him in the 14-and-under event, as well. They met in the quarterfinals. The 15-18 year-old, \$500-added event drew 27 entrants, while the 14-and-under \$500-added tournament drew 22 to Brews and Cues on the Boulevard in Glen Burnie, MD.

Joey Tate and runner-up in the 15-to-18 year-old event, Landon Hollingsworth came to the event with a degree of Amateur tour experience, particularly with the Viking Cues' Q City 9-Ball Tour on which they both play regularly. Tate has been playing on that tour since 2017, has cashed in eight appearances and won three times. Hollingsworth has cashed in 18 appearances on the tour since 2018 and like Tate, has won three times. All of Hollingsworth's victories came last year. Tate chalked up his first 2021

## The Dynaspheres Cup

victory at this Juniors event, coming from a one-match trip to the loss side to claim the title, when he downed Hollingsworth in the finals.

Tate followed an opening round bye with victories over Jeffrie Martinez and Brent Worth to arrive at a winners' side semifinal match against Cameron Lawhorne, another Viking Cues' Q City 9-Ball alumnus (14 cash payouts on the tour since 2017, with two wins). Hollingsworth got by Jacob Kohl, Joshua Joseph and Kodi Allen to arrive at his winners' side semifinal matchup versus Nathan Childress, who started appearing on cash payout lists just last year and chalked up six cash prizes, including two wins; one, at On the Hill Productions' 9-Ball Fall Shootout and the other, with Shane Wolford in a Scotch Doubles event.

Tate downed Lawhorne 7-4 and was joined in the hot seat match by Hollingsworth, who'd sent Childress to the loss side 7-5. As might have been expected, Hollingsworth and Tate locked up in a double hill fight for the hot seat. Hollingsworth claimed it and waited in it for Tate's return.

On the loss side, Lawhorne picked up Kodi Allen, who, after being defeated by Hollingsworth on the winners' side, defeated Jeffrie Martinez 7-2 and Hunter Frazier 7-4. Childress drew Jackson Hurst, who'd shut out Richard Burch and defeated Brent Worth to reach him.

Childress got by Hurst 7-3. Lawhorne joined him in the quarterfinals, after defeating Allen 7-2. In another predictable event, Lawhorne and Childress battled to double hill, before Lawhorne prevailed for a second shot against Tate. That, too, turned into a double hill contest that eventually sent Tate back over to challenge Hollingsworth in the hot seat.

It's likely that a third straight double hill match was expected from the sec-



Landon Hollingsworth

ond Tate/Hollingsworth meeting, but it didn't happen. Tate completed the Dynaspheres Cup's first Junior 9-Ball Championship and his first victory run of 2021 with a 7-4 win in the finals.

### Vaughan comes from the loss side to win 14-and-under division

The brothers Vaughan almost met in the hot seat match of the 14-and-under tournament.

As the elder brother, Garrett (14), got his bye and then worked his way through the field, shutting out Dylan

Moore and defeating Niko Konkel 7-1 to arrive at a winners' side semifinal match against D'Angelo "Jawz" Spain, younger brother Grayson (11) was doing his part by (without a bye) defeating Hayleigh Marion 7-1, shutting out Carley Tomaszewski and sending Adrian Prasad west 7-5, to arrive at his winners' side semifinal match against Payne McBride.

There they sat, one match away from drawing each other in the hot seat match of a tournament. Garrett and "Jawz" fought to double hill before "Jawz" prevailed. McBride downed Grayson 7-3, and the brothers had to settle for the possibility of meeting in



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## The Dynaspheres Cup

the event quarterfinals. McBride, in the meantime, defeated Spain 7-3 to claim the hot seat.

On the loss side, Garrett drew Adrian Prasad, who'd defeated Skylar Hess 7-2 and Hayleigh Marion 7-5 to reach him. Brother Grayson picked up Niko Konkol, who'd defeated Joey Tate's younger sister, Noelle 7-1 and Jayce Little 7-3.

The stars aligned properly, although Grayson had his work cut out for him with a double hill battle against Konkol. He won it, eventually, and was joined in the quarterfinals by his brother, who'd come a game short of double hill in defeating Prasad 7-5. And the brothers locked up in a double hill fight that had to be of immense importance to both of them on a lot of different levels. Big brother Garrett won it, though, and advanced to face D'Angelo Spain in the semifinals.

With Grayson no doubt rooting for him all the way, Garrett shut Spain out and then, with Grayson rooting him on to defeat the player who'd sent *him* to



Payne McBride



Garrett Vaughan

the loss side, Garrett downed McBride 7-2 to claim the 14-and-under championship title.

Jake Lawson and Josh Setterfield thanked the ownership and staff at Brews & Cues for their hospitality, as well as title sponsor Dynaspheres, Lucid Ballsports (Predator Arena Light), Gina Cunningham (Keller Williams Integrity), East Coast Prime Meats, Center Pocket, Courtyard by Marriott Bowie, Maryland, Luke Thompson Photography, MB Cues/Mike Burton, Integrity Cues, Break Out Billiards Apparel, AZBilliards, Premier Billiards and [CueScore.com](http://CueScore.com). They also thanked Tour Director Steve Fleming, and their staff of Tracy Gebhard, Kim Huff and Robbie Hess.

The next tournament in The Dynaspheres Cup series, scheduled for May

1-2, will be the \$5,000-added Open/Pro Dynaspheres Cup 10-Ball Championships, to which Shane Van Boening, James Aranas, Fedor Gorst, Kristina Tkach, Brandon Shuff and Shaun Wilkie, among others, have reportedly already signed up. The Dynaspheres Cup 8-Ball Championship is scheduled for June 5-6. The Dynaspheres Cup Double 8-Ball Championship is scheduled for July 31-August 1 and the second Junior Championship is set for September 25-26. The series finale, scheduled for November 6-7, will be The Dynaspheres Cup 9-Ball Championships. All events will be hosted by Center Pocket in Bowie, MD.

According to Lawson, plans are in motion to expand this first season's four Open/Pro and two Junior events. BSN has a two-year-contract with Dynaspheres and is looking at planning for 12 events in 2022.

**“ THE NEXT TOURNAMENT IN THE DYNASPHERES CUP SERIES, SCHEDULED FOR MAY 1-2, WILL BE THE \$5,000-ADDED OPEN/PRO DYNASPHERES CUP 10-BALL CHAMPIONSHIPS.. ”**

**14-and-under Juniors**

- 1<sup>st</sup> Garrett Vaughan \$475
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Payne McBride \$240
- 3<sup>rd</sup> D'Angelo "Jawz" Spain \$160
- 4<sup>th</sup> Grayson Vaughan \$115
- 5<sup>th</sup> Niko Konkel \$85
- Adrian Prasad

**15-18 Juniors**

- 1<sup>st</sup> Joey Tate \$535
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Landon Hollingsworth \$265
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Cameron Lawhorne \$185
- 4<sup>th</sup> Nathan Childress \$135
- 5<sup>th</sup> Kodi Allen \$95
- Jackson Hurst



## FIRST MICHAEL MONTGOMERY MEMORIAL DRAWS RECORD CROWDS OF TOP NAMES TO FRISCO, TX



Dennis Orcollo

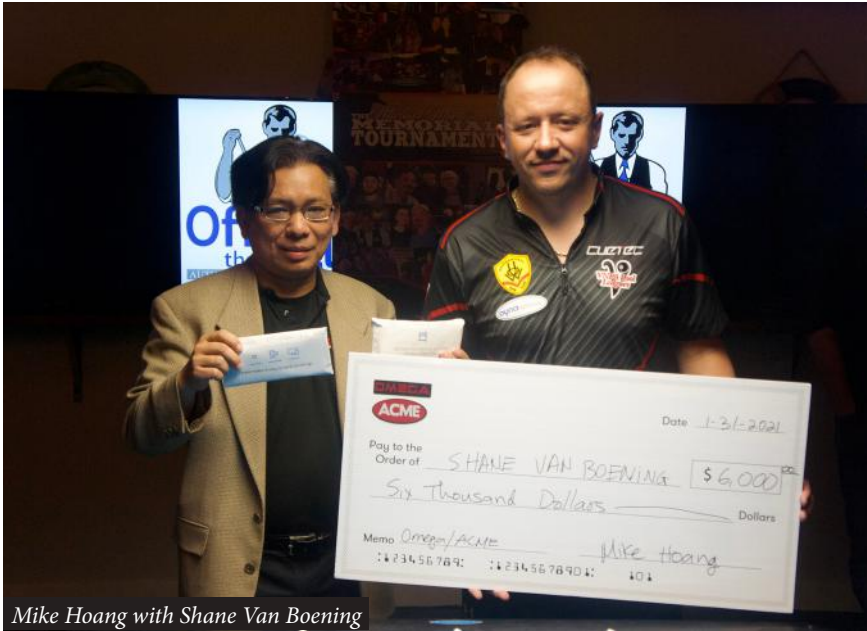
# Orcollo and Van Boening battle back and forth throughout the long weekend It was something of a perfect storm, before the actual storm.

