

# Billiards Buzz

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**WINNER**  
**by KO**

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# FROM THE Head Rail

MIKE HOWERTON

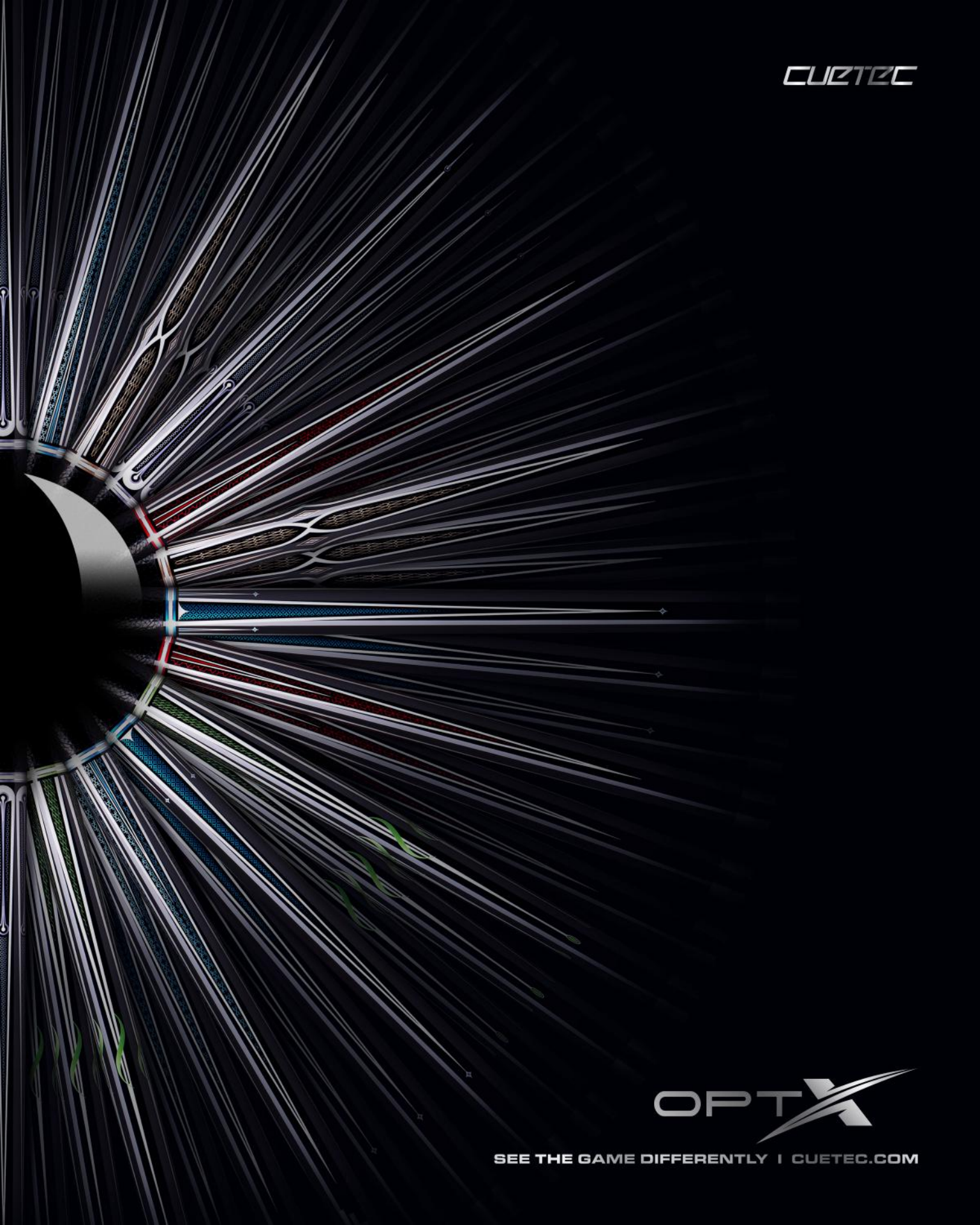
**A**s we get ready to put this latest issue online, the International Open has come to its conclusion (Congrats to Aloysius Yapp). We will have more details from this event next month.

While at the event though, an interesting topic was brought up by a friend. The International Open is the only (did I miss any?) event to boast WPA Sanctioning and inclusion on the Nineball World Rankings. I know the whole WPA/Matchroom drama is what everyone seems to be talking about lately and I wonder if maybe the International is a good example of how the two sides might be able to work together somehow. I don't know the answer. It is way above my pay grade. Just a thought though.

Until next time,



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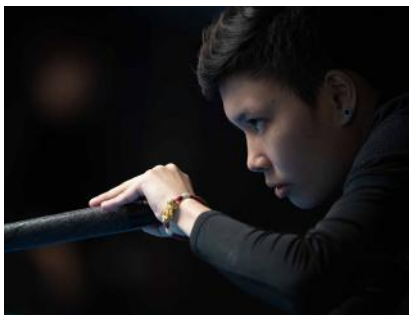
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# Making The POKER TO POOL Connection (Part 2)

This month Phil Capelle continues his deep Dive into the many similarities between pool and poker.

## KILLER INSTINCT

To win at either game you have to have a strong desire to beat your opponents, no matter how nice you or they are away from the table. In sports we refer to this the killer instinct, and it's a facet of the mental game that top pool players embrace despite their displays of great sportsmanship. Early in her development Maria learned this lesson well as evidenced by these words of wisdom: "... and then a willingness to do whatever it takes, given the circumstance, to emerge victorious." Several month later Jared Tendler, one of the best mental game coaches, bluntly told Maria "To go straight for the jugular." I would add that this was spoken like a pool champion – someone such as Joshua "Killer" Filler, who is currently the top rated player in the world.

## POKER IS (STILL) A MAN'S WORLD

The fifth chapter of "*Bluff*" is titled *A Man's World* in recognition of the fact that even in 2020, when the book was published, that Maria would be stepping into a world heavily populated with male chauvinists. Knowing this, Erik was hesitant to serve as her mentor, but she had a strong desire

to master poker, so their partnership was born. "It's almost impossible to be a female poker player and not get online harassment or comments or whatever it is," said Erik. But, for those women like Maria who do persist he added that, "The women who play poker are, I would say, much smarter than the men." Take that, fellas! Still, despite the ladies' aptitude for the game, only about 3% of the entrants in tournaments are women. Pool, in contrast, has placed the welcome mat out for women for at least 30 years now, or more.

## A HOT HAND

Both poker and pool players will occasionally be immersed in a period during which things are going their way. In poker, it would be easy to ascribe this to lady luck. And the same is true in pool. If you take a long view in poker you may have an afternoon or even an entire day during which you are thinking particularly well – that you are in the flow state. In these cases, your hot hand can be ascribed to both luck and skill. In pool, players may get a few extra breaks (called rolls), but the main contributing factor to their hot hand is that key elements that make up their game, such as pattern recognition, stroke, and feel for speed, are in sync – that is, they are in peak form.

## SUNK COSTS

One of my favorite concepts from behavioral economics is the notion of sunk costs. After you've been playing for months or years, you have created your game. This is simply your method, your way of doing things. When you get to a certain stage, there is a tendency to plateau. You would like to improve, but you hate to give up elements of your game that you feel are working for you – and the thought of taking even one small step backwards is unthinkable. So, all of that time and effort spent in building your game is a sunk cost, one that can keep you from progressing. In Maria's case, she recognized potential stopping points, assessed her game with the help of her mentors, and took the necessary steps to blast through to the next level. So, to my pool playing friends who may be stuck, take a page from her book and mount a campaign to remove any impediments to your progress.

## A KNACK FOR THE GAME

Maria freely admitted that "I'm not the most coordinated person in the world." Maybe so, but several months into her training it dawned on her that "...maybe, just maybe, I have a knack for this," – this being poker. And in due time, her suspicions proved to be correct. Similarly, I know that I also suck at things like drawing, singing, and so

on. But when it comes to pool, after playing for three weeks I ran 13 balls and, at that point, I realized that I, too, had a knack for this sport. Perhaps you have a knack for certain activities, including pool. And when the day comes that you know you were made for something – well, that is a moment to treasure.

## MARATHONS

If your goal is to do well in tournament play, either in poker or pool, you must be prepared for a marathon. Both games require an intense level of concentration, one that can last for hours on end. As a result, you need to establish a routine that includes things like caffeinated beverages (or caffeine pills), energy bars and drinks, fresh fruit, and whatever else works for you. Pool players spend roughly half their time moving around the table and playing their shots. Since poker is a sedentary activity, it helps to stand up, stretch your legs, walk around, and have a plan for your extended breaks, as Maria created for herself.

## POKER AND POOL ECON 101

You may have read about the enormous sums that some poker pros win. This stands in stark contrast to the purses that pro pool players compete for. According to AZ Billiards' money list, in 2022 only 23 of the male pros made over \$50k, and that was before expenses! However, Maria informs us that, while pro poker players can win enormous sums, they tend to be big spenders as well with little apparent regard for the value of a dollar. As she says, "The reality is that more poker players than not go broke – even the pros."

## FRIENDS IN THE RIGHT PLACES

Looking back on my pool playing days I would say that was a "regular" in about 10 rooms. In each one I felt like I was among people who shared my



**"POKER IS STORYTELLING. IT'S A NARRATIVE PUZZLE,"**

**MARIA KONNIKOVA**



deep love for the sport. While reading Maria's book, it became clear that she developed a real affinity for her mentors and for many of the players who populate the world of poker. From this, I can say that pool and poker can be great antidotes to the screen addiction that is turning current generations into less than the most social of creatures. And this malady comes precisely at a time when everyone needs to work together to solve the most pressing concerns of our times, including the climate crisis.

## THE INFAMOUS DRAW

Your chances of surviving the early rounds in tournament play and advancing to the business end of the charts depends, in no small measure, on the luck of the draw. If the draw works in your favor, you are playing well, and some breaks go your way, you could be catapulted deep into the cash. If the draw goes against you, buckle up, relish the challenge, and do your best to summon your A game from the get go.

## EYES ON THE TABLE

Ralf Souquet is one of the best at keeping his eyes glued to the pool table when he is in the chair awaiting his next turn! Among the many pluses in his fine game, this one helps to explain why, at age 54, he remains competitive with players of all ages. By the same token, Maria was counseled by Erik and Chewy to do the same, even when she had folded and was a spectator for the remainder of a hand. "Chewy, like Erik, is always present and watchful," and, says Maria, "he talks to no one."

## POKER IS SO DEMOCRATIC

Poker may be the most democratic game of all. Indeed, this isn't the PGA Tour or any other event where you must qualify to play. As Maria says, "If you can afford the buy-in, you can play, simple as that." Most pool tournaments are restricted to the size of the chosen bracket. For pro events, the fields are typically comprised of 64, 128, or 256 players. So, if you are the 129<sup>th</sup> player on up in a field that's limited to 128 players, your name will go on a waiting list.

## THERE IS A FLOW IN POKER AND POOL

Chewy, who uses tai-chi to improve his focus for poker, says that "There is a flow to poker, to the way that events unfold. It's all about the movement of energy." In pool, fine players seek to get into a flow state (more commonly known as dead stroke) where each shot is a natural extension of the one that just preceded it.

## STORYTELLING

Phil Galfond is considered to be the single best poker teacher in the world. When working with Maria one of his big lessons is that "Poker is storytelling." Maria adds that "It's a narrative puzzle," and that "Your job is to put together the pieces." I can imagine what a job that might be considering that the process is similar in pool, where every rack is a one-of-a-kind with its unique set of challenges. Indeed, the ability to grasp the essence of a hand or a rack, and to work with it and make the most of it might be the single most unifying idea between these two wildly popular games.

## TAKING YOUR SHOT

Poker and pool have their pecking order, and in due time all but the most delusional players (the ones that hate money) come to recognize where they fit in. As part of her learning process, Maria got her feet wet in events with relatively small buy-ins so as not to deplete her bankroll before getting some much needed experience and confidence. In due time, however, she began to take her shots in events with more expensive entries, a move that ultimately led to an \$84k payday. Her rationale: “If you never take shots, you never know when you’re ready to move up.” The same things holds true in pool – take your shots occasionally by playing against those a couple of levels above you because you just might surprise yourself by discovering that you have ascended to a new level of skill.

## SEEING THE TABLE

With time, focus, and a strong desire to improve, you will begin to see the vital signs that are available to the most skillful observers. In Maria’s case, she became better and better still at describing her hands to Erik, learning from both her successes and her mistakes. As her ability to decipher what’s going on at the table improved, so too did her play. I know in my case that playing, thinking pool, watching the pros, producing diagrams, and describing them in my columns and books enabled me to better see exactly how this beautiful sport of ours can be played – and is played by the best in the world.

## REACHING MILESTONES

After winning an event online, Maria proceeded to set challenging yet reasonable goals as she worked on her game and moved up the ladder. One of her early big objectives was “min cashing” against live competition. Others included cashing in the WSOP,

and then her big win in the 2018 PCA National Championships. Serious pool players should look to emulate her progress. Enter events with tough fields, seek to win some matches, finish in the cash, then aim for higher finishes as a prelude to the days when you find yourself playing in the quarterfinals or semis of a major event, or what is known as making a deep run.

## PAYOUTS AT THE WSOP

In conducting research for this article I discovered that at The Main Event of the 2023 WSOP that there were 10,043 contestants. Each one of them forked over \$10k for the chance to pursue their dream of riches and stardom on poker’s biggest stage. Now for the payouts: only 15% cashed, so 85% lost their 10 grand plus expenses. The top 9 at the final table earned \$33.3 million, leaving \$60.1 million for the 1,498 other players who cashed. That’s an average of about \$40k each, minus the \$10k entry and expenses. As Maria says, “Everyone at the WSOP has a dream. It could be me.” But for most, their entries were little more than donations that enhanced the winnings of the top players.

In contrast, major pool events typically pay the top 25% of the field, but they also tend to be top heavy. So with regards to the structure of the payouts, the two games are quite similar.

## BEATING LESS SKILLED PLAYERS

As she gained knowledge, experience, and skill Maria was able to quickly assess her competition, spot their tendencies, betting patterns, card checking routine, nervous tics, and the bluffs some tried to pull off. And she would adjust her decision making to take advantage of their poor decision making. Similarly, when playing pool the better players are adept at letting their poorer playing opponents beat themselves by taking shots they shouldn’t play, and by tying them in knots with smart safety play.

