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FROM THE Head Rail

MIKE **HOWERTON**

I'm very happy to welcome Mary Kenniston to the pages of the Billiard Buzz.

Mary isn't a stranger to these pages, as she has been providing us with tournament coverage from various events for a while, but this month she is starting up a new column focusing on the legends of the game.

Mary has been a part of the pro pool scene for a long time (I don't have the courage to ask her how long) and she has stories to share about all of the great players that this sport has seen.

Mary kicks things off this month with a story about her getting her start in the game, and it's a great read.

Until next time.

Mike





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THIRD MILLENIUM THINKING FOR YOUR GAME, PART 1

Pool is for thinkers – and I think you would all agree that the better you think pool, the better your game will be. Recently I came across a book titled *Third Millennium Thinking* (3MT). The title intrigued me, the seven high powered blurbs on the back drew me in, and the table of contents sold me.

3MT was written by Saul Perlmutter, a Nobel prize winning scientist from UCB, John Campbell, a philosophy professor, also from UCB, and Robert MacCoun, a professor of social science from Stanford. So, with a brain trust like this that attacked the subject from their three unique perspectives, I figured I would discover a host of ideas that could be applied to pool – and I was not disappointed!

As I prepared this project for the Buzz, I figured I might get a solid feature from this, but it turns out that I got two, with much material left on the cutting floor.

I have devoured over 300 educational non-fiction books such as 3MT while doing research for *Pool Is The Answer*. While reading I look for passages that apply to the world in general, and for those that are particularly applicable to pool. So, as I read, I always have my pool filter on. Excellent passages are rated 3-Stars, and my top passages are rated 6-Stars. 3MT was loaded with these – 55 to be exact, or about 1 every 5 pages.

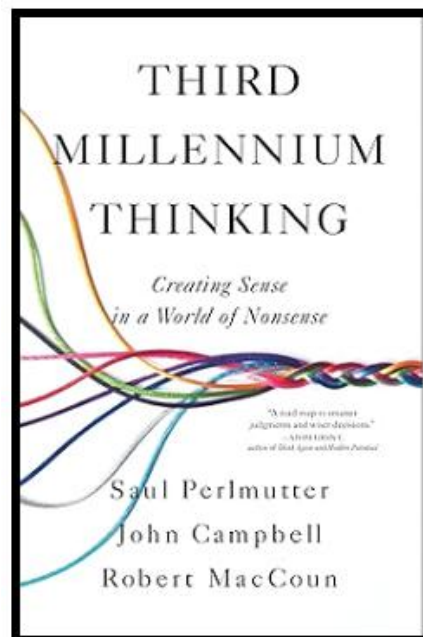
Once I have identified a 6-Star passage and have typed it into a file devoted to

that book, I then reread the passage. As I do so, the author's thoughts very often will jump start my thinking process, and when they do, I feel the urge to get my ideas onto the screen as quickly as possible.

In this and next month's feature, I will be providing 43 passages, some edited for space and relevancy, and my ideas that came from them.

The authors all take a scientific approach to their thinking, and, because they do, I came to see pool as a scientist might. Not with fancy equations, but with ways of thinking about the world. Because pool can be thought of as a science that is rich with 3MT, I think the sport can be viewed more than ever before as not just a great game, but as a way to improve our lives in so many ways. So, let's get started on the passage that make up much of the book.

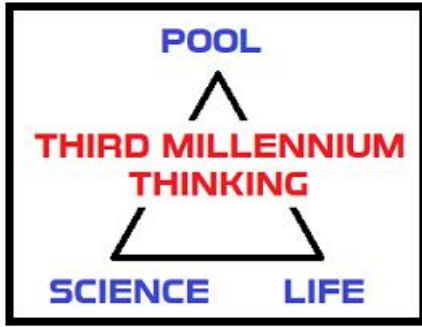
NOTE – The number following each caption is the page that each passage can be found in 3MT should you wish to explore it further. The 3MT passages are in bold type and mine (labeled PC) are in regular type.



INTRODUCTION

THE NEED TO UNDERSTAND REALITY (2)

3MT: To make a sound decision, take a meaningful action, or solve a problem – whether as individuals, in groups, or as a society – we need first to understand reality.



PC: Playing fine pool is largely about making good decisions that incorporate a host of variables – ones that can change with every shot. Then you must take meaningful action, which is comprised of the playing of the shot using what I call The Shot Cycle. When playing pool, the more your decisions and your actions are aligned with the reality of the position of the balls on the table – and with your skills and your game – the more successful you will be.

MULTIDISCIPLINARY COURSE IN BIG IDEAS (3)

3MT: *The result was a team-taught, multidisciplinary Big Ideas course at UC Berkeley, intended to teach students the whole gamut of ideas, tools, and approaches that natural and social scientists use to understand the world.*

PC: My reading program has included books from over 20 fields of interest. Along the way, this multidisciplinary approach has enabled me to gain a greater understanding of how the world works, and how so many ideas from outside of pool can be applied to our sport – and how pool thinking can, in turn, be used to create analogies, ones that can enable non-players to easily imagine the pool world in all its glory. Here’s one: You build your game, step-by-step, much as an architect does when designing a building, or a Legoiist might build an Eiffel Tower, or whatever.

THINKING TOOLS (4)

3MT: *But others are thinking tools – habits of mind, rubrics, approaches, procedures, standards, ideas, principles, stances. These thinking tools function as intellectual “hacks,” enabling scientists to work more efficiently, with greater chances of success.*

PC: Pool, likewise, employs so many habits, procedures, and principles that can streamline your game and make it so much easier to quickly make decisions that you have total confidence in. For example, one of the most important of the 22 Principles of Position Play is to position the cue ball on the correct side of the object ball. Another is to have a consistent routine as you stand and prepare to land on the table. In time, your game will be comprised of so many good habits, ones that are performed easily and effortlessly.

TOOLS AND POOL FOR OUR WELL-BEING (5)

3MT: *Having more and more people become more and more adept at using these tools is essential to human and planetary well-being in the years and centuries ahead.*

PC: We do, indeed, need more people to think better and better – so that they can enjoy and improve their lives – and so that they can contribute in ways small and large to restoring our planet to its ultimate state of being.

A SHIFT IN OUR THINKING (8)

3MT: *One of our more promising starting points is with the culture of science – if we begin to borrow its tools, ideas, and processes and make a Third Millennium shift in our own thinking.*

PC: Similarly, better pool requires better thinking, and that shift to a new

way of thinking about our games has to start somewhere, and that could include applying a scientific approach.

PART 1 – Getting A Grip On Reality

FACTUAL FINDINGS AND VALUES (22)

3MT: *An expert whom you can trust should be able to help distinguish their two roles (factual findings from wisdom on values) when advising us.*

PC: I would interpret this to mean that a pool instructor needs to be able to distinguish between the fundamentals, principles, and strategies from the values that you hold, such as how you play the game, your attitudes, and the respect that you show to the sport and your opponents.

IDENTITIES INFLUENCE CHOICES (24)

3MT: *Scientific sophistication can be misused as a way to weaponize the evidence – to find ways of using the evidence to promote your preferred beliefs.*

PC: I often see this in pool instruction where certain camps will stick to their belief in a technique or a method of play, even when it can be shown to be less than the optimal way to play the game. One of the most glaring examples is those who stick to their belief that you should not drop the elbow after contact even though almost every pro does so on the vast majority of their shots. For proof, just watch a dozen or two of them play, perhaps on Accu-Stats videos.

A PATH TO A SHARED REALITY (27)

3MT: *Our most promising path to a shared reality is the one that involves our touching, feeling, holding,*

prodding, or pushing things, and seeing the response.

PC: A pool table is a wonderful place for people of all stripes to come together and experience a shared reality. And that that reality can involve “something we can prod (a pool ball) with a (cue) stick” makes it that much better (no bias here)!

BILLIARD BALLS (29)

3MT: *We are more likely to feel confident in the reality of something we experience if the thing we are experiencing changes in response to some input of your own. For example, the billiard ball rolls when you prod it (stroke it) with the cue.*

PC: I just love it when a book, especially one on science, uses pool to help to make a point. In this case, we can believe in the reality of pool because the balls do roll when the cue ball is struck with a cue. In an ideal world, I would like to see pool replace chess (and Go) as the go to game for making big points on worldly matters.

OUTPUT FAR INTO THE FUTURE (40)

3MT: *As soon as the time scale gets long enough, we know that lots of other variables have a chance to act, too.*

PC: China is famous for making 100 year plans. And professional pool players certainly must believe in their long term progress because it can take years and years for them to advance 20-40 points in the Fargo Ratings. Those of you who are amateurs should also take the long view by establishing a plan for improving and the discipline to stick to it.

THE LEVERS FOR MAKING CHANGE (44)

3MT: *The goal is for all of us to be on the same page on this, so we can first*

agree on what causes what, and then explain how we got there to others.

PC: Pool is very much built on cause and effect. We hit the cue ball with the balls in certain positions, and then the cue ball follows a specific route to its target zone for the next shot. And then, based on how that route was played, we can explain it to others so that they can also play the shot that way. And this understanding, in turn, should have a positive impact on the student’s game.

PART 2 – Understanding Uncertainty

OPERATING IN AN UNCERTAIN WORLD (60)

3MT: *Just understanding the concept that confidence comes in degrees can be much more powerful than holding out for definitive answers in a world where the available evidence usually fails to give up the absolute certainty we’d like.*

PC: When you watch certain players, the excessive time they spend deliberating over a shot leads you to think that they are looking for the perfect shot, and that they won’t take their stance until they think they have found it. But, to paraphrase a book by golf guru Dr. Bob Rotella, *Pool Is Not A Game of Perfect*. So, when you are at about 9+ on the 1-10 Confidence Spectrum, that should be high enough to enable you to play the shot with as much confidence as you are likely going to muster! Besides, when you get over the ball and go through your WUS routine, your confidence should rise even further from when you decided to play that specific shot.

BUILT IN TENTATIVENESS (62)

3MT: *Scientists have moved away*

from such black-and-white thinking, ... and that very tentativeness – the practice of attaching a degree of uncertainty to every statement – is a big source of science’s strength.

PC: Way back in 1997 I wrote a column titled *Gray Zone*, which falls between the extremes of purely black or white. One example would be for shots that can be played with either follow or draw. On another layout, the best course of action might be a safety or an offensive shot. And sometimes a cut or a bank is your best course of action. So, as the authors said, this degree of uncertainty is a source of strength for scientists and, I might add, for poolplayers as well!

DEGREES OF CONFIDENCE (71)

3MT: *Reflecting on and sharing degrees of confidence in your own statements can make you better able to change your mind when appropriate.*

PC: On the Confidence Spectrum, you may believe that you are 70% right about a particular pattern. But, since you are not totally sure about how to play the balls, you leave room for changing your mind. Note that taking more time than usual to plot your run in 9-Ball usually comes up no more than once or twice per rack.

ON HAVING A REAL EXPERT (73)

3MT: *Many of us, as adults, would like to re-create that feeling of security by having a real expert, someone you could always trust, in a leadership role.*

PC: In pool, you would like to have an instructor you can trust. And, if you are a member of a team, it would be ideal to have a team captain (if it is not you) who’s judgment you trust on matters pertaining to your game.

STANDARDS AND CERTAIN DISCOVERIES (83)

3MT: *One of the biggest lessons that physics experimentalists teach their students is that they will still be overconfident in their measurements.*

PC: I like to measure cut angles and distances from the object ball to the pocket and to the cue ball for my diagrams. However, when playing, most computations, especially for aiming, are carried out at the subconscious level where they can – for the pros and top amateurs – be conducted with great accuracy. And that is why I question methods that use diamond systems and cues because I see so many players who use them fail to make banks or foul on kick shots. I suppose these players place great confidence in these measurements, but I think they would, on balance, do better by trusting their ability to “see the shot.”

SEEKING SIGNALS, YOU WILL GET FOOLED (103)

3MT: *Noisy data will eventually show you things that look like meaningful patterns, and it will do that in ways you never would have expected.*

PC: When I read a book, I am looking for super passages – for signals in the authors noise. Not noise in a bad way, but noise that is necessary to provide the context and data that go along with the signal! When playing pool, you will encounter the noise that random layouts present, and it is up to you to see the position routes and the patterns that are present (the signals) within the apparent chaos.

THE CULTURE OF SCIENCE (107)

3MT: *Trying to get good at not being fooled by a little fluctuation in the data is part of the culture of science.*

PC: Positions can fool you with possible routes or safeties being concealed within the jumble of balls. It is your job to make sense of these messes so you can choose the best plays.

ON FINDING IMAGINARY SIGNALS (109)

3MT: *The more data you look at ... the more examples of surprising patterns you'll find – so you will think you have found a signal.*

PC: As you build your skill at identifying playable patterns, the better you will become at separating the wheat (signals) from the chaff (noise).

VALUE JUDGEMENTS (123)

3MT: *Real-world decision-making can be informed by data and mathematical principles like signal-detection theory but they invariably involve value judgments.*

PC: So many decisions we make in our real world of pool so often come down to trusting our well-educated gut instinct!

PROBABILISTIC THINKING (128)

3MT: *This is an inherent feature of probabilistic thinking – we can't expect certainty, so we all need to decide how much evidence is enough.*

PC: When deciding on a shot and making plans to play it we must, even on the most complicated ones, arrive

at a decision, and this decision must be made even though we don't (and can't) know everything about the shot that we are about to play.

MORE PEOPLE IN CITIES (136)

3MT: *Cities tend to be warmer than the surrounding rural areas because of what we call the urban heat island effect.*

PC: By 2050 the UN has estimated that 70% of the world's population will live in cities. It tends to be warmer in cities, but not in pool rooms with AC. So, this population trend bodes well for pool, which offers an oasis from the heat that is steadily rising throughout the planet.

SEEING SYSTEMATIC BIASES (138)

3MT: *Once you become attuned to the problem of systematic bias you are likely to start seeing, or looking for, systematic biases in the evidence for decisions you make in your own life.*

PC: When playing pool, every player is subject to various degrees of bias. They may overly favor an offensive or defensive approach, and they may over or under estimate the cue ball's travels on certain position plays. Being aware of these systematic biases is one thing, ridding your game, or at least managing them well, is a whole other matter.

ABOUT PHIL CAPELLE

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

The Rule of 21

Keep Your Focus Sharp During Practice

ANTHONY BEELER

In the game of pool, focus is everything. No matter how talented you are or how technically sound your mechanics may be, your ability to maintain deep concentration shot after shot is what separates a good player from a great one. There's an invisible threshold, often referred to by top instructors and serious players as the **Rule of 21**, that every player needs to understand if they want to maximize the results of their practice sessions.

What Is the Rule of 21?

The Rule of 21 is simple: once you re-

peat the same shot or drill more than about 20 times in a row, your mental focus starts to decline sharply. By the time you hit shot 21, you're often no longer fully engaged. Your mind wanders, your mechanics get sloppy, and you're simply "going through the motions" instead of practicing with purpose. In short, you start practicing bad habits.

When you push beyond this focus threshold, you may be putting in more time, but you're actually getting *less* value from each shot. Worse yet, you can reinforce mistakes and develop



bad muscle memory without even realizing it.