**A** month before the state of Texas got hit with a winter storm that paralyzed the state's power grid and left a large part of the state, not only without power, but without potable water, the city of Frisco, TX, a part of the Dallas/Fort Worth metroplex, about 20 miles north of the city center, held the first Michael Montgomery Memorial Pool Tournament, to commemorate the passing of one of its quiet, but well-respected players and supporters, who had died unexpectedly on July 1, 2020, 10 days before his 47<sup>th</sup> birthday.

The 'perfect storm' conditions of this memorial tournament were related to circumstances surrounding the pandemic; its very existence, its impact on the country at large and the sheer amount of time that people had been dealing with it. The pool community, like many other communities in a lot of different ways, had been affected by the closing of pool rooms (some, permanently), the dissipation of pool tours (some, like Tony Robles' Predator Pro Am Tour, permanently), and a lack of income for an elite group of professionals

who make their 'daily bread' by competing in big money pool tournaments.

Suddenly, this pool community was offered a \$16,000-added (total), four-event tournament in the heart of Texas pool country and with the added fact that it would memorialize a beloved local figure and raise funds for his family, they showed up in droves. Though some of the events drew limited (by design) numbers, the \$7,500-added 9-Ball tournament drew 128 of the country's elite players



Mike Hoang with Shane Van Boening

“Michael was a good friend of mine and he would have LOVED this tournament,” said Autieri. “We’d never had anything like this before; all these pros under one roof.”

“Michael,” he went on to say, “was not a pro or even a high-level player. His involvement was as more of a community guy, a huge supporter of the game. If he wasn’t working, he was at every (DFW) event that happened, supporting the event and meeting the people. He’d enter events that he knew he had zero chance of winning. And with the company he worked for, he travelled all over the world and had relationships with many of the players he met. He’d been to numerous Mosconi Cups and spent a lot of time in Dubai where they held pro tournaments.”

On June 30/July 1, 2020, Montgomery and Robyn Swift had been together for much of the evening and parted late. Montgomery texted her at 8 o’clock in the morning and later at 1 p.m., making preliminary arrangements to get together later. When ‘later’ didn’t happen, Swift called and discovered that Montgomery had passed away from an unspecified heart ailment on his parents’ back patio, sometime after she’d spoken to him early that afternoon.

to a memorial event for someone that many of them had never heard of.

According to one of Michael Montgomery’s close personal friends and a pool student of his, Robyn Swift, while he was well-known, locally, and His Facebook page would often display photos of him with many of the players who showed up at his memorial, not too many people knew very much about him.

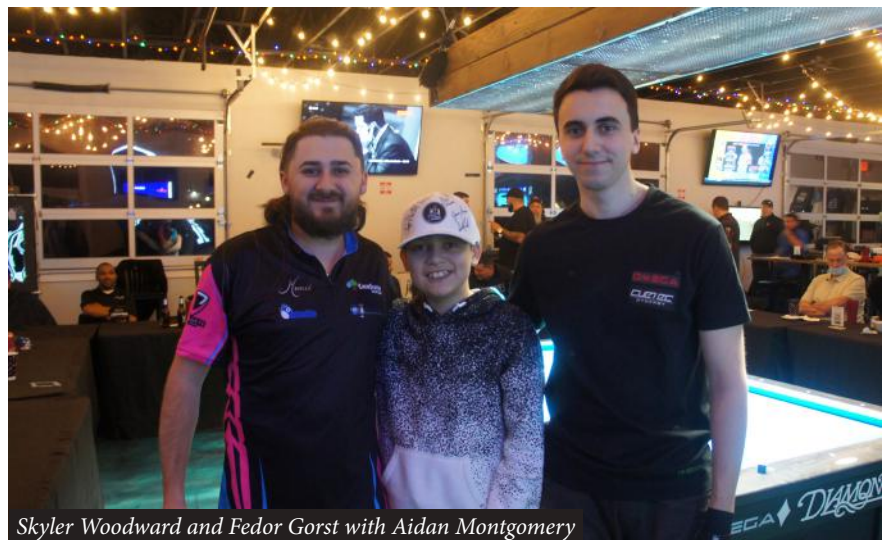
“He had pictures on Facebook with Shane and Dennis and Sky,” said Swift, “and he went to a lot of places, travelling overseas for the company he worked for (DynCorp International).”

“But,” she added, “he was a very private person. He went and he played pool and he took care of his parents (Ellen and Marvin Montgomery) and his son (Aiden), but he was. . . just very private.”

Montgomery and Swift had met playing in local pool leagues about four years ago; APA, a Sunday BCA league and what Swift described as a “9-ball, two-foul league.” In January, 2020, they embarked on a series of conversations, which led to him giving her

lessons. A few times a week, between January and April, they met regularly. It would have continued at that pace had the bars not started to close down.

Phil Autieri, who, along with Michael Hoang from Omega Billiards, arranged the memorial tournament, remembered the man as a strong supporter of pool in the Dallas/Fort Worth area and described the support that the community gave back to Michael’s family through the tournament, “truly heartwarming.”



Skyler Woodward and Fedor Gorst with Aidan Montgomery



Jeffrey De Luna

“It’s been a rough six or seven months,” she said, struggling with composure. “I stayed off pool tables for a while.”

“He was very, very patient,” she added, as she recalled the nature of Montgomery’s skills as a pool teacher. “He worked with you until you got it. He never got frustrated.”

Though work commitments rendered her unable to attend his Memorial, she watched part of it on a live stream and was heartened to see the level of support with which the DFW pool community had responded.

Autieri noted that first and foremost, the event would not have happened without the support and participation of Michael Hoang of Omega Billiards. He also noted contributions from Nicole and Azl Graphics, a local printing company, that created a set of commemorative posters, which sold for \$100 at the event. Jeremy Jones donated a Mosconi Cup jersey and Billy Thorpe donated an autographed cue ball that combined, raised over \$500. At one point, two individuals, Glenn Huff and Tommy Medina, deciding that T-shirts, nor an autographed cue ball were of interest to them, tossed

some money onto a table. That table became something of a donation bucket that was visited and contributed to, by most, if not all of the players who were at the event. In all, according to Autieri, the 1<sup>st</sup> Annual Michael Montgomery Memorial Tournament raised over \$6,000 for Michael’s family. His son, Aiden, accepted the check at the event itself.

“That’s the beautiful thing about the pool community,” said Autieri, “and

you can see it happening with the recent support for Jeanette Lee. Michael (Hoang) and I talked about this before the tournament. Michael Montgomery supported the pool community and we wanted to do our part to support him and his family and (with the people who attended the event), it was the pool community doing its job to support him for supporting us.”

“And,” he added of the Michael Montgomery Memorial Tournaments yet to come, “we’re going to keep raising as much as we can.”