## BLUFFING TO PUSHOUT ANALOGY

The strategy of bluffing, and pulling it off, is one of the best known in poker. These wins that come when a player was working with a not-so-great hand make for great stories. In pool, knowledgeable players will try to pull one over on their opponents – perhaps by pushing out to a position where they won’t see the smart shot you do. Or, they may offer a shot that they know that their opponent can’t resist, but almost assuredly will miss!

## MULTIPLE DAY EVENTS

As your ability rises in both games, you may find yourself playing in events

## MARIA’S TWO BIG LESSONS

**LESSON #1** - Several months into her poker journey Erik counseled Maria that “... you have to take this (poker) seriously.” To that I would add one of my six words sayings: Serious Play Is The Only Way!

**LESSON #2** - The big appeal of both games is that each offers so many options to compete for some spending money, or more! So, if you play reasonably well and you pick your spots wisely, you can make money from your leisure time pursuit, or from playing professionally. So, here is Maria second big lesson: “Here’s a free life lesson; seek out situations where you’re a favorite; avoid those where you’re an underdog.”

that can last for several days. For example, to make it to the final table at the WSOP you need to be at your best for seven straight days! In pool, the major events can last for 5-6 days, such as the US Open. To stay mentally sharp in such cognitively challenging competitions a contestant simply must follow a routine that includes plenty of sleep, exercise, and a diet of healthy foods.

## EDUCATED GUESSWORK

You can play each hand as well as possible, but because of the nature of the game, where luck plays such a big role, your decisions are educated guesswork. According to Maria “Our brains, it turns out, are veritable prediction machines. We are constantly making sense of the environment – and making guesses about what will happen.”

In pool, you can see what you need to do, so there is little guesswork there. But when it comes to aiming, you simply must rely on educated guesswork, especially when using inside english, which is the nemesis of even the best players in the world.

## SEEK WORLD CLASS ADVICE

In her eleventh chapter, titled *Reading Myself*, Maria gives the details of an analysis of her game by Blake Eastman, a master on tells and the process of playing world class poker. The flaws Blake discovered included her habit of putting her hands on her cards, and of checking her cards way too often. He also offered this advice on process: “Before each action, stop, think about what you want to do, and execute.” That sounds like a carbon copy of *The Shot Cycle*, my method for planning and playing complete pool shots, one after another ad infinitum! A big takeaway from her time with Blake and her other gurus is to seek out world class advice on your game whenever possible.

## WHEN TO TAKE A PASS

Top pool players know when to take a well-calculated gamble and when to pass on a shot, especially one that screams sell-out! Similarly, in poker, as Maria advises, its “What you don’t do rather than what you do – that can be greatness.” In short, don’t hesitate to fold when folding is the smart play.

One big difference between the two games is that, in poker, once you fold you are out of that hand, period. In pool, you could seemingly be out of a game when your opponent has wrestled control of the table and is running out a road map. Still, there is the human element, so you could return to the table should they commit a blunder – and blunders do happen!

## REALITY BASED DECISION MAKING

According to Nobel prize winning economist Daniel Kahneman, “We must let our beliefs and actions be guided by a critical and reflective as-

essment of reality, rather than by our immediate impressions, however compelling these may be.” Maria recognizes the need to avoid giving in to her impulses, however misguided they may be. However, this is a persistent malady that all too many of us, in either game, succumb to in the heat of competition.

## YOUR EVOLVING “A” GAME

Players in pool, and evidently in poker, too, are familiar with the idea of having several versions of their game. The goal is, as much as possible, to bring you’re A game to competition, especially when you are in an events later stages. Over time, as you improve, what was your A game now become your B game, and you B game turns into your C game. According to Maria, “My A games drifts to B, and an even better A game takes its place.” As you improve, it helps to acknowledge that this new standard of play is for real, and that you now are the proud owner of a new and better A game!

## YOUR JOURNEY IN POOL AND POKER

As you can see from the many connections that I’ve drawn between these cognitively challenging games that the mental side of poker can be readily applied to your pool game.

Now, I am not recommending that pool players leave pool for poker. No, no, no, a 1,000 times no. But, if you approach poker in moderation and like an expert learner, it could help to sharpen your thinking, much the way Efen Reyes has used chess to help him become arguably the most creative thinker in the history of our great sport.

I’d like to wrap things up by giving you my top recommendation, which is to buy a copy of *The Biggest Bluff* and join Maria as she transforms herself from a novice to a money earning pro in relatively short order. And don’t just read the book, go slowly and devour it!– Grab a pen and a highlighter and mark up the book like a PhD student. In doing so you will turn “*Bluff*” into your secret weapon in your pursuit for excellence at pool. And, don’t forget to [get my book, \*A Mind For Pool\*](#), which is my course on thinking pool like a master.

As always, let me conclude by wishing you success on your journey in pool, poker, and life itself.

# DON'T FOCUS ON THE SCORE

As pool players we tend to let some things get in the way of a great performance that really shouldn't be playing a part in how we play.

In pool, unlike other sports, we don't have a scheduled half-time break, but we do have a chair where we sit when we miss, and many times this causes us to overthink what's just happened or wonder what's still to come.

We either go back to the past and pull up memories of what we did and didn't do well, and then we look to the future, and we tell ourselves what we can do to play better the next time we get to shoot.

This all happens at the highest level as well, and if this starts to happen and we forget about the present, where we perform our best, then we will go to the final game with lots of pre-set expectations. Expectations tend to create tension, and anxiety stimulates many unnecessary conversations we have with ourselves. However, the reality is, all we want to do is pocket the ball.

Using our time better in the chair is essential. It's just a pause in perfor-



mance. Lots of us seem to think that the shot we just missed will determine who wins or loses the match. During our first shot of the match, we often have lots of things running through our heads, but at least we usually have an open mind. During the last game we will have more of a closed

MENTAL GAME

# DON'T FOCUS ON THE SCORE

SECRETS

mind as we have some immediate memories, and we will have also told ourselves what we must do near the end of the match to win.

And with these expectations the potential for disappointment goes up. The missed shot in game five might have been difficult, and it's just one shot among many, but we will have put too much importance on it, a bit like the first nine ball we might hang-up.

We just need to do our job, make a quality decision, commit, and accept any outcome. We don't need to put a tagline on it like it has to be good.

If we're going to use our time well, other than enjoying the atmosphere and a good chat, ask yourself two very simple questions. What one thing did we do well during the first few games? And what would we like to do well in the future in terms of process? So, it might be something like committing

to more shots or listening to outside influences less.

There's no need to focus on the score. Top professionals try not to think about it and there's no acknowledgment of it. It's a race to eleven and you don't get bonus points for a good start. You might worry what people will think of you if you try not to focus on the score. However, playing in the present moment is the very best thing you can do for yourself. Follow your pre-shot routine and don't get wrapped up in who wins or loses.

I shared this with one of my junior players recently. We get so wrapped up in what's bad that we lose sight that one day we will have our last game, and we don't know when that's coming, and we should always remember this. We're out on a pool table and the absolute key is to enjoy playing. And the bonus is that you might have just played okay.

We are all playing because we've chosen to do it, whether we're doing it for a living or not. Enjoying the game is a bigger picture than the score and that's forgotten about a lot. So, the next time you are shooting an important shot, enjoy the challenge. Remember that pool is not life or death. It's a game and we all should enjoy playing it.

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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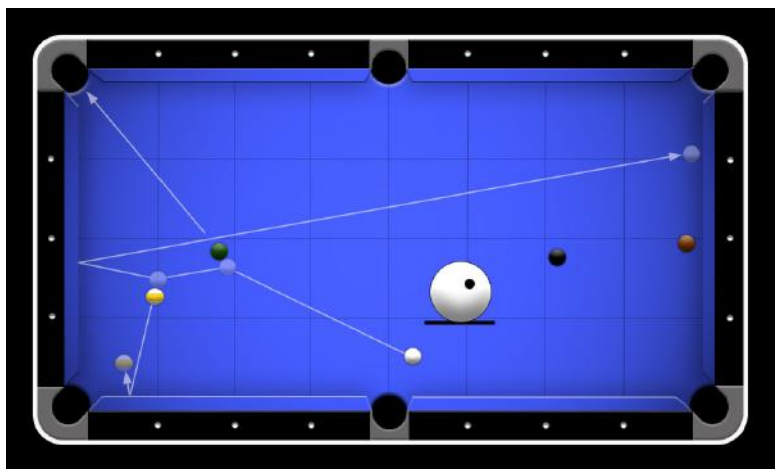
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**F R O M**



**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's shot comes from the cue of the Goat. Reyes was stuck with this 6-ball at the 2016 Derby City Classic 9-ball event, facing Justin Bergman.

Fans today read about The Magician making his magic on the table. Here is a good opportunity to see an example of what they are talking about. And he makes it look easy.



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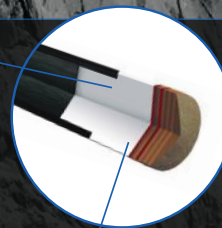
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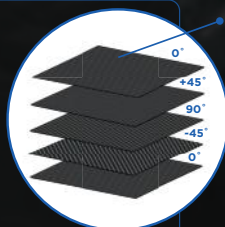
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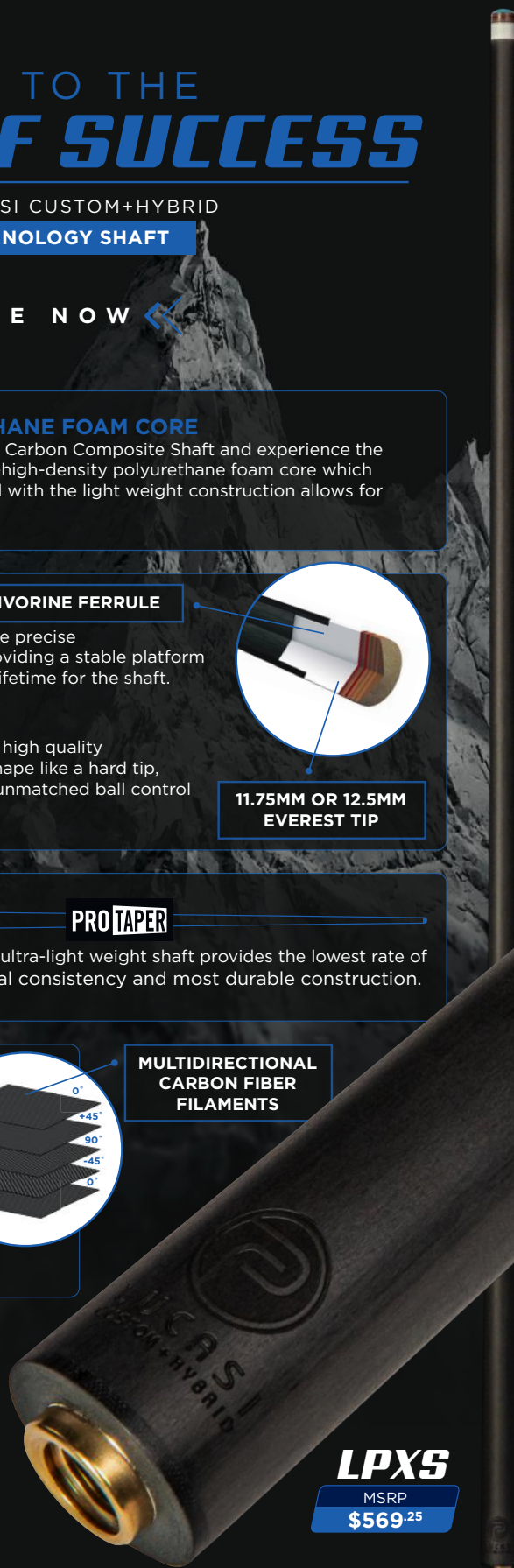
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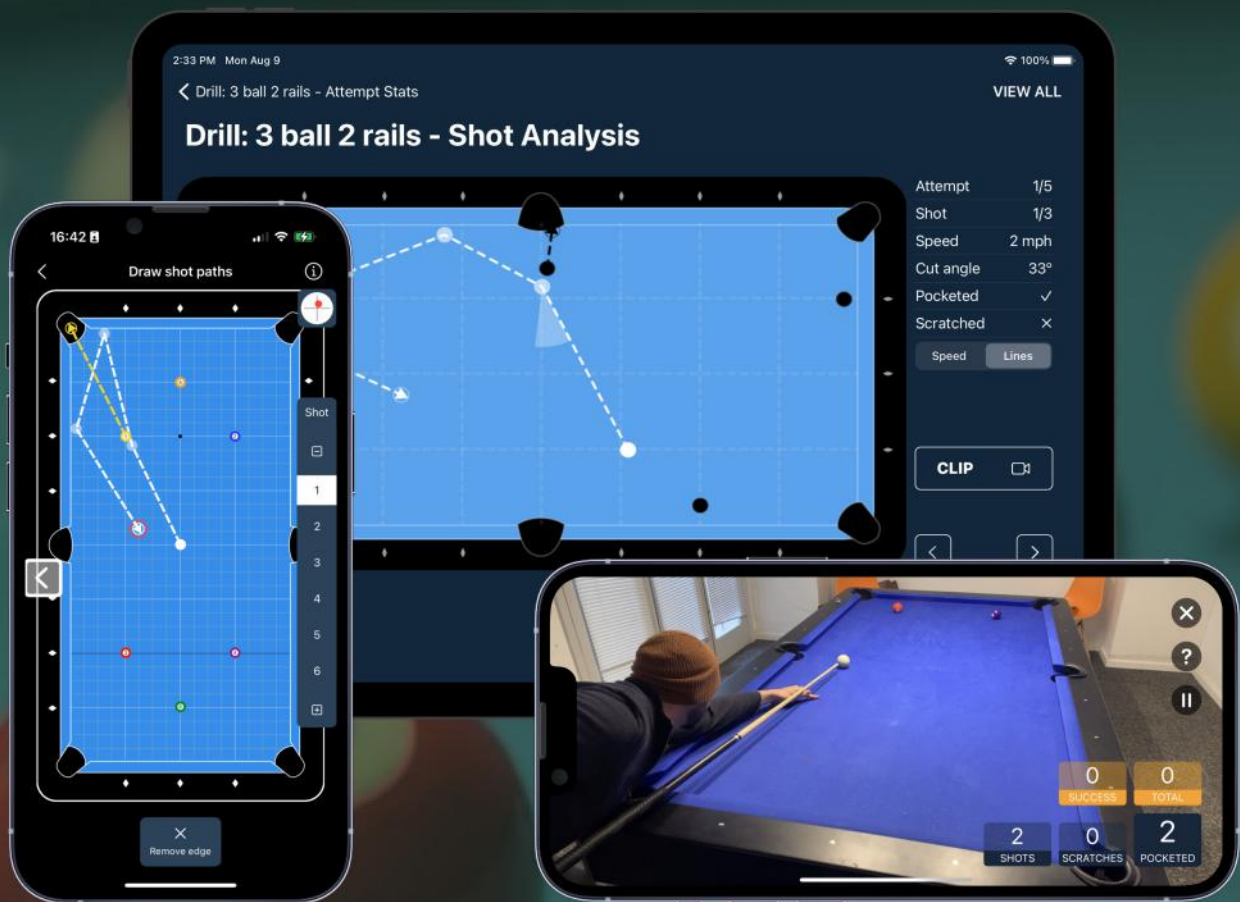


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## Pride, Humility, and Teamwork!