How to Apply the Rule of 21 to Your Practice

If you want to practice smarter—not just harder—you must stay under the 21-shot limit for any drill or repetitive shot. Here's how:

- **Limit yourself to 15–20 repetitions of any drill.**

This keeps your mind engaged and your body responsive. Stopping around 15 reps is even better if you notice focus slipping earlier. The number 15 also matches the number of balls in a rack of pool which is perfect for keeping up with your repetitions.

- **Switch drills or activities after reaching your limit.**

After you complete a drill 15–20 times, *change it up*. Move to another shot type, a different position drill, or a totally different aspect of your game (like safety play or breaking).

- **Come back to the original drill later.**

You can absolutely work on the same



drill multiple times in a day—just don't do it *all at once*. Circle back later in your practice session after your mind is fresh again.

For example, you might shoot 15 straight-in shots, then switch to 15 cross-corner banks, then 15 draw shots, then come back and do another 15 straight-in shots. By rotating through different drills, you keep your brain actively engaged instead of letting it drift into autopilot.

Why This Approach Works

The human brain is wired to seek novelty. When a task feels new or challenging, you focus harder. When it becomes repetitive, your brain checks out. By limiting your practice sets to 15–20 repetitions, you “trick” your brain into staying fresh. Each small shift in drill or focus area resets your attention span.

Practical Tips for Players

- **Keep a notebook** next to the table to track what drills you're doing and how many repetitions you complete. It's easy to lose track otherwise.
- **Stay flexible.** If you notice you're losing focus at 12 or 13 shots, it's okay to switch earlier.
- **Mix in ball running drills** to simulate real-game situations, especially after a few technical drills.
- **Be honest with yourself.** If you're just hitting balls without thought, you're not really practicing—you're

just reinforcing whatever habits (good or bad) you already have.

Conclusion

In pool, quality trumps quantity every single time. Following the Rule of 21 will make your practice sessions sharper, more productive, and more enjoyable. The next time you step up to the table, remember stay under the 21-shot threshold, keep your focus sharp, and watch your game reach new heights.

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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CHALKIN' UP THE MEMORIES

with Mary Kenniston

A very long time ago, on a chilly fall night, something happened to change the course of my life. It was the beginning of a life that took me all over the United States and to Europe, Japan and Taiwan.

It was the beginning of a life of meeting new people and the beginning of friendships that still endure to this day. It was the defining moment of my life. It was the night I made the decision to make my living as a pool player.

It was the fall of '78 and I had a little more than a week before starting a new job. I had grown up on Long Island in a typical '50s-'60s family. My parents had worked very hard to give my brother, sister and me every advantage they could. I was expected to do well in school and, luckily, it came easy for me – I was a little lazy. I was a tomboy and was always the best in the neighborhood at every sport the boys played – basketball was my game. I remember sitting on the sidelines watching the boys from my neighborhood play Little League. Sitting there fuming – fuming because I was born a girl, they wouldn't let me play.

I never came straight home after school. I was a Girl Scout, played the clarinet in the band and when I saw the Beatles on the Ed Sullivan Show, I hounded my parents relentlessly for guitar lessons. I belonged to the Spanish Club, worked on the school newspaper and played every sport in

school. When I turned sixteen, I was down at the DMV that very day to get my learner's permit. I couldn't wait to get my license and worked as a supermarket checker to save for a car. When I was a senior in high school, I received a basketball scholarship to the only college in the United States that was giving scholarships to young women. Things were changing – females of my generation were gingerly dipping their toes into new pursuits. Not me – I was jumping in with both feet!

It was also the time when women were trying to break into the male-dominated business world beyond the traditionally "female" roles of secretary, teacher, nurse or waitress and the time of Title IX. After college, I came home and began working hard – trying to carve out a career in sales. I was the first woman to be given the opportunity to sell Nabisco products and later, the first woman to sell Yellow Pages advertising in New Jersey. I was excited to begin a new job – to market Purolator's new idea – international courier service to every small business or individual in Bergen County, a bedroom community for New York City. It was an exciting opportunity to get in on the ground floor of a FedEx-style business and I was thrilled that I had landed the job.

I had torn up both knees while in college so my athletic days were pretty much over until I discovered pool. I fell in love with the game and it filled my competitive void. A short time later, I discovered the "action" side of the pool world. I had a foot in both worlds. I was torn between doing what was expected of me and what I dreamed of for myself – and the fascinating subculture of the pool world. I was trying to juggle the demands of the "straight" world and the late night action of the pool world.

I knew the US Open 9 Ball Championship was starting in two days and wanted to go. I wanted to check out the action and couldn't wait to watch some of the great players that were the subject of so many stories I'd heard. I wanted to take a vacation before I started my new job – I knew I wouldn't get another chance for a long time. I didn't have enough cash to go alone and to be honest, didn't have the courage either. I hit the local pool rooms looking for a running mate to take a ride down to Norfolk, VA.

Even though I was dying to go, I had been around the pool world long enough to have a pretty short list as to who I'd leave town with but found

Bill Hendrixson, one of Jersey's best. Bill and I had previously made a few profitable forays around the north-east and I knew I could trust him. He agreed to go and we hit the road later that night. After a couple hours driving south on I-95, I asked Bill if he was hungry.

"Yeah," he said, "I could eat. Get off at the next exit. Hop on US 1 South – we'll find something."

And so we did. After a few miles, we saw a flashing neon sign – "BAR & GRILL." The parking lot was packed – it looked like a good spot.

We walked in and the jukebox was blasting - Bill spied two seats at the bar.

"Grab those and order me a cheese-burger," he said, "I'm hitting the bathroom."

I ordered some coffee as the bartender slid a menu across the bar. I had just started to look it over when I heard the unmistakable click of pool balls. As I turned around to see where it was coming from, I heard, "Well, I'm not betting ten anymore! Bet twenty!"

Needless to say, it had my full attention now! Then, the other guy said,

"Twenty?!!! Bet fifty!!!" And keeled over. As he was being helped up, the other guy swayed but said, "Bet."

I couldn't believe it! They were both plastered! And betting fifty a game! By this time, Bill had slid onto the stool and grabbed the menu. Gesturing at the table, I excitedly told him what was going on. He didn't even turn around – just said, "Yeah, so? Put your quarter up," and turned back to the menu.

I walked over to the table. As I was putting my quarter up, one of the drunks eyed me and snarled, "Hey, girlie. We're playing for money here..."

I smiled sweetly and said, "Oh! I love to play for money! How much are you playing for? A dollar?"

They looked at each other and one of them howled, "Did you hear her? Ha! A dollar?!!! Go on, get outta here!"

"Why don't you just go back to your boyfriend and leave us alone? We're playing for FIFTY here," the other one barked.

"Oh, wow," I answered, "Fifty? I've never played for fifty before..."

I started to pick up my quarter and then looked up at the loudest one. I reached into the pocket of my jeans, pulled out a hundred dollar bill and slapped it on the table. "But, I'll play."

Now, in those days, you have to remember – there weren't more than a very few females in the entire country that could hold a cue, let alone use one and would bet a little. My heart was pounding! They didn't know it but they were right! I had never played for fifty! I'd never played for more than twenty but I sure hoped I could beat a couple of drunks! Man, was my heart pounding!

They looked at each other - their eyes were gleaming. They argued over who was going to get me first and end-



1979 WPBA National Straight Pool Championship – Hammonton, NJ
I was runner-up to Jean Balukas in this one.

Photo courtesy of the Florence Fuller Collection



*Georgiana Casteel – “Cass” – early ‘80s
Photo courtesy of the Pool and Billiard Magazine Collection*

ed up flipping a coin to settle it. Bill handled the money and I proceeded to handle them. I didn't stall – didn't have to in those days. Most guys had never seen a female shoot plus their egos wouldn't allow them to believe a girl could beat them doing anything anyway! I was nervous but comfortable – I'd been competing against guys my whole life!

Trying to keep my arm from shaking, I concentrated on just making the balls. They kept drinking and took turns getting their butts kicked and after a couple hours, the bartender rang the bell for last call. I finished the game and told them I'd be right back – had to use the rest room. Giving Bill the eye, I hit the door and hopped in the car. He came out a few minutes later and we headed off down the road.

Although we'd planned on driving straight through to Norfolk, I was exhausted – both mentally and physically – and our pockets were loaded. We pulled into a motel a few miles down the road and sprung for a room. Once we got settled in, Bill pulled out our winnings and threw the wad on one of the beds. Laughing, I grabbed

the money and threw it all up in the air. Laughing too, Bill grabbed it as it rained down on the bed, sorting it into different denominations. I knew exactly how many games I had won – four hundred dollars worth. I told him to count out two for himself and give me two. This really got him laughing! What I didn't know was that Bill had made side bets with just about everyone sitting at the bar – we had won almost a thousand dollars! And the trip was just beginning! No telling how much money we'd make at the US STINKIN' OPEN!!!

As I lay in bed that night, I was so excited I couldn't sleep! There was no way I was going to start that new job! How could I! I would've had to work more than a month to earn what I had won that night! I had loved every minute of it and had fun doing it! I kept it to myself, but that was the night I made the life-changing decision that I've never regretted.

I was a pool player.

Bill and I finally pulled into the parking lot of Q-Masters Billiards in Norfolk, VA – the original home of the

US Open 9 Ball Championship. It was packed with cars and nowhere to park. Finally, someone pulled out and we grabbed the spot.

I opened the trunk and we grabbed our cues. We made our way to the front of the building and walked inside. The smell of hamburgers cooking reminded me we hadn't eaten since we had left the motel that morning. It was wall-to-wall pool players. Everyone seemed to know everyone else and the place was electric with excitement.

Bill had been there before so he knew his way around. He stopped here and there, laughing and talking to old friends and players he knew. I followed him checking it all out as we walked through the place. Every table was taken and every table had action. Hundred dollar one pocket over there, six-handed twenty dollar ring 9 ball on another – pitching quarters to the spot on the snooker table in the corner. Guys were woofing at each other from across the room, people were making side bets, groups of people laughed as they stood around an old guy telling stories. The place was a dump but I couldn't care less – I was in heaven!

I spotted a few girls over at a table near the wall. I told Bill I'd see him later - I wandered over and saw they were playing a five dollar ring nine ball game. I didn't know any of them but I didn't care - I'd never met a girl I couldn't beat for the cash. I asked if I could get in and one of them nodded, pointing at the girl racking the balls.

"You follow Cass..."

It didn't take me long to see that Cass was the best of the four. She knew it too - running around the table, firing the balls in the holes at warp speed, snapping her gum non-stop and talking shit. There were a few seats along the wall and a couple of guys were watching the game. They all seemed to know Cass and she was putting on a show for them. When the smoke cleared an hour or so later, Cass and I were the last two standing and had won all the money. I figured we had about \$150 between us...

She turned to me and said, "So... whadda YOU wanna do?"

Well, I didn't want to do anything - at least not right now. I knew I could beat her and was dying to bust her but I had just gotten there. If I beat her, I knew none of the others would play. I figured that, like me, she was there for the duration - I could put her on the back burner - plus, now I was really starving. Knowing that she wouldn't give me any weight, I asked for it anyway, telling her she was just too good - out of my league. She badgered me all the way to the counter but I wasn't budging. I ordered some food and she finally gave up. As she walked away, she just couldn't help it...

Over her shoulder, she barked, "No playin' nit!"

I just grinned - I loved it. She didn't know it but she had just swallowed my hook. Now, I could just take my time reeling her in as she'd run around the next few days building up her bankroll - for me.

I realized I hadn't seen anyone playing any tournament matches. I thought it had already started but where? The girl behind the counter finally came back - she was working her tail off. Telling her to keep the change, I threw a ten on the counter - I wanted her to remember me. I had already learned it was a good idea to make friends with the counter help. I asked where they were playing the tournament. Smiling, she pointed to a doorway...

"Over there, but I doubt you'll get a seat. Standing room only in there!"

Just as I was about to get up, one of the guys who had been watching our ring game sat down onto the stool next to me. I smiled and he asked me my name. I told him and he drawled, "Well, Mary - if you knew what you were doing, you'd be dangerous!"

I couldn't believe it! Some nerve he had! Didn't he just see me and Cass bust that ring game? Typical guy - had no respect for female players. I started to tell him off! I told him I was so tired of guys criticizing but never offering any help, etc., etc.

He didn't say a word. After I sputtered to a stop, he smiled and turned to the counter girl.

"Can I get that rack of balls that just came in?"

She handed him the balls and he turned back to me.

"Do they have a mirror in the ladies room?"

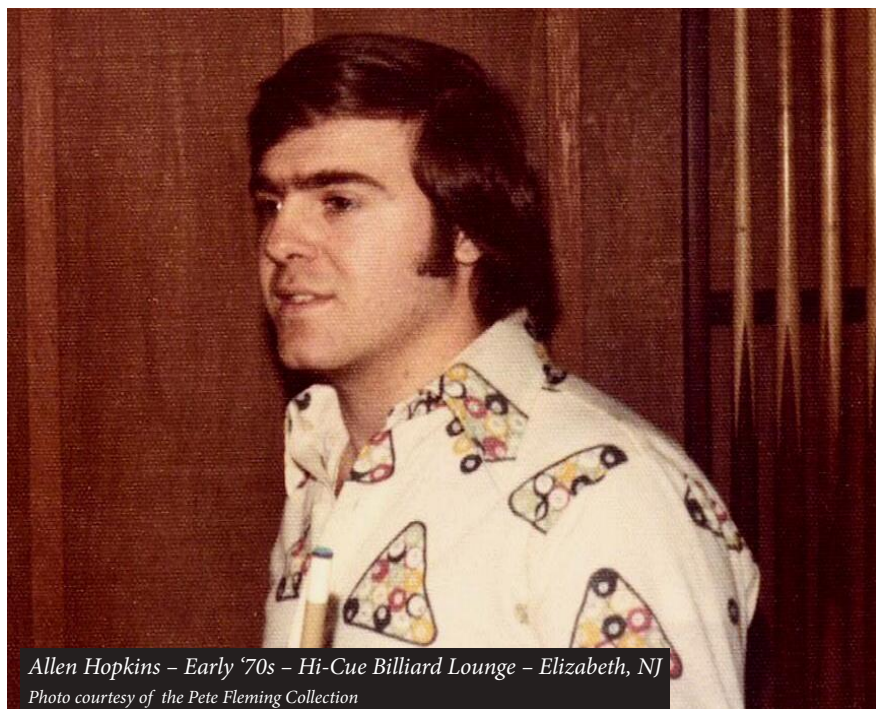
"Of course they do..." I snapped.

Standing up, he said, "Go to the ladies room, put your cue together, get down over the sink like you're going to shoot and look in the mirror. Then, c'mon out - I'll meet you at Table 7."

I just stared at him. What the hell was he talking about?

"Go on. You said no one ever wanted to help you. I'll help you." Leaving me sitting there, he turned around and headed to Table 7.

I just sat there. He turned, grinned at me and cocked his head in the direction of the ladies room.



Allen Hopkins - Early '70s - Hi-Cue Billiard Lounge - Elizabeth, NJ
Photo courtesy of the Pete Fleming Collection

Well, what the hell...

I stood up, grabbed my Fellini case and headed to the ladies room. I was relieved to see it was empty so no one could see me doing something so stupid. I screwed my cue together, got down on the sink, looked in the mirror and I couldn't believe what I saw...

I sure didn't look like any other pool player I'd ever seen. My body was twisted around the cue and it was angled rather than directly underneath my eyes. I couldn't believe what I saw! I had been around Steve Mizerak, Ray Martin, Allen Hopkins and so many other good players – even Bill! Why didn't anyone ever tell me I looked like this! It was a wonder I could make a ball!