*And then, some readily recognizable names played a little pool*

Of the numerous pro players who were in attendance at Snookered Billiards in Frisco, TX for the four events that comprised the 1<sup>st</sup> Annual Michael Montgomery Memorial Tournament, four of whom were members of the 2020 USA Mosconi Cup team, Dennis Orcollo and Shane Van Boening seemed to be two competitors who were in something of a protracted battle against each other throughout the long weekend (January 27-31), even though they faced each other directly, only twice. They didn’t play,



Kristina Tkach

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## Michael Montgomery Memorial

of course, in the \$1,500-added, 32-entrant Ladies Event, but in the other three events, they fought twice for one of the titles, and ended up in opposite finishing positions (1<sup>st</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup>/6<sup>th</sup>) for the other two.

Ladies first, though. Russia's Kristina Tkach, who hadn't really played anything resembling a meaningful match in almost a year, travelled to Texas with fellow countryman Fedor Gorst and showed no signs of her absence from the tables with a come-from-the-loss-side win in the Ladies event. She lost her second-round match against Alicia Stanley in the only double-hill match she played and then, went on a 42-7 run of loss-side games (86%), during which she never gave up more than two racks in a match. She finished with a 7-2 win over Courtney Peters in the semifinals and then defeated Tara Williams twice – 7-5, 6-4 – to claim the Ladies title.

Between Orcollo and Van Boening, it was Orcollo who grabbed the first event title; the \$5,000-added, 12-entrant One Pocket event. Van Boening was sent to the loss side in a winners' side quarterfinal by Billy Thorpe, who

followed him over after losing a winners' side semifinal to Orcollo. Van Boening defeated Gus Briseno and Roberto Gomez on the loss side before Tony Chohan shut him out and left him in the tie for 5<sup>th</sup>. Orcollo, in the meantime, had grabbed the hot seat by shutting out Corey Deuel. Deuel came back from eliminating Chohan in the semifinals and though he put up a good, double hill fight, lost to Orcollo a second time.

Orcollo had no sooner claimed the One Pocket title than he found himself embroiled in the \$1,000-added, 16-entrant 10-Ball Mini Tournament. And this time, he and Van Boening had to face each other head-to-head twice before the title was claimed. Van Boening had sent Sky Woodward to the loss side, as Van Boening was doing likewise to James Aranas, which led to them meeting, for the first time, in the hot seat match. Van Boening grabbed the hot seat 7-2, but once Orcollo had dispatched countryman James DeLuna in the semifinals 6-4, he came back and locked up in two straight double hill fights for the title. Orcollo took the first race to 7 and the second race to 6

to claim his second title of the weekend.

In what was the 'marquee event' of the Michael Montgomery Memorial, the \$7-500-added, 128-entrant 9-Ball tournament, Van Boening got his last shot (on this weekend, at least) for a title. He did not miss the opportunity, although much (one would assume) to his chagrin, he was dispatched to the loss side in a winners' side semifinal by Fedor Gorst 7-5. At that juncture, both he and Orcollo were on the loss side, while Gorst and Sky Woodward battled for the hot seat. Woodward claimed the hot seat 7-4 in what proved to be his last win of the match and the weekend.

Here it was, the last event of the long weekend. Orcollo was up on titles, 2-0 over Van Boening and they were both on the loss side of the bracket, working on a potential meet up in the quarterfinals. They might have met in the battles for 5<sup>th</sup>/6<sup>th</sup> but the draw didn't turn out that way. Van Boening, just over from the winners' side semifinal picked up James Aranas and Orcollo, eight matches into his loss-side winning streak, drew Shane Winters. Van Boening advanced to the quarterfinals 6-4 over Aranas, as Winters was busy eliminating Orcollo by the same score.

There were two more 6-4 wins, both by Van Boening. He stopped Shane Winters in the quarterfinals and then, wreaked vengeance on Gorst in the semifinals.

It was a situation in which no one in their right mind would have bet against Shane Van Boening; last shot at an event title, coming back from the loss side with the necessity of winning two in a row for that title. SVB took the opening set 7-1 and the second set 6-2.

And so, as Phil Autieri noted on his Facebook post a few days later, "Omega's first of many Michael Montgom-



Ming Ng

ery Memorial Tournaments has come to end.” The list of people he wanted to thank was almost as large as the 9-Ball roster, but it began with Mike Hoang from Omega.

“Mike,” he commented on his FB page, “you are a class act. I’m honored to work with you and honored to be your friend. You do so much for pool and its players and I don’t think you get a fraction of the recognition you deserve. None of this would (have been) possible without you.”

Autieri went on to thank the ‘live streaming’ crew of Rob Lovelace, Nelson Futrell, Billy Guy, Marc Gonzalez and Rick Sparks with Rackem TV for stellar work with the stream. He also thanked Craig Lucas, Jana and their entire Snookered staff. Jay Ryda and Glen Huff received recognition for an “amazing job” raising money in the player auction, as did everyone who donated on the ‘table’ to Michael Montgomery’s son, Aiden.



Dennis Orcollo

(Editor’s Note: More detailed accounts of the four tournaments of this 1<sup>st</sup> Annual Michael Montgomery Memorial Tournament can be found in our News Archives. The four events are covered in three articles; one for the Ladies Tournament and one for the 9-Ball Tournament, along with a single report on the One Pocket and 10-Ball Mini event)



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# **TKACH WINS 88% Of Her Games**

**TO WIN APT'S VA STATE LADIES 10-BALL CHAMPIONSHIP**

Moore and Mastermaker battle twice; Moore takes  
2021 VA State Open 10-Ball title

**Russia's Kristina Tkach, fresh off her win at the Michael Montgomery Memorial Tournament in Texas on the last weekend in January, backed that title up with an undefeated victory at the 2021 VA State Ladies 10-Ball Championships on the weekend of February 20-21.**

**T**kach also signed on to the concurrently-run Open 10-Ball Championships, where she was defeated in the opening round and won three on the loss side before being eliminated. Held under the auspices of the Action Pool Tour (APT), the ladies event drew a short field of 11 entrants to Diamond Billiards in Midlothian, VA.

Eric Moore, in the meantime, the APT's 2016 Tour Champion and the winner of this event that year, as well, was defeated in the battle for the Open 10-Ball hot seat by the event's 2019 winner, Danny Mastermaker, but came back to down him in the finals. The Open event drew 61 entrants to Diamond Billiards.

Tkach played a total of five matches to claim the ladies' title. She entered the third round of play without having given up a single rack. She shut out both Soo Emmett and Johnna McDaniel to face Kia Burwell in one winners' side semifinal. The event's defending champion, Liz Taylor, downed Shanna Lewis 6-3 in what was their first opening round and faced Lisa Cossette in the other winners' side semifinal.

Tkach downed Burwell 6-1. Taylor joined her in the hot seat match with a 6-2 win over Cossette. Entering that hot seat match with a 95% game-winning percentage (18-1), Tkach gave up another one of the four racks her opponents chalked up against her and sent the defending champion, Taylor, to the semifinals.

On the loss side, Burwell picked up Shanna Lewis, who, after her defeat at the hands of Taylor had eliminated Soo Emmett, double hill, and Kristen Daniels 5-3. Cossette drew Jacki Duggan, who'd been sent to the loss side by Burwell and downed Amy Williams 5-1 and Johnna McDaniel 5-2 to reach Cossette.

Burwell shut out Lewis. Cossette spoiled the possible rematch be-



*Kristina Tkach and Lisa Cossette*

tween Burwell and Duggan by defeating Duggan 5-2. Cossette and Burwell battled to double hill before Cossette prevailed for a shot at the defending champ in the semifinals. Cossette, on a roll, gave up only a single rack to Taylor and turned to challenge Tkach in the hot seat.

To her credit, Cossette chalked up more racks against Tkach than any of the young Russian's previous opponents. In fact, Cossette chalked up as many as all of Tkach's previous four opponents combined. Downing Cossette 6-2, Tkach claimed the 2021 Ladies 10-Ball title having won 30 of 34 games played, for an 88% game-winning percentage.