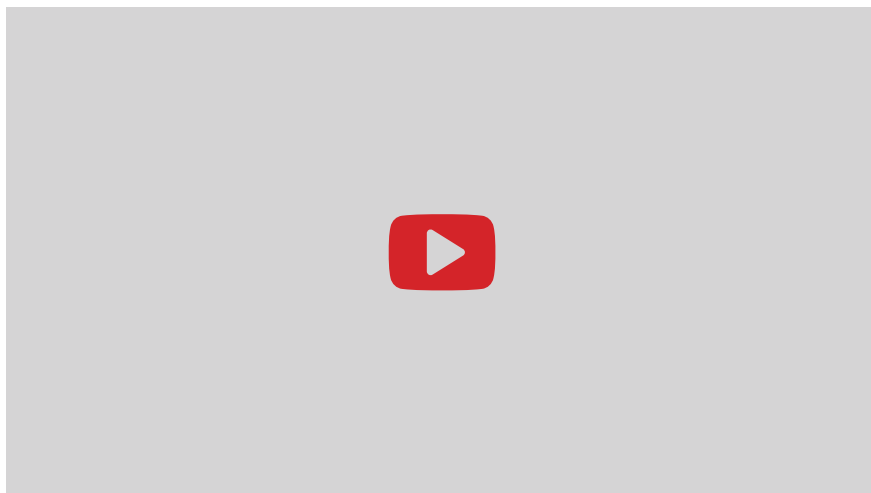
**History of the Trick Shot:** This Gospel Trick Shot was done at the Blackball International (BI) Hawley Cup in Johannesburg, South Africa October 16-23 on a United Pool Table used for Blackball pool. A team of six Gospel Trick Shot cue artists led by yours truly Steve Lillis went to compete in this event representing the USA. There were national teams attending from 4 continents around the World. The USA team worked together in unity to also produce the first ever Artistic Blackball event called the GTS Classic Artistic Blackball Cup which converted many traditional shots from Artistic Pool to Artistic Blackball. The Artistic Blackball competition during the Hawley Cup included the 8 traditional disciplines of Artistic Pool and the coveted Sportsperson Award. A full field of 48 players registered for the event with 16 places paid out, trophies for the top three, and all the traditional discipline medals awarded to the winners. In addition, two Gospel Trick Shot shows were performed in the main arena with various teaching clinics on the shots and the diamond system which was introduced for the first time on these type of pool tables.

**GTS Name and Why:** In the video, yours truly Steve Lillis introduces the concepts of pride, humility, and teamwork. Another name for this shot is the stacking ball shot because you place an object ball on top of another object ball that is uniquely cut to balance a ball on it. In this shot the ball on the top falls to the table signifying that when a person is focused inordinately on themselves, they will fall or in this case at the Hawley Cup the team will fall or suffer. The USA Gospel Trick Shot RACK Team worked in unity with each other displaying all their unique gifts and talents for the benefit of successfully getting the job done which was to run a successful GTS Classic Artistic Blackball Cup event so that the World may see that it can be done. All our gifts and talents come from God and when used for the benefit of the team greater things can be accomplished and God will be glorified in the process!

**Scripture References (ESV):** Psalm 133:1 – “Behold, how good and how pleasant it is when brothers dwell in unity.” and 1 Corinthians 12:25 “That there should be no division in the body (fellow believers in Christ), but that its parts should have equal concern for one another.” and Proverbs 16:18 “Pride goes before destruction, a haughty spirit before a fall.”

**Cue Ball Placement:** In hand along the bottom cushion to get the best aiming angle on the bottom stacking object ball.

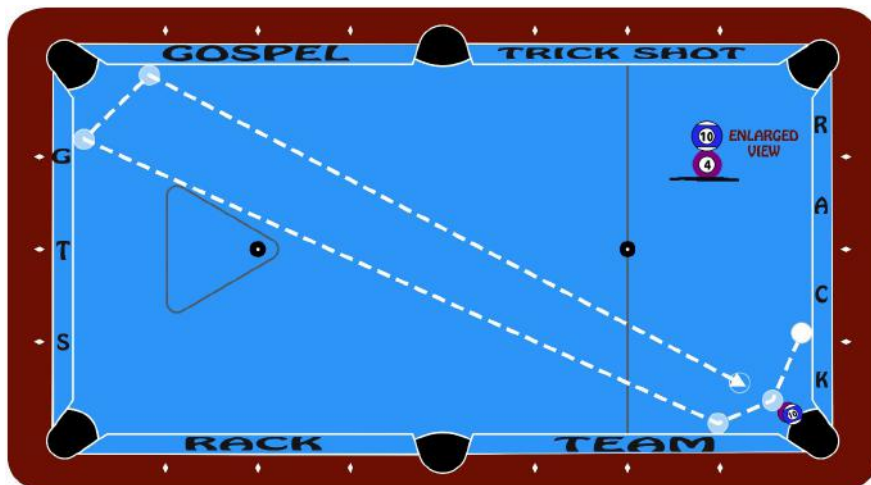
**Object Ball(s) Placement:** A stacking object ball is placed in the jaws of the corner pocket as shown in the diagram. It should be in a position for maximum pocketing ability so that when the cue ball comes around the table to make contact with the other object ball that falls on the table it will have the greatest opportunity to be pocketed. That other object ball is placed on top and balanced on the dimple in the stacking ball.



**Objective:** In Blackball shoot the 1 7/8-inch cue ball used for Blackball into the 2-inch stacking ball which is the standard size of object balls used for Blackball with seven reds and seven yellows and one blackball which is the 8-Ball. That second 2 inch object ball will fall to the table as displayed in the video while the cue ball travels two rails up and back to knock that other object ball into the corner pocket. This can also be similarly done on an American pool table with 2 1/4 inch pool balls.

**Special Notes:** Your aim on the targeted stacking ball is critical to get the cue ball up and back. Try placing the cue ball frozen on the bottom rail one diamond away and aim to hit about half of the object ball. Adjust as necessary after establishing a starting point.

**Crowd Reactions Through the Years:** Many well know cue artists including yours truly Steve Lillis have used this trick shot in their shows for years. People have asked how do we get the balls to balance on top of each other. Most performers usually keep it a trade secret but when pressed the next question might be where do I get a ball like that. Not a simple answer as many are cut and made by the performers and not generally advertised for sale. The Gospel Trick Shot message with the shot resonates with the spectators as all people tend to be selfish and prideful. However, because of the blood shed by the Lord Jesus Christ on the cross for our selfish and sinful nature and by the power of the Holy Spirit which comes after we believe, we can overcome our selfish nature and function in unity to bless others and accomplish great things for God's glory!



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# KO PING CHUNG

## WINS THE 46TH US OPEN POOL CHAMPIONSHIP

Article by ADAM CLAPHAM - Matchroom Multi Sport / Photo courtesy TAKA WU - Matchroom Multi Sport

**Ko Ping Chung has won the 46th US Open Pool Championship at Harrah's Resort, Atlantic City, after beating Fedor Gorst live on Sky Sports in the United Kingdom & Ireland and DAZN in the United States.**

### **Ko Ping Chung 13-6 Fedor Gorst**

Following the final four racks against Max Lechner, the 11-0 semi-final whitewash of Aloysius Yapp and the first rack of the final, Ko Ping Chung had recorded 16 consecutive racks – an incredible feat to help open proceedings. But Gorst wasn't prepared

to allow a repeat of the semi-finals, winning the next two to go ahead.

The Ghost's defense has grown in strength as the week advanced, with some brilliant safety play coercing Ko into mistakes, helping him establish a three-rack margin at 5-2. The 23-year-old maintained a 100% safe-

ty success throughout the opening 12 racks.

A ridiculous five-rail fluke on the 3-ball set a series of events that stopped the rut, eventually seeing the Chinese Taipei World Cup of Pool star come back to level the match at 6-6. A mistake from Gorst at 6-3 left the three over



Ko Ping Chung



*Aloysius Yapp could just sit and watch*

follows brother Pin Yi in landing a Matchroom Major title in 2023 – having won the 2023 World Pool Masters in Brentwood, England earlier this year.

The \$50,000 World Nineball Tour Ranking Points top prize sees the 28-year-old move from 10th to number four in the WNT Rankings.

### SVB Junior Open

Matchroom extends its congratulations to Lazaro Martinez, the winner of the 2nd annual SVB Junior Open on Saturday, following a 9-7 victory over Estonian prodigy Karl Gnaderberg.

Martinez, representing the United States, received a rapt ovation from the home crowd and will look to build on his prospects down the line on the World Nineball Tour.

The 17-year-old follows in the steps of Khalid Alghamdi, who won the inaugural event in 2022.

the pocket, then a fault on the same ball in the next rack invited Ko to clean up and level the match.

Ko Ping Chung knows how to control the momentum of a match, having produced a flawless display in the semi-finals. From 6-all, the match quickly became 10-6 as seven consecutive racks were accumulated to leave him three from home.

There was a shocked gasp around the audience at the start of the 17th as Ko Ping Chung broke dry – such was the quality of his play across Saturday – having pocketed the one into the middle pocket on every break against Aloysius Yapp. It looked like this was Gorst's chance to get back into the match after Ko hung the 6-ball over the pocket – however Gorst could only look on in disbelief after scratch off the rail to fall to 11-6.

When momentum is on his side, it's very difficult to stop Ko Ping Chung, who finished with 10 consecutive racks to claim the biggest title of his career. Ping Chung



*Fedor Gorst*

# VAN BOENING AND CENTENO SHINE AS NEW WORLD CHAMPIONS

Story and photos courtesy **Predator Pro Billiard Series**

**Five new WPA World Champions were crowned yesterday in Austria as Klagenfurt played host to over 200 billiards stars from around the world, with \$400,000 on the line.**

**M**en World 8-Ball: American Shane Van Boening claimed his maiden Predator WPA World 8-Ball Championship title and \$75,000 first prize, solidifying his legacy with a 10-7 victory over the talented Sanjin Pehlivanovic from Bosnia Herzegovina.

“A lot of emotion going inside me and I’m really happy”, said Van Boening. “8-Ball has been my favorite game by far during my whole career. And I’m just happy to be the champion of the world today”

After pocketing the final 8-Ball to clinch the title, Van Boening took it home: “I’m going to frame it on my wall and now be that will be the lifetime there I’m gonna share with everybody and, you know, just happy to be the world 8 ball champion.”

Women World 10-Ball: Chezka Centeno became the new 2023 Predator WPA World 10 Ball Women’s Champion, earning an impressive \$50,000, the highest prize in women’s pool. Her outstanding performance culminated in a triumphant 9-5 victory over China’s Han Yu.

“To be world champion was my dream, so I’m really happy.” Chezka dedicated the title to her dad and all the Filipino supporters, especially her teammate Rubilen Amit.

Junior Girls Division: Hong Xin Yu from Chinese Taipei defended her World

Junior Girls title in an intense final, triumphing over Sofia Mast with a 6-4 victory.

Boys Under 17: Derin Asaku Sitorus secured the 2023 Predator WPA World Junior Title.

Boys U17 championship with a 6-4 win over Adrian Prasad, displaying a stellar performance.

Boys Under 19: Yannick Pongers emerged as the new World 10-Ball Un-

der 19 champion, avenging his previous runner-up finish with a nail-biting hill-hill showdown against compatriot Mika van BERKEL, ultimately clinching the title with a 7-6 victory.

The Predator Pro Billiard Series, working alongside Richwert promotions, returned to the picturesque city of Klagenfurt, home of the Jasmin Ouschan Billiard Academy, for a third time but this year marked the first staging of the Predator WPA World 8-Ball Men’s



Shane Van Boening

Championship in the country and the first time all five Championships have been held at the same time.

The week in Klagenfurt city was nothing short of fantastic, with six days of intense battles among Men, Women, and Juniors. The events were made possible with the support of the city of Klagenfurt and the region of Carinthia, along with partners Jasmin Oushan Billiard Academy, Richwert Promotions, and Pro Billiard Series, including Predator Group, CSI, and Kamui.

The competition unfolded on Predator Apex pro pool tables, covered with Predator Arcadia Performance Cloth, using Predator Arcos II balls, all illuminated by the Predator Arena billiard lights.

For more thrilling action, mark your calendars for the upcoming Puerto Rico Billiard Expo (7-12 November), where the Pro Billiard Series moves

to the Caribbean, offering a total prize pool of \$500,000 for the World Teams

Championship and the Medalla Light Puerto Rico Open.



Chezka Centeno

# MARKETPLACE

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# JAYSON SHAW

## LANDS FIRST MATCHROOM MAJOR IN HANOI

Story by ADAM CLAPHAP - Matchroom Multi Sport / Photo courtesy Matchroom Multi Sport

**Jayson Shaw became the first-ever Hanoi Open Pool Champion after defeating Albin Ouschan in a hill-hill epic finale – live on Sky Sports in the United Kingdom & Ireland and exclusively on Vietcontent in Asia.**

Shaw trailed the two-time world champion throughout the match, after some excellent safety play allowed the Austrian to build up leads of 4-0 and 10-5. But roared on by a packed Hanoi Indoor Games Gymnasium, with over 2,300 fans in attendance for the crowning of Hanoi's first champion, the Glaswegian delivered an epic comeback to land his first major piece of silverware on the World Nineball Tour.

After a string of consistent last 32 and last 16 appearances, Shaw has overturned his form at the business end of the campaign. Buoyed on by a run to the quarter-finals at the 46th US Open Pool Championship, in beating Sanjin Pehlivanovic in the semi-finals Shaw was confirmed as Team Europe's third automatic qualification spot for the Mosconi Cup.

Shaw levelled the match at five-all after a routine 8-ball miss from Ouschan, but the Austrian demonstrated his superior safety play to regain a two-rack buffer. Irritation was on full display on the face of the Glaswegian, after a two-ball jump attempt left him shaking the short stick in frustration. Ouschan would clear up and a break and run saw him take a 10-5 lead – three from his first Matchroom major title since the 2022 European Open Pool Championship.