Stunned, I slowly opened the door and looked out. There he was – waiting for me on Table 7. I walked over and he smiled.

“First thing we're going to do is fix your stance.”

Embarrassed but thrilled, I waited...

“OK,” he said, “Stand in front of the table like you're approaching a shot. Grab your cue in your right hand where you normally hold it, lay the tip of it on the rail, step into the shot, bend over and reach forward with your left hand to make a bridge.”

“Well, duh!” I thought as I did what he told me. What a waste of time! Nothing new here – same thing as in Willie Mosconi's little red book!

All of a sudden, he slid my back hand from the middle of the wrap towards the end of the cue. As my hand moved back, my body opened up and the cue swung directly under my eyes. He tapped my back foot with his shoe, urging me to step back. It felt so good – I stroked the cue back and forth. Astonished, I stood up.



Buddy Hall – '80 Florida Open – Tampa, FL

Photo by Bill Johnston - Photo courtesy of Mike Haines and Bill Porter

“Why in the hell do you grip your cue so far forward and stand with your feet so close together?” he drawled.

I told him that in his book, Mosconi had explained how to find the balance point on your cue, then grip it about 5-6 inches behind that point and stand with your feet about a shoulder width apart.

“Mare! You're six feet tall! That might be where a short guy like Mosconi holds his cue but you've got long arms! You've got to hold it farther back! You've got legs twice as long as he does! Open up that stance! Now, let me see you walk into the shot like I showed you – except hold your cue closer to the butt and stand about a foot or so farther back from the table.”

Well, we spent another half hour or so tweaking my stance until I was totally in line with the shot and it felt comfortable. He looked at his watch, said he had to go play his tournament match and told me to not to give up – stick with it. He said it would feel awkward for a while but would soon become natural. I thanked him and watched him walk away. Excited, I spent the next half hour or so trying out my new stance as I hit some balls. Man, it really felt great! Finally worn out, I put my cue back in the case, threw the balls in the tray and walked to the counter to pay the time.

I made my way over to the doorway of the tournament room. The counter girl was right – it was packed. Being tall, I could see over most of their heads. I couldn't believe they could fit three Gold Crowns and a few rows of seating in this tiny room! My eyes scanned the room, looking for a familiar face. I spotted Allen Hopkins waving me over – he had a little room for me.

Climbing up to the top, I managed to only step on a few toes. Allen slid over and I squeezed into the space.

“You came down here by yourself?”

Excited, I told him about the score Bill and I had made the night before and announced that I wasn't going back to work. I was a pool player now!

He laughed and said, “Yeah, OK...good luck.”

Allen pointed to one of the tables – the score was tied – case game. There was my new friend! He broke the balls, made a couple and parked the cue ball in the middle of the table. All of a sudden, another ball came out of nowhere and kicked it down to the bottom rail. The one ball was on the other end of the table – straight in. It was close to the rail about a foot above the far right corner pocket – almost eight diamonds away. The two was back on the end rail close to the cue ball. While

chalking his cue, he slowly walked around the table. The crowd buzzed with excitement – what was he going to do?

Finally, he got down on the ball, stroked it seven, eight, nine times and fired the one straight into the hole. The cue ball stopped dead...and then zipped all the way back for perfect shape on the two!

WHAT A SHOT!!! The crowd went crazy!

I turned to Allen. “Wow! Who’s THAT guy?!!!”

“Buddy!”

“Buddy who?” I whispered, knowing the answer.

“Mare, you don’t know Buddy Hall?!!!!”

OMG. I was mortified - I had told off Buddy Hall.

Buddy waited for the crowd to calm down and then methodically ran the rest of the balls for the game and the match.

I watched as Buddy left the tournament room - slowly making his way through the raucous crowd, laughing and talking with friends, stopping to sign an autograph, grabbing someone for a hug.

I waited for the crowd to thin out and made my way down the bleachers. I walked out of the tournament room and into the pool room. I saw Buddy across the room with a crowd of people around him but I was too embarrassed to go over.

I walked over to the counter to order something to drink. While waiting my turn, I felt a hand on my shoulder. I looked over my shoulder – it was Buddy. I started babbling...

“Oh, Buddy! Great match! Oh, man - what a shot on that one ball! Oh and I’m so sorry I yelled at you...”

He started laughing.

“Relax, girl! How’re ya hittin’ them?!!! Good, huh? Told ya you’d be dangerous if you knew what you were doing!!!”

I started laughing too. And that was how I met my idol. It was the beginning of a lifelong friendship.

Known in the pool world as "Nightmare," Mary is a former world & national champion, a WPBA Hall of Famer & owned Cue-Topia in Las Vegas, NV. She has thousands of billiard-related photos in her Facebook Wall of Fame.

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Gospel Trick Shot #63

Come Back to the One

History of the Trick Shot: This shot performed by Wayne Parker is done on a Chinese 9-foot pool table which has snooker type pockets, using a nap cloth which is made up of very fine bristles, brushed in one direction from the head of the table toward the foot cushion. Wayne Parker and a GTS South African team of five and GTS RACK team member Jason Lynch will be in China playing on these tables in the months of April and May, 2025. This shot was inspired by the Easter/Passover season of 2025. It is an appeal for all who are far from the Lord, to come back to the One who loves you, gave His life for you, and rose again on the third day. This shot can also be done on an American type of pool table.

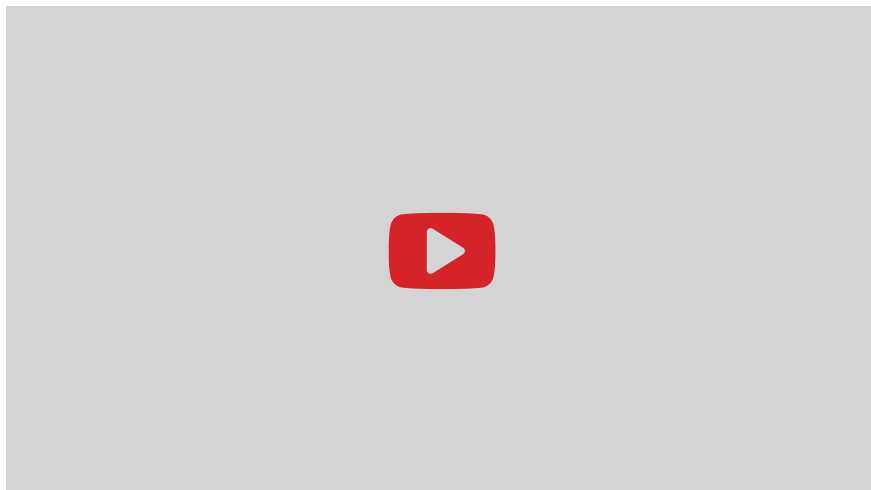
GTS Name and Why: The name of the shot is “Come back to the One” and has a play on words for referring to the One (1-ball), which is positioned at the point of the rack. Peter in the Bible is represented by the 6-ball, as it was Peter who denied the Lord three times which is represented by the red 3-ball hanging over the side pocket. Jesus predicted that Peter would deny Him three times and that Satan would sift him as wheat. Jesus continued to say that He had prayed for Peter’s faith not to fail, and said that when Peter had returned to Jesus, that he would need to strengthen his brethren. Even though Peter was to experience a major setback, Jesus had already planned his comeback! The 6-ball starts by moving away from the 1-ball but then later returns to follow the 1-ball into the corner pocket the same way Peter did.

Scripture Reference: Luke 22:31-32 (NIV) “Simon, Simon, Satan has asked to sift all of you as wheat. But I have prayed for you, Simon, that your faith may not fail. And when you have turned back, strengthen your brothers.”

Cue Ball Placement: Cue ball placed about 1 diamond from the corner pocket as diagrammed and about a chalk width from the cushion.

Object Ball(s) Placement: The 6-ball is frozen to the cushion on the 2nd diamond from the corner pocket, and is also frozen to the 13-ball which is also frozen to the same cushion. The 3-ball is placed directly in front of the opposite side pocket with its edge flush with the slate edge of the side pocket. A triangle rack is also placed on the table with one of its points frozen to the 1-ball, pointing directly at the corner pocket as diagrammed. The 1-ball is about one and a half ball widths from the slate edge of the corner pocket.

Objective: Hit the cue ball hard straight ahead into the 13-ball with extreme center right-hand English. The cue ball will carom off the 13-ball and make the 3-ball in the opposite side pocket. The 6-ball will naturally bank across the length of the table and return to ricochet off the rack into the pocket where the 1-ball is located. The 13-ball will then receive transfer spin from the cue ball causing it to bank backwards

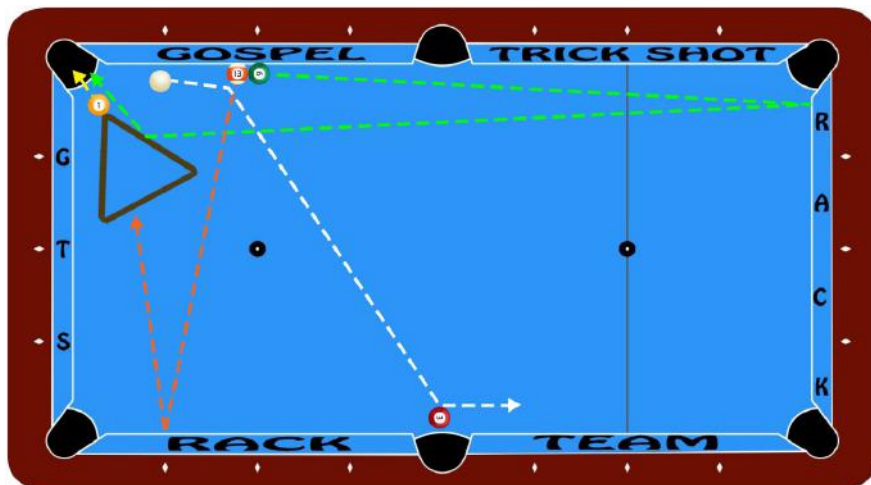


across to the opposite long rail, and then back into the rack making the 1-ball just before the 6-ball arrives.

Special Notes: If you find that 13-ball does not bank backwards to go into the rack then use more right-hand English. If the cue ball misses the 3-ball by going past the 3-ball, then try aiming a little thicker on the 13-ball. If the cue call misses the 3-ball by hitting the long rail before the 3-ball, try playing the 13-ball a little thinner. This shot requires some practice but is a sure way to bring a great message across. If one misses the shot, you can say that Peter denied Jesus 3 times and have another two more attempts. If you have missed all 3 attempts, then say many of us have denied Jesus more than 3 times, and Jesus is willing for us to keep trying until we come back to Him.

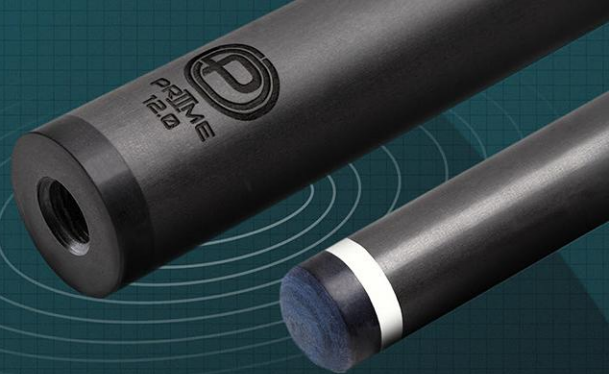
There is a secret hidden Bible reference and verse hidden in the order in which the numbered balls are pocketed. Can you figure out that Bible verse reference? Hint: It is found in the book of John.

Crowd Reactions: This shot carries a very powerful and convicting message. Many people can relate as experiencing setbacks are a part of life. You can emphasize the truth that Jesus has already planned your comeback even before your setback. This will result in a heartfelt round of applause as the 6-ball not only represents Peter but also every person who returns and comes back to the One (1-ball) and follows the One (Jesus) into the pocket which represents this life and the life to come! Jesus loves you!

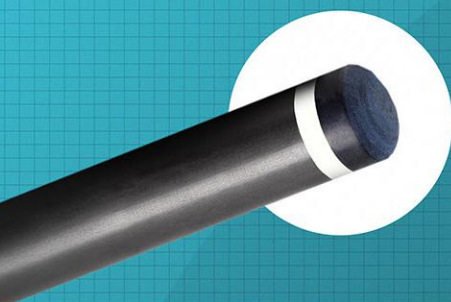


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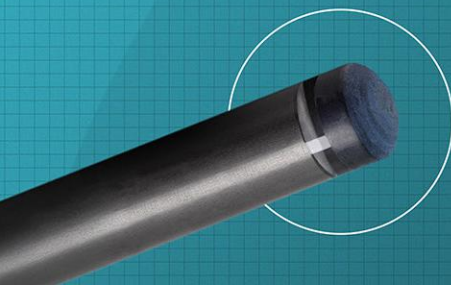
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ALLEN HOPKINS' 31ST ANNUAL, 2025 SBE

draws its usual thousands to Philadelphia Expo Center

For sheer numbers, and its ability to draw the widest range of skill levels/age groups together in one place to compete, combined with a lot of people who show up, either related, known to the competitors or just fans of the sport, Allen Hopkins' annual Super Billiards Expo is on a 'short list' of professional sports expositions with literally, something for everyone.

It caters to elements of the sports' past, present and future that makes it entertaining for competitors and spectators alike. And so they come, year after year, and when they get here, day after day.

The \$12,000-added, 31st Annual Super Billiards Expo at the Greater Philadelphia Expo Center in Oaks, PA drew a 128-entrant field to its World Nineball Tour-ranking, 2025 Diamond Open Players Championship that got underway early on Thursday (April 10). There was, of course, a lot more going on in the place than the one Pro event, to include the Open Ama-

teur championships which put 1,011 competitors into 16, 64-entrant brackets, and played them, single-elimination, until it was over, which you'd think might take until Christmas, but doesn't.

There was also an Amateurs Senior event (over 50) with 384 competitors and a Super Senior event (65+) with 249 entrants (both single elimination). The Women's Amateur Players Championship drew 194 entrants, while two Junior events (12 & Under/17 & Under), drew 64 and 68 competitors, respectively. A ProAm Bar-box Players Championship attracted

64. That's a total of 2,162 pool players competing in the SBE's events, with some crossover. It was known that 23 amateurs competed in the ProPlayer Championships and there were more; an indeterminate number, because it's hard to know whether some of the players would be classified as strictly amateur or were known to be occasional or regular competitors at 'Pro' level events. This does not include the indeterminate, known-to-be large number of folks who took part in an ongoing series of Mini tournaments at which competitors paid \$60 to become part of an eight-person, single-elimination bracket, offering them the opportunity to win \$400 for winning three matches in a row.

All this with a Billiard Trade extravaganza going on within the 240,000 square-footage of the Greater Philadelphia Expo Center, where you might have considered purchasing a cue from any of dozens of pool cue manufacturers, or maybe you were in need of some chalk. Or a new pool table! Or behind door #3, you could have chosen to watch Jayson Shaw at his own booth, trying out Earl Strickland's hand-wrapped (to a fare-thee-well), 70" cue stick, as Earl himself 'held court' talking to people about anything that crossed his mind. Throughout the event, both of them partici-



Ella T with the Pechauer Family



Jayson Shaw in his booth

pated in ‘challenge matches’ against Expo patrons who opted in to the experience of having their butts kicked by either of the two professionals. If you were in one of those ‘right place, right time’ situations, you may have watched Shaw, who, at various times, was away from his booth competing in the Pro Players Championship, struggling with the maintenance ‘arm’ of the entire operation. A set of lights which hung over the table in his booth kept flickering on and off and you would have seen the man engaged in an attempt to fix the problem; a task at which his renowned ‘eagle eye’ was of no use at all.