Moore and Mastermaker battle twice for Open title

Though Eric Moore did not have to face the Open event's 2020 champion (BJ Ussery) or its runner-up (Reymart Lim), neither of whom competed for the 2021 title, Moore did face a familiar APT competitor in Danny Mas-

termaker, twice. Though luck of the bracket draw kept Moore out of the path of a number of previous tour champions and familiar APT faces like Mike Davis, Chris Bruner (2019 tour champion), Shane Wolford (last year's de facto tour champion in an abbreviated-by-the-pandemic, two-event season) and Brian Dietzenbach, among others, Moore (who finished in 5th place last year) did have to get by Scott Roberts, who finished two slots ahead of him in last year's two-event standings.

Moore's six-match march to the hot seat went through Brent Hensley 7-4, a shutout over Chris Pyle and another 7-4 win, over Mike McPherson, before pulling up to the aforementioned Scott Roberts, who challenged Moore to his first of only two double hill matches. Moore advanced to meet Bobby Chamberlain in one of the winners' side semifinals.

Mastermaker, in the meantime, got by Kevin Williams and Michael Bumpass,

## Va. State 10-Ball Championship

both 7-2 and then gave up only one to Ed Culhane, before chalking up another 7-2, versus David Hunt. This set him up to draw Shane Wolford in the other winners' side semifinal.

Moore downed Chamberlain 7-5 to get into the hot seat match, where he was joined by Mastermaker, who'd sent Wolford to the loss side 7-3. It was Mastermaker who locked Moore up in his second double hill fight, battling for the hot seat. Mastermaker prevailed and waited on Moore's return.

On the loss side, Chamberlain picked up the tour's 2019 champion, Chris Bruner, who'd been sent over by Wolford and was working on an eight-match, loss-side winning streak that would take him as far as the semifinals and had most recently included wins (#5 & #6) over David Hunt 6-4 and Bruce Campbell 6-1 (Campbell, three rounds earlier, had been responsible for eliminating Kristina Tkach). Wolford drew Mike Davis, who'd been defeated by Bobby Chamberlain and was in the midst of a six-match win-



Danny Mastermaker and Eric Moore

ning streak that was about to end and had recently included wins over Scott Roberts 6-1 and Mark Nanashee 6-2.

Bruner continued his winning streak with a double hill victory over Chamberlain. He was joined in the quarterfinals by Wolford, who'd stopped

Davis' streak 6-4. Another double hill fight ensued in those quarterfinals and eventually advanced Bruner over Wolford into the semifinals.

Eric Moore put a punctuation mark into ending Bruner's streak, allowing him only a single rack to earn a second shot at Mastermaker, waiting for him in the hot seat. Eric completed his 2021 10-Ball Championship campaign with a final 8-5 victory over Mastermaker.

Tour directors Kris Wylie and Tiger Baker thanked the ownership and staff at Diamond Billiards, as well as this event's sponsors, Haselman & Hunt, D.D.S., P.C. Family Dentistry ([www.Haselman & Hunt.com](http://www.Haselman & Hunt.com)). The schedule for upcoming events on the Action Pool Tour, like so much else at this time, is being curtailed by restrictions associated with individual communities and venues. Wylie and Baker are monitoring the situation as best they can and while they hope that they will be able to announce other APT stops in the future, the only one that is known for sure as of this writing is an event scheduled for July 17-18, which will be hosted by Wolfe's Den Billiards in Roanoke, VA.



Eric Moore Wylie Photography



  
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# **GORST TAKES AUGUSTA**

For big table aficionados, all the action on the weekend of Feb 19th - 21st was at the Rack N Grill II in Augusta, GA for their 9 Ball Shootout. The format for this \$4000 added event was true double elimination, winner breaks, rack your own with the nine on the spot & two in the back with the three ball break rule – races to 15 on the winners side & races to 11 on the one loss side.



*Jesus Atencio and Fedor Gorst*

**F**orty eight players ponied up their \$200 entry fees including Russian stars Fedor Gorst & Evgeny Stalev, Josh Roberts, Roberto Gomez, Jeffrey de Luna, Brandon Shuff, Robb Saez, Johnathan Hennessee, Julio Burgos, BJ Ussery, Mike DeLawder, Scott Rabon, Mark Gregory, rising star Jesus Atencio and local straight shooter Mike Wise.

A players auction was held – between the tournament & auction payouts, the total purse was \$40,000! Following that, the draw was done & the tournament began with one round on Friday night.

After starting at noon on Saturday & Sunday, the field was finally pared down to just four players – Gorst & Atencio on the winners side with Roberts & de Luna on the one loss side.

The hot seat was claimed by Gorst as he dispatched Atencio to await the results of the Roberts-de Luna match. Jeffrey defeated Josh leaving him in fourth place.

Atencio advanced to the finals after winning a nailbiter over de Luna leaving him with a third place finish.

Since this event was true double elimination, Jesus would have to defeat Fedor twice to win the tournament.

He shot out to a 3-0 over Fedor but before you knew it, he trailed 4-3. From there, it was neck & neck until Jesus pulled away to take the first set 15-10!

After a short break, the final race to eleven began.

Jesus again went several games ahead but towards the end of the match, Fedor had whittled that lead down to where he was only trailing by one game – 8-7. He then tied it up at eight apiece! And then again, 9-9! The pressure was on! Who would get on the hill first?!!!

**“ THANKS TO THE RACK N GRILL II'S OWNER MIKE NEWSOME AND HIS STAFF WHO WENT ALL OUT TO TREAT PLAYERS AND FANS TO A FANTASTIC WEEKEND. ”**

Fedor broke & scratched – Jesus ran out! 10-9!

Jesus broke, made three balls on the break, ran a couple & hung up the five! Fedor knocked the remaining balls into the pockets.

One game for it all!

Fedor broke for the final game & methodically ran out the remaining balls for the win!!!

What a match!

Congratulations to Fedor for taking the title! This has to be a heartbreaker for Jesus – great tournament, young man!

Thanks to the Rack N Grill II's owner Mike Newsome and his staff who went all out to treat players and fans to a fantastic weekend. Mike also tells us he's opening a third location soon in Aiken, SC!

We'd also like to thank our commentators – Mary Kenniston, Larry Schwartz, Jeremy Jones, Scott Rabon & Eddie Brown! Great job, as usual!

And, last but not least, PoolActionTV.com would also like to thank our sponsors and fans for another fantastic event! We couldn't do this without your support! Tour sponsors include Lomax Custom Cues, Hanshew Jump Cues, Durbin Custom Cues, Diamond Billiard Products, StraightPoolEye, Aramith, Simonis & Fort Worth Billiard Superstore of Fort Worth, TX.