Back at the table after his opponent scratched on the break, Shaw would

deliver consecutive break and runs before attempting a masse escape. The racks continued to fall until the match was levelled at 11-all. A cross-table bank into the middle pocket on the blue two-ball had the crowd on their feet, as the Scotsman ran out to level at 11-all.

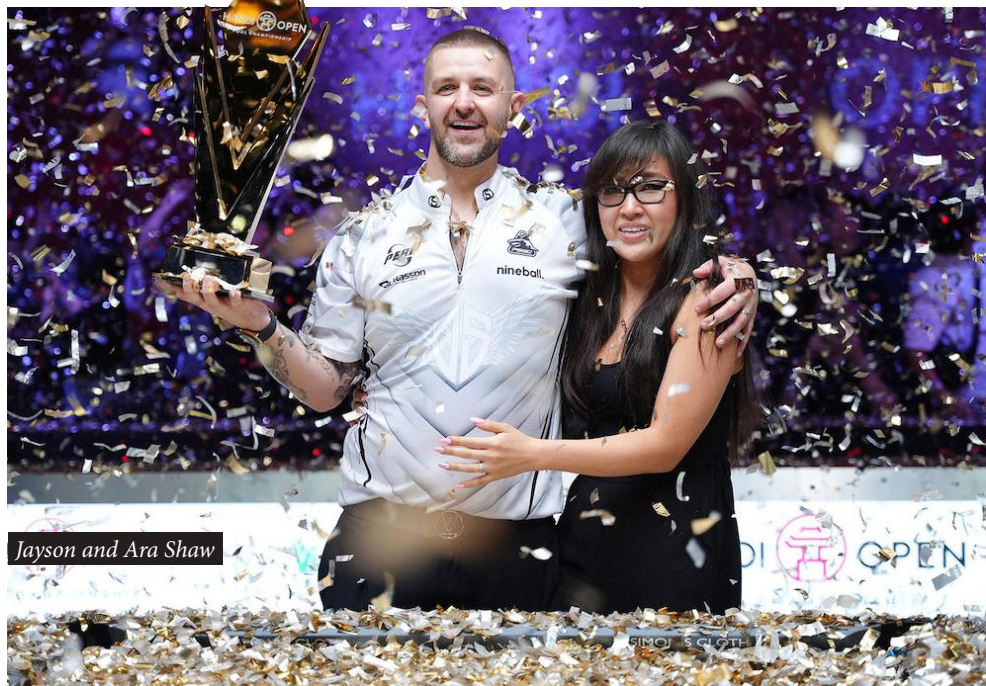
Breaking and running to get onto the hill and breaking for the match, the Shaw was oozing confidence with the crowd firmly behind him, but when looking like running out to seal the win, a missed five ball allowed Ouschan to force a decider – a fitting finish for a modern-classic final.

Luck was been a factor for many throughout the week, and it hit the Austrian like a suck-

er-punch at the worst time. Breaking for the match, a double kiss kicked the cueball into the middle pocket, and with ball in hand, Shaw could clean up for his first major title since the 2017 US Open Pool Championship.

A historic week for Asian pool was aptly marked with a trophy presentation from the great Efren Reyes, who had wowed fans in two exhibition matches across the weekend against Vietnamese star Nguyen Anh Tuan and local hero Do Khai.

Meanwhile AJ Manas of the Philippines dominated the Vietnam Junior Open, dropping just 11 racks all week en-route to claiming the title 9-2 against Liao Hung-Fen of Chinese Taipei.



Jayson and Ara Shaw

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# **FILLER WINS EIGHT STRAIGHT, SINGLE-ELIMINATION ROUNDS TO WIN QATAR OPEN 9-BALL CHAMPIONSHIP**

Story by SKIP MALONEY - AzB Staff / Photos courtesy WPA and ERWIN DIONISIO

**Once upon a time (Sept. 4-8) in a country (Qatar) far, far away. . .**

**G**ermany's Joshua Filler won an international pool tournament – The 2023 Qatar Open 9-Ball Championships. To put it in a geographic, size and distance perspective, the country of Qatar is a relatively rectangular Middle East peninsula, surrounded on three sides by the Persian Gulf and adjacent only to Saudi Arabia at its southern border. It is roughly the size of Connecticut, about 100 miles long and 50 miles wide at its widest point. Its capital, Doha, where the event was held, is located on its eastern coast, a little further north than midway up the peninsula. It is 7,460 southwest miles away from Kansas City, and on (roughly) the same latitude as the tip of Florida and somewhere in southern Mexico. So, hot a lot of the time, al-

though that is balanced by more than 350 miles of coastline. Its land border with Saudi Arabia is only 37 miles long. Temperatures during the week in Doha never dipped below 100° (F). Except for Wednesday (as a comparison), they didn't in Phoenix, AZ either.

The week and event began with four groups of competitors looking to qualify for the Main Event. Of the 483 that began, only 16 (four from each group) emerged to join the 112 already-qualified competitors, pre-qualified through a number of world-wide pool associations. The Main Event, with its 128 entrants, began with a double-elimination bracket, out of which emerged 64 competitors who proceeded with a single-elimination

bracket. Joshua Filler and Tapei's Ko Ping Chung (who would finish as runner-up) began their march to the finals in the double-elimination phase of the Main Event.

The double-elimination bracket was broken up into 16 groups of 8, each group advancing four of its competitors (two from each side of the bracket) to the single-elimination rounds. Filler (Group 16) opened up with a 9-3 win over Lebanon's Osama Ali and then, no doubt much to his initial dismay, he ran into Turkey's Sami Koylu. The first four games of that match were something of a 'Filler sandwich,' with Koylu playing the bread (winning the 1st and 4th game) and Filler winning the middle two as the meat.



Joshua Filler

Filler took the 5th game, but Koylu responded with four straight to go up 6-3. Filler won the 10th game, but Koylu won the three after it and advanced to single-elimination from the winners' side of the group. They would not meet again. It would prove to be Filler's only loss, while Koylu lost his opening-round match of single elimination to Poland's Dominik Jastrzab (1-9).

Filler moved to the loss side of Group 16 for a single match. He defeated Lebanon's Mohammad Berjaoui 9-6 and joined the Philippines' Leonardo Hipolito in advancing from the loss side of Group 16 to single-elimination play.

Ko Ping Chung, in the meantime (Group 4) defeated Kuwait's Abdullah Alqatan 9-2 and (unaffiliated) Arseni Kovalerchik 9-6. Ko Ping Chung joined Poland's Mateusz Śniegocki in advancing from the winners' side of Group 4.

Among the other competitors who advanced to the Main Event's final 64 from the winners' side of the double-elimination bracket were (among many others) Poland's Wiktor Zielinski, Canada's Alex Pagulayan, Germany's Thorsten Hohmann, Finland's Mika Immonen, Canada's John Morra, Austria's Albin Ouschan, Estonia's Denis Grabe, Philippine's Carlo Biado, and Greece's Alex Kazakis. From the loss side of the double-elimination bracket (besides Filler and of course, among many others) came Hong Kong's Robbie Capito, USA's Tyler Styer and Hunter Lombardo, Poland's Mieszko Fortunski and Hungary's Oliver Szolnoki.

Filler started his eight-match, single-elimination run to the winners' circle against fellow countryman and Hall of Famer, Thorsten Hohmann. After defeating him 9-3, Filler moved on to down Filipino Mark Kalagayan 11-8 and in his one and only, double-hill



*Ko Ping Chung*

challenge, Wiktor Zielinski. In the quarterfinals, Filler would face Alex Kazakis.

Ko Ping Chung began his single-elimination march to the finals against Saudi Arabia's Rogelio Sotero. He followed a 9-7 victory over him by defeating Cyprus' Michael Georgio 11-7 and the Netherlands' Marc Bijsterbosch 11-4 to draw Kuwait's Bader Alawadhi in a second quarterfinal.

Denis Grabe emerged from the group to face Poland's Szymon Kural in a third quarterfinal. John Morra and Carlo Biado met in the fourth one.

Filler got by Kazakis 11-7 and in the semifinals, drew Kural, who'd defeated Grabe, double hill. Ko Ping Chung made something of a statement in his victory over Alawadhi, getting out in front by nine racks before Alawadhi chalked up one; his last, as it turned out. Ko Ping Chung took the final two and in the other semifinal, drew Morra, who'd ousted Biado 11-5.

Filler defeated Kural 11-4 as Ko Ping Chung eliminated Morra 11-7. The extended race-to-13 final was on. It was the tightest match that one could hope for, at least as a spectator. In the early stages of the match, they engaged in mini-runs of three (Chung)

and two (Filler) racks. In the middle stages, they kept trading the lead back and forth, keeping the spectator-pleasing hope of a double-hill, final game very much alive.

The six-game run to a 3-3 tie was more of a Ko Ping Chung sandwich; Filler winning the bread matches (1st, 5th & 6th; extra bread?) and Chung, winning the middle three. They did it again, through to the 10th game; Chung, winning the 7th and 10th racks, Filler. . . filling in the 8th and 9th. It was tied at 5-5.

The back-and-forth, short-runs pattern to a tie would not hold. At the end of the 15th rack, Ko 8-7. Filler fought back to tie it 8 and winner another to make it 9-8.

At '17 down' and potentially, '8 to go,' Chung took the next rack to tie it up once again. At this point, they'd been 'even' seven times and the longest run of racks had been Ko Ping Chung's, right after Filler had won the opener. Ko Ping Chung had taken a single-or-more rack lead six more times than Filler (11-5). The seventh tie, though, proved to be Chung's last, as Filler sprinted to the finish line with four straight racks to claim the 2023 Qatar Open 9-Ball Championships.

# GORST GOES UNDEFEATED AT PERI OPEN 9-BALL, SOLIDIFYING SLOT ON USA MOSCONI CUP TEAM

Story by SKIP MALONEY - AzB Staff / Photos courtesy ERWIN DIONISIO

**There is both the expected and the unexpected to come in the formation of the 2023 Mosconi Cup Teams, with the USA scheduled to compete against its European rivals from December 6-9 at the Alexandra Palace in London.**

**T**he last event that impacted the rankings that determine selections for three of each team's members (not including the Hanoi Open, currently underway; Oct. 10-15) was the 2023 Peri Open 9-Ball Championships, also held in Hanoi a week ago (Oct. 5-9).

Fedor Gorst, currently at the top of our AZBilliards Money Leaderboard, went undefeated at the Peri Open 9-Ball event, defeating the Philippines' Michael Feliciano in the finals. As of today, according to Matchroom Pool's Mosconi Cup site, Gorst (4th in the rankings) and Skyler Woodward (13th in the rankings) have already

been selected for the USA team. It's not clear why Shane Van Boening, second in the overall rankings, behind Spain's Francisco Sanchez-Ruiz, is not one of the first two to have been selected for the USA team, but it seems likely, given his ranking, that he will be the third, rounding out the rankings-selected portion of the USA team. Sanchez-Ruiz and country-



Fedor Gorst

man, David Alcaide are currently the only two selected for the European team. Alcaide is 11th in the rankings list (after the Peri Open 9-Ball event), with Joshua Filler (3rd), Jayson Shaw (6th), Mario He (7th), Albin Ouschan (8th), Wiktor Zielinski (9th) and Ecklent Kaci (10th) ahead of him. This would suggest (though not guarantee) that Filler would be the third, pre-selected member of the European team.

The remaining two Wild Card spots on both teams are designated as Captain selections, meaning that Jeremy Jones for the USA and Ralph Eckert for team Europe will pick two competitors each, basing their selections on the rankings (though not necessarily in ranking order) and communication with others about which competitors might 'fit' the team best, regardless of their ranking (Earl Strickland, as an example, was chosen for the 2022 USA team, though there were a number of US competitors ahead of him in

the rankings when he was chosen). If the Captain's selections were to be influenced strictly by rankings, and assuming that the third rankings-selection were to be Filler for Europe and Van Boening for the USA, Jones would be considering the next five USA competitors; Shane Wolford (42nd), Tyler Styer (47th), Billy Thorpe (48th), Oscar Dominguez (51st) and BJ Ussery, Jr. Eckert's possibles for the two European Wild Card picks could be Jayson Shaw (6th; a good bet to get one of the Wild Card picks, if Filler gets the third rankings-selected spot) and the above-noted group behind Shaw in the rankings - He, Ouschan, Zielinski and Kaci. (Ed. note: Wolford, Styer, Filler and Ouschan were chosen)


Gorst was joined in his quest for the Peri Open 9-Ball title by Sanchez-Ruiz, Shane Van Boening, Skyler Woodward, Billy Thorpe and BJ Ussery, Jr. Not having far to travel afterwards, they are competing at the final rank-

ings event before final Mosconi Cup selections, the Hanoi Open, along with Jayson Shaw, David Alcaide and Shane Wolford.

Once among the Peri Open's Final 64, bound for the winners' circle, Gorst's path went through New Zealand's Matt Edwards, Vietnam's Nguyen Manh Tung, Philippines' Dennis Orcollo, and Taipei's Fu Che Wei to arrive at the event semifinals against the Philippines' Anthony Raga.

Michael Feliciano in the meantime, got by Vietnam's Ngo Quang Trung, Bosnia's Sanjin Pehlivanovic, Philippines' Jefrey Consigna Roda, and Tapei's Kuo Po Cheng to arrive at his winners' side semifinal against his third countryman, James Aranas.

Gorst eliminated Raga 11-5 and was joined in the final by Feliciano, who'd defeated Aranas 11-8. Gorst claimed the Peri Open title with a 13-6 victory over Feliciano.



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Photography ©Medium Pool

# MAST, PRASAD, AND VAUGHAN MEDAL FOR TEAM USA 2023 WPA WORLD JUNIOR 10-BALL CHAMPIONSHIPS IN KLAGENFURT, AUSTRIA

Article by **Billiard Education Foundation** / Photo courtesy ALISON CHANG

**The WPA World Junior Championships concluded the 22nd of October, 2023 and the American Juniors are thrilled to be bringing home some hardware.**

It's been five years since Virgin Island's Mahkael Parris's Under 17 Boys victory in 2018 and the U.S. was ready to get back in the finals. 15-year-olds Sofia Mast from Wesley Chapel, Florida and Adrian Prasad from Sacramento, California both earned Silver Medals in the Under 19 Girls and Under 17 Boys divisions, respectively. Also earning a Bronze Medal in the U17 Boys division is 14-year-old Grayson Vaughan from

Shenandoah, Virginia who was defeated by Prasad in the semi-finals round.