At one point, assuming presence, one may have noticed one of those representatives of the sport’s future as she strode into and around the Expo Center. Six-year-old Ella Troiano, *aka* Ella T, from New Hampshire strode into the Exhibit Hall at the 2025 SBE, carrying a cue case, with her own custom-made pool cue that’s about the size of your average jump cue and is taller than she is. She’s already got a sponsor (J. Pechauer Custom Cues) and a thousand followers.

Ella T participated in a ‘break speed’ contest that was held throughout much of the event at one of the industry booths. Contestants stepped up to a table, aimed a cue ball at a measuring device and took a break shot. Bearing in mind that a participant’s body weight most likely entered into the ‘speed of break’ calculations that led to the declaration of a winner, Ella T won the contest.

The youngster has indicated on her FB page (Ella T – Pool Player) that “I started holding a cue at 2.5 years old and ‘playing’ on a 4 ft. table (that) my dad had to customize for my height. I am now 6 years old, using a stool and playing on 9 ft. tables.” She’s bright, excited to be a part of this year’s SBE and knows precisely what makes pool fun.

“What I think is fun,” she said, “is *having* fun.”

At this point in her barely-begun pool career, she has yet to encounter anything about the sport that *isn’t* ‘fun,’ which is not always true for most of the more seasoned players who participate in the annual SBE. “Fireball”

Mike Dechaine, for example, who competed in the Pro Players event during what can be described as something of an unofficial ‘return’ to the professional side of competition, lost his opening match of the Pro event, and after defeating Eddie Abraham (one of three he won on the loss side before being eliminated), was asked whether he was ‘settling in,’ which had a way of assuming that the question was “Are we having fun yet?”

“No!” was all he said.

Raphael DaBreo, who, at 37, is one of the representatives of the sport’s ‘present,’ is originally from Brooklyn, NY and now, having married in 2019 and since 2022, has been living and working in Japan, visits family back here in the US of A, regularly. He comes every year, as a representative of the Japanese cue maker for whom he works; Hayakawa Cues out of Kyoto, Japan. He uses part of his time here to compete when he can. He was runner-up to Lukas Fracasso-Verner in the 2023 “Ginky” Memorial for instance, and last year, finished 7th at a stop on the Joss NE 9-Ball Tour. He signed on to compete in this year’s



Gavin Mathew and Grayson Vaughan

Open Pro Players Championship and while things started out well (an opening-round victory), he was sent to the loss side by the eventual winner of the Open Pro Players Championship, Neils Feijen, and lost his first, loss-side round.

For him, somewhat to his surprise, there is a difference between pool in Japan and pool here in the US. It is a cultural divide that brings about challenges when he makes his trips back and forth to the Land of the Rising Sun (so-called because the name of the country, in Japanese – Nippon – means, literally, ‘origin of the sun’ or ‘where the sun rises.’ The iconic red disc in the center of the Japanese flag highlights the connection). The normal disorientation after a long flight is just one of the challenges.

“I got here on March 27,” he said of this most recent trip, which brought him, his wife, Naoko and their two (3-year-old and 2-month-old) children here and eventually led to his attendance at the SBE. “I was jet-lagged for at least a week.”

There is, too, he said, more of a difference in the physical atmosphere in which the two country’s pool players participate in the game.

“I struggled to adapt there,” he said of his current home, as well as being home to one of the oldest known professional billiards organizations in the world, the Japan Professional Billiards Federation, originally established as the Japan Billiards Federation, one hundred years ago. “Japanese pool rooms are very quiet and the people are more respectful there, of the game and other people.”

“Pool rooms in the US,” he added, “are never quiet places.”

Though he worked at adjusting to the atmosphere of the sport as it was played in his new home, he discovered an “unexpected response to coming back.” He found that he missed the level of high-volume ‘chat’ in US pool rooms (which likely included the 240,000 sq. ft. Greater Philadelphia Expo Center) and the style difference in how the games are played on the two sides of the Pacific Ocean.

“They’re more deliberate over there,” he said. “The US has a lot more (of what they call) gunslingers.”

Top four finishers from Amateur Open, Sr., Super Sr., Women’s, Pro Am and Junior divisions

Without further ado, let’s take a look at the top names of the Amateur competitors who walked away with a fair amount of cash at this 31st Annual SBE. It’s impractical to list all 176 Am-

ateurs who finished ‘in the money’ at the Amateur events, but we’ll take a gander at the top four finishers in the seven, single-elimination events.

The Open Amateur Players Championship (1,011 entrants) was won by Corey Sykes, who defeated Jeremy Fedkenheur in the finals. Aaron Greenwood and Brandon Hallet finished in the tie for third. The Senior Amateur Players Championship (384) was won by Scott Haas, who bested Mike McLain in those finals, with David Dreidel and David Hall finishing third. Juan Taverez captured the The Super Seniors Players Championship (249) with a defeat of Freddy Scott in the final. Robert Anderson and Michael Cantrell took the semifinalists’ third prize.

A representative of the sport’s future, two-time National Junior Champion and twice US representative in the Junior World Championships, 15-year-old Skylar Hess captured the Women’s Amateur Players Championship title. Natae Goldman was the event’s runner-up with Megan Buchanan and Gwen Townsend sharing the 3rd place prize. The ProAm Barbox Players Championship featured some competitors from the sports present (P) and future (F), along with a contingent of unidentified-by-age competitors (U). It was won by Jeremy Seaman (P), who defeated Nathan Childress (F) in the final. Also ‘cashing’ in the event were Savannah Easton (F), Robb Saez (P), Darren Appleton (P), Max Watanabe (P), Jonathan Pinegar (P) and Brent Worth (F).

“ I STRUGGLED TO ADAPT THERE. JAPANESE POOL ROOMS ARE VERY QUIET AND THE PEOPLE ARE MORE RESPECTFUL THERE, OF THE GAME AND OTHER PEOPLE. POOL ROOMS IN THE US ARE NEVER QUIET PLACES.

– Neils Feijen ”



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Eklent Kaci

The two Junior events were *all about* the sport's future. Winning the Juniors 12 & Under Players Championship was Texan 'phenom' Gavin Mathew, who's been making his mark and *winning* events on the Cuetec DFW 9-Ball Tour in the Dallas/Ft. Worth area. Frankie Spain was runner-up with Chase Gerber and Tucker Dauberman finishing in 3rd. In the 17 & Under division, Grayson Vaughn took the top prize, Colston Harrelson was the runner-up, while Auston Axe and Marion Foster shared the 3rd place prize.

Neils "The Terminator" Feijen wins Diamond Open Pro Players Championship

The finals of the 2025 31st Annual Diamond Open Players Championship was as much of a thriller as one could possibly have asked for. It didn't start out that way and its shift from a back and forth sort of 'ho hum' to 'uh oh' was pretty dramatic. But before we get there, it should be noted that an even more dramatic match dominated one of the quarterfinal matches, between Fedor Gorst and the defending champion, Jayson Shaw. You might enjoy reading about it separately, as we here attempt to wrap things up with how the championship match, two rounds later, developed and turned

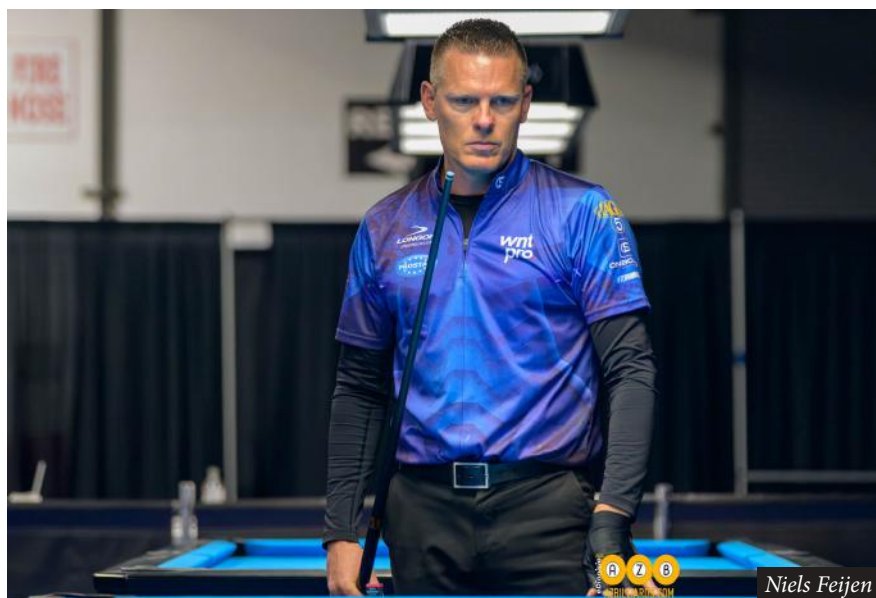
out. We invite you to use the following link to hear about it - <https://www.azbilliards.com/gorst-eliminates-diamond-opens-defending-champion-shaw-in-a-blowout/>. Now, or later, up to you.

We'll pick the tale up of what happened afterwards, by opening its final chapter here . . .

Frustration can come in a broad range of 'flavors.' It can happen in a pool game when your opponent is taking far too much time deciding which ball

he (or she) is going to pocket and even more time to get down to it and actually make a shot. Or when an opponent gets ahead by four or five racks (in a race to 10). Or in an individual game, when you make a careless mistake. But arguably the most annoying 'flavor' of frustration comes about when you've made a late-match run to tie things up (in our example here, 8-8), only to have your opponent pop your balloon of hope in a modest run of 2 and win the match.

Albania's Eklent Kaci was on the wrong end of that scenario with his late-match run of four against Niels Feijen in the finals of the SBE's Diamond Open Players Championship yesterday (Sun., April 14). It was his, and in fact, the only run of that length by either of them and it tied the score at 8-8. It was followed by two in a row that won it for the Netherlands' Niels Feijen. Adding insult to injury, after Feijen had reached the hill at 9-8, Kaci had the break, sinking the 1-ball and looking at a fairly decent connect-the-dots run to tie the score (with one tricky but not unsolvable issue). In an attempt to solve that issue as he was attempting to pocket the 5-ball, not only did Kaci make the issue a little trickier (the 7-ball and 9-ball were



Niels Feijen

now in close proximity, just on and off the short rail), but the 5-ball didn't drop. Feijen was looking at a proverbial 'sitting duck.'

Feijen jumped out of his chair and took a quick glance at the 5-ball, sitting on the very edge of a corner pocket with a number of ways in which it could be dropped into the hole *and* allow the cue ball to end up in a position to drop the 6- and after, the almost-tied-up 7-ball, hidden somewhat by the 9-ball. Critical juncture. Feijen made his choice and worked it perfectly. Down went the 5-ball, with the cue in perfect position to make the 6-ball and then, come back around, not only to drop the 7-ball, but to kick the cue ball down toward the 8-ball at the opposite end of the table. Basically, end of story.

They call him The Terminator, for his 'there is just the job at hand' energy at the table and his ability to stay focused on that job in the midst of any and all distractions common to an arena, only some of which have to do with the game. Away from the table, Feijen, though tall and broad-shouldered, is more Tom Hanks than Arnold Schwarzenegger.

"Look at how big this thing is," he said, hefting the Diamond Open Championship trophy, a very large, galvanized metal 'cup' on a wood base that weighs somewhere in the vicinity of about 10-15 pounds. "How am I going to get this home?"

Through what seemed like an endless series of 'selfie' photos requested by fans after the presentation of it (many refused assistance in taking the photo because then, as one insisted, "it wouldn't be a selfie"), Feijen beamed and smiled his way through it, in every picture, looking for all the world as if he'd known the 'selfie' photographer all his life.

He's no stranger to the pool community at large, having won multiple world titles (check his AZBilliards' profile at <https://www.azbilliards.com/person/niels-feijen/?pyear=2013> for a complete list). He's been a member of 12 European Mosconi Cup teams and was their MVP four times. Two years ago (2023), he became a member of the BCA Hall of Fame, during which time he offered guests at the Hall of Fame dinner a slide/video presentation of his own career, with a little 'stand-up comedian' flare to it that was as enter-

taining as anything *ever said* by a pool player, anywhere.

He has been, however, something of a stranger at the Super Billiards Expo's Diamond Open Players Championship recently. In discussions after he'd collected his trophy, he used the word "crazy" to talk about winning it this year.

"I haven't played in this in 20 years," he said, noting that the frequency of chasing pool earnings all over the global map has decreased for him in recent years. "I'm not as committed to it as I once was and I'm at peace with that."

Feijen gets out in front early and holds off late-match surge by Kaci

There's no evidence that in his last SBE appearance, this Terminator invoked 'Ah-nold's' now-famous expression, "Ah'll be back," line from the original *Terminator* film (1984; Feijen was seven years old at the time). His return did lack the explosiveness of the original *Terminator's* 'return' in the film, the truck that drove through the front entrance of a building. Feijen just walked in, stepped to the tables and executed his game that in its own way was as efficient as Arnold's 'truck through a brick wall' solution to *his* problem.

Feijen won two matches on the winners' side of the original, 128-entrant, double-elimination bracket, downing Steve Way in the opener and Raphael DaBreo in the second round. It was Ukraine's Vitaliy Patsura who sent him to the loss side 10-4. On the loss side, to qualify for single-elimination play, he downed two members of the 2024 USA Mosconi Cup team (Billy Thorpe 10-5 and Skyler Woodward 10-3) with a 10-5 victory over Hong Kong's Lo Ho Sun in the middle.

On the surface of his single-elimination work, it looked as though each



Raphael DaBreo

opponent he faced was giving him just a little harder time than the one before. This held true until the very end. He got by Bosnia/Herzegovina's Sanjin Pehlivanovic 10-6, before Canada's John Morra and Spain's David Alcaide racked up seven against him and he advanced to the finals.

Kaci, in the meantime, earned his slot in the single-elimination Stage 2 of the event, with four straight on the winners' side of the original bracket, downing USA's Corey Cooper (2), Canada's Vincent Beaurivage (5), Indonesia's Koyongian and USA's Shane Wolford to qualify for single-elimination. He opened Stage 2 with a 10-6 victory over Lithuania's Pijus Labutis, who was runner-up to Jayson Shaw in the 2024 Diamond Open. Kaci then eliminated Spain's F.S.R. (Francisco Sanchez-Ruiz) 10-8 and advanced to a semifinal against Fedor Gorst, who had just dominated in a winners' side quarterfinal win (10-3) over last year's champion Shaw. In only the second double-hill battle of single-elimination play, Kaci eliminated Gorst and stepped into the final.

Feijen broke and ran the opening rack of the final. Kaci didn't break and run the second game, but to coin a little 'gunslinger' terminology, he did 'flash a little leather' to win it. He came within a whisker of making a 2-9 combination, turned the table over to Feijen briefly and *did* make a 4-9 combination to create the first of only two ties in the match. Niels came right back with a second break and run that launched a four-rack run that put him up 5-1.

