

Billiards Buzz

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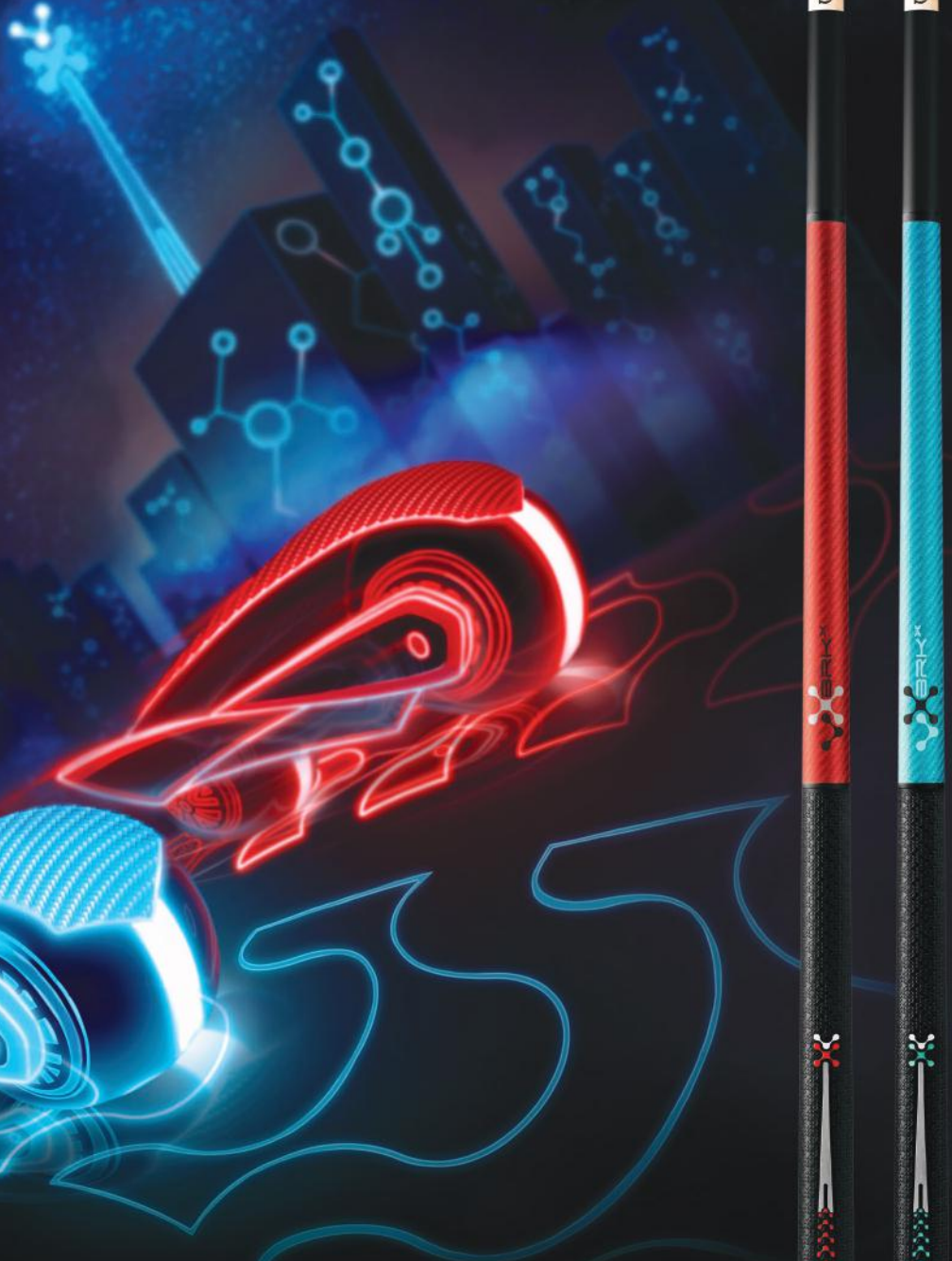
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Volume 4, Issue #34

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FROM THE Head Rail

MIKE HOWERTON

As this issue was being prepared, Team Austria won their second World Cup of Pool title in three years. We will have complete coverage of that event next month.

Next up for the top pros will be the Diamond Las Vegas Open, which takes place right before the World 10-Ball Championship. Both of these events will be held at The Rio in Las Vegas, alongside the BCA and USAPL National Championships. Just down the road, the BEF Junior National Championship will be at the Southpoint Hotel and Convention Center. This event will be held in conjunction with the BCA Expo and Trade Show.

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A Good Stance



JERRY BRIESATH

I hope you're having a great summer and are looking forward to the fall leagues starting.

Let's talk for a little bit about the mechanics of a good stance. First I want you to know that there are many good stances, from the European Snooker stance to the more traditional American stance where the body is turned more to the side. But even though the stances look completely different, there are several common elements that make them similar. The first in common element is the weight distribution which should be about 50-50 on each leg. Second, the chin must be directly

over the cue stick when a player is in his shooting position. Some players choose to have their chin touching the cue while others players prefer to keep their chin several inches above the cue stick while shooting. And third, the shooting arm must have clearance to swing the cue back and follow-through without touching any body parts including the chest or the belly. Sometimes when a player follows through, the hand will strike the chest area and this is acceptable as long as the hand does not strike the

chest area until the follow-through has proceeded at least six inches through the cue-ball. If the hand strikes the body before six inches of follow-through, the player must change his stance and or body positions slightly to correct the problem.

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

Good luck — Jerry



THE QUALITY OF YOUR STROKE DEPENDS ON YOUR MENTAL TOUGHNESS

The Sports Doc - Dr. CHRIS STANKOVICH
www.drstankovich.com

Top-notch pool players take command of the pool table and execute shots with ease, and this doesn't happen by chance.

Getting down on the ball and making a smooth follow through is vitally important as it relates to shot making, but many players fall short – not because they don't know what to do, but instead because of the impact nerves have on their shot.

The impact of anxiety

When we are nervous we generally experience many physiological problems, including stomach butterflies, tense muscles, shallow breathing, rapid heart rate, and agitation. Now ask yourself how easy it is to make shots when dealing with all of that?! Not only do those symptoms make shots unnecessarily difficult, *they almost become impossible*. Try staying calm while a fire alarm is screaming



– that's essentially the same feeling we get trying to calmly execute a shot while our nervous energy is doing everything to disrupt the shot.

When we reduce anxiety, our minds and bodies act in synchrony, thereby allowing perfect shots to occur. It is for this reason that learning how to control anxiety might be one of the top goals for every pool player trying to play his or her best.

Don't do what most players do to fix the problem

In my experience most athletes, including pool players, tend to do the wrong thing when trying to improve upon anxiety: They simply practice more. While shooting extra shots is never a bad thing, if you think taking more shots in an empty pool room is going to help you overcome nerves you might be in for a rude awakening. A better approach to beating anxiety is to learn proven anxiety-reducing techniques, including the following:

- **Deep breathing.** By far the best way to quickly calm down is to engage in disciplined, slow, deep, rhythmic breathing.



- **Imagery.** See yourself be successful, and you might be surprised at how quickly you lose nerves and begin playing with confidence again.
- **Positive self-talk.** Telling yourself you are going to be fine sounds simple, but most players tend to do the exact opposite when dealing with nerves – and their condition only worsens as a result.

Don't beat yourself, pool is a tough enough game as it is! If you struggle with anxiety make sure to learn important mental toughness skills that can help!

Dr. Chris Stankovich, known as "The Sports Doc," is a national expert in the field of sport & performance psychology and has been featured on ESPN for his work with elite athletes. His #1 best selling pool video "Mind of Steel: Mental Toughness for Pool Success" has been used by thousands of players to improve focus, increase confidence, and eliminate anxiety. You can learn more about Dr. Stankovich and Mind of Steel by visiting drstankovich.com

TOURNAMENT PLAY: IMPLEMENT A FIVE- STEP PLAN OF ACTION

ANTHONY **BEELER**

1. COME PREPARED

Being an effective tournament player means doing a lot of work before your match begins. No matter your level of play, there is an opportunity to survey the pool table to determine your conclusion to several variables that effect match play.

You might ask the following questions: What size is the table that I am playing on? What type of cloth is on the table? Is the cloth fast or slow? Does the table roll to one side or the other? Are the pockets loose or are they tight? What distractions are nearby

that I may want to avoid? Am I playing with a standard sized cue ball or is it oversized? You can also do some test break shots to see which side of the table you pocket the most balls from.

2. FOLLOW YOUR GAME PLAN

Once you have developed your match strategy. You will want to follow it. It's one thing to do an in-depth analysis and follow it completely. However, during match play things can become complicated rather quickly.



For example, if you break dry a couple of times you may be tempted to change your breaking position. If you overshoot position, you may be tempted to shorten up your stroke. In a tight match there can be quite a bit of pressure. Pressure is the number one reason players alter their game plan. Generally, pressure makes you tighten up and that alone can make you indecisive at the table.

3. KNOW YOUR PERSONAL LIMITATIONS

Pool is a game of decisions. You should take into account the risks and rewards of the shot that you have decided to shoot. As a whole, amateur players are way too aggressive, and take unnecessary risks because they are not being honest with themselves about their true abilities.

How many times have you tried to pocket a difficult bank shot or make a backward cut only to jaw the ball in the pocket? Just because a shot is possible does not mean you should shoot it. Professional players weigh the percentages. They ask themselves questions such as:

- Am I more likely to be successful playing an offensive shot or defensive shot?



- Can I easily attain position on my next shot?
- What is my success percentage of shot 1 compared to shot 2?
- Given various options, which shot will my opponent like the least?
- Can I play a two-way shot?
- If I mishit the shot, am I better off shooting a little too hard or a little too soft?

The best players in the world are brutally honest with themselves. They have a true understanding of their personal abilities, and will only play a shot when they know they can execute it a high-percentage of the time.

4. IMPLEMENT A HIGH-POWERED OFFENSIVE AND DEFENSIVE GAME

Professional pool players are masters at making high-runs that are supple-

mented with a smothering defense. The smartest players in the world understand when to play aggressively but also understand when a good safety is needed. You have heard the old saying, "There is more than one way to skin a cat." The same is true for pool. There is no single "right answer" on how a layout balls should be played. Players should develop their strategy around their knowledge of the game coupled with an honest self-assessment of their personal abilities.