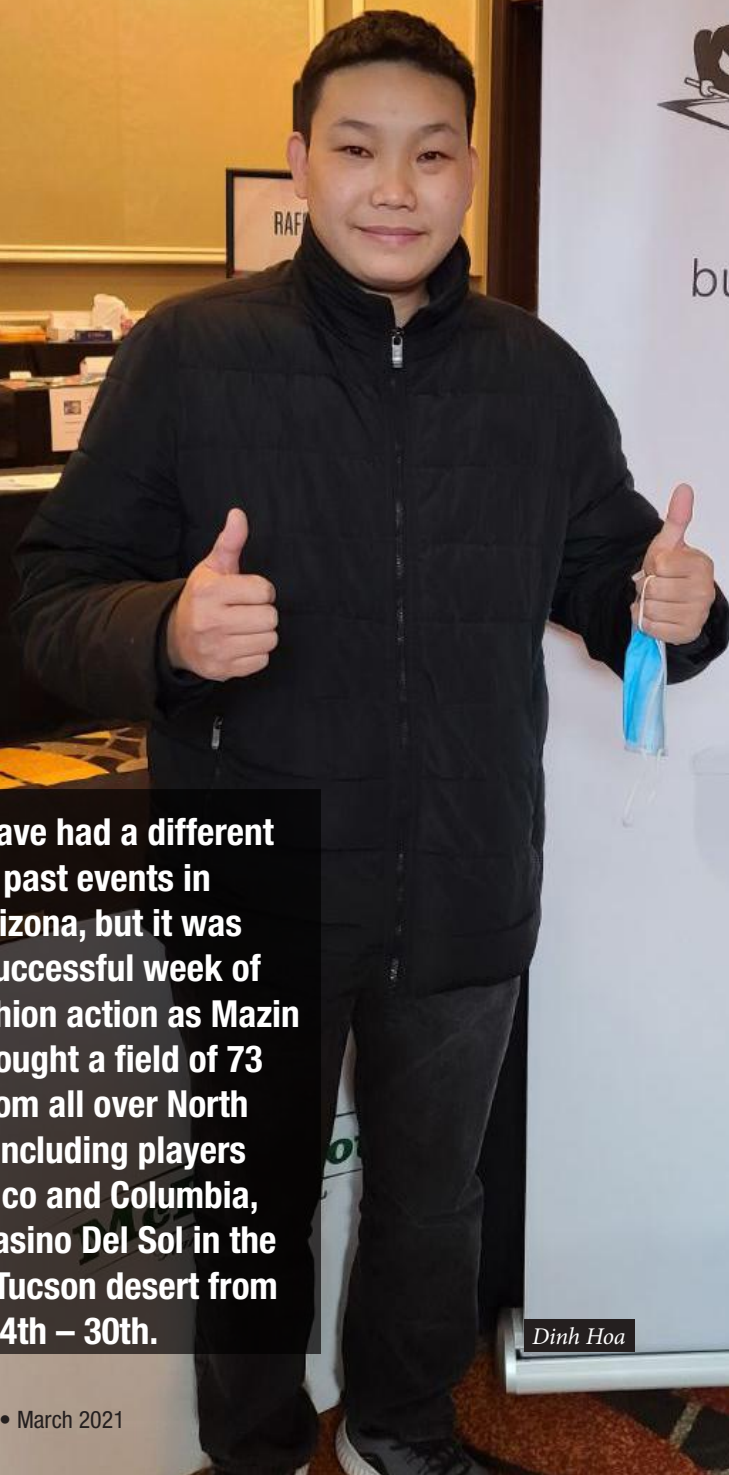
Our next event is the Midwest Open Billiards Championship at Michael's Billiards in Fairfield, OH – March 16th-21st! Hope to see you there!

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# **MAZIN SHOONI**

***Brings Another Successful 3-Cushion Event To Casino Del Sol In Tucson Arizona***



built for performance

It might have had a different look from past events in Tucson Arizona, but it was another successful week of top 3-cushion action as Mazin Shooni brought a field of 73 players from all over North America, including players from Mexico and Columbia, back to Casino Del Sol in the beautiful Tucson desert from January 24th – 30th.

Dinh Hoa

Things kicked off on Sunday the 24th with 38 players competing in the 3-Cushion USA “B” Championships. This event was limited to players with less than a .8 points per round average, with players broken up into five round robin groups. The top three from each bracket were joined by the top fourth place finisher to move into a single elimination sixteen player bracket.

The first round of the single elimination bracket shook things up, with four of the five group winners from the round robin stage losing in the first round. Paul Guernsey was the only group winner who advanced from the first elimination round. Guernsey scored a 25-18 win over Nghia Lam, and followed that up with a close 25-21 win over Jim Henrickson in the second round.

The elimination bracket was down to four players for the third round of play, where David Thai rode a high run of six to eliminate Guernsey. The other third round match saw Dinh Hoa eliminate Dung Truong 25-22 in a 65 inning marathon.

The final 30 point match was as close as expected, with Hoa defeating Thai 30-26. In the match win, Hoa had a high run of 7, tying Guernsey and Joe DeAmato for highest run of the elimination bracket. A number of players turned in high runs of 7 during the group brackets.

Hoa earned \$2,000 for first place, while Thai settled for \$1,500 in second place prize money.

While the B Championship (and the Handicap Championship that followed it) were being played during the day, a twelve team scotch doubles championship was played each night. Teams were separated into two groups of six, with the top two teams from each group advancing to a final four team round robin bracket.

The event was won by Guillermo Sosa & Jesus Corona, who were the top team out of their group and then won two of three matches in the final group. Sosa

“ **THE FIRST ROUND OF THE SINGLE ELIMINATION BRACKET SHOOK THINGS UP, WITH FOUR OF THE FIVE GROUP WINNERS FROM THE ROUND ROBIN STAGE LOSING IN THE FIRST ROUND.** ”

& Corona’s one final group loss was to the team of Richard Carranco Jr. & Jim Henrickson. Carranco Jr. & Henrickson also won two of three matches in the final group, but ended in second place due to the total point tie-breaker.

Sosa wasn’t done collecting prize money this week, as he added to his scotch doubles win with a win in the main event of the week, the Handicap Championship.

The Handicap Championship saw seven groups of seven players each, competing in 40 point matches, advancing to a final sixteen player bracket.

Sosa advanced from his group with a 5-1 record, only dropping a 40-33 match to the second place finisher in their group, Alfonso Torres. Torres’ 4-2 record in the group was enough to earn his place in the elimination bracket.

The first round of the elimination bracket turned out like the first round of the B Championship elimination bracket with five of the seven group winners being eliminated. The other group winner to advance out of the first round was Dat Nguyen, and he fell to Paul Feltman Jr. in the second round of the elimination bracket. Feltman would then lose to Sosa in the third round 40-32, second Sosa to the finals. His finals opponent, John Park, eliminated Jim Hendrickson by an identical 40-32 scoreline in the other third round match.

Sosa was victorious in the final 32 round match, with a score of 40-27. While Sosa did turn in an impressive run of four, it was his steady play the entire match that was the difference, as he had an average of 1.250 for the match.



Guillermo Sosa and Jesus Corona

## 3 Cushion Handicap Championship

Sosa pocketed another \$3,400 for the event win, while Park took home \$2,400 for second place.

Tournament organizer Mazin Shooni expressed his thanks to everyone who helped make the event a success. He thanked Casino Del Sol for being supportive and allowing him to hold events, as well as his sponsors Gabriels, Dynaspheres, McDermott, Royal Pro Cloth, Simonis Cloth and Million Dollar Products. Shooni also thanked Ben Sutherland with BBTV for the great job streaming matches all week, and “Professor Q-Ball” Paul Frankel for all of his help behind the scenes and for “Always helping even when he isn’t there”.

Shooni is scheduled to bring 3-cushion back to Casino Del Sol on June 20th – 26th for the 3 Cushion Summer Shootout.

Winners photos courtesy of Paul Frankel – <http://professorqball.com/>



John Park and Guillermo Sosa



**FEDOR GORST**



**JAMES ARANAS**

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-Thomas Edison

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# Jayson Shaw

## Pulls Double Duty At US 1 Billiards Pro Am

Ask any instructor what they suggest as a method to play your best during a big tournament and you will get answers reminding you to focus 100% on each match you are playing and maybe try to get away from the tables in between matches so you can spend some quality time clearing your mind from any distractions.



Jayson Shaw serves up the food in between matches



**A**s the owner of US 1 Billiards in West Haven Connecticut, where the US 1 Billiards February Pro Am was held on February 6th – 7th, Jayson Shaw had a few other things to worry about. Shaw found himself busy with a whole list of responsibilities including running the tournament, cooking, serving customers, cleaning up, shoveling snow, stopping mid match to take pictures with fans and even dealing with unexpected interruptions like his wife Ara announcing over the loudspeaker “Jayson, Shaw, I need you at the front desk ... NOW”. Somehow, he was able to focus through all of this and win the \$1,500 added event.

Looking back on the weekend, Shaw admitted to how tough it was. “I was not really 100% in on playing the event as I knew it was going be a packed house and I needed to help

**“ SHAW RAN THROUGH HIS FIRST THREE MATCHES WITH A COMBINED SCORE OF 27-1, SENDING KYLE MANUEL, JOEY KORSIK AND SAM TRAYGIS TO THE ONE LOSS SIDE. ”**

out. I played well in parts, but my head was completely on winning the event. I was happy go deep but I have not played pool since Mosconi I think that’s the second time I had my cue out my case”.