Feijen broke dry *and* scratched on rack #7. Kaci ran the table to get back into the swing of things, sort of, and they traded racks for a while, with Kaci pulling to within three a couple of times, including rack #11 that made it 7-4. Kaci broke rack #12, found himself in early trouble and scratched shooting at the 4-ball. Niels ran the

“ IT WAS A GRIND, THOSE FOUR MATCHES. JUST SITTING AND SITTING AND I WAS FEELING COLD AND STALE. SHOOTING AT THAT FINAL 8-BALL, I WAS (NERVOUS AND APPREHENSIVE), BUT I HIT IT GOOD AND I HIT IT POSITIVE.

– Neils Feijen

table, re-establishing his four-game lead (8-4).

Though Feijen would drop two breaking rack #13, it was the 2-ball that cost him the game. He missed a bank on it the first time, in what was otherwise a connect-the-dots table for him and then, after Kaci gave him a second chance, he made an unforced error shooting at it. Kaci cleared the table to close the gap to three again (8-5). It was the first of four straight that would eventually tie the score.

Kaci broke rack #14, but was forced to play safe shooting at the 2-ball. They played 'chase the 2-ball' for a while, before Kaci broke out of it and eventually went on to draw within two at 8-6. Feijen broke and scratched shooting at the next rack, and when Kaci ran the table to draw within one, Feijen added an item to the opening list of frustration 'flavors.'

"I got frustrated at the scratches," he would say later. "I had a chance to blow it open (with thar run of four racks). I wasn't trying to steamroll him from there, but I was letting him in."

Kaci dropped the 9-ball on the break of rack #16 and it was 8-8, creating a possible best-of-three set of matches for the championship title. Feijen broke and reached the hill on the next rack and finished it off of Kaci's break of the final rack.

Feijen has a YouTube channel on which he shares instructional videos on pool techniques and mental strategies. Asked, right after the match, which of his own instructional videos would best reflect his own advice as it

applied to his winning of the 31st Diamond Open Players Championship. He pointed to advice that he offers in a YouTube presentation, entitled *DON'T Give Your Pool Match Away! Use These 5 Techniques to Stay Strong in the Chair.*

He spoke after the match about things that one can control and the things one can't; crowds in general, cell phones, etc.

"Keep digging at it," he said of any distractions. "Then flush them, like a toilet."

Among the distractions he flushed was the transition from challenge matches he would play against amateurs at the Longoni Booth in the exhibition hall to the matches against the professionals in the Diamond Open arena. On the one hand, he noted, the freewheeling style he employed in the challenge matches had a way of spilling into his rhythm and approach in the arena. On the other hand, he noted, the challenge matches had him "playing a lot of pool, (which) helped."

Another distraction, especially as Kaci got closer in the end, was the "momentum shift" of Kaci's run.

"It was a grind, those four matches," he said. "Just sitting and sitting and I was feeling cold and stale. Shooting at that final 8-ball, I was (nervous and apprehensive), but I hit it good and I hit it positive."

In the end, he was of two minds about the entire event and his part in it.

"I'm happy," he said, "and relieved."

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ALBANIA'S EKLENT KACI

GOES UNDEFEATED TO CLAIM WNT RANKING EVENT, THE 2025 MCDERMOTT OPEN

By Skip Maloney - AzB Staff / Photos courtesy Austin Cofrancesco – Sharkstream

At first glance, the 55-entrant field at the \$10,000-added, 2025 McDermott Open was the kind of star-studded gathering that made you wonder about the competitors who weren't there.

Like the current top five in our 2025 AZBilliards Money Leaderboard, for example; Joshua Fillier, Fedor Gorst, Shane Van Boening, Denis Grabe and Billy Thorpe. A second glance revealed a lot of names normally seen only intermittently at

this level of competition. Not that the names that jumped out at you were virtual 'nobodys.' It's just that many of them, over the years, have made their most significant overall contributions (and earnings) competing regionally (and specifically on the East Coast) with occasional forays into the upper levels of national and sometimes, international competition.

This year's McDermott Open was a World Nineball Tour (WNT) ranking event at which players accumulate points, leading to a possible selection for either the European or US Mosconi Cup teams, which will meet at the end of this year. The McDermott Open followed, by a week, the Seattle Nineball Open (March 28-30) and will be followed by The Diamond Open Nineball Professional Players Championship at the Super Billiards Expo outside of Philadelphia this week (April 10-13), both WNT ranking events. So as not to 'bury the lead' (as we say in the biz), Albania's Eklent Kaci went undefeated at this year's McDermott Open, which was hosted by Yale Billiards in Wallingford, CT. Kaci won two matches in the original Stage 1, double-elimination portion of the event and went on to win four more in the single-elimination, 16-entrant Stage 2. In the finals, he defeated the person referred to in the digitalpool bracket as 'F.S.R,' short perhaps for Fairly Solid Run, although, in fact, it was Spain's Francis-

co Sanchez-Ruiz. We will get to their 'paths' to the final shortly.

Among the 16 competitors at the McDermott Open who cashed in the event were four of the aforementioned competitors whose presence was something of a mild surprise, though certainly not anything resembling a shock. Finishing in the tie for third with the certainly familiar Jason Shaw was Brandon Shuff. In the four-way tie for fifth place was Lukas Fracasso-Verner, who would qualify as a 'borderline' surprise, given that he's been making appearances at this level for quite some time now. In the eight-way tie for 9th place, having lost their first match in the single-elimination Phase 2, were Hunter Lombardo and Joe Dupuis. All have been consistently active on a portion of the East Coast, stretching from Massachusetts (Dupuis) to Florida (Lombardo).

Dupuis, in particular, would qualify as something of a 'poster child' for the resilience of long-time pool veterans, whose careers have risen, fallen, sometimes disappeared for varied stretches of time and yet continue to step up and surprise people who've been competing at high levels for nowhere nearly as long as he's been around.

On his 41st birthday, in March, 2016, Dupuis, from Brockton, MA, was inducted into the New England Pool and Billiard Hall of Fame. When he accepted the microphone to speak from



Eklent Kaci

a former inductee, Tom McGonagle, he opened with a remark that could arguably be construed as a signpost, representing every medium-level competitor who, in spite of extenuating circumstances that pull them away and then push them back into a career at the tables, manages to remain relevant in the large tapestry of professional competition.

“As always,” he said, stepping up to the podium and prefacing further remarks, “I’m unprepared.”

He went on to talk about his career at length, detailing specifics about Turning Stone appearances, including one (XXI; the 4th Annual New England Hall of Fame banquet and tournament) at which Earl Strickland had to bear down and defeat him, double hill, in a loss-side match. In 2013, he was the first-ever competitor to become the American Rotation National Champion. The following year, he was second to Mike Dechaine at the 2014 American Rotation National Championships, but in the 5th Annual New England Hall of Fame get-together, double-dipped Dechaine in the finals. So, quite a few steps above ‘wanna be’ and still in there, duking it out with the best, which could be said of all of the mentioned ‘surprises.’

As for the more expected combatants and their progress through the field, Kaci and F.S.R. advanced to the Stage 2, single-elimination bracket from the winners’ side of Stage 1’s double-elimination bracket. Kaci opened with a bye before defeating Jacob Book 9-3 and Brandon Shuff 9-6 to qualify for Stage 2. Ralf Souquet also advanced in the same mini, 16-entrant bracket of the full-field 64-entrant bracket. ‘The Kaiser’ opened with a bye, as well, and met up with Joe Dupuis, who’d opened with a shutout over Cheryl Williamson. Souquet sent Dupuis to the loss side, and defeated Georgi Georgiev 9-6.



Francisco Sanchez-Ruiz

F.S.R.’s trip to Stage 2 (with bye) went through Payne McBride 9-4 and Sam Henderson 9-3 to qualify. Fracasso-Verner, in the same ‘mini 16’ bracket, downed Brent Worth 9-3, Alex Bausch 9-2 and John Morra 9-5 to advance.

Also advancing from the winners’ side of the Stage 1 proceedings were Indonesia’s Edward Koyongian and Lithuania’s Pijus Labutis, along with the aforementioned Hunter Lombardo and Eklent Kaci’s younger brother, Kledio Kaci.

On the loss side, all but one of the eight competitors who advanced to Stage 2 did so by winning a single match on the loss side; Francesco Candela (over Dave Garvish 9-4), David Alcaide (over Mhet Vergara 9-3), Jonas Souto (over Andri Januarta 9-3), Jayson Shaw (over Jeremy Sossei 9-7), Georgi Georgiev (over Alex Bausch 9-2), Brandon Shuff (over Payne McBride 9-2) and Sam Henderson (over Nathan Childress 9-5).

Joe Dupuis was the only ‘holdout,’ in a manner of speaking. He followed his loss to ‘The Kaiser’ with three in a row to qualify for Stage 2, downing Steve Sutton 9-7, Lance Lisciotti 9-4 and

with advancement on the line, defeated John Morra 9-7.

As expected, Stage 2 matches tighten up, as Kaci and F.S.R. work their way to the finals

Five of the eight matches in the opening round of Stage 2’s single-elimination bracket ended up with its winners prevailing 11-8. One went double-hill (Shaw over Koyongian), another went 11-7 (Shuff over Lombardo) and Kledio Kaci eliminated Joe Dupuis 11-1. Perhaps in solidarity with his fellow East Coast regional competitor, Brandon Shuff avenged Dupuis’ elimination by advancing to battle and defeat Kledio Kaci, double hill, in one of the quarterfinals.

Also advancing to the quarterfinals and winning through to the semifinals was Eklent Kaci, who would defeat Francesco Candela 11-3 and in the semifinals, meet Shaw, who’d eliminated Pijus Labutis 11-7. F.S.R. got by Fracasso-Verner 11-7, and in his semifinal, met Shuff, once he’d completed his double-hill number on Kledio Kaci.

Kaci downed Shaw 11-9, as F.S.R. was busy eliminating Shuff 11-7. In a race to 13, Eklent Kaci claimed the 2025 McDermott Open 13-7.

JONAS SOUTO GOES UNDEFEATED

DOWNS 'SKY' WOODWARD IN DOUBLE-HILL FINAL AT SEATTLE 9-BALL OPEN

By Skip Maloney - AzB Staff / Photos courtesy Sandro Menzel

We don't come across a lot of professional pool events happening above the 47th North Latitude line which lies just south of Seattle, WA.

There are a few international cities above that line, including Vienna, which hosts a regular stop on the Euro Tour, but we've never heard of a pool tournament in Bern, Switzerland, for example, or Urumqi, China, Astana in Kazakhstan or Vladivostok, Russia, for that matter. But a strong contingent of professionals headed north to Seattle this past weekend, March 28-30, to compete in the World Nineball Tour ranking event, the 2025 Seattle 9-Ball Open. Though the 64-entrant field featured a number of Canadians and a strong contingent of American competitors, it was won by Spain's Jonas Souto, who went undefeated through three opponents in a double-elimination Stage 1 of the event and four more in the 16-entrant single-elimination Stage 2 to claim the event title. The event drew its 64 competitors to OX Billiards in Seattle.

Team USA's captain in the 2024 Mosconi Cup, Sky Woodward also went undefeated through Stage 1 and won three of his four matches in Stage 2. He and Souto met in the finals and played a race-to-13 double-hill match to end it.

Stage 1 of the event whittled the original field of 64 down to 16 competitors, eight on each side of the double-elimination bracket. There were, in effect, four winners' side mini-brackets of 16 players each, which took three matches to determine the two players from each mini-bracket who'd advance to Stage 2.

In races to 9, in his 16-player mini-bracket, Souto got by Jesse Johnson (1), Max Adams (4) and Tyrel Blowers (2) and advanced to Stage 2. Indonesia's Edward Koyongian, from the same mini-bracket advanced to Stage 2, as well. Woodward's trip to Stage 2 saw him down his first two opponents 9-1, Chris Aldrich and William Pearson. Blake Baker chalked up five against him in the next round, but Blake moved to the loss side as Woodward moved on to single-elimination.

From the same mini-bracket of 16, Sam Henderson advanced to Stage 2. The other four from the winners' side to advance were Stephen Folan, Payne McBride, John Morra and Andri Januarta (also from Indonesia).

Of the eight that advanced to Stage 2 from the loss side of the double-elimination, six of them had to win just one match on that side of the bracket to advance. Bulgaria's Georgi Georgiev, the event's defending champion,



who'd lost the last qualifying round on the winners' side to Payne McBride, beat Max Adams 9-5 to advance. Lucas Fracasso-Verner who'd lost his last qualifying round to Folan, downed Joe Spence 9-1 to advance. Tommy Tokoph, who'd lost his last qualifier to Henderson got by Daniel Sardonicillo 9-5. Blake Baker, who'd lost his last qualifying round to Sky Woodward, fought to double-hill in his one and only loss-side match, eliminating Prathamesh Sawant to advance. Raymond Linares, who'd lost his last qualifying match to Koyongian, downed Bo Belonia 9-5 and advanced, as well. Tyrel Blowers, who'd lost his last qualifier to Souto, downed April Larson 9-6 to join the advancing crowd.

Stephen Holem, who'd lost his last qualifier to Sam Henderson had to win two on the loss side before meeting and defeating Paul Song 9-4 and advancing to single elimination. Jesse Johnson, who'd lost in his last qualifying round to Souto had to win three on the loss side, ahead of a 9-7 win over James Davee to advance.

In races to 11, the 16 players who advanced to Stage 2, single elimination, played 14 matches before Souto and Woodward met in the finals. One might think that at this stage of the 64-entrant proceedings that most of those matches would be 'competitive,' to the extent of finishing anywhere from 11-7 to double hill, on average. Not here, not this time.

The opening round of single elimination in those races to 11 saw the first players to be eliminated chalking up, on average, only five racks-against. The opening round saw Stage 2's only shutout, when Souto defeated Jesse Johnson in a rematch. There was only one double-hill match in that opening round (of the two in single-elimination) with Tyrel Blowers eliminating Edward Koyongian. Two competitors won six racks, two others won two and there was one each that managed five and nine.

Skyler Woodward



Though partially influenced by the data-eccentricities of a diminishing number of competitors, the second round got worse in the racks-against department, with the average racks-against coming down to just over four (and percentage points) per match. The remaining 'strong' were getting stronger and bearing down.

Blake Baker won nine racks in his match versus John Morra, who advanced to one of the semifinals. Blowers managed five in his match against Souto, who advanced to face Morra.

Georgi Georgiev allowed Raymond Linares only a single rack and advanced to the other semifinal. Sky Woodward gave up two to Stephen Holem and joined him.

With the field down to four, the sample size of the racks-against (2) has a way of making them relatively insignificant, although the average did go down to an exact 4 (the average of 6 and 2). It was Goergiev, losing his bid for a second straight Seattle Open title, who chalked up the six against

Woodward, as Souto was busy restricting John Morra to his 2.

And the final race to 13 was on. Two hours and four minutes after the eventual double-hill match between Souto and Woodward began, it was over. Souto claimed title to the 2025 Seattle 9-Ball Open.