The WPA World Junior 10-Ball Championships is the most prestigious junior event each year. The most elite young billiard athletes from all over the world qualify through national championships each year for the coveted title of World Junior Champion. Each of the three divisions (Boys U19, Girls U19, Boys U17) began with competitors from over 50 countries. This

year's event was held at the Klagenfurt Sport Park, home of Jasmin Ouschan's training academy and hometown of Klagenfurt, Austria.

"I was very happy and honored to have the wild card pick and represent Team USA at the junior worlds. I was happy with the way I played throughout the tournament and even though I wanted to be the champion, being second in the world is still cool," said Sofia Mast. "All the support from every



*Grayson Vaughan, Shane Tyree (BCA CEO & WPA delegate), Sofia Mast, Adrian Prasad, Samm Diep (Team Coach)*

Team USA member was unreal and also getting out of the country was so much fun!”

“The level of competitiveness and discipline by all the athletes representing their countries was very high. I fell short of my goal to be Jr World Champion, but I had fun and learned a lot,” said Adrian Prasad. “Looking forward to the next opportunity. Thank you to all my fans, family and sponsors for the support.”

“I loved being a part of the WPA World Pool Championship. It felt good to represent Team USA. “I will remember this experience for the rest of my life,” added Grayson Vaughan. “I am already looking forward to playing in more events in the future. Thank you to everyone that helped to make it happen.”

Through the BEF (Billiard Education Foundation) Junior National Champi-

onships, 12 players qualified for Team USA. Joey Tate and Sofia Mast were wildcard invites through the WPA. PBIA Master Instructor & BEF Board Member, Samm Diep led the team as the North American Team Leader and Coach.

“I could not have been more impressed with the level of play I witnessed this week at the WPA World Junior Championships, and I can’t wait to see what Team USA brings back in 2024,” said Samm Diep. “This was my fourth experience as North American team leader and to come home with three medals is still very surreal. We hope this sends the message to all the young players out there that if they dream it, they can achieve it, and it all begins at the BEF Junior Nationals.”

The 2024 BEF Junior National Championships will be held in Quincy, Illinois July 8-13, 2024. Check the BEF website at [BilliardEducation.org](http://BilliardEducation.org) to

find a qualifier near you or contact Steve Mathias (303-243-5070 x 124) to host a qualifier or BEF state championship in your area.

**FULL RESULTS**

**GIRLS U19:**

- Xin Yu Hong – Chinese Taipei
- Sofia Mast – USA
- Linnea Hjalmarström – Sweden
- Jolien Schuurman – Netherlands

**BOYS U17:**

- Derin Asaku Sitorus – Indonesia
- Adrian Prasad – USA
- Maks Benko – Slovenia
- Grayson Vaughan – USA

**BOYS U19:**

- Yannick Pongers – Netherlands
- Mika van Berkel – Netherlands
- Fu Huan – Hong Kong
- Kledio Kaci – Albania

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# **FISHER GOES BACK-TO-BACK, THIS TIME UNDEFEATED AT WPBA IRON CITY BILLIARDS INVITATIONAL II**

Article by SKIP MALONEY - AzB Staff / Photos courtesy WPBA

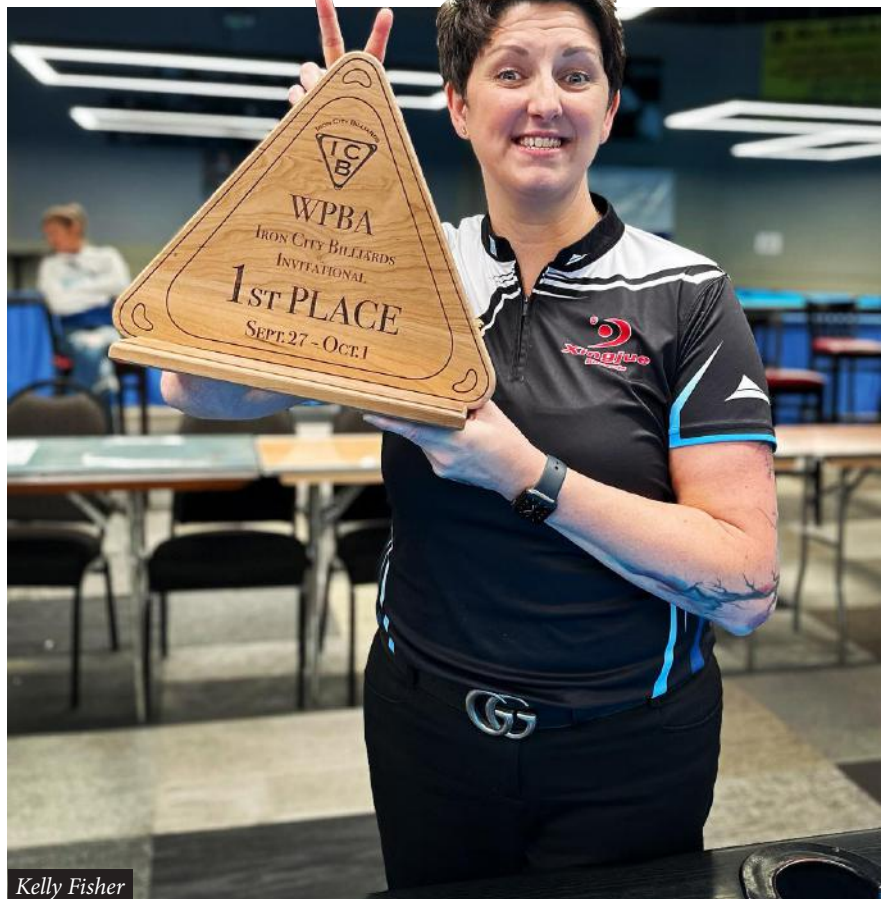
**In representing women's pool here in the US of A, the Women's Professional Billiard Association (WPBA) has a way of making members of its regularly scheduled events more cohesive than their male counterparts.**

**T**here is no comprehensive, similar organization in men's or Open pool that comes close to recreating the same sense of family that's prevalent in the WPBA; a solid core of women, who welcome new members, while maintaining a sense that when they gather to play, they all know each other and share a sense of camaraderie that rides a notch or two above the underlying fierce competition. They are universally having a good time playing the game.

For the second time this year, members of the WPBA came together in Birmingham, AL for a good time playing the game at an Iron City Billiards (ICB) Invitational. In June when they met, Kelly Fisher came from the loss side, winning seven in a row and defeated Kristina Tkach to win ICB Invitational I. This past weekend (Sept. 30-Oct. 1), Fisher went undefeated to claim the \$15,000-added ICB Invitational II that drew 80 entrants, in a unique two stage format, to Iron City Billiards.

It was Fisher's third 2023 WPBA win and her eighth in the past year. Fefilova was looking for her first WPBA win and there were signs this weekend that she'll be chalking that up some time soon.

Following an opening-round bye, Fisher ran into two Texas-affiliated opponents; Jennifer Kraber from Aus-



*Kelly Fisher*

tin, who battled her to double-hill before she gave way and The Pink Dagger, 15-year-old Sofia Mast (from Land of Lakes, FL), who'd won the Texas Open a little over a month ago and was runner-to April Larson at the Big Tyme Classic back in May. It was not the first meeting between Mast and

Fisher and one suspects it will not be the last. The 'Dagger' came within a game of double hill (8-6), but Fisher advanced again, to shut out Teruko Cuccellelli, send Kaylee McIntosh to the loss side 8-4 and pick up Canada's Brittany Bryant in one of the winners' side semifinals.

In the meantime, at the opposite end of the bracket, Margarita Fefilova opened up her campaign by giving up only two racks in her first 18 games; one each to Sara Rocha and Veronique Menard. Fefilova then ran into Chinese Tapei's Meng-Hsia Hung, who battled her to double hill before giving way and sending Fefilova to the other winners' semi-final against Kristina Zlateva.

Fisher and Bryant went back and forth to double hill before Fisher advanced to the hot seat match. She was joined by Fefilova, who'd defeated Zlateva 8-4.

The last time Fisher and Fefilova met up, back in June at the first WPBA Iron City Billiards' event of the year, both were on the loss side; Fefilova playing in her third, loss-side match, Fisher in her fourth. Fisher ended Fefilova's loss-side streak, leaving her tied for 7th/8th. Fisher went on to win the event.

Though Fisher would win the opening rack of this hot seat match, Fefilova, perhaps from experience and mindful of the importance of staying out in front of Fisher, went on a six-game run. She took advantage of a few unforced errors by Fisher and some 'not too shabby' efforts of her own, to include a 1-9 combination in the 7th rack that put her one game off the hill at 6-1. Fisher, as she is wont to do, began her work on a comeback with three racks, after which Fefilova reached the hill at 7-4.



*Kelly Fisher and Margarita Fefilova-Styer*

Fisher kept at it and won the three she needed to force a 15th deciding game. Two balls into that rack, she was looking at the 3-ball, with two balls in the way. She jumped and dropped the 3-ball. Not only did the cue ball back up and come to rest in perfect position to make the 4-ball, but it set the table up, allowing her to make the rest of the balls, too. She got 'em all and claimed the hot seat.

On the loss side, Bryant picked up Tzu-Chien Wei, who'd followed her winners' side quarterfinal loss to Zlateva by defeating Turkey's Eylul Kibaroglu 8-6 and surviving a double-hill challenge from Meng Hsia-Hung. Zlateva drew Kristina Tkach, who'd been defeated in the second round by "The Grinder," April Larson 8-6 and set out on an eight-match, loss-side streak that had recently eliminated Allison Fisher 8-5 and Veronique Menard 8-3.

Tkach made it seven in a row on the loss side with an 8-6 win over Zlateva, as Wei defeated Bryant 8-3. Tkach took the quarterfinal match against Wei 8-6 and then, had her loss-side streak ended at eight by Fefilova 8-4 in the semifinals.

The finals lacked the drama of its hot-seat-match predecessor. Fefilova won the opening rack, igniting hopes for another nail-biting, double-hill match, but with each succeeding rack through the first six, Fisher made it clear that she was in command. She won five of the first six before Fefilova put two racks together, renewing hope for a dramatic comeback.

Not to be. At 5-3, Fisher took the next four, putting Fefilova's hopes of winning her first WPBA event out of reach. Testifying to her continued engagement and ability, Fefilova won the next two, bringing it to 9-5. Fisher closed it out to claim her second Iron City Billiards Invitational title.

Fisher remains atop the WPBA rankings, with Austria's Jasmin Ouschan right behind her. Tzu-Chien Wei maintained her third spot in the rankings, with Fefilova in fourth place and Allison Fisher in fifth.

WPBA representatives thanked the ownership and staff at Iron City Billiards for their hospitality, along with sponsors Diamond Billiard Products, Aramith Balls, Servitude Photography, Simonis Cloth, Jam Up Apparel and Outsville.

# SUPERB FILLER

## GRABS YET ANOTHER EURO TOUR CROWN

Story by LUKE RICHES - EPBF Staff / Photos courtesy EPBF

**JOSHUA FILLER IS the Dynamic Billard Lasko Open champion as he hammered Oliver Szolnoki 9-1 to claim his fourth Euro Tour win in four starts as well as seventh career ET title.**

**T**he 26-year-old German star had been feeling decidedly under the weather throughout the tournament but his unrelenting pursuit of victory and sublime shot-making skills were no match for the out-of-sorts Hungarian.

Commented a delighted Filler, “The way I played today was just unbelievable I must say! I think compared to the other events I’ve won, I don’t think my break was as good but my overall play, what with the jump shots and tactical parts, I just took advantage of them and the will to win is always there. It doesn’t matter how bad I feel, I always want to win and I think this always makes me dangerous.”

Szolnoki had struggled with his break throughout the day and never quite got to grips with the table speed and against a player of Filler’s rampant talent, it was a handicap too big to overcome.

Filler got things underway as he ran out to take the opener. Szolnoki ran out of position travelling from the 5 to the 6-ball and his safety shot didn’t work out as anticipated. Filler though made a positional error from 6 to 7 but saved himself with a short jump over the 9-ball and it was soon 2-0.

Joshua Filler



Filler made a couple of positional errors in the third game but his matchless shot-making abilities saw him over the line, as he moved into an ominous 3-0 lead. The Hungarian put his breaking woes behind him in the fourth but he too lost position and found himself blocked out on the 4-ball. An attempted kick failed to drop and left it on for Filler who took full advantage as he ran the table to increase his lead.

Szolnoki got back to the table after Filler's break shot but he missed a tight cut on the 2-ball. Filler then played a great safety and Szolnoki's escape left the 2-ball in a potting position. The German made it and dished up for a 5-0 lead.

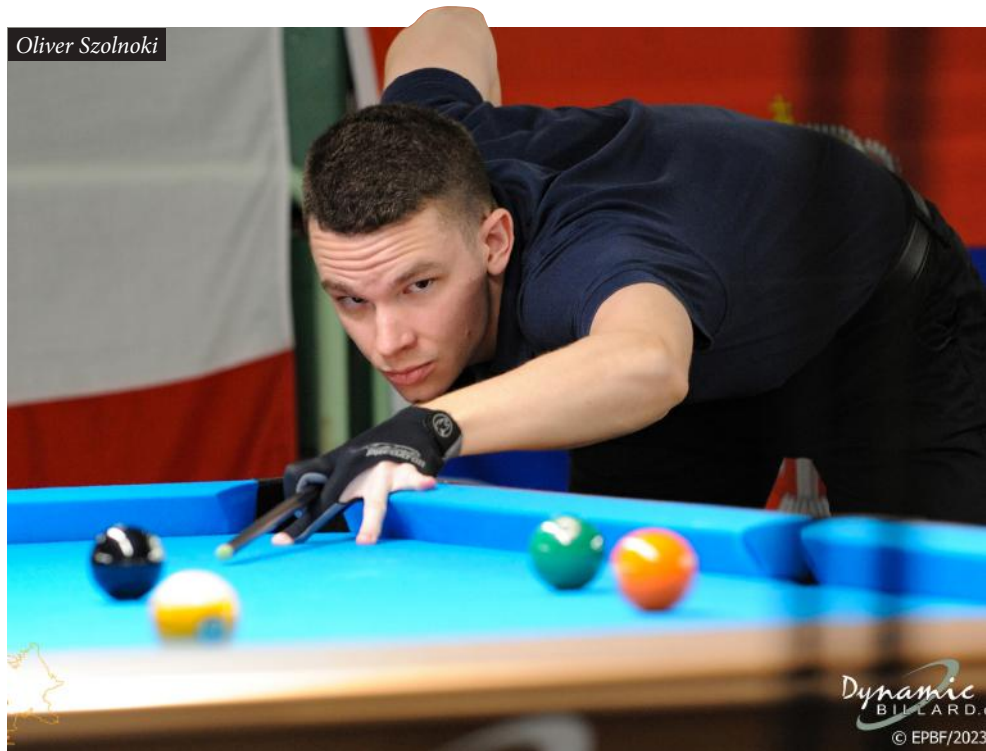
A dry and illegal break from Oliver was the last thing he needed and he was put back in by Filler. They both had visits to a messy table but it was Szolnoki who wilted first, missing the 1 ball to give Filler the opportunity to run out. He ran short on the 9-ball but a tidy bank shot into the corner pocket made it 6-0.