5. MAKE QUALITY DECISIONS

Being able to make quality decisions is perhaps the most important piece of the game-winning puzzle. While it's not a guarantee, if you are second-guessing a decision before you execute it, it is going to prevent you from delivering a confident stroke.

The time to think and analyze each shot occurs before you get in your stance. When you're standing over the ball ready to execute the shot, the best players in the world are totally committed to delivering a smooth straight stroke subconsciously.

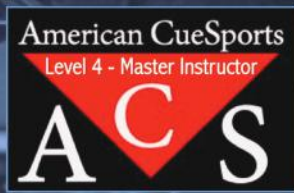
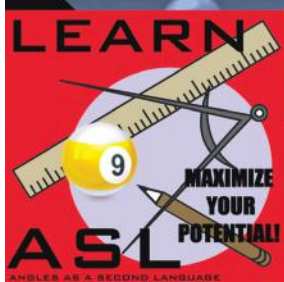
Anthony Beeler is the 2017 Pool Instructor of the Year and is a former BCAPL National 9-Ball Champion. He has numerous top 25 national finishes and is one of only 8 ACS Master Instructors in the world. He is the primary author of the *National Billiards Instructors Manual* and has also authored the book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

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NOUN

1. a place of refuge or safety.

“his sons took sanctuary in the church” ·

[\[more\]](#)

synonyms:

refuge · haven · harbor · port in a storm · oasis · shelter · retreat · bolthole ·

[\[more\]](#)

It's called Roy's Basement.

The name is derived primarily from the fact that it is, in fact, a basement, beneath the home of Ariel Roy Francisco in Gainesville, VA. The space is dominated by a teal cloth, 9-ft. Diamond pool table that sits on shoeshine wooden floors. Just beyond one of the short rails is a memorabilia wall, covered with pho-

tos and a shelf above, upon which sit a variety of trophies, and a couple of those oversized winning checks they hand out at the end of major tourna-

ments. What you can't see in a photo of the room and what is as important as the pool tools is the rest of the house, where for a portion of every



Roy and Dennis Orcollo celebrating a win



Roy, James Aranas, Grace and Kristina Tkach

year, a varying number of pool players reside, practice, learn and in some cases, teach the sport. They also go forth to compete; road warriors, traveling the country in search of major tournament victories and action cash.

Roy Francisco is a stake horse these days and the basement of his home is where his 'stable' of players comes to eat, drink, sleep and play before they head out to compete in games arranged and financed by Roy and other stake horses with their own 'stable' of players. Roy has taken the stake horse concept a step further by offering the players he backs a kind of sanctuary; a safe place that may have developed out of a harrowing incident that kept Roy Francisco out of pool rooms for 18 years.

Born in the Philippines in 1967, Ariel Roy Francisco, the last of 10 children in his family, migrated to the US when his Dad, Rafael, retired from the US Navy in 1981. Attending high school in Norfolk, Virginia, he discovered chess and before long, he was a scholastic junior champion. He was also pursuing an interest in computers, which had been his Dad's field (data processing) while stationed at Subic Bay. Roy more or less taught basic computer programming skills while still in high

school and would later study computer science for two years at Strayer University in Northern Virginia.

Like many pool players, his association with the sport began with casual play among friends. In the late 80 and early 90s, he signed on to play in an APA league. He admits to being very competitive and immediately engaged with the idea of getting better at the sport, but something else about the overall pool experience caught his attention.

"It was a small area," he said of his Virginia environs at the time, "but there were two or three pool rooms and there was a *lot* of history in those rooms; a lot of hustling road players in those days."

Among the many legends of the game that Francisco got to know was Bill "Weenie Beenie" Staton, who won the Virginia State Pool Championship five times, was a European Billiard Champion and won a World Championship One Pocket title, which led to his induction into the One Pocket Hall of Fame in 2004. In the early 1960s, Staton founded the Weenie Beenie hot dog stand chain (thus, the nickname) in Northern Virginia. Staton and his brother would then, in 1968,

open Jack and Jill's Cue Club in Arlington, VA; a room with 32 tables, a pro shop, a snack bar and a tournament area with tiered seating for 180 spectators. It became a favorite stop for East Coast pool players, like Johnny Archer, Earl Strickland and Tommy Kennedy, to name just a few, and was still in operation when Francisco started playing there in the late 80s.

"There were a lot of local players who were into the money games," said Francisco, "so I was exposed to this kind of thing and it intrigued me. I started to think that maybe I could be more than just an APA player, that maybe I could go out and be a money player or find myself a player."

He hooked up for a spell with high school classmate Max Eberle and they made some road trips together, traveling to New Orleans, for example, where the whole issue of pool gambling was still a "grey area" legally.

"This is what happened," said Francisco of the next step toward Roy's Basement. "In the early 90s, I heard about this US Open 9-Ball event that happened every year in Norfolk and I knew that a lot of Filipino players played in that tournament. So I figured 'let me meet these guys.' I was very intrigued about the money side of it."

"I went to my first US Open event in 1992 (the year that Tommy Kennedy won)," he added. "I was there strictly because I heard about the gambling going on at Q Master Billiards."

At that US Open, he met a number of players, including the one who would become the first player in his 'stable' – Leonardo Andam.

"He came home with me and started working in Virginia," said Francisco. "That was it. This was all fueled because of the money and plans to keep making more and more."



"CEO" Grace and Roy

"I was still in my apartment at the time," he added. "My living room had the pool table in it."

From 1992 to 1998, he added steadily to his stable, as word got out that he was staking Filipino players. Among those he added in those years, was Jose Parica, with whom he traveled quite a bit on the East Coast.

"Parica was the best 'grinder' I've ever had," said Francisco. "Bustamante was around at that time. 'Ginky' (George Sansouci) loved to gamble with me back then, too. I was the one that (established) northern Virginia as a haven for Filipino players; started 'adopting' them and playing money games all around the country."

And then, in 1998

Roy and a friend were out shooting pool one night at Champion Billiards in Arlington, VA (a room that has

since closed). It's nearly 3 o'clock in the morning in the facility that was open 24 hours a day and it was "jammed," every table occupied with players. Unbeknownst to Francisco and his friend at the time, a pair of off-duty D.C. police officers, a man and a woman, were playing pool at a table nearby.

According to Francisco, a man walked into the pool hall, stepped up to the front desk, brandished a weapon and demanded cash. Francisco was never aware of the precise order of the events that occurred at that moment, but what he does remember is the sudden, paralyzing sound of gunfire, as the two nearby off-duty police officers engaged with the armed robber and bullets started flying.

Francisco and his friend hit the proverbial 'deck,' scrambling to take cover under the pool tables as the sound of gunfire and varying levels of

patron panic turned the scene chaotic. Before Francisco could adequately consider the option of exiting out of a back door, supplementary forces arrived on the scene, bursting in with weapons drawn, with little or no idea what the hell was actually going on. According to Francisco, once they ascertained that the robber had been fatally shot, and the off-duty female officer had been shot as well (as it turned out, by a ricocheting bullet from a friendly-fire weapon), they pretty much arrested everybody who hadn't managed to make it out the door.

"They ran out of handcuffs," Francisco recalled, "and had to use zip ties for everybody else."

It was the days before common usage of cell phones, and as a result, Francisco, handcuffed, couldn't reach his wife. When he was finally released and managed to reach his home, he found her waiting for him in their driveway at 8 a.m. in the morning.

"There she was, waiting for me in the driveway, seven months pregnant," said Francisco, "and I had to tell her what had happened."

"It was such a close call," he added, "and it hit me so hard, I never went back. I gave away all my pool cues. I was thinking about the baby and swore that from that point on, you'd never see me set foot in a pool room again."

And he never did, until his son turned 18.

His son, Alex was born, and by the time he was five years old, Dad had picked up a new hobby – playing poker on-line. Certainly, a work/play (poker) environment that was easier to control.

It was home. Sanctuary.

"Turns out, I had some talent at it," said Francisco, "and eventually I start-

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Roy and a couple "students"

ed making money at it. I'd be playing multiple tables at once."

He started playing live in Vegas, and would make frequent trips to Manila, where he found players with "plenty of money and no skills." It's his contention that the two disciplines – pool and poker – are full of competitors who want to be good at both.

"Good poker players want to be good pool players, and vice versa," said Francisco. "And sometimes (at casinos), you can have a crowd of both of them in the same room."

He developed his skills and the size of his bank account, while establishing poker-playing relationships with a number of active pool players; Dennis Orcollo being only one of many. And then, in 2016, a timer he'd set on that night(mare) at Champion Billiards went off when his son turned 18.

"Something popped in my head," he recalled, "and I asked myself 'What about you call all your friends from the APA and pull together another team?'"

He did just that and last year, that team placed 32nd out of 850 teams at

the APA's annual World Pool Championships in Las Vegas. In the meantime, Francisco was looking to "get the band back together," so to speak.

"I was back into it," he said, "and since I was back into it, I wanted to see the gambling part of it again. A lot of the old players were gone by then, but I met up with Dennis and we hooked up."

It was about this time that the name "Roy's Basement" started to emerge from the activities. Francisco started following all of these players around the country and live-casting whatever was going on to a Roy's Basement Facebook page. At last count, Francisco figured he had around 25,000 followers (as of this moment, the site has 22,710 and has been 'liked' by 15,000 of them). The site's front-page profile photo shows a central "Roy's Basement" logo, surrounded by cropped pictures of nine pool players, most recognizable with a single name, like Bustamante, Pagulayan, Biado, and Orcollo, and a few who, if not first-name recognizable now, will be shortly, like Johann Chua, Siming Chen, Kristina Tkach, Ruslan Chinakhov and James Aranas. Each of the

photos is framed with the symbol of a playing-card suit. The ladies are hearts, the diamonds are Orcollo, Bustamante and Pagulayan, the clubs are Aranas and Biado. Chinakhov and Chua are the spades.

He's gathered them steadily and beyond organizing and staking them in meticulously arranged and 'ruled' pool matches, he brings them home. To his house, with five bedrooms, some with a couple of beds. He and his wife, whom the players call CEO Grace, along with their now-grown son, whom they call Coach Alex feed them. They prod them into training, although some don't need as much prodding as others. Some train others. Sometimes they just play, and sometimes, they'll even kick back and play a little poker.