Tournament director Secret Wong thanked OX Billiards room owners Michael Dominguez and their staff for their hospitality, along with sponsors Litman Lights, Kamui, Clean Slate Billiards, Jess Magnus, Sandro Menzel, Cuetec and Brunswick. She also thanked Master of Ceremonies Ra Hanna, stream commentators Christian Youngers, Zak Ross & Shucheng Chao (along with various players) and referees Aaron and Renee Ross on Friday and Saturday and Aaron Ross and Sam Rabito on Sunday. The next stop on this Great Northwest calendar is a 650/330 and under 9-ball tournament, two tournaments on the same weekend (April 12-13) at the same location, Scratch Pizza & Billiards/15th St. Bar & Grill in Fife, WA.

JOSHUA & JASMIN RULE IN TALLINN

Story and photos courtesy **EPBF**

JOSHUA FILLER AND Jasmin Ouschan continue to dominate the Predator Euro Tour this year as they both once again claimed victory, this time at the ARC ESTONIAN OPEN. The winning pair won in February in Treviso and again delivered the goods at the Kalevi Hall in Tallinn.

In the open division, Filler spoiled Dennis Grabe's homecoming as he defeated him 10-6, while Ouschan put paid to Pia Filler's hopes with an 8-6 victory. For both champions, it was a milestone win. It was Filler's 10th Euro Tour title, while for Ouschan it was her 20th, an amazing feat by any standards.

After beating Stefan Kasper in the semi-final, Filler faced Grabe in front of a good audience, clearly in favour of the local man. After sharing the spoils initially, Filler powered ahead, taking an 8-3 lead as he won five racks in a little over 30 minutes. Grabe, to his credit, wasn't done and battled

back, taking the next three games to get within two of Filler. That was to be his last contribution as Filler closed out the match for yet another victory.

"I'm over the moon to win it again, after winning in Italy, it was great. But it was a different tournament with 8-ball and I'd never played that on the Euro Tour before. It was tougher because I feel that when you play 8-ball, other players who are probably not as good in 9-ball and 10-ball can beat you in 8-ball because it's a different game and much easier in my opinion.

"It makes me feel much better because I've gone through many tough

matches and I'm super delighted to be here. I was up 8-3 and then I didn't make a ball on the break and the next thing I knew it was 8-6 then I took a break because I felt like I wanted to move a little and refocus and try to think about what break I was going to do.

"I put a little draw on it and made two or three balls and finished with two break and runs which was amazing. I was here for two-and-a-half weeks so I just want to get home and relax!" he added.

Jasmin Ouschan overcame some difficulty to emerge victorious in the women's ARC Estonian Open. She looked dead and buried in her semi-final match against Spain's Maria Teresa Ropero as she trailed 3-7, but somehow found a way to overcome her nervy opponent to make her way to the final.

There she stormed into a 7-1 lead but needed to endure a spirited comeback from Pia Filler who closed the score to 7-6. Ouschan's winning mentality though, saw her through to claim victory and her second Euro Tour win in two starts.

She said, "I've won another Euro Tour title and it's my 20th title so of course I'm happy. My game was a little bit up

Joshua Filler



Estonian Open

It's part of the sport but I'm very grateful I could pull this one around," she concluded.

The Predator Euro Tour series returns from 12th to 15th June with the Predator Austrian Open. The venue is the picturesque alpine town of St. Johann im Pongau and there are both open and women's tournaments.

This year sees a new streaming platform for all Euro Tour and European Championships events.

Table 1 will be streamed throughout on YouTube, via the Pro Billiard TV channel – <https://www.youtube.com/@ProBilliardTV>

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Jasmin Ouschan

and down so it was getting a bit too tight for my tastes in the end but it's been a long two weeks and I'm exhausted, I'm empty and I gave it my all and it worked out for me so I'm happy.

"In that semi-final I just couldn't feel my cue, I felt like that wasn't my arm.

It was just wrong; every position was wrong so I thought if I get another chance just try it as that's the only thing you can do. And for some reason she gave me lots of chances and I was lucky to get that back to be honest. Sometimes you need luck on your side as next time it may go against me.



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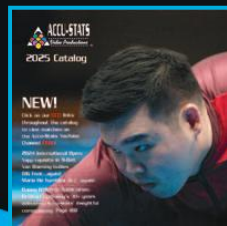
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GOMEZ & CHOCHAN TAKE BEASLEY OPEN

Article by **Mary Kenniston** - Photo courtesy **Pool Action TV**

Owners Rich Kuntz & Tammy Frampton welcomed both players & fans to the legendary Brass Tap & Billiards in Raleigh, NC for the \$20,000 added Beasley Open.

Featuring both one pocket and nine ball divisions, this World Nineball Tour event allowed players to add their finishes to the nine ball world rankings.

Doug Beasley Custom Cues & Meucci joined the Brass Tap & PoolActionTV.com in sponsoring this WNT ranking event. Diamond Billiard Products, Inc. & Ray Hansen supplied a table for the one pocket event.

Names spotted around the room included defending champ Alex Calderon – he swept both the One Pocket & Nine Ball divisions! BCA Hall of Famer Rodney Morris was there plus reigning Bayou State One Pocket Classic winner Tony Chohan & Buffalo's Pro One Pocket champ Roberto Gomez. Billy Thorpe, current Bayou

State Classic 9-Ball titleist & winner of the Bank Pool Showdown as well as the Virginia Barbox 9-Ball champ, Mike Davis Jr. were seen. 2024 Derby City Classic Banks Ring Game victor Mike DeLawder was there as well as North Carolina State 9-Ball champ, BJ Ussery.

Foreign entries included Spain's Jonas Souto Comino, fresh off a win at the Seattle Nineball Open & last year's Mosconi Cup team member plus Space City Open One Pocket Champ, Mickey Krause of Denmark. Current Canadian Nine & Ten Ball champ John Morra was there as well as Bulgaria's Georgi Georgiev – last year's Seattle

Nineball Open winner.

Others seen around the room were Johnathan ("Hennessee") Pinegar, Ike Runnels, Brandon Shuff, Danny Smith, Josh Roberts, Nathan Childress, Devin Poteet & trying to shake off the rust after a long layoff, Teddy Garrahan.

2024 Buffalo's Pro Classic Open 9-Ball champ Lukas Fracasso-Verner & Joey Tate, winner of the Q City 9-Ball Tour Championship, led other young guns including 2023 Mosconi Cup team member Shane Wolford & Eric Roberts.

The tournament began with the \$7,500 added one pocket division. Thirty nine players paid a \$300 entry fee to compete in this double elimination event. All races were 3/3 with the final match a race to four.



*Roberto Gomez and Tony Chohan
(Courtesy Pool Action TV)*

Play began on Wednesday evening & in the upper portion of the bracket, Chohan & Smith prevailed. Chohan drew a first round bye followed by shut outs over Cadelario Lopez, Childress & Shuff. Smith had it a bit tougher with wins over Tyler Kraven (0), Joey Buoniconti (1), Yash Ajmera (1) & Norris Brady (1).

The Chohan-Smith match went down to the wire 3-2 & Tony advanced to the hot seat match – Smith headed west.

In the lower portion of the chart, Gomez also drew a first round bye & went on to defeat Brad Shearer (1), Josh Roberts (0) & Fracasso-Verner (1). Calderon beat John Braud (1), Corey Sykes (2), DeLawder (0) & Poteet (0).

On fire, Gomez defeated Calderon 3-0 – Alex went to the one loss side.

The hot seat match went down to the wire with Chohan defeating Gomez 3-2 & locking up his seat in the finals.

Gomez would await an opponent to emerge from the one loss side.

After losing his fourth round match, Shuff got busy dismantling his opponents. Down went DeLawder (2), Brady (1), Calderon (2) & Smith (0).

Finally, he arrived at the match to put him in the finals but it was not to be. Battling down to the case game, Gomez took the match 3-2 & would go on to face Chohan in the finals. Shuff finished in third place.

The finals was all Chohan as he marched to a 4-1 victory & the title.

The \$12,500 added Open WNT event began on Thursday evening. This division had sixty five players paying a \$300 entry fee to play in this winner breaks event. It had two stages: Stage 1 was double elimination with races to 8/8 & was played down to the final sixteen players. Stage 2 was single elimination with

races to nine & the finals a race to thirteen.

The final sixteen was Paul Song over Kraus (2), Fracasso-Verner over McBride (6), Childress over Oliver Ruuger (3), Thorpe over DeLawder (5), Morra over Ussery (5), Gomez over Wolford (4), Georgiev over Tate (6) & Souto Comino over Jason Rogers (1).

The next round saw Fracasso-Verner over Song (4), Thorpe over Childress (3), Gomez over Morra (7) & Souto Comino over Georgiev (3).

Down to the final four, Gomez defeated Souto Comino (3) & Fracasso-Verner edged out Thorpe (8).

The finals was all Gomez as he cruised to a 13-6 victory over Fracasso-Verner.

Congratulations to both Tony Chohan & Roberto Gomez for becoming this year's Beasley Open champs!

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GROOT WINS

FIRST CAREER USBA NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP

Article by **AzB Staff** - Photo courtesy **USBA**

Raymon Groot has won the 2025 United States Billiard Association (USBA) National Championship, held at Bergen Billiards in Palisades Park, NJ on April 24 – 27.

The event kicked off on April 24th with eight groups of seven players competing in 25 point matches. Groot emerged from his group (Group G) with a 5-1 record, only dropping his match against Seung Kwon Hong 25-17.

Hong's 6-0 record in his group earned him a #1 seed from his group. He joined such notables as reigning USBA National Champion Hugo Patino and twelve time National Champion Pedro Piedrabuena as #1 seeds from their respective groups.

As the #2 seed from his group, Groot was forced to play a first round match in the final twenty four player single elimination group, and he made quick work of John Guidali in a 40-26 game in 29 innings.

If there was any question that Groot had the crowd's attention, he did away with that in the round of sixteen, with a 40-32 win over Patino in 36 innings. Groot ran a run of nine consecutive points and averaged 1.111 points per inning.

Groot avenged his earlier loss to Hong in the quarterfinals, with a 40-31 game that took 35 innings. While Hong had a high run of six points, he couldn't match Groot's 1.143 average. Of particular note in the quarterfinals, was twelve time Nationals Champion Piedrabuena's 15 inning game against Won Sik Kang. Piedrabuena had an

unheard of 2.667 average and a high run of six points.

The Semifinals saw Piedrabuena average 1.538 points per inning in his one sided 40-26 win over John Park. Groot's win was much harder fought, as he defeated Kang Lee 40-38 in 31 innings.

Groot saved his best for the finals, as he defeated Piedrabuena in 23 innings with a 1.739 average. That was

his highest average in any match all week and it led him to a 40-28 victory for the event win and his first career USBA National Championship.

Groot had the event high run of nine points (in the match against Patino) and a grand average of 1.299 for the event. Groot earned \$4000 in first place prize money and a \$200 bonus for the event high run, with Piedrabuena settling for \$3000 for his second place finish.



Raymon Groot

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GROWING THE GAME IN COLORADO

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE THIRD ANNUAL KIDZ KLINIK

Article by **Samm Diep** / Photos courtesy **Russ Green**

On Sunday, April 13th, 2025, Felt Billiards in Englewood, Colorado hosted another incredible juniors billiard clinic, welcoming roughly 30 young players and their families for a fun-filled day of learning, challenges, and camaraderie.

Led by Felt's house pro Samm Diep, this annual community event attracted participants aged 8 to 18, drawing participants from across the state and even as far as Casper, Wyoming.

Young players visited any of the six learning stations or four challenge shot tables, earning egg prizes filled with tickets. At the end, they traded their tickets for any of the amazing donated prizes, ranging from 5 to 250 tickets. The grand prize of a 52" Action cue and case was won by an estatic 14yo Giancarlos, who visited all ten tables several times asking for more challenges in an effort to win enough tickets for the prize.

This clinic would not have been possible without the support of an incredible team of volunteers. A huge thank-you to everyone who attended,

managed stations, and helped spread the word:

Volunteers: PBI certified instructors: Matt Wulfert, Ron Cox, Bobby Neues, Jeremiah Gage, Top players: Chris McDaniel, Chris Honeman, and Zach Bryan, from the various junior league members: Ernie Castillo, D'von, Duke Marion, Chris Grounds, Connie Cofell, Bernie Jene, and Bob Hale.

Sponsors: PoolDawg.com, Kim Young (Dragon Billiards), Steve Sherman, Jim Lareau (Break Shot Billiards).

With another successful Kidz Klinik in the books, we can't wait to see these young players continue to grow, compete, and fall in love with the sport. See you all at next year's event!

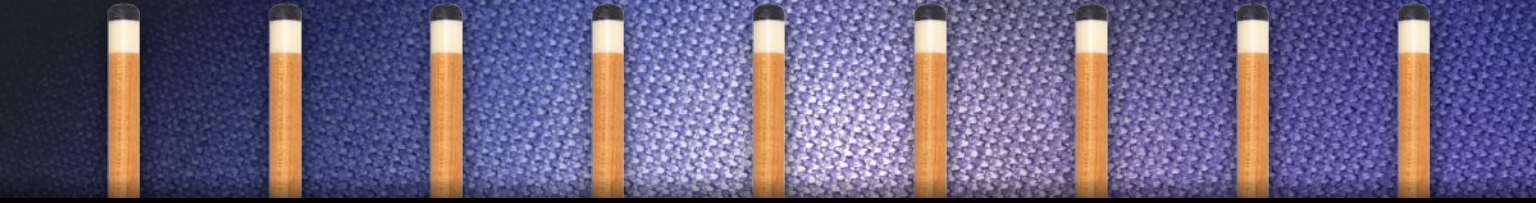
Samm is a Master-certified instructor through the PBI (Professional Billiard Instructors Association) and

ACS (American Cue Sports). As the National Juniors Team USA coach and the 2024 PBI Instructor of the Year, she brings two decades of experience working with players of all ages and skill levels. She offers both individual and group instruction, available in-person and remotely.

Felt Billiards is Colorado's premier billiards destination, offering a top-tier playing experience for players of all skill levels. Located in Englewood, CO, Felt combines a welcoming atmosphere with professional-grade tables, exceptional service, and a vibrant community of players. Whether you're here to compete, learn, or simply enjoy a night out, Felt delivers a best-in-class billiards and bar experience with great drinks, delicious food, and an unmatched passion for the game.



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ROY PASTOR

HONORED WITH BCA PRESIDENT'S AWARD

Press Release and photo courtesy **Billiards Congress of America**

The Billiard Congress of America (BCA) is proud to announce that Roy Pastor, a distinguished Master Instructor with the Professional Billiard Instructors Association (PBIA), has been named the recipient of the 2024 BCA President's Award.

As part of the BCA General Membership Meeting held in March at the 2025 BCA Expo, outgoing Chairman Philippe Singer presented the award in recognition of Pastor's unwavering dedication and impactful contributions to both the sport of billiards and the Billiard Congress of America itself.

"Roy Pastor exemplifies the dedication, integrity, and passion that the Billiard Congress of America seeks to honor through our President's Award," said Singer. "His commitment to developing young athletes and advancing cue sports at the grassroots level has been instrumental in the sport's continued growth. Beyond that, Roy has provided the association with invaluable legal guidance and professional counsel—contributions that reflect a profound sense of service and go far beyond the expectations of any volunteer."

In response, Pastor expressed gratitude for the honor and reaffirmed his commitment to the sport's future.

"I am honored to receive the 2024 BCA President's Award," said Pastor. "Pool and billiards have always been a meaningful part of my life. Like many others, I simply try to give something back to the sport I hold so dear."