Again, there were more safeties after Filler's break and again, it was Szolnoki who left the chance on. Filler's 3/4 carom set him on a path to a run out and take his lead to seven. Another fruitless break from Szolnoki allowed Filler to lock him up but it was an easy escape. Filler though, came with an outstanding low jump to cut the 1-ball into the top right pocket. Not hanging about, he whizzed through the table to take himself to the hill.

An illegal break threw Oliver a life-line and he got himself on the score sheet albeit with an Everest-sized mountain ahead of him to climb. A dry break came from Szolnoki, but with nothing to his advantage, Filler elected the push-out.

He was put back in and came once again with a superbly creative shot to

Oliver Szolnoki



pocket the 1-ball. They swapped safeties on the 2-ball before the German maestro slammed a bank shot into the centre pocket. The 4-ball ran safe following a carom and Filler's safety left it in the open for Szolnoki to pot. They both missed on the 5-ball as the rack became scrappy. A miss on the 6-ball by Szolnoki was the final nail in his coffin and Filler let out a 'Yes!' as he sealed yet another Euro Tour title. It is Filler's 7th title

Filler added, "When I'm at the table I want to win as big as I can. I know in alternate break format I'm not supposed to win nine-nothing against a player of Oliver's calibre who it's always going to be a tough fight against. But when I was 8-0 up, I didn't want to give him a chance because funny things can still happen. In the end though, I made a nice bank shot in the last, took the win and I'm just over the moon. Four times in a row is just unbelievable, it's a milestone, and I can't wait for the fifth one."

Szolnoki had beaten Hunter Lombardo, Yannick Pongers, Tomasz Kaplan,

Mateusz Sniegocki Ajdin Piknjac en route to the semi-final. Filler went through Bartosz Rozwadowski, Ajdin Piknjac, Ramazan Akdag, Dennis Laszkowski and Wojciech Szewczyk to reach the last four.

In the semi-finals, Szolnoki defeated the Netherlands' Quinten Pongers, the elder of the two sharp-shooting brothers. Quinten has had a very solid junior career but has never reached such lofty heights before in the men's game and he will have plenty to build on following his outstanding efforts this week. Filler got the better of seasoned Euro Tour veteran Radoslaw Babica (Poland) who led in the early stages but couldn't sustain his challenge.

As well as the prize money, there are Tour ranking points on offer, so there is everything to play for. All Euro Tour tournaments are 9-ball and players compete in a double-elimination format, playing down to the last 32 competitors, and then single elimination until the finish. All matches are races to 9 racks with alternate break.

# HUNG TRIUMPHS ON EURO TOUR DEBUT

Story by LUKE RICHES - EPBF Staff / Photos courtesy EPBF

**HUNG MENG-HSIA has won the EPBF Lasko Open, her first ever visit to the Euro Tour, as she defeated Pia Filler 7-1 in a match she controlled throughout. Hung's break shot was a critical difference as she delivered it with such high-quality time and again to control the table.**

Filler was dogged with some misfortune but it was the Australian who was superior in every aspect of the game.

Hung, who hails from Brisbane, Australia, is over in Europe for the WPA World Championships which take place shortly in Klagenfurt, Austria – a mere two-hour drive from Lasko. She absolutely made the most of her visit as she ran undefeated through the event, beating a host of the Tour's top players on her way to glory.

Originally from Taiwan, Hung has been in Australia for around 10 years and is now a naturalised citizen. Filler won the lag, but Hung got to the table first following an illegal opening break and it was soon a ball-in-hand opportunity for the Australian. There was a straight-forward combination on the 9-ball which she took to open her account.

A crunching break from Hung spread the table but she tied herself up behind the 6-ball with just four left on the table. She came with a terrific kick shot to pocket the 5, though but then missed on the 6-ball to get Filler to the table. The German scratched though trying to execute a safety and with another ball-in-hand, Hung had made it 2-0.

Nothing was going Filler's way as the cue ball was nudged into the centre

pocket from her break shot to once again give Hung a chance. She composed herself nicely to run out for a 3-0 lead. Another terrific break off from Hung set up a tidy run out and at 4-0 to the good in the race-to-7 match, things were looking bleak for Filler.

A couple of balls down from Filler in the next finally gave her some table time. She had no position on the 5-ball and laid the perfect snooker

only to see the 8-ball take a knock and disappear into the centre pocket. She extracted herself but from it but left the 5 on for Hung and she wasn't going to let her opponent off the hook as she cleared for a 5-0 lead.

Another hefty break from Hung scattered the balls across the table and with a clear shot on the 1-ball, it was another great chance. There was no messing as Hung cleared up to reach



the hill at 6-0. Filler, however, got her first rack of the game with a 2/9 combination following her break but she was now relying on Hung falling down.

The Australian crashed home another break shot which left a difficult but not impossible table, and Hung duly executed it to take home the title.

Afterwards she gave a little of her background, "I've been in Australia for around ten years and most of my wins have been in Oceania. I started to travel and play internationally right before Covid but I've started to travel more often now that is over."

"Kristina Zlateva, a good friend, invited me to play here as this was my first time in Europe and I'm getting ready for the World Championship. I'm happy to have experienced the Euro Tour and playing in this arena and hopefully it will be a good warm-up for next week," she added.

**“ I'M HAPPY TO HAVE EXPERIENCED THE EURO TOUR AND PLAYING IN THIS ARENA AND HOPEFULLY IT WILL BE A GOOD WARM-UP FOR NEXT WEEK**

**HUNG MENG-HSIA ”**



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# FEDOR GORST & DAVID ALCAIDE QUALIFY FOR 30TH ANNIVERSARY MOSCONI CUP

In a historic moment for Nineball, Fedor Gorst – who was positioned at No.2 in the Team Europe qualification rankings – will now represent the United States at this year’s landmark event in London, England.

Fedor’s acquisition for Team USA comes as a result of the 23-year-old’s recently granted permanent residency in the United States, marking a significant and exciting moment in the storied history of the Mosconi Cup. Gorst qualified for December’s showpiece at Alexandra Palace following his runners-up finish, collecting \$25,000 WNT ranking points at the US Open Pool Championship in Atlantic City. His representation of the United States in the Mosconi Cup signals an exciting new chapter in his burgeoning career where he will now represent USA across all World Nineball Tour events starting with the Hanoi Open Pool Championship this week.

As a result of Gorst’s change in country representation, European Open champion David Alcaide has taken the second qualification spot for Team Europe and will join fellow-Spaniard and World Cup of Pool partner Francisco Sanchez Ruiz as part of Ralph Eckert’s roster.

Alcaide will compete in his third consecutive Mosconi Cup, and fifth overall, having a 75% success-record in the trans-Atlantic feature.

The change in representation across the WNT events complied with Matchroom’s policy regarding country representation, which can be found here.

Matchroom Multi-Sport CEO, Emily Frazer said: “This is one of the most exciting announcements in the 30-year history of Mosconi Cup, with American fans able to witness another world-class player showcase their skills on the grandest stage for them. Fedor received a great reception when representing the Americans at his run to the final at



the US Open last month, and with David, the newly crowned European Open Champion, confirmed for Europe, two of Nineball’s current greatest will go head-to-head at the 30th anniversary of the Mosconi Cup.”

Fedor Gorst added: “Since I moved to the USA in February of last year, I’ve been welcomed with open arms everywhere I’ve been. The people of America have treated me like one of their own. I have felt this for months, and especially with the support I received at the US Open. I felt like I was truly home.

“For that reason as well as my recent approval for permanent residency, I’m so excited to represent the red, white and blue of USA across WNT events as well as Team USA at the Mosconi Cup. I can’t wait to head to London in December and join up with Jeremy and Skyler – let’s go USA!”

Following confirmation of his qualification, David Alcaide said: “At the start of every season, me and Francisco aim for the Mosconi Cup. With only three players getting in from the rankings, for me and Fran to be the first is an amazing feeling.

“The event is on a different level to everything else. I have never felt pressure like it before in my life. It is a dream for every player to play in the Mosconi Cup.

“30 years of this special tournament promises to be bigger than ever. I hope to see as many Spanish fans in London as possible!”

The Mosconi Cup takes place at Alexandra Palace, London between 6-9 December 2023, live on Sky Sports in the United Kingdom & Ireland and DAZN in the United States. Tickets are still available and can be purchased online.

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# PBS LAUNCHES 'PRO BILLIARD TV' YOUTUBE CHANNEL

Article and photo courtesy **Predator Pro Billiard Series**

**New home of live and replay coverage of Predator Pro Billiard Series will also offer top shots, interviews and more**



**T**he Predator Pro Billiard Series has launched Pro Billiard TV, a brand new YouTube channel where pool fans will find free live action and replays of all Predator Pro Billiard Series events and six WPA World Championships every year.

Extensive live coverage of some of the world's biggest tournaments will be complimented by highlight reels, best shot compilations, interviews and YouTube Shorts, promising fans new, exclusive, and free content every week.

Pro Billiard TV's live action will begin in Klagenfurt, Austria next month with

three live WPA World Championships. A packed week of action will see new World Champions crowned in the Predator WPA World 8-Ball Championship (Oct 17-22), Predator WPA World 10-Ball Women's Championship (Oct 18-22) and all three divisions of the Predator WPA World Junior 10-Ball Championships (Oct 19-22).

The final stop of the 2023 Predator Pro Billiard Series takes the world's best players to San Juan in November as part of the Puerto Rico Billiards Expo (Nov 7-12), which includes the Men's and Women's Medalla Light Puerto Rico Opens and the 2023 Predator WPA World Teams Championship.

An archive of past Pro Billiard Series events and World Championships will be added to the channel, including the 2022 WPA World Teams Championship, Men's World 8-Ball and World 10-Ball Championships and the WPA World Women's 9-Ball Championship, played earlier this year in Atlantic City.

Fans will be able to re-watch classic matches featuring some of the world's best male and female players. Highlights of recent Predator Pro Billiard Series events include tournament wins for Joshua Filler at the Wisconsin Open and Carlo Biado at the Puerto Rico Open, while Poland's Wiktor Zielinski recently won the Michigan Open to equal Fedor Gorst's record of three PBS titles.

Kelly Fisher holds five titles on the Women's Pro Billiard Series, while Wei Tzu-Chien, Seo Seoa and Chieh-Yu Chou have all taken home wins over the last 12 months, giving fans an extensive archive of world-class matches to watch on the new Pro Billiard TV YouTube channel.

Pro Billiard TV will also be the home of live and replay coverage of six WPA World Championship events; the men's World 8-Ball and World 10-Ball Championships, Women's World 9-Ball and World 10-Ball Championships, the WPA World Teams Championship, and all three divisions of the WPA World Junior Championships.

Pro Billiard TV is part of the Predator Pro Billiard Series' extensive coverage. Fans can watch every match from every table live on Kozoom, while Billiard TV broadcasts free, live action and replays 24 hours a day, 365 days a year across a large selection of Smart TV platforms including Samsung TV Plus, Distiro TV, Xumo, and many more. Billiard TV can also be watched live online, where fans will also find a full list of supported platforms, including chromecast, Apple AirPlay and YouTube TV.

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# WPA ANNOUNCES MARCH PLAYER BAN POLICY

08, October 2023, Doha, Qatar – In conjunction with the 2023 Qatar 9-Ball Open, yet another 300,000 USD event in a record breaking year of the WPA which surpassed a total of 5,000,000 USD in annual prize funds for men and women, the WPA General Assembly convened.

The assembly decided to financially support a youth development program in all six regions under the WPA umbrella. This program will provide both financial and training assistance to continue the ongoing growth of the sport globally. Additionally, the WPA then had to deal with a matter that no member was looking forward to discussing, the growing number of non WPA sanctioned events around the world.

The assembly did hear a report regarding a last attempt to a possible solution and to continue communication with promoters to the matter at hand, but the answer was a simple no. That left the assembly with no other

alternative than to discuss how to best move forward with the current situation.

After long deliberation the assembly ended up deciding on the following: the players will be given almost five months to choose if they will continue representing their respective national and continental federations under the WPA, or if they elect to participate in only non WPA events and tournaments.

Players participating in non WPA sanctioned events that qualify for WPA sanctioning starting the 1st March 2024 will have the following impact: loss of all WPA ranking points and no



further participation in events on a national, continental or global level under the WPA. When a player would like to return to participate in WPA events they will be unable to participate in any event for six months and have a \$500 USD fine which will be paid to the player's national federation.



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# Kelly Fisher

## SIGNS WITH HORO TIPS

The world champion and billiards legend, Kelly Fisher, reveals why she decided to become a family member of the innovative billiard handmade tips brand

Since the World Champion and billiard legend Kelly Fisher, also known as KwikFire, tried Horo Tips for the first time a year ago, she has fallen in love with them. That's the reason why she is now an official member of the Horo Tips family.

"I decided to become part of the Horo Tips family because I truly loved the products. I was given a sample one year ago at the World Games, I then went to Austria where I met Nelson (one of the Horo Tips owners) along with some other Horo Tips family members. I remember thinking, these are genuine, lovely people who want to enhance their products to the best, using practical knowledge, innovation and the highest quality materials to do so. I felt a strong connection because they share the same love and passion that I have," Kelly explains.

The World Champion, from the United Kingdom, started by trying out the Horo's dedicated break tip and was so surprised by the big difference she noticed that she never stopped using

it: "I put one on and sampled it, and I really, really liked the feeling of the hit that the tip gave me on my break." Kelly Fisher adds, "I saw a significant improvement, not only in the control but also that I didn't need as much power to create more force. I feel that it really improved my overall break immensely. Later, I was provided with a jump tip, and again, I noticed a huge difference. It definitely helped by making jumping easy and again with more control. I have no doubt that the Horo's 'White Storm' certainly improved my jumping skills!"