Wherever they're from, these 21st century road warriors identify Roy's Basement as a home away from home. Many speak a common language, and not all the same common language. The Filipinos speak Filipino. The Russians speak Russian. Siming Chen presumably speaks Chinese. They all speak English much better than most of us could manage Filipino, Russian or Chinese. And now, with the addition of a Russian 'stake horse' by the name of Dima Kvan, whom he met at a US Open (and for whom, at the time, Ruslan Chinakhov was already playing), it's even more of an international haven. And when they're there, in the Basement, they're safe.

In Roy's sanctuary.

And now. . . a word from the stable

To most of the pool-playing world, Roy's Basement and its stable of top-notch players is a collective and formidable force to be reckoned with at tournaments and action tables all over the world, particularly here in the US. For the older already road-tough-

ened players, who are not as focused on fundamentals training or needing necessarily, a place to stay while they're in America, it's something of a welcome convenience; one man (with wife and child), associated with one place, coordinating and supporting their efforts to make a living out of pool. More of a place for 'R & R' in between bouts of 'PP' (pool-playing).

Sanctuary from the grind of life on the road.

The same is somewhat true of the newer Basement residents, although for them – Tkach, Aranas and Siming Chen, for example – the training component is key, the housing is greatly appreciated and the value of the opportunity they've been presented to play, immeasurable.

"It's the dream of any pool-player," said 19-year-old Kristina Tkach from Moscow. "They've given me much more than pool and something other than just the money. They've given me an American family."

"The opportunity to make a good living, to make a good life," she added. "It's what everybody wants."

Tkach grew up around pool with her father as her first teacher. He was, reportedly, as excited as his daughter when he learned of the opportunity. Tkach had travelled here before, but this. . . this was something else altogether, and it set a wide range of emotions in motion. Fear, however, was not among them.

"Of course," said Tkach, "when you're young, you do things that you might not do when you've gotten a little older."

"I was more excited than nervous," she recalled. "My Mom was worried, but my Dad was very, very happy, because he'd taught me pool."

From early childhood, she was considering the option of becoming a pro-

fessional pool player to "make a good living, make a good life." She'd been good, even excellent in high school, but thoughts of further academic pursuits were not on her agenda.

"I was good at everything, open to many things," she said. "I was always interested in languages, but I never thought of studying the Russian language or literature, or anything."

"Pool," she added, "was pretty much the only thing I had on my mind."

As her teen years progressed, she and her Dad were actively pursuing ways to increase her activities in the world of professional pool, and though they glanced at Asia and Europe, the invitation to come to America showed up on her doorstep in October of 2018.

Allaying at least some of her Mother's concerns and maybe a few unspoken ones of her Dad's, she was able to come here with a Russian friend, another 'horse' in the Roy's Basement stable – Ruslan Chinakhov.

"He's a good friend of both me and my Dad," she said. "Ruslan is like an older brother to me and he was with me to look out for me."

Anchoring the external trappings of a family here (roof, sustenance, and a bed), was a growing sense of responsibility to perform well, not only for the personal satisfaction of private growth, but as a means of demonstrating the extent of her appreciation for her hosts and fellow players in the Basement.

"These people," she said of her Basement hosts and fellow tenants, "when you mess up, you feel as though you're failing them. When I lose, and I hate losing, I feel even worse for letting them down."

"I'm so grateful for what they're doing for me," she added, "that I feel bad when, for whatever reason, I'm not the best that I can be."

"Nowadays," says her sponsor, teacher, host and friend, Roy Francisco,





“Kristina is the MVP of money games for Roy’s Basement.”

Though emerging from a different set of circumstances, 5,139 miles away (Manila to Moscow), Zoren James Aranas feels much the same way as Tkach. There seems to be a difference in opinion as to who contacted whom three years ago that led to Aranas’ invitation to the Basement. Aranas seemed to think it was his friend, Ramon Mistica, who told him of the opportunity, while Francisco is under the impression that it was Johann Chua who was responsible for bringing them together. As to Aranas’ first reaction to the idea, like Tkach, it was less about any apprehension that might have been conceivable with such a ‘dream come true’ kind of invitation and more about what it meant, and where’s the nearest plane.

“For me,” said Aranas, a day or two before boarding another plane, on his

way to Puerto Rico for a 10-ball tournament on the last weekend in June, “I didn’t care who he was. The most important thing to me was that there was a guy in America who was willing to sponsor me.”

For Aranas, pool was already a way of life. A girlfriend and seven-year-old daughter put that in the category of necessity, and when the invitation reached him, he was already hard at work putting the roof over his head and food on the table with a pool cue. Aranas and Francisco reached each other via Facebook Messenger to solidify the invitation and discuss its particulars. Like Tkach’s father, Aranas’ girlfriend probably had a few unspoken misgivings about packing him off to America leaving her in sole charge of their child, but she supported the decision.

“She said to me, ‘This is your time. This is it,’” he said. “Once we get you

the visa,’ she said to me, ‘you’re going to America. For our future, especially for our daughter.”

When he arrived in the US, flying into LA and then, on to Las Vegas, he wasn’t exactly sure what to expect. And having witnessed the phenomenon of Las Vegas, only through the pages of Facebook and films, it was a little overwhelming, but not nearly as overwhelming as what Francisco had planned for him.

“He didn’t tell me there was a tournament going on,” said Aranas. “I came in July (2017), got there too late to play in the 10-Ball Open and played in the BCAPL National Championships.”

Given the circumstances, it wasn’t too much of a surprise that he lost to Josh Roberts in an opening-round, double-hill match. What was something of a surprise was that he went on to win 11 matches on the loss side, downing, among others, Vilmos Foldes (a shut-out), Jason Klatt, and Alex Kazakis (in the semifinals). It was countryman Warren Kiamco, who stopped his run in the finals to claim that event title. Then, in a manner of speaking, after going head-to-head in some action with Corey Deuel, he went home.

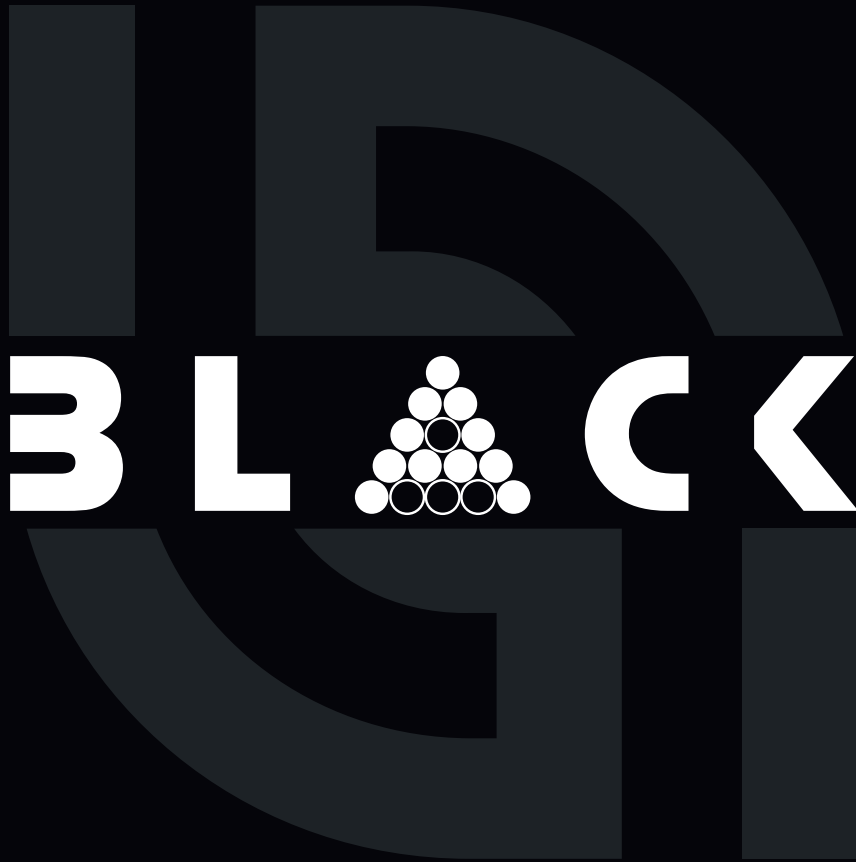
“I went with Roy to his home in Virginia,” he said. “It was the first time I’d ever been here and I thought, ‘This is my dream. This is where I belong.”

His introduction and on-going relationship to the Basement had an almost immediate effect on his game. He didn’t magically get better or anything like that, but the existence of a home away from home was of unmistakable value to him.

“I felt like it gave me more strength to play my best,” he said, “because someone was willing to help me.”

“I felt I owed it to Roy to be the best that I could be,” he added in an echo of Tkach’s feelings on the subject.

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"I wanted him (Roy) to feel that he wasn't going to regret helping me."

And to date, at least, Roy doesn't.

"Roy's Basement is a good place to train," said Roy. "We're going to train you in a way that you haven't been trained before. I want to make sure you get proper training and all the resources to help your game."

And the training, it should be noted, is not an all top-down experience. The older players help the younger players, the young players help each other and Roy, CEO Grace and Coach Alex are there to help everybody ("They all tip CEO Grace," said Roy. "They all want to make her happy.") They all contribute to what Aranas believes is the most important part of the experience.

"Work discipline," he said. "When (Roy's) with me, watching my game, he's always telling me how to improve, to practice this shot or that shot. When I got here, they were all trying to help me and I'd never really gotten that kind of (help) before."

"And I end up trying to help Kristina, too," he added, "so it's not just about older, more experienced players teaching a younger generation. It's about the younger players commenting on each other's games. What Alex (Pagulayan) tells me, I can share with Kristina."

With the inclusion of the Reality TV component of Roy following the players in his stable around with a camera, recording activities that range from the mundane to the practical, Roy's Basement is developing a bit of a reputation, and not just for the quirky entertainment value of players caught in the act of living out there lives.

"I back what I say," said Roy. "If I promise a pool player that a match is going to be conducted (in a certain way), it gets conducted that way. I deliver on the money end of things. People are loving the live-casting of their activities; the way they eat, train and they've even gotten a little famous for karaoke."

"Everything," he added, "is about how it's being done (and a part of that) is being protective of what they're doing."