Shaw ran through his first three matches with a combined score of 27-1, sending Kyle Manuel, Joey Korsiak and Sam Traygis to the one loss side. He had his first real challenge in the 4th round where he defeated recent DFW Tour Stop Co-Winner Jalal Al Saresi 9-5. The first real hiccup of the day was in round five when Shaw ran into a buzz-

saw named Mike Dechaine. Dechaine took a quick 2-0 lead before Shaw won a rack to get back to 2-1 down. From there, it was all Dechaine as he won the next seven racks for a 9-1 win, sending Shaw to the one loss side.

The win over Shaw sent Dechaine to the hot-seat match to face a hobbled Kevin West. West was noticeably limping all day on Sunday as he had fallen early in the day. Had it not been for the snow on the ground in Connecticut, West might have not stuck around for the hot-seat match. “I did consider forfeiting, but I couldn’t go anywhere



because of the snow storm, so I just decided to keep going” said West. Even with what would turn out to be a fractured foot, West maintained the high level of play he had been displaying all weekend and held a 5-2 lead over Dechaine midway through the hot-seat match. Dechaine fought back to within one rack multiple times, but West held on and defeated Dechaine 9-7.

To no one’s surprise, it was Shaw and Dechaine facing off in the semi-final match. While it was Dechaine with the dominating win over Shaw earlier in

“ **TO NO ONE’S SURPRISE, IT WAS SHAW AND DECHAIINE FACING OFF IN THE SEMI-FINAL MATCH. WHILE IT WAS DECHAIINE WITH THE DOMINATING WIN OVER SHAW EARLIER IN THE DAY, THIS TIME IT WAS SHAW GETTING HIS REVENGE WITH AN 8-3 WIN, SENDING DECHAIINE HOME IN 3RD PLACE.** ”

the day, this time it was Shaw getting his revenge with an 8-3 win, sending Dechaine home in 3rd place.

The final race to 13 match went back and forth early, with a tie score at 1-1, 2-2, 3-3, 4-4 and 5-5 before Shaw took control for an 8-5 lead. Shaw stretched that lead to 12-7 and looked to be out in the 20th rack before finally succumbing to a distraction on the final two balls. West took full advantage and clawed back to a one rack deficit at 12-11. West had a chance to tie the match at hill-hill but a jawed 2-ball was his last trip to the table as Shaw ran out from there for the 13-11 win.

For West, even with the fractured foot, the tournament was a great example of the level of play he is capable of and a testament to a recent equipment change he had made. “My friend John Moody Jr. let me try his Cuetec carbon shaft 14 months ago and I was very impressed. I ordered one immediately and haven’t looked back” said West. Pairing the new shaft with his Anthony Milanesi butt made a lot of difference in his game. “I had to make a couple minute adjustments but carbon is much more consistent than wood and that’s why I switched. Everything seems easier for me now.”

For Shaw, the win didn’t mean he had a chance to relax and celebrate. It meant that he had more work to do. He quickly led the last group of rail birds to the door, so he could get to work cleaning the pool room and getting ready for another day as a pool room owner on Monday.



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[ fusiontables ]  
by Aramith

# KELLY FISHER

## Wins Women's Vg 9-Ball Championship

**W**hat an AMAZING final match of the Poison Cues Women's VG9 event!

Congratulations to Kelly Fisher for your 6-1, 7-8, 6-3 win over Margaret Fefilova in the finals of the Kamui Brand Playoffs!!

Margaret Fefilova came out struggling only succeeding on 1 of her first 7 racks while Kelly made 6 of her 7 in the first set. Kelly wins the first set 6-1. From

there, it looked like more of the same when Margaret failed in her first rack of the second set and Kelly succeeded. From there, Margaret ran 8 straight racks and Kelly missed a straight in 6 ball for the win on the second set when the score was 5-5. Margaret wins the second set 8-7 in sudden death.

In the deciding set, it started off strong for both players in their first rack, but after that, Margaret missed her next

2 racks and Kelly ran a 6 pack for the final win.

Kelly played extremely strong from start to finish and earned the win and the \$2,000 first prize for first place!! Margaret had a great tournament as well and earned herself a \$1,200 second prize as well as \$100 bonus for the most racks ran in the qualifiers.

Next tournament up..... VG Battle of the Sexes!!

**woman's POISON VG 9**  
FEBRUARY 18TH TO FEBRUARY 25TH

**POISON**  
by PREDATOR

**KELLY FISHER**  
WINNER WOMAN'S POISON VG-9

**KAMUI**  
WWW.KAMUIBRAND.COM

**Tournament Bracket:**

- Top Left: MARGARET FEFILOVA
- Top Right: MARGARET FEFILOVA
- Second Round Left: BYE
- Second Round Right: MARGARET FEFILOVA
- Quarterfinals Left: INA KAPLAN
- Quarterfinals Right: EYLÜL KIBAROĞLU
- Quarterfinals Left: EYLÜL KIBAROĞLU
- Quarterfinals Right: MARGARET FEFILOVA
- Semifinals Left: KRISTINA ZLATEVA
- Semifinals Right: KELLY FISHER
- Semifinals Left: KELLY FISHER
- Semifinals Right: KELLY FISHER
- Finals Left: BYE
- Finals Right: YUKI HIRAGUCHI
- Finals Left: YUKI HIRAGUCHI
- Finals Right: YUKI HIRAGUCHI

# **Super BILLIARDS EXPO**



## **Postponed Until June**

**A**s many of you may have anticipated, we are once again changing the dates of our annual Super Billiards Expo. The event has been pushed back to June 24-27th, 2021.

We've been monitoring local regulations and have been in discussions with local personnel in order to determine the best course of action. At this juncture, the facility is limited to 50% capacity. Although this makes our event possible, with some restrictions – it is not ideal.

Since the vaccine is now being rolled out, we feel it is prudent to push the event back a few more months to allow more time for people to be protected. In addition, the weather will be warmer, so traditional “flu season” will be a bit further behind us.

The Covid landscape is changing weekly, so we will post another update 60 days ahead of our newly anticipated dates. We are optimistic that June will be a good time for our event to resume. We'll have some enhanced safety guidelines in place, but we are all fairly used to these by now.

If you are a player in our Players Championship Series of events, your entry will be rolled over to new dates; if you cannot attend these new dates, you can visit this page ([www.SuperBilliardsExpo.com/refunds](http://www.SuperBilliardsExpo.com/refunds)) and request a refund. Note that you can wait and do this later as well, in case we need to change the dates again – which unfortunately is a reality in these uncertain times. If you are in the TAP League

Rally in the Valley Event, you should receive notice from the National office as to how these changes effect you.

We will post a follow-up message on April 15 with further details or changes.

Thanks again for your patience and understanding. We hope everyone is healthy and safe and look forward to seeing you all soon!





# PREDATOR JOIN FORCES With Matchroom To Title Sponsor Championship League Pool

**Matchroom Multi Sport and Predator are excited to announce an extension of their current long-term partnership that will see Predator title-sponsor the brand-new Championship League Pool this March 22-29.**

**B**uilding on a relationship which is entering its 20th year, Matchroom and Predator will deliver the first major pool event of 2021 as 19 players compete over eight action-packed days in Milton Keynes, England.

Predator Championship League Pool has a prize fund of \$85,950 and will stream two tables of action live around the world, with 12 matches played on each table daily.

Every day features a seven-player group, with each player facing every other player once in a race-to-5. At the end of the group the top four will advance to the play-offs, playing a semi-final and then final, also played as race-to-5. Play-off champions will advance to the big-money Winners' Group on March 29, which will provide the showpiece conclusion of Predator Championship League Pool. Players who finished bottom of each group are eliminated from the event, while the remaining five players in

each group will continue to the next day's play, where two new players enter the tournament.