Asked to detail more about these tips, Kelly assures: "If I were to describe each of them, I would start by explaining the White Storm jump tip, being much easier to jump with less effort and also greatly improving the control I have within

the jump. You can see that clearly in my latest video from the last tournament; it was hill hill and I played the most perfect jump, not only making the shot but also landing in the perfect position for the new next ball, which won me the match. Don't get me wrong, I can't do that all the time, but it's certainly improved my accuracy and consistency in jumping.

As for the Black Storm break tip, yeah, my break has improved immensely with the control and the power behind it." The world champion goes further in her explanation, mentioning what she truly feels when using the Horo break tip: "If I were to break at a power level six break speed with the Black





## HORO TIPS

Storm, it would generate the power of a seven or eight. Even if my arm speed were at a level six, if you know what I mean! So, it definitely generates more power and speed for the cue ball with less effort needed. There's also excellent control over the cue ball, which is the most important thing."

Kelly has been trying out all the Horo Tips, and soon, she will also be try-

**“ THE HORO TIPS PRODUCTS DEFINITELY IMPROVED MY PERFORMANCE ”**

ing out the new ones for playing. She says, by the way: "I have tried them all. I have tried the Gold Rush (a discontinued product) also. I actually liked the Gold tip, but I do see a big improvement in the Black Storm. I have not tried the playing tips yet but I will be doing so very soon."

Asked whether all the differences she notices with the Horo Tips products are useful for only professional pool players or also for amateurs, Kelly replies without any hesitation: "They will make a significant difference to any player, regardless of the level they are at."

To conclude, we asked Kelly Fisher about her plans for the future in the world of pool and to what extent she

thinks Horo Tips can help her achieve them. She replies: "I'm planning to continue for as long as I can. And whilst I am still winning & most importantly, still performing well. For that, I need every bit of help I can get, having very good quality playing, break, and jumping tips is very important. Breaking is even more crucial in the game of nine and ten ball, for sure."

As we all know, a big important part of the game is to be happy with your equipment, and Horo Tips has definitely increased my confidence in my equipment. I feel that they're going to help me achieve all the goals I have, which is to keep winning tournaments and play well. If I perform well, I can reach any goal. Horo Tips will help me to do that."

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# WICHITA POOL PLAYERS HALL OF FAME HONORS JULIE MASON-COMITINI

The membership committee of the Wichita Pool Players Hall of Fame announced this week their latest player inductee, Julie Mason-Comitini.

Julie is the sixth player and first female to be recognized by the HOF committee for accomplishments in the field of pocket billiards.

Growing up in Wichita, Julie, as a teenager, became attracted to the game of pocket billiards (pool) and quickly gained the reputation as a highly skilled player. Once she made her mark on the amateur circuit, she

turned Professional in June 1999 and soon was a top 25 touring WPBA (Women's Professional Billiards Association) member, appearing on ESPN televised tournaments.

"I am both honored and deeply humbled to be recognized by the Wichita Pool Players Hall of Fame as the first of what I'm sure will be many women chosen" said Julie Mason-Comitini.

"This honor in my home town will always be one of the most important events of my life."

The ceremony to honor Julie's induction and presentation of her personal display will be held on Saturday, November 18, 2023, 3:00 p.m. at Club Billiards.

The Wichita Pool Players Hall of Fame was founded in 2015 by Wichitan David Witten. The HOF Display is currently housed at Club Billiards (Wichita's oldest pool room) located at 925 W. Douglas, in the Delano District.

The general public, as well as local media, is invited to attend.



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# ***Blackball International and WPA Artistic Pool Meet in South Africa***

by Steve Lillis

**A USA Blackball team of five cue artists sponsored by Gospel Trick Shot Ministries, Inc. (GTS) came together in Johannesburg, South Africa to compete in the inaugural Blackball International (BI) Hawley Cup with countries from four continents and produce an Artistic Blackball event never seen before on the original English style 7-foot pool tables with snooker shaped pockets and smaller pool balls.**

**T**his pilot event called the GTS Classic Artistic Blackball Cup was produced and directed by Steve Lillis and his GTS team in conjunction with Wayne Parker professional Blackball player and trick shot artist of South Africa who serves as the USA Blackball coach and a member of the GTS leadership team. The

game of Blackball evolved in South Africa in the early 2000's from the original game of English 8-Ball and is now endorsed by the WPA (World Pool and Billiard Association) under the IOC (International Olympic Committee). GTS President and Founder Steve Lillis serves on the BI (Blackball International) Board of Directors repre-

senting the BCA (Billiard Congress of America) which serves North America.

Gospel Trick Shot Ministries, Inc. primarily helped as a service sponsor in this first ever Hawley Cup Blackball event in honor of Peter Hawley the Founder of United Pool Tables who was instrumental in helping to form



Blackball International under the WPA in 2005. Twenty-four United Pool Tables were placed in the Monte Casino Hotel for this major international event that brought together 16 teams from around the World. The GTS team was treated to a factory tour at United Pool Tables. Well-known American billiard company McDermott Cues out of Menominee Falls, WI is a distributor of those United pool tables which in the USA is called United Blackball Pool Tables from McDermott.

Hundreds of players came from around the world to compete representing four continental federations. Host federation the South African Pool Union (SAPU) in conjunction with the All-Africa Pool Association (AAPA) won the lion's share of multiple events in the Hawley Cup with men's and women's team events along with age-appropriate singles and doubles competitions. The inexperienced USA team did manage to win 5 matches against 15 experienced Blackball teams from

other countries which was a big improvement over last year in Morocco where the team only won one match in the 2022 BI World Blackball Championships. However, in the GTS Classic Artistic Blackball Cup there was a more even distribution of prize winners as this competition was new to all and the playing field was more level!

Ninety-minute sessions were allotted each day for the Artistic Blackball competition. A full field of 48 players with 19 players on the waiting list signed up for the event. The GTS team featured short teaching segments of the 24 shot Artistic Blackball program each day before the competition. For more information and a demonstration on the 24 shot program go to <https://fb.watch/nAL8JEFAD7/?mibextid=cr9u03>. BCA Hall of Famer (2017) Tom "Dr. Cue" Rossman did a diamond system clinic as diamonds on these pool tables were introduced on the United pool tables for the first time as historically diamonds as not used on English style pool or snooker tables. Steve Lillis and Dr. Cue were also featured in two Gospel Trick Shot shows in the main arena. Michael "Pastor of Pool" Hewitt and Phil Ball served as Artistic Blackball referees while Jason "The Michigan Kid" Lynch and Wayne Parker competed in the Artistic competition.

Artistic Blackball is similar to the American style Artistic Pool but played on English style pool tables and similarly has the same 8 specific disciplines. A good analogy is gymnastics which has different disciplines like the rings, uneven parallel bars, the horse, mats, etc. In Artistic we have different types of shots requiring different types of ball movements and execution like draw shots, follow shots, stroke shots, bank kick shots, jump shots, masse shots, etc. This Artistic Blackball event was a tremendous success and served as a test pilot program for the future as GTS is plan-








phies awarded to the top three finishers. Wayne Parker of South Africa took first place by virtue of a tie breaker using the most first attempts executed and Jeremy Bower of Australia won the most discipline medals with a total of three. At the awards ceremony concluding the event the GTS team selected Lenuktha Chetty of South Africa for the coveted Sportsperson Award exemplifying the most professional image, attitude, and character during the Artistic Blackball competition. Joy Willenburg was our top female and finished 16<sup>th</sup> out of 48 as several other females entered the event. In a gesture of love and support Wayne Parker gave his first-place trophy and two discipline medals to Thuli Moalusi of South Africa who was in a wheelchair and could not compete in the Artistic Blackball event but competed in the team event from her wheelchair. She lost her legs and was in a coma and as she put it God miraculously woke her up and she now lives on to play pool yet another day! What an ending to a very satisfying event to all who watched and played.

ning to go to England next October to help produce the first ever WPA sanctioned 2024 World Artistic Blackball Championship. Likewise competitive Blackball is similar to American bar box 8-Ball with slightly different rules and equipment. Plans are also underway to produce other Blackball events in 2024 in the USA. The GTS team will be in Norfolk, VA for Pat Fleming's International 9-Ball Open event October 30 - November 4, 2023 showcasing Blackball in the Gospel Trick Shot

Booth on a United Blackball Pool Table provided by McDermott.

The top 16 results of the 2023 GTS Classic Artistic Blackball Cup event are below. Please notice the 8 discipline winners highlighted in purple as each won a distinctive discipline medal and extra prize money. Four of the eight disciplines required an exciting tie breaker playoff to determine the discipline winners. The top 16 places out of 48 players were paid with tro-

## 2023 GTS Classic Artistic Blackball Cup

No.	Name	Trick & Fancy	Special Arts	Draw	Follow	Bank & Kick	Stroke	Jump	Masse	Total
1	Wayne Parker SA	18	20	10	21	6	21	12	5	113
2	Loetfie Nasiep SA	7	8	18	21	9	20	20	10	113
3	Jeremy Bower AUS	15	5	6	20	19	21	8	12	106
4	Llewellyn Sedgwick SA	9	8	14	19	19	20	5	6	100
5	Jason Lynch USA	14	12	21	7	12	21	5	7	99
6	Darren Barnard SA	9	13	17	20	7	11	11	6	94
7	Manasha Silingwani ZIMB	11	2	6	12	12	20	18	10	91
8	Franklin Jagers SA	5	14	14	20	18	6	5	0	82
9	Rayaan Williams SA	11	9	19	21	4	12	0	0	76
10	Godkaas Tzuro ZIMB	7	1	19	18	0	11	10	9	75
11	Malven Mukonza ZIMB	7	9	21	18	0	6	11	0	72
12	Ketan Nydoo SA	9	12	5	12	0	18	10	0	66
13	Leenash Padayachee SA	6	12	13	10	0	20	4	0	65
14	Jeremy Jude Yenkih SA	9	9	0	20	7	5	5	6	61
15	Trevor Parker AUS	7	4	19	13	0	13	5	0	61
16	Joy Willenberg SA	8	2	6	14	8	14	0	7	59

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# Tourney Results

## Oct 01 - Oct 01

### Mezz Cues LA 9-Ball Series Stop

#### Gladi8or Billiards

Los Angeles, California

- 1 Beau Runningen \$600
- 2 Rhino Lay \$420
- 3 Keegan Badour \$300
- 4 Cody Gragg \$200
- 5 Nuoen Liu \$130
- 5 Tim Traver \$130
- 7 Joseph Leon \$85
- 7 Mike Adams \$85

## Oct 04 - Oct 10

### WPA 9-Ball Qatar Open 2023

#### Doha, Qatar

- 1 Joshua Filler \$50,000
- 2 Ping-Chung Ko \$25,000
- 3 John Morra \$12,500
- 3 Szymon Kural \$12,500
- 5 Alexandros Kazakis \$8,000
- 5 Bader Al Awadi \$8,000
- 5 Carlo Biado \$8,000
- 5 Denis Grabe \$8,000
- 9 Albin Ouschan \$5,000
- 9 Alex Pagulayan \$5,000
- 9 Daniel Maciol \$5,000
- 9 Israel Rota \$5,000
- 9 Kun Lin Wu \$5,000
- 9 Marc Bijsterbosch \$5,000
- 9 Mustafa Alnar \$5,000
- 9 Wiktor Zielinski \$5,000
- 17 Ali Nasser Alobadili \$3,000
- 17 Ameer Ali \$3,000
- 17 Dominik Jastrzab \$3,000
- 17 Jose Ramon Diaz \$3,000
- 17 Khalid Omar S Alghamdi \$3,000
- 17 Konrad Juszczyszyn \$3,000
- 17 Konstantin Stepanov \$3,000
- 17 Leonardo Hipolito \$3,000
- 17 Mark Kalagayan \$3,000
- 17 Michael Georgiou \$3,000
- 17 Mieszko Fortunski \$3,000
- 17 Mika Immonen \$3,000

- 17 Oliver Szolnoki \$3,000
- 17 Ricky Puro \$3,000
- 17 Riku Romppainen \$3,000
- 17 Wojciech Szewczyk \$3,000
- 33 Abdallah Alhosani \$1,500
- 33 Abdulatif Fawal \$1,500
- 33 Abdullah El Yousef \$1,500
- 33 Abdullah Saeed O Alshammari \$1,500
- 33 Amil Andre Gangflot \$1,500
- 33 Amr Rashad Abdeltouab \$1,500
- 33 Chia-Chen Hsieh \$1,500
- 33 Feri Satriyadi \$1,500
- 33 Georgi Georgiev \$1,500
- 33 Hunter Lombardo \$1,500
- 33 Hussein Aldelwahed \$1,500
- 33 Jonas Kornmesser \$1,500
- 33 Jung-Lin Chang \$1,500
- 33 Luca Menn \$1,500
- 33 Mahmoud Charif \$1,500
- 33 Marlon Caneda \$1,500
- 33 Mateusz Sniegocki \$1,500
- 33 Mikael Ogaard \$1,500
- 33 Mustapha Trabelsi \$1,500
- 33 Naser Boqamber \$1,500
- 33 Omar Al Shaheen \$1,500
- 33 Petri Makkonen \$1,500
- 33 Pin-Yi Ko \$1,500
- 33 Robbie Capito \$1,500
- 33 Rogelio Sotero \$1,500
- 33 Sami Erkan Koylu \$1,500
- 33 Sergey Lutsker \$1,500
- 33 Sina Valizadeh \$1,500
- 33 Thorsten Hohmann \$1,500
- 33 Van Linh Ta \$1,500
- 33 Yuma Dorner \$1,500

## Oct 05 - Oct 09

### Peri 9-Ball Open

#### Vietnam

- 1 Fedor Gorst \$25,000
- 2 Michael Feliciano \$15,000
- 3 Anthony Raga \$8,000
- 3 James Aranas \$8,000

- 5 Che-Wei Fu \$4,000
- 5 Francisco Sanchez-Ruiz \$4,000
- 5 Niels Feijen \$4,000
- 5 Po Cheng Kuo \$4,000
- 9 Bui Truong An \$2,000
- 9 Dennis Orcollo \$2,000
- 9 Do Van Khai \$2,000
- 9 Jeffrey De Luna \$2,000
- 9 Jeffrey Consigna Roda \$2,000
- 9 Johann Chua \$2,000
- 9 Kyle Amoroto \$2,000
- 9 Skyler Woodward \$2,000
- 17 Billy Thorpe \$1,000
- 17 Jhon LA Garde \$1,000
- 17 John Rebono \$1,000
- 17 Marvin Asis \$1,000
- 17 Maximilian Lechner \$1,000
- 17 Michael Baoanan \$1,000
- 17 Mickey Krause \$1,000
- 17 Moritz Neuhausen \$1,000
- 17 Nguyen Huong Phong \$1,000
- 17 Nguyen Manh Tung \$1,000
- 17 Nizam Uddin Ahmed \$1,000
- 17 Pham Phuong Nam \$1,000
- 17 Pijus Labutis \$1,000
- 17 Ri Teng Liu \$1,000
- 17 Sanjin Pehlivanovic \$1,000
- 17 Sullivan Clark \$1,000