More than just a game, a home away from home, a family and a community of professional pool players under one roof. It is arguably, too, about that moment, 18 years ago, when for

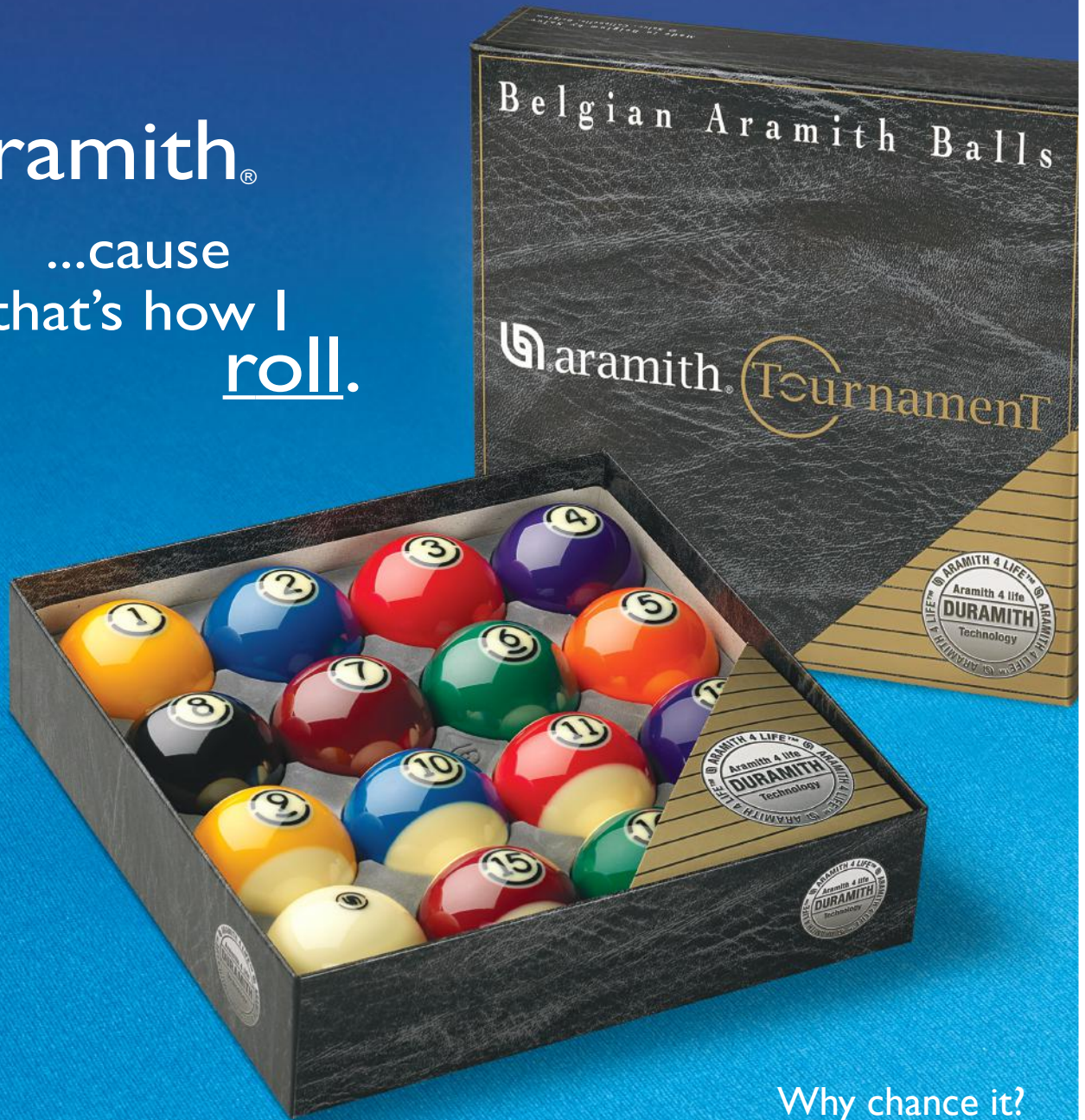
a brief, scary moment, Ariel Roy Francisco did not feel safe. Coming back to the sport, he built an enterprise that would foster, train and provide talented pool players, young and old, with a safe place to be.

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Bryant comes from the loss side to defend WPBA Blue Emu title at Borderline Billiards in TN

It began on Thursday, May 30 with a preliminary tournament made up of 30 lower-ranked players from the Women's Professional Billiards Association (WPBA) and ended on Sunday night, June 2 with the crowning of defending champion Brittany Bryant, who had to come from the loss side (five matches) to meet Kyoko Sone in the finals of the WPBA's Signature Tour Stop, the Blue-Emu Southern Open.

The \$10,000-added event drew a total of 62 entrants, including Janet Atwell to her venue, Borderline Billiards in Bristol, TN.

The event was not exactly a proverbial 'walk in the park' for the WPBA's

#4-ranked player. Bryant won the event, having won less than 60% of the games she played in it (70-49; 58.8%). The seven opponents she faced in races-to-8 chalked up an average of five racks against her. She got by Kelly Cavanaugh, Jessica Barnes and Mary

Rakin by an aggregate score of 24-7, but against her other four race-to-8 opponents (LoreeJon Hasson, Allison Fisher, Melissa Little & Jennifer Baretta) she chalked up an aggregate of 32-26, or 55%. Not surprising necessarily, given the upgrade in the competition



Brittany Bryant

over those four matches. And then, of course, there was the third-round, 4-8 loss to Gail Eaton, which really did a job on the 'numbers.' Without that loss, Bryant would have finished with an overall game-winning average of just over 60% (62.8), rather than less.

"I go to every event to win it," said Bryant, "but I didn't go with any expectations this year. "There were actually a few more players who were higher up (in rankings) than there were last year when I won it."

The 'First Stage' double elimination bracket yielded 16 players who advanced to the Final Stage; eight from the winners' side and eight from the loss side of that bracket. Among those who emerged from that bracket was runner-up Kyoko Sone, who lost her opening round match, double hill to Mary Rakin. Rakin advanced to defeat Kelly Isaac 7-5 and become one of the eight winners' side competitors to advance to the Final Stage. Sone moved to the loss side, where she defeated Toni Esteves and Janet Ritcey, both 7-2, to become one of the eight loss-side competitors to advance to the final stage.

The other winners' side competitors to advance to the Final Stage were Jennifer Berzinski, Jessica Human, Hiroko Makiyama, Ashley Burrows, Stephanie Mitchell, Kia Sidbury and Billie Billings. The other loss-side competitors to advance were Autumn Duncan, Kelly Isaac, Susan Wilbur, Julie Cooper, Angela Janic, Stephanie Goens, and Catherine Tschumper.

Moving into the Final Stage, beginning on Friday, May 31, the 16 arrivals from the preliminary bracket faced 16 players more or less in the middle of the WPBA rankings (approximately #17-#32). The winners in this opening round of Final Stage play advanced to meet the WPBA's top 16 players, who had been awarded opening round byes.



Kyoko Sone, Janet Atwell and Brittany Bryant

Of the WPBA's top 16 players who waited until Friday evening to begin competing, only three failed to advance on the winners' side past their opening match; Jessica Barnes (WPBA-ranked #16) was defeated 8-2 by Kyoko Sone, Gerda Gregerson (#8) lost to Mary Rakin 8-6 and Emily Duddy (#10) joined them on the loss side following an 8-3 defeat at the hands of Naomi Williams. Among the more notable matches in this round of play, and the only one to go double hill was the battle between Allison Fisher and Russian teenager Kristina Tkach, who, a week earlier, had been the only female to compete in the Open/Pro event of the 9th Annual George "Ginky" Sansouci Memorial in New York City (she finished in the tie for 5th place). She was defeated by Fisher here and went on to win two loss-side matches before being eliminated by Line Kjorsvik.

A final round on Friday night brought the field down to the winners' side quarterfinals. Kyoko Sone had sent Line Kjorsvik to the loss side and on Saturday night, faced Mary Rakin, who, after her victory over Gregerson,

had sent hostess and WPBA-ranked #9 Janet Atwell over. Brittany Bryant, who'd defeated Loree Jon Hasson was to meet up with Gail Eaton, who'd gotten by Melissa Little. Fisher followed up her win over Tkach with a victory over Jia Li and on Saturday night, faced Naomi Williams, who had just survived a double hill battle against Helena Thornfeldt. The last of the winners' side quarterfinals pitted Jennifer Baretta against Monica Webb.

These matches elicited the winners' side semifinals, which began immediately afterwards. Sone, who'd downed Rakin 8-5 met Eaton, who'd sent Bryant to the loss side 8-4, as Fisher, who'd defeated Williams 8-3 met Baretta, who'd gotten by Webb 8-5.

"I have to give Gail so much credit," said Bryant of her only loss in the tournament. "I have never seen her play that well. I was down 7-1, took a break, composed myself and got it to 7-4."

"I wasn't disappointed," she added. "I didn't play poorly and Gail took control when she needed to."

Sone advanced to the hot seat match 8-3 over Eaton. Fisher and Baretta, almost predictably, fought to double hill before Baretta prevailed to join Sone in the hot seat match. Sone downed Baretta 8-4 to claim the hot seat and waited on what turned out to be Bryant's fateful return.

Meanwhile, back at the loss-side ranch, Bryant and Melissa Little were laying in wait for Fisher and Eaton, respectively. Bryant had defeated Jessica Barnes 8-2 and Mary Rakin 8-3 to draw Fisher. Little had won four loss-side matches, including a double hill win over Naomi Williams and an 8-4 victory over Kjorsvik to draw Eaton. Little made it five in a row with an 8-5 win over Eaton and advanced to the quarterfinals. Bryant joined her after surviving a double hill fight against Fisher.

"I expected to go back and forth with Allison," she said. "It was actually the first time I had ever beaten her. I end-

ed up breaking and running at double hill to win it."

Bryant followed her double hill win over Fisher with a double hill win over Little in the quarterfinals and for the second time, she finished with a break and run. In the semifinals, Jennifer Baretta came within a game of giving Bryant a third straight, double hill challenge, but Bryant edged out in front at the end to win it 8-6.

"I was up 6-2 in that match and she came back (to almost tie it)," Bryant said. "And then, there was a big game swinger, when she could have tied it at 6-6, but I won to go up 7-5. She won a game and I won the next game to win the match."

The finals between defending champion Bryant and Sone came within a game of going double hill, as well, but for the second time in a row, Bryant edged out in front at the end to win it 10-8 and claim the 2019 Blu-Emu Southern Open.

"We didn't make a lot of mistakes," said Bryant of the final match. "She broke and ran the opening game and we had a few safety battles. I was up 6-2 and she started to make a comeback."

As with the semifinal match against Baretta, Sone had the opportunity to tie things up at 6-6.