"I'm encouraged by the resurgence of cue sports both nationally and inter-



Roy Pastor

nationally, particularly among younger players. Cue Sports offer a powerful platform for developing discipline, work ethic, teamwork, confidence, and integrity. The future of the game rests with the next generation of athletes, and I believe we have a responsibility to support them. That means thinking globally and building new alliances—not only with friends, but also with competitors—to ensure the

sport's continued growth and long-term success."

"I want to thank Philippe Singer, the BCA Board, and everyone involved in supporting and improving our sport."

Pastor's journey as an instructor began in the early 2000s with an after-school program in Harvard, Massachusetts. Recognizing the transforma-

tive power of coaching, he expanded his outreach to an upscale pool hall in Ayer, Massachusetts, where he organized league play and offered supervised instruction—providing free lessons to junior players regardless of their experience.

In 2005, Pastor joined forces with fellow PBIA Master Instructors to establish the American Academy of Billiard and Cue Sports. His passion for youth development led him to collaborate with the Weymouth Teen Center and the junior program in Somersworth, New Hampshire. In 2018, he helped launch the PBIA's Break and Run Premier Junior Instructional Program, which offers free, remote instruction to junior players across the country.

Pastor also founded the American Online Pool School, the first online platform to offer PBIA-accredited training courses. Through this initiative, he has helped train instructors across the

United States, Europe, Australia, and Africa—extending the reach and quality of junior instruction worldwide.

In addition to instruction, Pastor mentors junior athletes annually at the Billiard Education Foundation (BEF) Junior Nationals, with several of his students having represented Team USA in the Atlantic Challenge Cup. He also operates one of the largest USA Pool Leagues in the country and has served on numerous billiards-related boards and committees over the past two decades.

Among his many accolades, Pastor was named PBIA Jerry Briesath Instructor of the Year in 2020 and was inducted into the New England Billiard Hall of Fame in 2017.

The Billiard Congress of America is proud to recognize Roy Pastor with the 2024 President's Award, honoring his tireless commitment, innovative

leadership, and enduring impact on the billiards community.

About Billiard Congress of America

Founded in 1948, the Billiard Congress of America is a non-profit trade organization dedicated to growing a united, prosperous and highly regarded billiard industry through BCA leadership. The BCA seeks to enhance the success of its members and promote the game of billiards through educational, marketing and promotional efforts, annual industry trade shows, tournaments and other programs designed to encourage billiards as a lifestyle and make pool everybody's game. For more information, visit bca-pool.com or call 303.243.5070.

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J. PECHAUER CUSTOM CUES

ANNOUNCED AS PRESENTING SPONSOR OF THE 2025 ONEIDA WPA WOMEN'S 8 BALL WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP

J. Pechauer Custom Cues, a family-owned leader in handcrafted billiard cues, is proud to be the presenting sponsor of the 2025 Oneida WPA Women's 8 Ball World Championship—a historic event that will bring the world's top women players to our home state of Wisconsin.

For more than 60 years, J. Pechauer Custom Cues has been more than just a brand—it's been a family legacy built on craftsmanship, passion, and a deep love for the game by supporting it on every level. Sponsoring this championship isn't just about supporting the sport, it's about welcoming the world to a community that has supported J. Pechauer Custom Cues for decades. Wisconsin has one of the most passionate and expansive pool communities in the country, and this event is an opportunity to showcase that on a global stage.

As part of this prestigious event, Pechauer Cues will host a spectacular opening ceremony at the iconic Lambeau Field, one of the most revered venues in sports. This special evening will not only honor the incredible athletes competing for the title but also recognize the fans, players, and community members who make Wisconsin a true hub for billiards.

"Partnering with the Women's 8 Ball World Championship is a proud moment for Pechauer Cues and for the entire Wisconsin pool community," said Joe Pechauer, President of J. Pechauer Custom Cues. "As a family business rooted in Green Bay, we take immense pride in supporting an event of this magnitude in our own backyard. This is more than just a championship—it's a celebration of our community, our shared passion for the sport, and the next generation of



players who will continue to push the game forward."

With a strong and dedicated base of players, leagues, and fans throughout the state, Wisconsin is the perfect host for this historic championship. The combination of world-class competition, an iconic venue for the opening ceremony, and an engaged local community promises an unparalleled experience for all in attendance.

A total of \$125,000 has been added to the prize purse, making this one of the most lucrative events in women's billiards. Additionally, running concurrently with the championship will be an amateur tournament—the Roy Skenandore Memorial—held in honor of Roy Skenandore, a respected play-

er in the community. This tournament will feature a \$20,000 added prize purse, providing another competitive opportunity for players. Details on how to enter the Roy Skenandore Memorial will be announced soon.

The Women's Professional Billiards Association (WPBA) is the official producer of the event, ensuring a world-class experience for players and spectators alike. Additionally, WPBA President Dean Roeseler and Ray Skenandore played a crucial role in securing this championship, further strengthening Wisconsin's status as a major player in the billiards world.

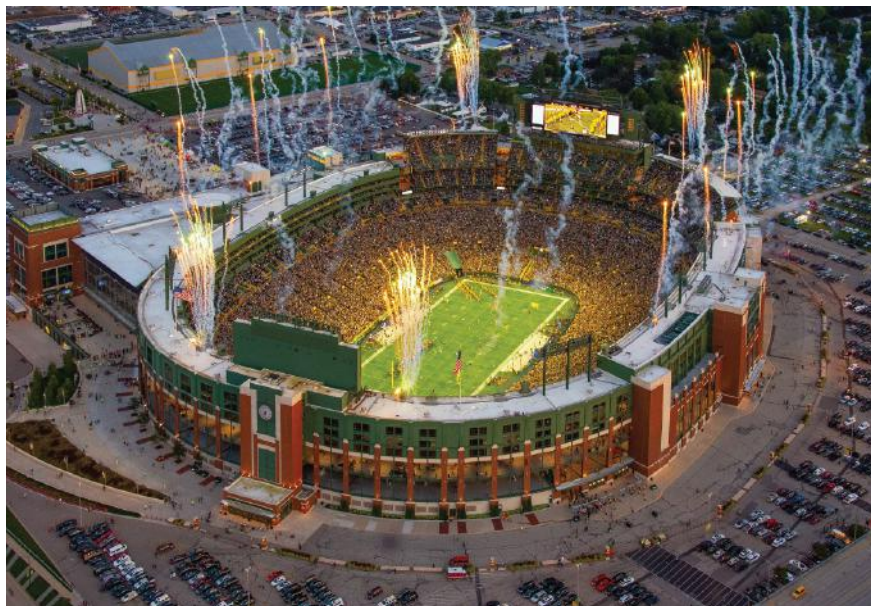
In addition to the championship, Pechauer Cues will also be hosting a youth clinic at Lambeau Field prior to

the opening ceremony. This initiative aims to inspire and educate the next generation of players. More information regarding the youth clinic will be released in the coming weeks.

The 2025 Oneida WPA Women's 8 Ball World Championship, presented by J. Pechauer Custom Cues, will take place July 2-6th at Oneida Casino Hotel. Oneida Casino Hotel is located adjacent to the Green Bay airport, with easy access to main state highways. The hotel can accommodate more than 300 guests and players and is the only hotel connected to a casino in the area.

More details, including ticket sales and live broadcast information surrounding the event, will be announced soon.

For media inquiries, sponsorship opportunities, or additional information, please contact: Riley Pechauer at riley@pechauer.com.



“ THE 2025 ONEIDA WPA WOMEN'S 8 BALL WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP, PRESENTED BY J. PECHAUER CUSTOM CUES, WILL TAKE PLACE JULY 2-6TH AT ONEIDA CASINO HOTEL. ”

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A smartphone is shown displaying a map with several location pins. One pin is red and features the PlayPool logo. To the right of the smartphone is a globe of the Earth, showing the Americas.

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BILLIARD TV FAST CHANNEL IS NOW AVAILABLE ON PRIME VIDEO

Billiard TV is now available as a free ad-supported television (FAST) channel on Prime Video, where viewers can stream the 24/7 television network with programming dedicated exclusively to cue sports anytime for free.

Billiard TV offerings in 2025 include **150 days of live event programming** in addition to highlights and full-event footage from the past 10 years of the **Mosconi Cup**, the most prestigious international nine-ball pool tournament in the world.

“The launch of Billiard TV on Prime Video reflects the growing interest in cue sports programming that we have seen over the past few years,” says Brendan Canning, co-founder and chief commercial officer of Triple B Media, which operates Billiard TV. “Whether it’s live tournament action or classic footage, Billiard TV is committed to superserving its audience by both providing more quality content and making the channel easily accessible almost anywhere. And now, it’s on Prime Video.”

Viewers can watch Billiard TV at no additional cost in the Prime Video app on mobile, tablet, Fire TV and other smart TVs and set-top boxes such as Roku. Find Billiard TV in the “Live TV” section of the app, or in the Sports section under “Sports stations – On now.”

Since launching in 2021, Billiard TV has amassed key partnerships throughout the sport including with the Predator Pro Billiard Series, Predator Euro Tour, Matchroom Sport, Women’s Professional Billiard Association, International Pool Association, American Poolplayers Association, Accu-Stats and more. All told, Billiard

TV will stream more than 50 multi-day professional events this year, totaling more than 1,000 hours of live programming.

Two thirds of Americans now watch FAST channels. Billiard TV racked up over 65 million viewers last year with an impressive average watch time per session of 80 minutes.

In addition to Prime Video, the channel is accessible on a wide range of television platforms, including Samsung TV Plus, Pluto TV, LG Channels, DAZN, YouTube TV, Fubo, Sling TV, Xfinity Stream, Xumo Play, Google Freeplay, Plex, Distro TV, Local Now, Tivo, Free Live Sports, TCL, sports.tv, Freecast, Stremium, Channel Box and

Vidaa. (Availability of Billiard TV on a given platform may vary by country.) Billiard TV is also available to stream via its own Roku app as well as on Streamstak, Triple B’s owned and operated platform.

About Triple B Media

Triple B Media is a full-service content company, specializing in the operation of television networks and content distribution throughout the world. Triple B Media owns or operates television networks including Billiard TV, Bark TV, PowerSports World, ACL Cornhole TV, Boxing TV and more. Triple B Media also operates its own digital platform, **Streamstak**.



Shane Van Boening, left, defeated Sanjin Pehlivanović in the final of the 2023 Predator WPA World 8-Ball Men's Championship

« When I play all the big tournaments around the world, we only use Aramith and Simonis. You know you get 100% high quality. It just makes the game easier to play. »

Jayson Shaw



MOSCONI CUP

RETURNS TO ICONIC ALEXANDRA PALACE AS TEAM EUROPE DEFENDS ON HOME SOIL— 3-6 DECEMBER 2025

The world's most prestigious pool event, the Mosconi Cup, will return to the iconic Alexandra Palace in London from 3-6 December 2025. Team Europe will look to defend their title against Team USA in front of an electric home crowd, with the action broadcast live on Sky Sports in the United Kingdom.

For the first time ever, Mosconi Cup will be live on **WNT TV** in the USA, with subscribers set to receive exclusive early access to tickets for this showdown starting 7 May 2025.

PRIORITY TICKETS ON SALE 7 MAY VIA WNT TV

General sale tickets will be available from the 8th May 2025. Sign up to ticket alerts here.

Fans who subscribe to WNT TV will enjoy exclusive 24-hour priority access to tickets from 7 May 2025, before the general sale opens on 8 May 2025. What's more, both UK and USA subscribers will be able to catch all the action of the highly anticipated UK Open Pool Championship, available to watch live on WNT TV from 6 May 2025.

Following the overwhelming success of last year's sold-out event, World Nineball Tour is set to make this year's edition even bigger, with seating capacity **increased by 1,000 per day**, ensuring more fans than ever can witness the drama live in London.

The Mosconi Cup is the ultimate transatlantic showdown, where the fiercest rivalry in pool takes centre stage. With a packed Alexandra Palace roaring on their team, **Team Europe** will look to harness home advantage to claim a

sixth consecutive win, while **Team USA** aims to silence the crowd and reclaim the prestigious title.

Matchroom Sport chairman Eddie Hearn said: "The Mosconi Cup is the biggest party in Sport and you can bet that Ally Pally will be absolutely rocking in December. Team Europe has dominated over the past five years. But Team USA will be desperate to finally roll back the years and take all the glory. High-octane drama and an intense battle between the two five-man teams awaits. Do not miss it."

Matchroom Multi Sport CEO, Emily Frazer, commented: "The Mosconi Cup continues to grow year after year, and the energy at Alexandra Palace in 2025 is set to reach new heights. We are thrilled to return to London, where

the atmosphere is unmatched. With increased seating and an ever-expanding fanbase, this year's event will be the biggest yet. Whether you're a die-hard pool fan or experiencing the Mosconi Cup for the first time. Bring your friends or your family, this is an event you simply cannot miss."

SUBSCRIBE TO WNT TV TO SECURE YOUR SEATS FOR THE BIGGEST MOSCONI CUP YET

With demand at an all-time high, fans are urged to act fast when tickets become available. Experience the unrivalled intensity of the Mosconi Cup 2025, live from Alexandra Palace in London.