## Oct 07 - Oct 07

### Q City 9-Ball Tour Stop

#### Big Backs Burgers & Brews

Princeton, WV

- 1 Mike Robertson \$200
- 2 John Brockman \$110
- 3 Josh Ball \$80

## Oct 07 - Oct 07

### Garden State Pool Tour Amateur Stop

#### Players Billiards

- Eatontown, New Jersey
- 1 Ronnie Xu \$460

- 2 Joe Valania \$250
- 3 Pascal Dufresne \$150
- 4 Nico Torres \$100

## Oct 07 - Oct 08

### 2023 VA State One Pocket Championship

#### Q-Master Billiards

- Virginia Beach, VA
- 1 Matt Clatterback \$1,000
- 2 Larry Kressel \$600
- 3 Ilir Jaho \$400
- 4 Dave Brown \$200

## Oct 12 - Oct 15

### Dynamic Billard Lasko Open 2023

#### Hotel Thermana Park Lasko

- 1 Joshua Filler \$6,335
- 2 Oliver Szolnoki \$4,856
- 3 Quinten Pongers \$3,167
- 3 Radoslaw Babica \$3,167
- 5 Ajdin Piknjac \$1,583
- 5 Karl Gnadeberg \$1,583
- 5 Szymon Kural \$1,583
- 5 Wojciech Szewczyk \$1,583
- 9 Daniel Maciol \$1,055
- 9 Dennis Laszkowski \$1,055
- 9 Francisco Diaz-Pizarro \$1,055
- 9 Luca Menn \$1,055
- 9 Marc Bijsterbosch \$1,055
- 9 Mateusz Sniegocki \$1,055
- 9 Roman Hybler \$1,055
- 9 Wiktor Zielinski \$1,055
- 17 Jan Rempe \$632
- 17 Karol Skowerski \$632
- 17 Konrad Juszczyzyn \$632
- 17 Labinot Markaj \$632
- 17 Maks Benko \$632
- 17 Mats B. Schjetne \$632
- 17 Michal Turkowski \$632
- 17 Mieszko Fortunski \$632
- 17 Miguel Silva \$632
- 17 Mohammad Soufi \$632
- 17 Mustafa Alnar \$632
- 17 Ramazan Akdag \$632
- 17 Roberto Bartol \$632
- 17 Tobias Bongers \$632
- 17 Tomasz Kaplan \$632
- 17 Yuma Dorner \$632
- 33 David De Santis \$316
- 33 David Zalman \$316

- 33 Felix Vogel \$316
- 33 Gyairon Martis \$316
- 33 Henrique Correia \$316
- 33 Holger Gries \$316
- 33 Jaroslav Polach \$316
- 33 Jokubas Silantjevas \$316
- 33 Leevi Auresto \$316
- 33 Michele Bianchini \$316
- 33 Mikael Ogaard \$316
- 33 Pawel Blachowski \$316
- 33 Ricardo Gutjahr \$316
- 33 Sambor Stachowiak \$316
- 33 Svit Pavlinjek \$316
- 33 Yannick Pongers \$316

## Oct 14 - Oct 14

### 15th Annual "Cues for the Cure" Breast Cancer Fundraiser

#### Corner Pocket

- Largo, FL
- 1 Jeannie Seaver \$800
- 2 Sofia Mast \$500
- 3 Jessica Barnes \$325
- 3 Michell Monk \$325
- 5 Kim Housman \$125
- 5 Krystal Ann Williams \$125

## Oct 14 - Oct 15

### 2023 EPBF Womens Lasko Open

#### Hotel Thermana Park Lasko

- 1 Meng-Hsia Hung \$950
- 2 Pia Filler \$686
- 3 Ana Gradisnik \$422
- 3 Liubov Zhyhailova \$422
- 5 Eylul Kybaroglu \$158
- 5 Ina Kaplan \$158
- 5 Kristina Zlateva \$158
- 5 Melanie Suessenguth \$158

## Oct 15 - Oct 15

### New England 9-Ball Tour 2023 Stop #1

#### Straight Shooters Family Billiards

- Fall River, MA
- 1 Matthew Rezendes \$510
- 2 Joey Arruda \$300
- 3 Fabian Fernandez \$200
- 4 Xhuljiano Kamxhiu \$150
- 5 Billy Kamperides \$100
- 5 Mike Demarco \$100

## Oct 17 - Oct 22

### WPA Predator World 8-Ball Championship 2023

#### Sportpark Klagenfurt

- Klagenfurt, Austria
- 1 Shane Van Boening \$75,000
- 2 Sanjin Pehlivanovic \$35,000
- 3 Maximilian Lechner \$17,500
- 3 Wojciech Szewczyk \$17,500
- 5 Eklent Kaci \$8,750
- 5 Francisco Sanchez-Ruiz \$8,750
- 5 Hayato Hijikata \$8,750
- 5 Mario He \$8,750
- 9 Alexandros Kazakis \$4,375
- 9 Fedor Gorst \$4,375
- 9 Joshua Filler \$4,375
- 9 Jung-Lin Chang \$4,375
- 9 Konrad Juszczyzyn \$4,375
- 9 Marco Teutscher \$4,375
- 9 Naoyuki Oi \$4,375
- 9 Tomasz Kaplan \$4,375
- 17 Abdullah Alyousef \$2,188
- 17 Albin Ouschan \$2,188
- 17 David Alcaide \$2,188
- 17 John Morra \$2,188
- 17 Kledio Kaci \$2,188
- 17 Kun Lin Wu \$2,188
- 17 Marc Bijsterbosch \$2,188
- 17 Mateusz Sniegocki \$2,188
- 17 Miguel Silva \$2,188
- 17 Mika Immonen \$2,188
- 17 Mohammad Soufi \$2,188
- 17 Mustafa Alnar \$2,188
- 17 Roman Hybler \$2,188
- 17 Thorsten Hohmann \$2,188
- 17 Tyler Styer \$2,188
- 17 Yu-Lung Chang \$2,188

## Oct 18 - Oct 21

### Women's World 10-Ball Championship 2023

#### Sportpark Klagenfurt,

- Klagenfurt
- 1 Chezka Centeno \$50,000
- 2 Han Yu \$25,000
- 3 Allison Fisher \$12,500
- 3 Kelly Fisher \$12,500
- 5 Chieh-Yu Chou \$6,250
- 5 Rubilen Amit \$6,250
- 5 Silvana Lu \$6,250
- 5 Tzu-Chien Wei \$6,250

9 Eylul Kybaroglu \$3,125  
9 Kristina Zlateva \$3,125  
9 Melanie Suessenguth \$3,125  
9 Pia Filler \$3,125  
9 Sara Rocha \$3,125  
9 Siming Chen \$3,125  
9 Wan-Ling Wang \$3,125  
9 Xiao-Ting Pan \$3,125

## Oct 21 - Oct 22

### JPNEWT Tour 2023 Stop #8

#### Eagle Billiards

Dickson City, Pa  
1 Briana Miller \$650  
2 Christine Pross \$450  
3 Giovanna Napolitano \$300  
3 Joella Thomson \$300  
5 Colleen Shoop \$125  
5 Melissa Jenkins \$125

## Oct 21 - Oct 22

### 2023 DFW 9-Ball Tour Stop 10

#### Stix And Stones Billiards

Lewisville, Texas  
1 Shane McMinn \$1,290  
2 TJ Davis \$935  
3 Chris Woody Smith \$710  
4 Ryan Braselman \$470  
5 Greg Sandifer \$340  
5 Tim Larson \$340  
7 Jim Dixon \$260  
7 Steve Raynes \$260  
9 Blake Kamiab \$180  
9 Cameron Cummings \$180  
9 Jamie Cummings \$180  
9 Marc Oler \$180  
13 Bryson Redburn \$100  
13 Jonathan Rawlins \$100  
13 Randy Staggs \$100  
13 Robert Clark \$100

## Oct 21 - Oct 21

### Q City 9-Ball Tour Stop

#### Mickey Milligan's Sports Bar

New Bern, NC  
1 Jack Whitfield \$600  
2 Glenn Weatherly \$300  
3 Robert Perez \$200

## Oct 21 - Oct 21

### Predator Tri State Tour 2023 Stop

#### Shooters Family Billiards

Wayne, New Jersey  
1 Noe Videz \$800  
2 Tim Clark \$500  
3 Aurelio Romero \$320  
3 Mike Tritto \$320  
5 Juan Taveras \$100  
5 Mark Antonetti \$100

## Oct 23 - Oct 28

### 2023 American Straight Pool Championship

#### Q-Master Billiards

Virginia Beach, VA  
1 Mario He \$10,000  
2 Lee Vann Corteza \$6,000  
3 Bader Al Awadi \$4,500  
4 Jani Siekkinen \$4,000  
5 Mika Immonen \$2,700  
5 Thorsten Hohmann \$2,700  
7 Jani Uski \$2,500  
7 Shaun Wilkie \$2,500  
9 Brandon Shuff \$850  
9 Mikael Ogaard \$850  
9 Ralf Souquet \$850  
9 Ralph Eckert \$850  
13 Bob Mendenjian \$750  
13 Holden Chin \$750  
13 Matthias Arnold \$750  
13 Michael Yednak \$750

## Oct 23 - Oct 29

### Inaugural Battle of the Bull

#### Wolf's Den Billiards

Roanoke, Virginia  
1 Aloysius Yapp \$16,000  
2 Fedor Gorst \$9,000  
3 Shane Van Boening \$5,000  
4 Tyler Styer \$5,000  
5 Alexandros Kazakis \$2,250  
5 Jung-Lin Chang \$2,250  
5 Roland Garcia \$2,250  
5 Skyler Woodward \$2,250  
9 Alex Pagulayan \$1,000  
9 BJ Ussery \$1,000  
9 Denis Grabe \$1,000

9 Eric Roberts \$1,000  
9 Gerson Martinez \$1,000  
9 Joven Bustamante \$1,000  
9 Mark Estiola \$1,000  
9 Roberto Gomez \$1,000

## Oct 23 - Oct 29

### Inaugural Battle of the Bull One Pocket

#### Wolf's Den Billiards

Roanoke, Virginia  
1 Roland Garcia \$7,000  
2 Skyler Woodward \$3,800  
3 Billy Thorpe \$2,000  
3 Roberto Gomez \$2,000  
5 Alex Pagulayan \$750  
5 Josh Roberts \$750  
5 Lukas Fracasso-Verner \$750  
5 Shane Van Boening \$750

## Oct 28 - Oct 29

### JPNEWT Tour 2023 Stop #9

#### Bluegrass Billiards

Philadelphia, Pa  
1 Briana Miller \$1,250  
2 Elise Qiu \$875  
3 Skylar Hess \$575  
4 Nina Torvund \$425  
5 Erica Testa \$225  
5 Rachel Walters \$225  
7 Ashley Benoit \$175  
7 Jay Pass \$175  
9 Amanda Laverriere \$100  
9 Christine Pross \$100  
9 Dawn Luz \$100  
9 Nicole Nester \$100

## Oct 30 - Nov 04

### 2023 International Open Bigfoot 10-Ball Challenge

#### Sheraton Norfolk Waterside Hotel

Norfolk, Va  
1 Shane Van Boening \$8,000  
2 Joshua Filler \$4,000  
3 Aloysius Yapp \$2,000  
3 Jung-Lin Chang \$2,000

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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.

## NOVEMBER

### Arizona Women's Billiards Tour 2023 Stop 6

**Nov 04 - Nov 05**

Main Street Billiards  
Mesa, AZ

### NWPA Tour 2023 Stop 6

**Nov 04 - Nov 05**

Seattle, Washington

### JPNEWT Tour 2023 Stop #10

**Nov 04 - Nov 04**

Side Pocket Billiards  
Howell Township, New Jersey

### Joss Tour 2023-2024 Stop 8

**Nov 04 - Nov 05**

Diamond Billiards  
Rochester, NY

### 2023 US Open One Pocket Championship

**Nov 06 - Nov 09**

Griff's  
Las Vegas, Nevada

### Medalla Light Puerto Rico Open 2023

**Nov 07 - Nov 12**

San Juan, Puerto Rico

### Medalla Light Puerto Rico Women's Open 2023

**Nov 07 - Nov 12**

San Juan, Puerto Rico

### World Pool Team Championship 2023

**Nov 07 - Nov 12**

San Juan, Puerto Rico

### 2023 US Open Bank Pool Championship

**Nov 09 - Nov 12**

Griff's  
Las Vegas, Nevada

### Joss Tour 2023-2024 Stop 9

**Nov 11 - Nov 12**

Raxx Pool Room, Sports Bar & Grill  
West Hempstead, NY

### 35th Ocean State 9-Ball Championship

**Nov 18 - Nov 19**

Snookers - Sports Billiards, Bar & Grill  
Providence, RI

### Universal Chinese Taipei Open

**Nov 18 - Nov 20**

Taipei City  
Taipei City,

### Predator VenOpen 2023

**Nov 20 - Nov 26**

Hotel Tamanaco  
Caracas

### On The Snap Tour Stop #10

**Nov 25 - Nov 26**

Rusty's Billiards  
Fort Worth, Texas

### TE Capital 9-Ball Open

**Nov 29 - Dec 03**

Singapore

# AZBILLIARDS MONEY LIST

	NAME	COUNTRY	\$ AMOUNT	
	Fedor Gorst	 RUS	234.104,00 US\$	
	Joshua Filler	 GER	227.122,00 US\$	
	Shane Van Boening	 USA	198.569,00 US\$	↑
	Ko Ping Chung	 TPE	166.705,00 US\$	
	Francisco Sanchez-Ruiz	 ESP	161.645,00 US\$	↓
	Eklent Kaci	 ALB	129.700,00 US\$	
	Wiktor Zielinski	 POL	99.183,00 US\$	
	Ko Pin Yi	 TPE	79.990,00 US\$	
	Sanjin Pehlivanovic	 BIH	77.871,00 US\$	↑
	Skyler Woodward	 USA	75.100 US\$	↓

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NOVEMBER 16-19TH, 2023



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