"She missed a key 8-ball to tie it up (at 6-6)," she said, "so it was 7-5 and I won the next three."

WPBA representatives thanked Janet Atwell and her Borderline Billiards staff for hosting the event, as well as sponsors Simonis Cloth, Aramith, Diamond Billiard Products and Outsville.com. The next WPBA event, scheduled for August 8-11, will be a \$10,000-added Signature Event, to be held in Fairfield, IL. Further details will be available soon. Bryant said that she plans to be in attendance.

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Herndon hangs on to win NAPT West Coast Challenge

It's the kind of match that spectator fans love to see. A player sends an opponent to the loss side in an early round and that opponent treks all the way back through the loss side to face that opponent in the finals.

And then, it's a double elimination final and the loss side opponent wins the first set, double hill. They battle a second time to double hill and the hot seat occupant finally wins it. So went the North American Pool Tour's (NAPT) Division I West Coast Challenge, a 10-ball tour-

namment, held on the long weekend of June 20-23 at Hard Times Billiards in Sacramento, CA. It was Melissa Herndon who sent Veronique Menard to the loss side in the event. Menard won seven on the loss side and defeated Herndon double hill in the opening set of the double elimination final.

Herndon returned the favor, defeating Menard in the second set, double hill to claim the title. The event drew 33 entrants to Hard Time Billiards.

Herndon and Menard clashed first in the second round of play. Herndon had opened with a 7-1 victory over Sa-

mantha Hill, while Menard was busy downing Sher Ahola 7-3. Herndon took the first of their three matches 7-4 and moved on past Bernie Store (7-3) to arrive at a winners' side semifinal against Rachel Lang. Eleanor Callado, in the meantime, who'd almost been sent to the loss side in the opening round, survived that double hill match against Laura Bendikas and advanced to defeat Amani Ali 7-1, and shut out Kelly Nickl to arrive at the other winners' side semifinal against Khanh Ngo.

On the loss side, it was Lang who ran into Menard, four matches into her loss side streak, which had most recently eliminated Stephanie Hefner 7-3 and Nickl 7-5. Ngo picked up Bernie Store, who, following her defeat at the hands of Herndon, had survived two straight double hill fights against Janna Sue Nelson and Sher Ahola.

Bernie Store's third straight double hill match was not the proverbial 'charm' she'd hoped it would be. Ngo hung on to win the match and advance to the quarterfinals, where she was met by Menard, who'd chalked up loss-side win #5 against Lang 7-1. Menard then put an end to Ngo's weekend with a 7-3 win in the quarterfinals and followed up with a 7-5 win over Callado in the semifinals.



Veronique Ménéard

It was clear from the opening set of the final that neither of these women was going to go quietly. Menard had the usual momentum boost from seven matches on the loss side and Herndon knew she only had to win one more set to go home with the top prize. Herndon arguably had more at stake than Menard did. They'd both been around competing since the turn of the century, but in recent years, Herndon had been taking time off for a job and a husband routine. For her, standing on the brink of her first major title in years, there was an "I'm back" feel to the whole process,

which would have felt good no matter how the finals turned out, but winning it was clearly on her mind and in her game.

Menard took an early, short lead in the opening set, but Herndon caught up to tie things at 4-4. The ninth rack turned into a back-and-forth safety battle as they both worked at dropping the 5-ball. Menard broke through, but jumped up, shooting at the 8-ball and turned the table over to Herndon. Herndon dropped it, but scratched shooting at the 9-ball, giving Menard a ball-in-hand shot at the 10-ball and immediately thereafter, the lead.

Herndon took the 10th rack to tie things at 5-5. Menard took game 11 to reach the hill first. With a connect-the-dots finish to rack #12, Menard missed the 9-ball, allowing Herndon to finish and force a deciding rack. Menard broke and ran rack #13, claiming the first set and forcing a second.

Tension mounts in the second set of a true double elimination final like an old-fashioned Jack in the Box. Especially when it goes back and forth as this one did. The crank keeps turning, ratcheting up the tension, as you brace for that damn clown to jump out at you.



Khanh Ngo



Eleanor Callado

Two things were evident right from the start of the second set. No one was going to jump out to any kind of substantial lead. They were both tight and cautious, one game at a time. And they were getting a bit tired. Making mistakes; missing shots, rattling them in holes, putting each other in tough situations and alternately shooting right out of them.

They established a lead/tie pattern right from the start, with Menard taking the first rack, Herndon, the second. Back and forth to a 2-2 tie, until Herndon threatened to go out in front for the first time as she aimed at the 10-ball. She missed it, tapping the 10-ball to concede the rack and the pattern resumed, all the way to a 4-4 tie.

Herndon broke the pattern, and took her first lead, 5-4, in game #9, and with nothing but the 9 and 10-ball to go in rack #10, she threatened to go up by two. She left herself in an awkward position shooting at the 9-ball and missed it, allowing Menard to knot things at 5-5.

Herndon misjudged a position shot in game #11 that left a 5-ball hanging in the pocket and allowed Menard to recapture the lead and reach the hill first at 6-5.

At this point, Menard was probably the only person in the room, or the extended chat world that didn't want Herndon to tie things up at 6-6 to force a deciding game. Herndon being the strongest proponent for forcing a game #13, tried to accomplish it a little early, going for a 5-10 combo, which she rushed and missed. Menard dropped the 5-ball and with five balls down and five to go, things looked grim for Herndon.

Menard made it to a shot at the 8-ball, which she attempted to put into a side pocket. But she over-anxiously hit it way too hard and when it caromed off the rail next to the side pocket, it looked as though it had enough speed

on it to reach a table in New York City. Herndon stepped to the table and promptly tied the match at 6-6.

Herndon broke the final rack, sinking the 8-ball and giving herself a decent look at the 1-ball. But like Menard, she got a little over-anxious and bounced the 1-ball off the side rail. Subsequent ball action dropped two other balls. Since the ball at which Herndon was shooting didn't drop, 10-ball rules dictated that Menard had the option of taking over or allowing Herndon to keep shooting. Menard chose to shoot, ran to the 5-ball and rattled it in and out of the side pocket.

Herndon played safe and Menard safed her right back, but not quite good enough. Herndon made a terrific, long-table, oblique angle shot on that 5-ball that drifted it within less than an inch or two of two other balls on its way into the corner pocket. Herndon dropped the last three balls and claimed the NAPT's West Coast Challenge title.

NAPT President Adrienne Beach thanked the ownership and staff at Hard Time Billiards, as well as Cue Sports Live and the players who made it out to play. The next Division I NAPT event, scheduled for August 15-18 will be the 4th Annual NAPT Summer Classic, to be hosted by Shooter's Sports Bar and Billiards in Grayslake, IL.



Melissa Herndon, Eleanor Callado, Khanh Ngo and Veronique Menard

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Van Boening Captures Bank Pool and 14.1 US Open Titles, falls to Kiamco in One Pocket

Just about every pool fan knows the numbers. “The South Dakota Kid” Shane Van Boening has won five US Open 9-Ball titles and is currently tied with Earl “The Pearl” Strickland for most career US Open 9-Ball titles won.

What some fans might not be aware of though is that across all of the US Open events, Van Boening has actually won fifteen titles. Prior to this year, Van Boening had won US Open titles in 8-Ball, 9-Ball, 10-Ball, One Pocket and

Bank Pool. The US Open 14.1 Championship was the only title that had evaded him, and he would capture that title this year.

The 9 day pool extravaganza at Griff’s in Las Vegas Nevada kicked off on

May 24th with the US Open Bank Pool Championship. This was the second year for this event, and Van Boening had won the title in 2018. Day one of the event didn’t see any real upsets with Van Boening sending Ian Costello and Gus Briseno to the one loss side. Billy Thorpe made quick work of Gary Lutman and Mitch Ellerman to remain undefeated. In the bottom half of the bracket, Warren Kiamco took care of Javier Valenzuela and Marc Vidal Claramunt while John Morra quietly handled John Phillips and last year’s runner-up Neal Jacobs.

Day two saw the winner’s side get down to just two players with Thorpe edging out Van Boening in a hard fought hill-hill battle and Morra defeating Kiamco 4-1. On the one loss side, Gary Lutman was on a mission, taking down Joel Peck, Neal Jacobs and Marc Vidal. Also staying alive on the left side of the board was Mitch Ellerman with wins over Gus Briseno and John Phillips.

The hot-seat in this event went to Billy Thorpe after a lopsided 4-1 win over John Morra. On the one loss side, Van Boening eliminated Lutman, and Kiamco did the same to Ellerman. Van Boening then blanked both Kiamco and Morra 4-0 to earn the rematch with Thorpe in the extended final match. That match would go to Van Boening in a thrilling hill-hill match.

The US Open 14.1 Championship got underway next, where Van Boening would have the chance to add that trophy to his trophy case. Van Boen-



ing met Kiamco for the hot-seat after wins over Marc Vidal and Billy Thorpe. Kiamco's wins were over Ian Costello and Gabe Owen. After a first round loss to Max Eberle, Corey Deuel had wins over Ian Costello and John Morra before losing a close 125-113 match to Morra. Marc Vidal had left side wins over Bob Jewett and Eberle before falling to Gabe Owen.

Van Boening captured the hot-seat with a 125-68 win over Kiamco while Thorpe was taking a longer route to a final match rematch against Van Boening. After a come from behind win over Deuel, Thorpe eliminated Owen in a nail biter 125-98 and then beat Kiamco in a much shorter 125-27 contest. Shane then made it "two in a row" with a dominating 125-29 win over Thorpe in the finals.

The final event was the US Open One Pocket. Van Boening won his second US Open One Pocket title in 2018 and was tied with Dennis Orcollo and Cliff



Warren Kiamco

Joyner who also both have two titles to their credit.

Gabe Owen did what he could to keep Shane from a third title with a 3-1 win in the third round to send Van Boening to unfamiliar territory on the one loss side. Owen would go on to defeat Corey Deuel before finally falling to Kiamco for the hot-seat in a grinding 5+ hour 3-1 match. Van Boening fought his way through the one loss side with wins over Ian Costello, Morra, Ellerman, Deuel and Owen to earn his place in his third straight final match. Van Boening would have to settle for just two titles for this trip though, as Kiamco won the extended final match 4-2 in a high powered shootout for the title.

In addition to prize money for each event, Van Boening pocketed a \$3,500 bonus for All Around Points Leader and Kiamco received \$1,500 and the invitation to this summer's \$100,000 added Predator World 10-Ball Invitational.