Emily Frazer, Managing Director of Matchroom Multi Sport, said: "There is a great deal of excitement within the Matchroom camp right now with our biggest ever year of pool scheduled, despite the current climate. The launch of our new event, Championship League Pool has been warmly welcomed by our partners at Predator who share our determination and vision of further expanding the sport.

"The unique format of Predator Championship League Pool has refreshingly allowed both us and Predator to think outside the box and push new boundaries on creativity and advertisement. I am confident that between both teams involved, innovative ideas can be produced delivering a further exciting product for fans across the world who are yearning for live professional pool right now; and what better event than Predator Championship League

Pool – giving everyone access to 24 matches, 20 hours a day for eight days solid.

"It is one thing to introduce a new event, it is another to have such a determined partner to share the journey with us!"

Karim Belhaj, CEO of Predator Group also shares his enthusiasm for the event: "Our purpose is to innovate and inspire more players to play the game we love. With the new Championship League Pool format that the Matchroom team came up with, we see an exciting event that matches our vision. We're really thrilled to expand our partnership with Matchroom and kickstart the 2021 professional season with the Predator CLP."

The first players taking part in Predator Championship League Pool will be announced later this week. For all the latest news and announcements follow Matchroom Pool on Facebook, Twitter, YouTube and Instagram.

# Mosconi Stars Set For Group 1 Of Predator Championship League Pool

Members of Team Europe's Mosconi Cup winning team, including MVP Jayson Shaw, will take part in Group



One of Predator Championship League Pool, which launches on March 22 at Stadium MK, England, streamed around the world.

Shaw will be joined in Group One by European teammates Albin Ouschan, Eklent Kaci and Joshua Filler, while Team USA's emerging young star Chris Robinson will also feature on the opening day of Predator Championship League Pool.

Group One will be completed by Dutch hero Niels Feijen and current World Women's 9-Ball Champion Kelly Fisher. Fedor Gorst, Shane van Boening and Skyler Woodward have decided to withdraw from the event.

Predator Championship League Pool has a prize fund of \$85,950 and will stream two tables of action live around the world, with 12 matches played on each table daily.

Every day features a seven-player group, with each player facing every other player once in a race-to-5. At the end of the group the top four will advance to the play-offs, playing a semi-final and then final, also played as race-to-5. Play-off champions will advance to the big-money Winners' Group on March 29, which will provide the showpiece conclusion of Predator Championship League Pool.

Players who finished bottom of each group are eliminated from the event, while the remaining five players in each group will continue to the next day's play, where two new players enter the tournament. Players to enter Groups 2-7 will be confirmed next week.

Predator Championship League Pool will be broadcast globally including on Freesport (UK & Ireland), DAZN and Matchroom.Live. Full broadcast details will be confirmed next week.

For all the latest news and announcements follow Matchroom Pool on Facebook, Twitter, YouTube and Instagram.

# **STIXX AND STONES BILLIARDS**

**WELCOMES NEW HOUSE PRO CHRIS ROBINSON**



**WELCOME  
MOSCONI CUP CHAMPION  
CHRIS ROBINSON  
AS OUR HOUSE PRO  
AT STIXX AND STONES!**

Stixx and Stones Billiards in Lewisville Texas are extremely honored and excited Mosconi cup team USA 2020 Chris Robinson Pool Player will be joining the Stixx and Stones Team as our partner and House Pro! Together we will continue to expand and grow our wonderful community. As part of our mission, we will teach and promote Junior players and host Events and Leagues – Providing opportunities to the community of junior players is something that is near and dear to both our hearts. Chris will be representing Stixx And Stones in championships & tournaments and will be taking on the role of our Official Instructor offering multiple levels of lessons, clinics and workshops.

Chris, rated #36 in US, is one of the strongest and fastest progressing pro pool players we've seen in a long time. His ever growing list of accomplishments includes multiple years

“ **AS PART OF OUR MISSION, WE WILL TEACH AND PROMOTE JUNIOR PLAYERS AND HOST EVENTS AND LEAGUES – PROVIDING OPPORTUNITIES TO THE COMMUNITY OF JUNIOR PLAYERS IS SOMETHING THAT IS NEAR AND DEAR TO BOTH OUR HEARTS.** ”


winning the California State Junior 9 Ball Championship, Junior National Champion, Atlantic Cup player, Collegiate National Champion, Cole Dickson Memorial Champion, Mezz West State Tour Champion, Las Vegas 9 Ball Open top 5 and of course his inclusion in the 2020 Mosconi Cup team.

We have the same values and beliefs about the sport and our communi-

ty — together as a team we share a common vision to “Make Pool Great Again”!

A true CHAMPION of the sport!

Please Follow Chris Robinson and show him the support he is showing us. Welcome to the Stixx Team Chris Robinson!



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- Jeanette “The Black Widow” Lee

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# ***THE TRI-STATE TOUR*** ***Is Proud To Announce Predator*** ***Cues As Title Sponsor***

**The Tri-State Tour one of the longest running, most respected, and well-established tours in America is immensely proud to announce it has acquired a new title sponsorship agreement.**

**T**he Predator Group, maker of world-famous Predator Cues, sponsor of the Predator World 10 Ball Championships and the Mosconi Cup is our new title sponsor and as such moving forward, we will be known as “The Predator Tri-State Tour.”

### **A brief statement from Gail & Tony Robles**

“Letting go of the Predator Pro/Am Tour was one of the most difficult decisions we’ve ever had to make. We felt like we were abandoning the pool

world. But when Predator Cues asked us who we thought could benefit best from their sponsorship in the area, the choice was easy. We’d worked with John Leyman and the Tri-State Tour many times and know they genuinely care for the players and the sport.”

*The*  
***PREDATOR***  
*Tri-State Tour*



“ **THE TOUR WILL BE RETURNING, BIGGER AND BETTER WITH NUMEROUS NEW AND EXCITING THINGS COMING IN THE FUTURE, WHEN RESTRICTIONS ALLOW US TO HOLD NORMAL EVENTS.** ”

Those qualities and their long history in the NYC pool scene made them an obvious choice. We are grateful for their contributions to the sport and the opportunities their tour & Predator Cues will bring to the tri-state area players. We wish them all the best!”

What does this mean for you? Many events will have bigger prizes leading to larger turnouts. More exciting prizes at the Invitational. A brand-new logo and plenty of new swag to show it off.

We also want to take this opportunity to bring our players and fans up to speed on the tour’s status during these unusual circumstances. As we all know, in March 2020, many pool events across the country were cancelled due to the Covid 19 pandemic and state requirements closing pool rooms across the New York and New Jersey area. In an effort to protect both you, our friends and players, as well as Tri State Tour staff and families, we chose to follow suit ahead of state restrictions, and go on a temporary hiatus. At the time we envisioned a return to normal within a reasonably short period of time, unfortunately the situation remains uncertain and in flux. We hope you miss playing in the many rooms and events we organize, and rest assured we miss you as well. We hope to return to some semblance of a normal schedule as rapidly as we can safely do so.

The Tour will be returning, bigger and better with numerous new and exciting things coming in the future, when restrictions allow us to hold normal events. We hope to arrange some smaller events with Covid 19 restrictions remaining in place as soon as we can safely operate. It is our wish that all of our players and their families remain safe and healthy; and our host rooms to survive and come back strong as ever. We will keep you informed as we move forward. Look to our web site ([www.thetristatetour.com](http://www.thetristatetour.com)) for further information on scheduled dates.