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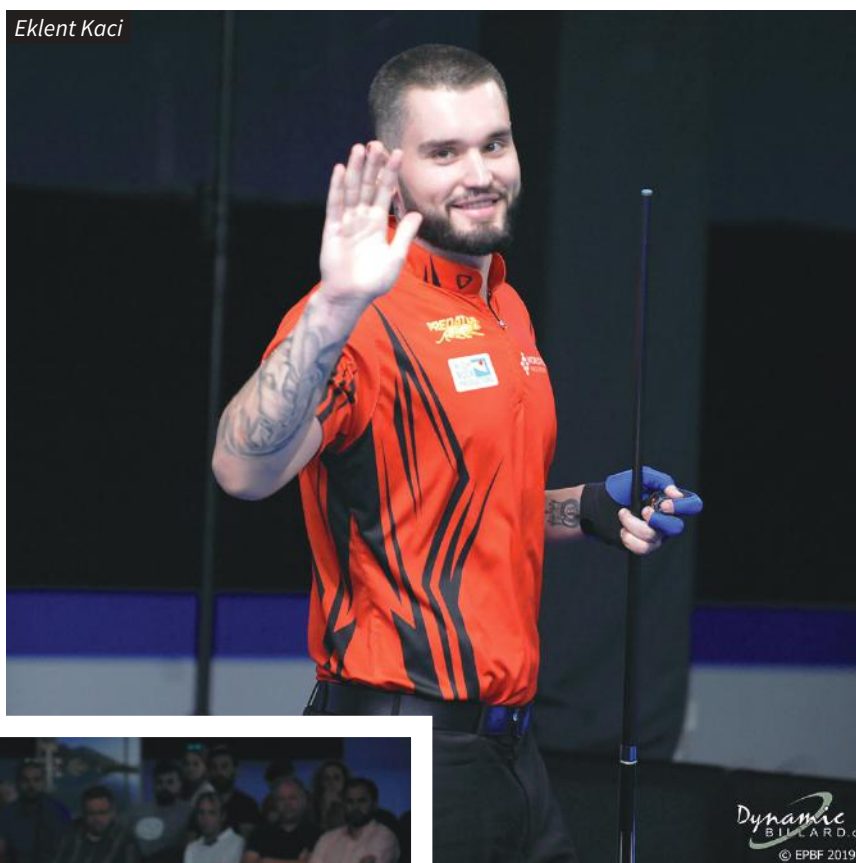



Kaci over Filler

in St. Johann at the Euro-Tour

In a thrilling and high class pool match, Eklent Kaci (ALB) took his next title at the Dynamic Billard St. Johann im Pongau Open 2019 by winning the final match over Joshua Filler (GER) with a 9-6 scoreline.

For the first time in a long time now, the #1 seeded player in a Euro-Tour event met the #2 seeded player in the final match. Today, Kaci (#1) and Filler (#2) made that clash come true and high class pool entertainment was guaranteed. And the final match kept the promise and fulfilled the high expectations. Both players played up to their limit, knowing that the winner of that encounter would be the #1 ranked player after this tournament. Players took racks in turn until the scoreboard displayed 5-5. Kaci then managed to get a 2-rack advantage over Filler, leading 7-5. Filler got to 7-6, but Kaci answered that and won the next rack for an 8-6 lead. With Kaci on the hill, Joshua Filler broke rack 15 but committed an illegal break. Kaci used that chance and ran the table to win the event and take another title at the Euro-Tour.



Eklent Kaci



Joshua Filler

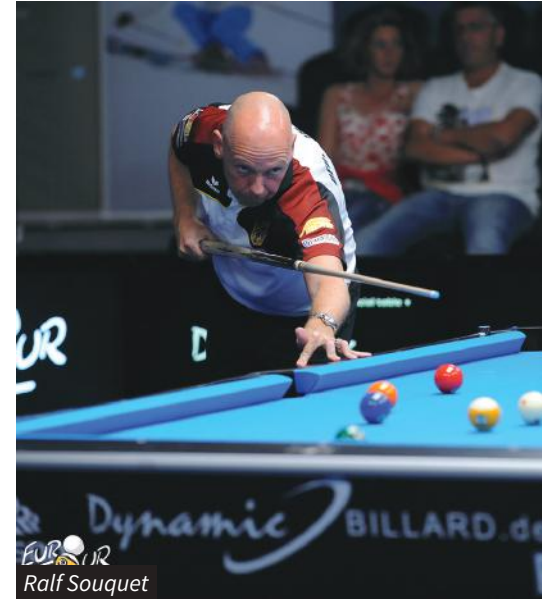
TOP EIGHT FINISHERS

1. Eklent Kaci ALB
2. Joshua Filler GER
3. Damianos Giallourakis GRE
Ralf Souquet GER
5. Konrad Juszczyszyn POL
Konstantin Stepanov RUS
Mario He AUT
Ivo Aarts NED

Damianos Giallourakis



(EPBF) and organized by International Billiard Promotion (IBP). For further information and reference please go to the federation website www.eurotouroonline.com or visit us on Facebook for regular news clips or contact our press office press@epbf.com.



The Dynamic Billard St. Johann im Pongau Open was played in the Sport-hotel Alpina Alpendorf in St. Johann im Pongau, Austria, on 22 tables which were all streamed LIVE throughout the whole event. To watch archived matches and catch future Eurotour action LIVE, premium membership can be obtained at www.kozoom.com.

Once a premium membership is held, all events for the respective period of time can be viewed LIVE. Additionally, a huge video gallery is contained on the website

The event was hosted by the European Governing Body for Pool, the European Pocket Billiard Federation



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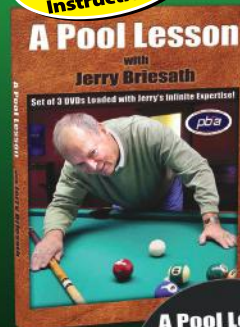
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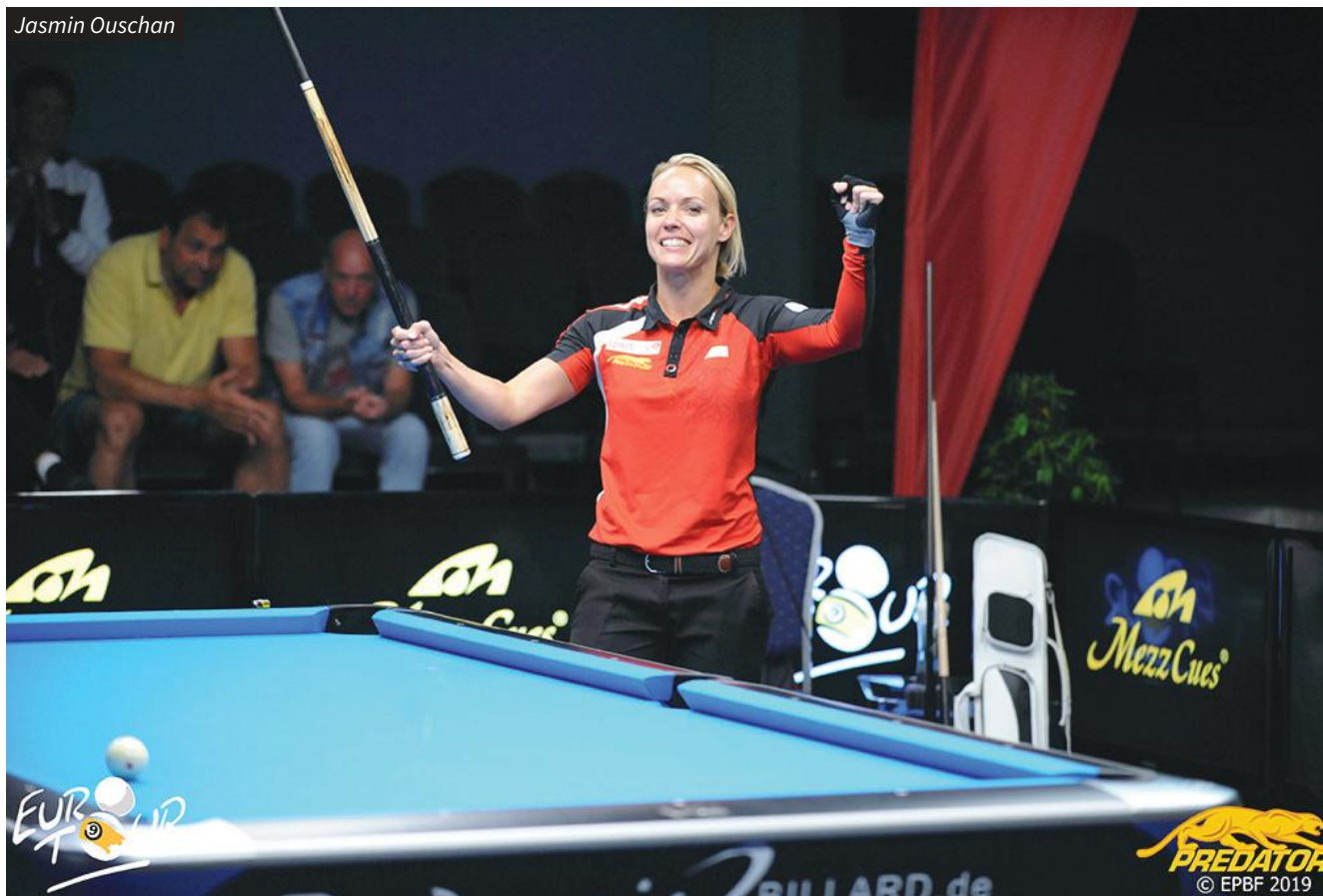
OUSCHAN CONQUERS ST. JOHANN IM PONGAU ONCE MORE

Once again, Jasmin Ouschan (AUT) won a tournament in her home country. In the final match of the Predator St. Johann im Pongau Open 2019, she smashed Marharyta Fefilava (BLR) 7-1.