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# Tourney Results

## Feb 04 - Feb 07

### Smokin Aces Show Me Classic

#### Smokin Aces

- Poplar Bluff, Mo  
 1 Shane McMinn \$4,000  
 2 Jonathan Hennessee \$2,700  
 3 Jesse Engel \$1,800  
 4 Chuck Raulston \$900  
 5 Johnny Archer \$600  
 5 Skyler Woodward \$600  
 7 KC Massey \$300  
 7 Ryan Robinson \$300

## Feb 04 - Feb 07

### Smokin Aces Show Me Classic Bank Ring Game

#### Smokin Aces

- Poplar Bluff, Mo  
 1 Skyler Woodward \$1,000  
 2 Billy Thorpe \$500

## Feb 05 - Feb 07

### Chris Robinson vs Danny Olson 10-Ball Challenge Match

#### Piazza's Sports Bar

- Aurora, Colorado  
 1 Danny Olson

## Feb 06 - Feb 07

### US 1 Billiards February Pro-Am

#### US 1 Billiards & Bar

- West Haven, CT  
 1 Jayson Shaw \$2,850  
 2 Kevin West \$1,600  
 3 Mike Dechaine \$1,100  
 4 Jesus Atencio \$750  
 5 Kevin Bauccio \$500  
 5 Miguel Laboy \$500  
 7 Del Sim \$350

- 7 Joe Korsiak \$350  
 9 David McConnell \$250  
 9 Jalal Al Saresi \$250  
 9 Kang Lee \$250  
 9 Mhet Vergara \$250

## Feb 06 - Feb 06

### Cody Myers vs Derrick Holloway 8-Ball

#### Racktime Billiards

- Toledo, OH  
 1 Cody Myers \$6,000

## Feb 06 - Feb 07

### Q City 9-Ball Tour Stop

#### West End Billiards

- Gastonia, North Carolina  
 1 Hunter Zayas \$1,000  
 2 Clint Clark \$750  
 3 Jason Gardner \$500  
 4 Justin Duncan \$350  
 5 Cole Lewis \$175  
 5 Josh Heeter \$175  
 7 Landon Hollingsworth \$100  
 7 Ricky Bingham \$100

## Feb 06 - Feb 07

### Sunshine State Pro Am Tour 2021 Stop 1

#### Stroker's Billiards

- Palm Harbor, FL  
 1 Jason Richko \$1,100  
 2 Joselito Martinez \$925  
 3 Kyle Bova \$610  
 4 Derek Laprarie \$410  
 5 Alec Saputo \$270  
 5 Monthep Hongs \$270  
 7 Bobby Garza \$180  
 7 Trenton White \$180  
 9 Benjie Estor \$120

- 9 Jeannie Seaver \$120  
 9 Majkell Pacuka \$120  
 9 Mike Xiarhos Jr. \$120  
 13 Bobby Quinn \$75  
 13 Derek Santos \$75  
 13 Marcos Beilostozky \$75  
 13 Randall McLuckie \$75

## Feb 06 - Feb 07

### Beyond Billiards Super 9 Bowl Open

#### Beyond Billiards

- Davie, FL  
 1 Randy Epperson \$600  
 2 Tony Robles \$350  
 3 Raul Alvarez \$230  
 4 Mika Immonen \$160  
 5 Anthony Meglino \$100  
 5 Pierre Palmieri \$100  
 7 Jason Sheerman \$50  
 7 Yusan Alvarez \$50

## Feb 10 - Feb 11

### Roberto Gomez vs Skyler Woodward 10-Ball

#### American Legion Tea South Dakota

- Tea, South Dakota  
 1 Skyler Woodward

## Feb 13 - Feb 14

### Q City 9-Ball Tour Stop

#### Borderline Billiards

- Bristol, TN  
 1 Eric Roberts \$700  
 2 BJ Ussery \$460  
 3 Mark Hurst \$280  
 4 Robert Hamilton \$160  
 5 Dustin Lackey \$125  
 5 Josh Miller \$125

## Feb 18 - Feb 25

### Women's Poison VG 9-Ball Championship

#### Virtual Event

- 1 Kelly Fisher \$2,000
- 2 Marharyta Fefilava \$1,200
- 3 Eylul Kybaroglu \$600
- 3 Yuki Hiraguchi \$600
- 5 Ina Kaplan \$300
- 5 Kristina Zlateva \$300

## Feb 19 - Feb 21

### Rack N Grill 9-Ball Shootout

#### Rack and Grill II

- Augusta, Georgia
- 1 Fedor Gorst \$5,000
  - 2 Jesus Atencio \$3,000
  - 3 Jeffrey De Luna \$1,500
  - 4 Josh Roberts \$1,200
  - 5 Evgeny Stalev \$850
  - 5 Mike Wise \$850
  - 7 Jonathan Hennessee \$700
  - 7 Josh Newman \$700

## Feb 20 - Feb 21

### The BSN Dynasphere Cup Junior 9-Ball Championship 14 & Under Division

#### Brews & Cues on the Boulevard

- Glen Burnie, Maryland
- 1 Garrett Vaughan \$475
  - 2 Payne McBride \$240
  - 3 D' Angelo Spain \$160
  - 4 Grayson Vaughan \$115
  - 5 Adrian Prasad \$85
  - 5 Niko Konkel \$85

## Feb 20 - Feb 21

### 2021 Virginia State 10-Ball Championship

#### Diamond Billiards

- Midlothian, VA
- 1 Eric Moore \$2,000
  - 2 Danny Mastermaker \$1,200
  - 3 Chris Bruner \$800

- 4 Shane Wolford \$600
- 5 Bobby Chamberlain \$400
- 5 Mike Davis \$400
- 7 Bruce Campbell \$225
- 7 Mark Nanashee \$225
- 9 David Hunt \$150
- 9 Kelly Farrar \$150
- 9 Reggie Jackson \$150
- 9 Scott Roberts \$150

## Feb 20 - Feb 21

### 2021 Virginia State Women's 10-Ball Championship

#### Diamond Billiards

- Midlothian, VA
- 1 Kristina Tkach \$650
  - 2 Lisa Cossette \$360
  - 3 Liz Taylor \$220
  - 4 Kia Burwell \$120

## Feb 20 - Feb 21

### 2021 DFW 9-Ball Tour Stop 2

#### Snookered Billiards

- Frisco, TX
- 1 Jeff Sullivan \$970
  - 2 Robbie Cleland \$650
  - 3 Crispian Ng \$480
  - 4 Daniel Herring \$340
  - 5 Tony Matthew \$260
  - 5 Valon Gashi \$260
  - 7 Blake Kamiab \$190
  - 7 Donnie Gregory \$190
  - 9 Clint Palaci \$120
  - 9 Josh Hemsoth \$120
  - 9 Loc Nguyen \$120
  - 9 Sam Abusalem \$120
  - 13 Jimmy Davis \$75
  - 13 J.P. Kinman \$75
  - 13 Juan Parra \$75
  - 13 Sean McDonough \$75

## Feb 20 - Feb 21

### Dominguez vs Archer 10-Ball Challenge Match

#### Griff's

- Las Vegas, Nevada
- 1 Oscar Dominguez \$30,000

## Feb 20 - Feb 21

### The BSN Dynasphere Cup Junior 9-Ball Championship 15 - 18 Division

#### Brews & Cues on the Boulevard

- Glen Burnie, Maryland
- 1 Joey Tate \$535
  - 2 Landon Hollingsworth \$265
  - 3 Cameron Lawhorne \$185
  - 4 Nathan Childress \$135
  - 5 Jackson Hurst \$95
  - 5 Kodi Allen \$95

## Feb 21 - Feb 21

### NBL Stage 1 Amateur Only Regional Qualifier New Jersey

#### Sandcastle Billiards

- Edison, NJ
- 1 Mike Salerno \$750
  - 2 Reggie Cutler \$500
  - 3 Matt Krah \$320
  - 4 Antonio Guerrero \$225
  - 5 Henry Cha \$150
  - 5 Richard Ng \$150
  - 7 Marcello Adinolfi \$100
  - 7 Mike Badstuebner \$100

## Feb 21 - Feb 21

### Mac Attack Tour Stop

#### The Spot

- Nanuet, New York
- 1 Hunter Sullivan \$500
  - 2 Brian Vu \$300
  - 3 Allen Sarenas \$250
  - 4 Nelson Bobadila \$200
  - 5 Roger Dutcher \$150
  - 5 Tommy Migliore \$150
  - 7 Carlos Duque \$75
  - 7 Mac Jankov \$75



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