The final match started well for Fefilava. She missed the 9-ball and almost gave the first rack away to Ouschan. But Ouschan was left with a tough shot and also missed, giving the present back to Fefilava, who then pocketed the 1-ball to take a 1-0 lead. In the next rack, Fefilava once again missed an easy shot. This time the 3-ball hung in the corner pocket. Ouschan got to the table and

cleared it in her special style, leaving no room for doubt or errors. Ouschan had arrived in her usual tournament mode. If a player wants to have a chance against Ouschan, one must play focused in the beginning and use the chances that are given, if any. Committing mistakes against the Austrian player is almost like surrendering. At 3-1 for Ouschan, Fefilava got to the table after an illegal break from

Ouschan. After an exchange of safety shots, Ouschan committed a foul and allowed Fefilava to get to the table with ball in hand. To the horror of the audience, Fefilava hooked herself behind the 6-ball straight after her first shot. She was completely off track in the match. Ouschan stayed cold as ice and ran another rack for a comfortable 4-1 lead over a shaking Fefilava. The next time Fefilava got to the table,



Veronika Hubrtova



Marharyta Fefilava



the score was already 5-1. Ouschan again had an illegal break in the seventh rack and Fefilava ran table but and again missed the 9-ball. It was a serious letdown for the player from Belarus, who made her way into this final with some great performances but seemed to totally collapse in the final against Ouschan. Jasmin Ouschan however, stayed focused and played her game, taking the title by winning 7-1 over a devastated Fefilava.

The Dynamic Billard St. Johann im Pongau Open was played in the Sporthotel Alpina Alpendorf in St. Johann im Pongau, Austria, on 22 tables which were all streamed LIVE throughout the whole event. To watch archived matches and catch future Eurotour action LIVE, premium membership can be obtained at www.kozoom.com. Once a premium membership is held, all events for the respective period of time can be viewed LIVE. Additionally, a huge video gallery is contained on the website.

The event was hosted by the European Governing Body for Pool, the European Pocket Billiard Federation (EPBF) and organized by International Billiard Promotion (IBP). For further information and reference please go to the federation website www.eurotouronline.com or visit us on Facebook for regular news clips or contact our press office press@epbf.com.

In the semi-finals, Ouschan defeated Sara Rocha (POR) after a tight match 7-5. Fefilava took down surprise player Veronika Hubrtova (CZE) 7-4. Worth mentioning are also the 5th place finishes of Monika Margeta (SWE), Ina Kaplan (GER), Tamara Peeters (NED) and Diana Khodjaeva (BEL).

TOP EIGHT FINISHERS

- 1. Jasmin Ouschan AUT
- 2. Marharyta Fefilava BLR
- 3. Veronika Hubrtova CZE
Sara Rocha POR
- 5. Ina Kaplan GER
Tamara Peeters NED
Monika Margeta SWE
Diana Khodjaeva BEL

Sara Rocha



Sossei over Fleming *for Joss Tour Fourpeat*

While Jeremy Sossei has won the last three Joss NE 9-Ball Tour stops, he has had to win the last two with one loss. That was what he did again at Snookers Billiards in Providence, RI on June 1st - 2nd for the final regular season stop on the tour.

Sossei cruised through Saturday's matches undefeated with wins over Lida Mullendore, Jim Prather, Ranulf Tamba and Dev Bhattacharya. The closest any opponent got to Sossei on Saturday was Tamba at 9-4. Sossei's undefeated run came to an end on Sunday morning, as he dropped his first match of the day to Pat Fleming 9-6. After that match, Fleming went on to defeat Tom D'Alfonso 9-5 for the hot-seat.

Sossei got by Francisco Cabral 7-4 and Jared Demalia 7-2, to earn the match against D'Alfonso in the semi-finals. That match would go hill-hill before Sossei pocketed the final nine ball. The time in the hot-seat might have proved to be a negative for Fleming, as Sossei proceeded to win the first set of the finals 9-4 and then the second set 7-3. The win was Sossei's 6th of the season and his 4th in a row.

Sunday's "Second Chance" tournament saw Bob Madenjian with a 3-1

win over Ray Buthe for the hot-seat and then facing Nick Coppola in the finals. Coppola won the first set of the finals 3-2, but Madenjian came back to take the second set 3-2 for the win.

The stop at Snookers was the final regular season tour stop and players will now prepare for the Turning Stone Classic XXXII on August 22nd - 25th at the Turning Stone Casino in Verona, NY. That event is full, but fans are invited to watch the action in person with free admission on all four days of the event.

Jeremy Sossei, Pat Fleming and Snookers Owner Steve Goulding



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IWAN SIMONIS NAMED PRESENTING SPONSOR Of BEF Junior National 9-Ball Championships

The Billiard Education Foundation announced today Iwan Simonis has agreed to be the presenting sponsor of the 2019 BEF Junior National 9-Ball Championships, taking place July 23 – 27 at the South Point Convention Center, in conjunction with the 2019 BCA Expo.

“**F**or decades, Iwan Simonis has been committed to supporting youth play, including sponsoring tournaments and events aimed at promoting the game to junior players as well as those who support junior players learning the game,” said Iwan Simonis North American President Ivan Lee. “We firmly believe the future of billiards begins with juniors having positive experiences with the game at a young age so they can be encouraged and excited enough to make it a lifetime passion. Our responsibility as leaders in the industry is to help create a great experience for junior players who are getting their first experiences playing competitive pool. The BEF Junior National 9-Ball Championships continues to grow in participation and prestige because of the positive experience our juniors have at the event and we look forward to continuing our support of the organization.”

In addition to serving as presenting sponsor for the event, Iwan Simonis has thrown its support behind the



event by providing product to billiard rooms who hold BEF National Qualifiers, including Iwan Simonis Cloth and Aramith Tournament Balls. Additionally, Iwan Simonis has supported the Atlantic Challenge Cup over its entire existence and supports additional junior programs nationally and internationally.

“We are thrilled that Iwan Simonis has extended their relationship with the Billiard Education Foundation as the

presenting sponsor of the BEF Junior National Championships,” said BEF Managing Director Rob Johnson. “The BEF enjoys a strong and long-standing partnership with Iwan Simonis. They recognize the need to provide a great experience for juniors and provide the resources to allow the BEF to continue its mission of building the next generation of players through youth programs. These programs are reliant on companies who believe it's their responsibility to help to grow and promote the game.”

The 2019 Junior National 9-Ball Championships will be held at the South Point Hotel Casino and Spa in Las Vegas, Nevada July 23 - 27, 2019. The competition will feature boys' and girls' 18 and under, 16 and under and 14 and under divisions. Juniors will have an opportunity to compete for academic scholarships, prizes, and an opportunity to represent North America at the 2019 World Pool-Billiard Association World Junior 9-Ball Championships. The deadline to register for Nationals is June 16, 2019.




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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.

JULY - AUGUST

Diamond Las Vegas Open

06/17 - 07/20

Rio All-Suite Hotel & Casino
Las Vegas, NV

Sunshine State Pro Am Tour 2019

07/13 - 07/14

Racks Billiards
Sanford, Florida
Website: <http://www.sunshinestate-proamtour.com/>

Action Pool Tour 2019 Stop 7 Open Division

07/13 - 07/14

Peninsula Billiards
Newport News, Virginia
Website: <http://www.actionpooltour.com>

Northern Virginia Amateur Tour Stop

07/20 - 07/21

7 Billiards
Gaithersburg, Maryland
Website: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/267290537455630>

WPA World 10-Ball Championship 2019

07/22 - 07/26

Rio All-Suite Hotel & Casino
Las Vegas, NV

2019 BEF Junior Nationals

07/23 - 07/27

South Point Hotel & Convention Center
Las Vegas, NV
Website: <http://billiardeducation.org/>

US Open 10-Ball Championship 2019

08/08 - 08/10

Griff's
Las Vegas, Nevada
Website: <http://www.playcspool.com/>

US Open 8-Ball Championship 2019

08/11 - 08/13

Griff's
Las Vegas, Nevada

2019 NAPT Summer 10-Ball Classic

08/15 - 08/18

Shooters
Grayslake, Illinois
Website: <http://www.playnapt.com/>

Action Pool Tour 2019 Stop 8 Open Division

08/17 - 08/18

Champion Billiards & Sports Café
Frederick, MD
Website: <http://www.actionpooltour.com>

Turning Stone Classic XXXII 9-Ball Open

08/22 - 08/25

Turning Stone Casino
Verona, NY
Website: <http://www.joss9balltour.com/>

Northern Virginia Amateur Tour Stop

08/24 - 08/25

Breakers Sky Lounge
Herndon, Va
Website: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/267290537455630>

Midwest Ladies Regional Tour 2019 Stop #3

08/24 - 08/24

The League Room,
West Virginia
Website: <http://www.midwestladies-stour.com>



Billiards Buzz
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Tourney Results

05/24 - 05/26

2019 US Open Bank Pool

Griff's

- Las Vegas, Nevada
- 1 Shane Van Boening \$8,000
 - 2 Billy Thorpe \$5,000
 - 3 John Morra \$3,000
 - 4 Warren Kiamco \$1,500
 - 5 Mitch Ellerman \$750
 - 5 Gary Lutman \$750

05/27 - 05/29

US Open Straight Pool Championship 2019

Griff's

- Las Vegas, Nevada
- 1 Shane Van Boening \$8,000
 - 2 Billy Thorpe \$4,400
 - 3 Warren Kiamco \$2,000
 - 4 Gabe Owen \$1,000

05/30 - 06/01

2019 US Open One Pocket Championship

Griff's

- Las Vegas, Nevada
- 1 Warren Kiamco \$8,000
 - 2 Shane Van Boening \$5,000
 - 3 Gabe Owen \$3,000
 - 4 Corey Deuel \$1,650
 - 5 Mitch Ellerman \$900
 - 5 Alex Pagulayan \$900

05/30 - 06/02

Beasley Custom Cues Open 9-Ball

Brass Tap Billiards

- Raleigh, NC
- 1 James Aranas \$5,200
 - 2 Skyler Woodward \$3,250
 - 3 Francisco Bustamante \$2,050
 - 4 Mike Davis \$1,340
 - 5 Omar Al Shaheen \$825
 - 5 Keith Bennett \$825
 - 7 Brandon Shuff \$525
 - 7 Roberto Gomez \$525
 - 9 Brad Shearer \$315
 - 9 Dennis Orcollo \$315
 - 9 Dimitris Loukatos \$315
 - 9 Dale Stanley \$315
 - 13 Manny Perez \$200
 - 13 Alexandros Kazakis \$200
 - 13 Joey Tate \$200
 - 13 Junior Avery \$200

05/30 - 06/02

WPBA BLU-EMU Southern Open Signature Tour Stop 2019

Borderline Billiards

- Bristol, TN
- 1 Brittany Bryant \$5,000
 - 2 Kyoko Sone \$3,500
 - 3 Jennifer Barretta \$2,500
 - 4 Melissa Little \$2,000
 - 5 Allison Fisher \$1,500
 - 5 Gail Eaton \$1,500

- 7 Mary Rakin \$1,100
- 7 Line Kjoersvik \$1,100
- 9 Jessica Barnes \$800
- 9 Teruko Cucculelli \$800
- 9 Monica Webb \$800
- 9 Naomi Williams \$800
- 13 Helena Thornfeldt \$600
- 13 Kim White-Newsome \$600
- 13 Janet Atwell \$600
- 13 Loree Jon Hasson \$600
- 17 Jia Li \$400
- 17 Gerda Hofstatter Gregerson \$400
- 17 Kelly Isaac \$400
- 17 Bonnie Arnold \$400
- 17 Emily Duddy \$400
- 17 Kristina Tkach \$400
- 17 Belinda Calhoun \$400
- 17 Julie Cooper \$400
- 25 Billie Billings \$250
- 25 Jenna Bishoff \$250
- 25 Caroline Pao \$250
- 25 Eugenia Gyftopoulos \$250
- 25 Lisa Cossette \$250
- 25 Ashley Rice \$250
- 25 Sara Miller \$250
- 25 Cathy Metzinger \$250

05/30 - 06/02

2019 Interpool Open

Sweden

- 1 Joshua Filler \$2,718
- 2 Denis Grabe \$1,359
- 3 Mika Immonen \$679

- 3 Mikael Wiszniewski \$679
- 5 Jyri Halttu \$339
- 5 Chingiz Sadyhov \$339
- 5 Markus Leppiaho \$339
- 5 Jani Uski \$339
- 9 Juha Pekkarinen \$169
- 9 Adrian Weiss \$169
- 9 Sami Jokinen \$169
- 9 Jouko Hiltunen \$169
- 9 Jere Virtaranta \$169
- 9 Thomas Ragnarsson \$169
- 9 Thomas Larsson \$169
- 9 Karo Langstrom \$169

05/30 - 06/02

2019 Interpool Open 10-Ball Challenge

Sweden

- 1 Mika Immonen \$1,472
- 2 Marcus Chamat \$792
- 3 Denis Grabe \$453
- 3 Karo Langstrom \$453

06/01 - 06/02

Joss Tour 2018-2019 Stop 16

Snookers - Sports Billiards, Bar & Grill

Providence, RI

- 1 Jeremy Sossei \$1,000
- 2 Pat Fleming \$775
- 3 Tom D'Alfonso \$575
- 4 Jared Demalia \$400
- 5 Ron Casanzio \$250
- 5 Francisco Cabral \$250
- 7 Dev Bhattacharya \$150
- 7 Phil Davis \$150

06/01 - 06/02

Joss Tour 2018-2019 Stop 16 Second Chance

Snookers - Sports Billiards, Bar & Grill

Providence, RI

- 1 Robert Madenjian \$300
- 2 Nick Coppola \$200

- 3 Ray Buthe \$140
- 4 Andrew Griffin \$100

06/01 - 06/01

New England 9-Ball Tour 2018-2019 Stop #21

Crow's Nest

Plaistow, New Hampshire

- 1 Gene Hunt \$450
- 2 Gabe Kirshnitz \$250
- 3 George Palmer \$180
- 4 Steve Sutton \$140
- 5 Ryan Cullen \$110
- 5 Mark Small \$110
- 7 Eric Lim \$80
- 7 Catherine Ong \$80

06/01 - 06/02

Gulf Coast Women's Regional Tour 2019 Stop 5

Slick Willie's - Montrose

Houston, TX

- 1 Ming Ng \$620
- 2 Robyn Petrosino \$430
- 3 Samantha Laws \$270
- 4 Hopey Lawrence \$120
- 5 Stacie Putnam \$50
- 5 Gail Roles \$50

06/02 - 06/02

Tri State Tour 2018-2019 Stop

Steinway Billiards

Astoria, NY

- 1 Shawn Sookhai \$815
- 2 John Durr \$540
- 3 Raphael Castillo \$340
- 4 Michael Fedak \$200
- 5 Liran Rabin \$140
- 5 Kunami Chau \$140
- 7 Bob Toomey \$100
- 7 Luis Lopez \$100

06/08 - 06/09

Jerry Olivier Ladies Tour 2019 Stop 4

JR Pockets

Denton, Texas

- 1 Kelly Jones \$800
- 2 Kim Pierce \$600
- 4 Ashley Nandrasy \$310
- 5 Aryana Lynch \$175
- 5 Angie Payne \$175
- 7 Ellen Robinson \$110
- 7 Kim Sanders \$110
- 9 Orietta Strickland \$80
- 9 Michelle Yim \$80
- 9 Belinda Lee \$80
- 9 Ricki Lee Casper \$80

06/08 - 06/09

Q City 9-Ball Tour Stop

Speak Eazy Billiards

Sanford, NC

- 1 BJ Ussery \$750
- 2 Joey Tate \$475
- 3 Johnny Haney \$300
- 4 Josh Heeter \$200
- 5 Hunter White \$125
- 5 Jason Potts \$125
- 7 Scott Roberts \$50
- 7 Hank Powell \$50

06/08 - 06/09

Nelson Oliveira Memorial 10-Ball

Snookers - Sports Billiards, Bar & Grill

Providence, RI

- 1 Mike Dechaine \$850
- 2 Tom D'Alfonso \$650
- 3 Jim Prather \$470

06/09 - 06/09

Tri State Tour 2018-2019 Stop

CueBar Billiards

Bayside, NY

- 1 Euryel Castillo \$700
- 2 Juan Melendez \$470
- 3 Yomaylin Feliz-Forman \$300
- 4 Thomas Schreiber \$175
- 5 Matt Klein \$110
- 5 Shweta Zaveri \$110
- 7 Max Watanabe \$80
- 7 Bianca Martinez \$80

06/15 - 06/16

Brown's Mechanical 9-Ball Open

Diamond Billiards

Midlothian, VA

- 1 Chris Bruner \$900
- 2 Brandon Shuff \$550
- 3 James Blackburn \$360
- 4 Larry Kressel \$250
- 5 Shorty Davis \$100
- 5 Shane Buchanan \$100
- 7 John Jordan \$75
- 7 David Hunt \$75

06/15 - 06/15

Q City 9-Ball Tour Stop

Mickey Milligan's Sports Bar

New Bern, NC

- 1 JT Ringgold \$400
- 2 Justin Clark \$250
- 3 Larry Pierce \$150
- 4 Danny Farren \$50

06/15 - 06/16

Tri State Tour 2018-2019 Stop

Clifton Billiards

Clifton, New Jersey

- 1 Ashley Burrows \$700
- 2 Joshua Joseph \$445
- 3 Bianca Martinez \$260
- 4 Jason Goberdhan \$160
- 5 Manuel Gomez \$110
- 5 Rick Rodriguez \$110
- 7 Ada Lio \$75
- 7 Paul Wilkens \$75
- 9 Bob Toomey \$55
- 9 Dejan Kocev \$55
- 9 Marco Daniele \$55
- 9 Max Watanabe \$55

06/20 - 06/23

2019 West Coast Challenge Women's Division 1

Hard Times Billiards

Sacramento, CA

- 1 Melissa Herndon \$3,180
- 2 Veronique Menard \$2,120
- 3 Eleanor Collado \$1,590
- 4 Khanh Ngo \$1,060
- 5 Rachel Lang \$928
- 5 Bernie Store \$928
- 7 Sherry Ahola \$662
- 7 Kelly Nickl \$662
- 9 Stephanie Hefner \$530
- 9 Emilyn Callado \$530
- 9 Leandrea Gaff \$530
- 9 Janna Sue Nelson \$530

06/22 - 06/23

Predator Pro-Am Tour 2019 Amateur Stop #10

Raxx Pool Room, Sports Bar & Grill

West Hempstead, NY

- 1 Brooke Meyer \$1,300
- 2 Jose Kuilan \$1,000
- 3 Max Watanabe \$650
- 4 Stephen Motilal \$500
- 5 Jay Vapanta \$300
- 5 Bob Toomey \$300
- 7 Debby Buyukveniz \$200
- 7 Chulo Castro \$200
- 9 Miguel Laboy \$150
- 9 Bill Finnegan \$150
- 9 Michelle Brotons \$150
- 9 KC Clayton \$150
- 13 Marisol Palacios \$100
- 13 Mike Panzarella \$100
- 13 Jason Carandang \$100
- 13 Jason Goberdhan \$100

06/22 - 06/23

DFW 9-Ball Tour Stop #6

Click's Billiards

Arlington, Texas

- 1 Jay Murillo \$900
- 2 Tim Larson \$580
- 3 Juan Parra \$450
- 4 Amos Bush \$400
- 5 Mike Nagaki \$290

- 5 Yousif Ahmed \$290
- 7 Billy Pinion \$170
- 7 Sajal Ghimire \$170
- 9 Alberto Garcia \$90
- 9 Jason Dutchover \$90
- 9 Chase LaFerney \$90
- 9 TJ Davis \$90
- 13 Ricki Lee Casper \$70
- 13 Jimmy Legeune \$70
- 13 Greg Sandifer \$70
- 13 Steve Raynes \$70
- 17 Clint Palaci \$60
- 17 Jeff Georges \$60
- 17 Daniel Herring \$60
- 17 Neil Nabil Saidawi \$60
- 17 Walter Huenerfuerst \$60
- 17 Jason Gladden \$60
- 17 Charlie Roberts \$60
- 17 Murtadha Hadi \$60

06/22 - 06/23

Q City 9-Ball Tour Stop

Break and Run Billiards

Chesnee, South Carolina

- 1 Rob Hart \$1,000
- 2 Ron Frank \$700
- 3 Mackie Lowery \$475
- 4 Joey Tate \$325
- 5 Rick Roper \$225
- 5 Billie Spadafora \$225
- 7 Matt Harrell \$150
- 7 Landon Hollinsworth \$150
- 9 Ricky Bingham \$100
- 9 David Greenway \$100
- 9 Wayne Sanders \$100
- 9 Kirk Overcash \$100

06/23 - 06/23

Predator Pro-Am Tour 2019 Qualifier for Predator/CSI 10-Ball Championships

Raxx Pool Room, Sports Bar & Grill

West Hempstead, NY

- 1 James Aranas \$1,500

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