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



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Tourney Results

Apr 03 - Apr 06

2025 McDermott Open

Yale Billiards

Wallingford, Connecticut

- 1 Eklent Kaci \$8,000
- 2 Francisco Sanchez-Ruiz \$4,000
- 3 Brandon Shuff \$2,650
- 3 Jayson Shaw \$2,650
- 5 Francesco Candela \$1,500
- 5 Kledio Kaci \$1,500
- 5 Lukas Fracasso-Verner \$1,500
- 5 Pijus Labutis \$1,500
- 9 David Alcaide \$750
- 9 Edward Koyongian \$750
- 9 Georgi Georgiev \$750
- 9 Hunter Lombardo \$750
- 9 Joe Dupuis \$750
- 9 Jonas Souto Comino \$750
- 9 Ralf Souquet \$750
- 9 Sam Henderson \$750

Apr 04 - Apr 06

2025 NY State Bar Box 9-Ball Championship

Good Fella's Billiard Club

Selden, NY

- 1 Lucas Kilgore \$4,400
- 2 Patrick Gutierrez \$2,800
- 3 Del Sim \$1,400
- 3 Tyler Cleaves \$1,400
- 5 Alfredo Altamirano \$700
- 5 Henry Cha \$700
- 7 Rhys Chen \$400
- 7 William Aley \$400
- 9 Alex Guerrero \$240
- 9 Josh Thiele \$240
- 9 Paul Tytler \$240
- 9 Richard Silva \$240
- 13 Asa Shaw \$150
- 13 Greg Oldacre \$150
- 13 Mario Aviles \$150
- 13 Ray McNamara \$150

Apr 05 - Apr 05

New England Junior American Billiard Championship Series Stop 3

Concord, NH

Apr 05 - Apr 05

Rack Race Stop #6

Rack and Grill II

Augusta, Georgia

- 1 Josh Roberts \$1,000
- 2 Johnny Archer \$500
- 4 Jason Steman \$220
- 5 Darrel Williams \$120
- 5 Jeff Blatell \$120
- 7 Florean Constantin \$60
- 7 Paul Song \$60

Apr 06 - Apr 06

Garden State Pool Tour Open Stop

Bergen Billiards

Palisades Park, NJ

- 1 Ronnie Xu \$500
- 2 Sanchit Mehra \$260
- 3 Gabriel Garcia \$180
- 4 Noel Garcia \$120
- 5 Giancarlo Delgado \$100
- 5 Victor Nau \$100

Apr 10 - Apr 13

2025 Super Billiards Expo Open NineBall Pro Players Championship

Greater Philadelphia Expo Center at Oaks

Oaks, PA

- 1 Niels Feijen \$15,000
- 2 Eklent Kaci \$9,000
- 3 Fedor Gorst \$7,000
- 4 David Alcaide \$6,000
- 5 Francisco Sanchez-Ruiz \$4,700
- 5 Jayson Shaw \$4,700

- 7 John Morra \$4,100
- 7 Lukas Fracasso-Verner \$4,100
- 9 Jesus Atencio \$3,400
- 9 Kledio Kaci \$3,400
- 9 Pijus Labutis \$3,400
- 9 Thorsten Hohmann \$3,400
- 13 Hunter Lombardo \$3,000
- 13 Ralf Souquet \$3,000
- 13 Sanjin Pehlivanovic \$3,000
- 13 Shane Wolford \$3,000

Apr 10 - Apr 12

2025 Predator EPBF Estonian Open

Kalev Sport Hall

Tallinn,

- 1 Joshua Filler \$6,826
- 2 Denis Grabe \$5,231
- 3 Stefan Kasper \$3,411
- 3 Yuma Dorner \$3,411
- 5 Albin Ouschan \$1,990
- 5 Jose Alberto Delgado \$1,990
- 5 Petri Makkonen \$1,990
- 5 Roman Hybler \$1,990
- 9 Amil Andre Gangflot \$1,421
- 9 Ante Sola \$1,421
- 9 Casper Matikainen \$1,421
- 9 Daniel Maciol \$1,421
- 9 David Zalman \$1,421
- 9 Georgios Kampourlidis \$1,421
- 9 Michal Muklewicz \$1,421
- 9 Wojciech Szewczyk \$1,421
- 17 Aleksa Pecelj \$824
- 17 Arseny Sevastyanov \$824
- 17 Balazs Koles \$824
- 17 Daniel Guttenberger \$824
- 17 Dmitri Hryb \$824
- 17 Fabio Rizzi \$824
- 17 Hubert Lopotko \$824
- 17 Karl Gnadeberg \$824
- 17 Kestutis Zadeikis \$824
- 17 Kristian Mrva \$824
- 17 Luca Menn \$824
- 17 Maximilian Lechner \$824

17 Miguel Silva \$824
17 Ricardo Gutjahr \$824
17 Tobias Bongers \$824
17 Yannick Pongers \$824
33 Alex Montpellier \$341
33 Dominik Jastrzab \$341
33 Ibrahim Vatansever \$341
33 Joao Grilo \$341
33 Jokubas Silantjevas \$341
33 Jorge Tinoco \$341
33 Konrad Juszczyzyn \$341
33 Mark Magi \$341
33 Michel Rehepapp \$341
33 Mieszko Fortunski \$341
33 Mikael Ogaard \$341
33 Oliver Szolnoki \$341
33 Radoslaw Babica \$341
33 Saki Kanatlar \$341
33 Szymon Kural \$341
33 Walter Laikre \$341

Apr 11 - Apr 12

2025 Women's Estonian Open

Kalev Sport Hall

Tallinn,

1 Jasmin Ouschan \$3,639
2 Pia Filler \$2,274
3 Maria Teresa Ropero Garcia \$1,705
3 Sandra Baumgartner \$1,705
5 Christine Steinlage \$1,023
5 Oliwia Zalewska \$1,023
5 Rose Va Deu \$1,023
5 Veronika Hubrtova \$1,023
9 Ana Gradisnik \$454
9 Chantal Stadler \$454
9 Linnea Hjalmarstrom \$454
9 Louise Furberg \$454
9 Monika Zabek \$454
9 Nina Torvund \$454
9 Sara Rocha \$454
9 Vania Franco \$454

Apr 12 - Apr 13

5th Anthony Mabe Memorial

Breaktime Billiards & Sports Bar

Clemmons, NC

1 Taylor Coffey \$1,000
2 Jacob Hyatt \$600
3 Chris Coleman \$400
4 Josh Dowell \$260
5 Jeff Howell \$120

5 Jody Musselman \$120
7 Josh Heeter \$110
7 Onyx Stinson \$110

Apr 15 - Apr 19

2025 Beasley Open 9-Ball Division

Brass Tap Billiards

Raleigh, NC

1 Roberto Gomez \$7,500
2 Lukas Fracasso-Verner \$5,100
3 Billy Thorpe \$3,100
3 Jonas Souto Comino \$3,100
5 Georgi Georgiev \$2,000
5 John Morra \$2,000
5 Nathan Childress \$2,000
5 Paul Song \$2,000
9 BJ Ussery \$650
9 Jason Rogers \$650
9 Joey Tate \$650
9 Michael DeLawder \$650
9 Mickey Krause \$650
9 Oliver Ruuger \$650
9 Payne McBride \$650
9 Shane Wolford \$650

Apr 15 - Apr 19

2025 Beasley Open One Pocket

Brass Tap Billiards

Raleigh, NC

1 Tony Chohan \$7,500
2 Roberto Gomez \$4,000
3 Brandon Shuff \$2,500
4 Danny Smith \$1,700
5 Alejandro Calderon \$1,050
5 Lukas Fracasso-Verner \$1,050
7 Jonathan Hennessee \$700
7 Norris Brady \$700

Apr 18 - Apr 20

Ultimate Pool USA Iowa Open Junior Division

The Rack Billiard Club

Clive, IA

1 Savannah Easton \$800
2 Harry Leinen \$400
3 Isiah Greear \$200
3 Jordan Helfrey \$200
5 Brendan Greene \$100
5 Kaden Herrbach \$100
5 Memphis Wilson \$100
5 Tyler Ramos \$100

Apr 18 - Apr 20

Ultimate Pool USA Iowa Open Women's Division

The Rack Billiard Club

Clive, IA

1 Eylul Kybaroglu \$2,500
2 Savannah Easton \$1,000
3 Amy Beauchamp \$500
3 Tina Larsen \$500
5 Jordan Helfrey \$250
5 Laura Kanov \$250
5 Sofia Mast \$250
5 Tamme Klutman \$250
9 Alex Booth \$150
9 Brandi James \$150
9 Emily Duddy \$150
9 Kathy Ojile \$150
9 Madison Carter \$150
9 Melissa Stumfoll \$150
9 Nicole Obarowski \$150
9 Trish Vermule \$150

Apr 18 - Apr 20

Ultimate Pool USA Iowa Open Open Division

The Rack Billiard Club

Clive, IA

1 Tom Cousins \$9,000
2 Joven Bustamante \$4,000
3 Craig Waddingham \$2,000
3 Shane Van Boening \$2,000
5 Joe Prince \$1,000
5 Sam Henderson \$1,000
5 Savannah Easton \$1,000
5 Tyler Ramos \$1,000
9 Aaron Bell \$500
9 Eric Pickar \$500
9 George Walters \$500
9 Gordy Vanderveer \$500
9 Jimmy Nosavan \$500
9 Ryan Robinson \$500
9 Seth Krafczik \$500
9 Shane Thompson \$500
17 Adam Sisneros \$250
17 Austin Cherry \$250
17 Chase Stumfoll \$250
17 Eric Charlton \$250
17 Harry Leinen \$250
17 Jamie Tipps \$250
17 Jason Nida \$250
17 Jeff Assel \$250

17 Jeffrey Tonahill \$250
17 Justin Bergman \$250
17 Kaden Herrbach \$250
17 Kieron Hall \$250
17 Nick Evans \$250
17 Russell Carter Jr \$250
17 Timmy Bly \$250
17 Tyson Hodgins \$250

Apr 18 - Apr 20

UPUSA Iowa Open Shootout

The Rack Billiard Club

Clive, IA

1 Shane Van Boening \$3,500
2 Johnny Archer \$1,700
3 Joe Prince \$800
3 Sam Henderson \$800
5 Coby Japp \$300
5 Joven Bustamante \$300
5 Justin Bergman \$300
5 Tom Cousins \$300

Apr 18 - Apr 20

Ultimate Pool USA Iowa Open Mixed Pairs Division

The Rack Billiard Club

Clive, IA

1 Savannah Easton \$1,000
1 Shane Van Boening \$1,000
2 Tarah Connor \$500
2 Tom Cousins \$500
3 Chase Stumfoll \$200
3 David Matlock \$200
3 Jordan Helfrey \$200
3 Melissa Stumfoll \$200

Apr 19 - Apr 19

Garden State Pool Tour Open Stop

Shooter's Family Billiards

Wayne, NJ

1 Stefano Barbahona \$600
2 Mike Strassberg \$300
3 Joey Landi \$200
3 Yuchen Xie \$200
5 David Moore \$100
5 Gary McDonnell \$100
7 Glenn Andaya \$50
7 Harry Artinian \$50

Apr 19 - Apr 19

Rack Race Stop #7

The Rack & Grill III

Aiken, SC

2 Marty Free \$540
3 James Council \$320
4 Richard Kilgore \$240
5 Jim Jennings \$140
5 Tracy Prescott \$140
7 Florean Constantin \$80
7 Randy Flakes \$80

Apr 24 - Apr 27

TAOM V10 Open

Biljardi 247

Helsinki,

1 Jonas Souto Comino \$8,000
2 Petri Makkonen \$5,400
3 Marc Bijsterbosch \$3,500
3 Quoc Hoang Duong \$3,500
5 David Alcaide \$2,500
5 Elliott Sanderson \$2,500
5 Kledio Kaci \$2,500
5 Niels Feijen \$2,500
9 Arseny Sevastyanov \$1,200
9 Cristian Surdea \$1,200
9 Francisco Sanchez-Ruiz \$1,200
9 Mark Magi \$1,200
9 Naoyuki Oi \$1,200
9 Pijus Labutis \$1,200
9 Ralf Souquet \$1,200
9 Stuart Bingham \$1,200

Apr 24 - Apr 27

2025 USBA National Championship

Bergen Billiards

Palisades Park, NJ

1 Raymon Groot \$4,000
2 Pedro Piedrabuena \$3,000
3 John Park \$2,000
3 Kang Lee \$2,000
5 Ricardo Carranco \$1,000
5 Seung Kwon Hong \$1,000
5 Tae Kyu Lee \$1,000
5 Won Sik Kang \$1,000
9 Carlos M. Villegas \$300
9 Hernan Patarroyo \$300
9 Hugo Patino \$300

9 Jovanny Ceballos \$300
9 Quoc Tuan Vo \$300
9 Sang Jin Lee \$300
9 Vicke Pineda \$300
9 Young Ha Choi \$300
17 David Ramirez \$150
17 Edward Gomez \$150
17 Jesus Corona \$150
17 John Gudali \$150
17 Miguel Torres \$150
17 Olegario Gonzalez \$150
17 Seonghong Min \$150
17 Young Gull Lee \$150

Apr 26 - Apr 27

Arizona Women's Billiards Tour 2025 Stop 2

Skip and Jan's Sports Bar

Gilbert, Arizona

1 Leandrea Gaff \$400
1 Susan Williams \$400
3 Carmen Osenton \$240
4 Dori De Leon \$160
5 Barb Hamilton \$100
5 Marie Baginski \$100
7 Claudia Morado \$60
7 Hannah Whitcomb \$60

Apr 26 - Apr 27

JPNEWT Tour 2025 Stop #2

Sticks & Stones Billiards

Brick, NJ

1 Briana Miller \$700
2 Ashley Benoit \$600
3 Dawn Hopkins \$400
4 Judie Wilson \$275
5 Kaley Sullivan \$95
5 Mindy Maialetti \$95

Apr 26 - Apr 27

2025 DFW 9-Ball Tour Stop 4

Stixx And Stones Billiards

Lewisville, Texas

1 Gus Briseno \$1,180
2 Daniel Herring \$820
3 Clayton Marischen \$630
4 Clint Palaci \$430
5 Jeff Selph \$320
5 Thomas Archer \$320

7 Mark Johnson \$240
7 Robert Reighter \$240
9 Aaron Fleming \$170
9 Chris Smith \$170
9 James Nico Ariola \$170
9 Mohammed Albazzaz \$170
13 Don Bullard \$95
13 Neil Nabil Saidawi \$95
13 Samuel Escalona \$95
13 Trey Salisbury \$95

Apr 26 - Apr 27

Jersey Girl Billiards' Breaktime Battle in NC

Breaktime Billiards & Sports Bar

Clemmons, NC

1 Ernesto Gomez \$3,000
2 Gregorio Sanchez \$1,600
3 James McCauley, Jr. \$800
4 Michael Barbour \$500
5 Robert Wilkerson \$350
5 Ruben Soto \$350
7 Clint Nichols \$150
7 Evan Moreau \$150

9 Danny Clay \$130
9 James Blackburn \$130
9 Patrick Greene \$130
9 Reyes Gomez \$130
13 DJ Cordle \$100
13 Joey Tate \$100
13 Kirk Overcash \$100
13 Niko Konkel \$100

Apr 26 - Apr 27

Jersey Girl Billiards' Breaktime Battle in NC Natural Born Women's Event

Breaktime Billiards & Sports Bar

Clemmons, NC

1 Pamela Perry \$220
2 Olivia Templeton \$100

Apr 26 - Apr 27

Jersey Girl Billiards' Breaktime Battle in NC One Pocket Event

Breaktime Billiards & Sports Bar

Clemmons, NC

1 Rodney Morris \$1,000
2 Jamie Bruce \$700
3 Asad Zaman \$380

Apr 26 - Apr 27

NWPA Tour 2025 Stop 1

Bobalou Billiards

Roseburg, Oregon

1 Andy Camping \$688
2 Tamara Parlette \$484
3 Aimee Wilson-McDonnell \$337
4 Linda Massey \$227
5 Sara Moore \$146
5 Shiela Carney \$146
7 Nicole Donisi \$93
7 Sophia Tran \$93
9 Debi Hollander-Haney \$64
9 Elizabeth Morales \$64
9 Lacey Earl \$64
9 Tylyn Holzapfel \$64

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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.

MAY/JUNE

WPBA Olhausen Raxx Mezz Invitational

May 01 - May 04

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

Joss Tour 2024-2025 Stop 17

May 03 - May 04

Fairway Billiards
Fulton, NY

The West Coast Women's Tour 2025 Stop 1

May 03 - May 03

Dog House Billiards
Cotati, California

2025 UK Open

May 06 - May 11

Telford, UK

Joss Tour Junior 9 Ball Championship 2025

May 10 - May 10

Sharpshooters Billiards & Sports Pub
Amsterdam, NY

SouthWest Youth Tour Stop 3

May 10 - May 10

Rio Rancho, New Mexico

Joss Tour 2024-2025 Stop 18

May 17 - May 18

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

JPNEWT Tour 2025 Stop #3

May 17 - May 18

Winnie Bar and Billiards
Laconia, NH

2025 Quechan Casino Grand Slam II

May 18 - May 24

Quechan Casino and Resort
Yuma, Arizona

New England Junior American Billiard Championship Series Stop 4

May 24 - May 24

Forest City Billiards
Portland, ME

Arizona Women's Billiards Tour 2025 Stop 3

May 31 - Jun 01

Dozer's Grill
Mesa, Arizona

NWPA Tour 2025 Stop 2

May 31 - Jun 01

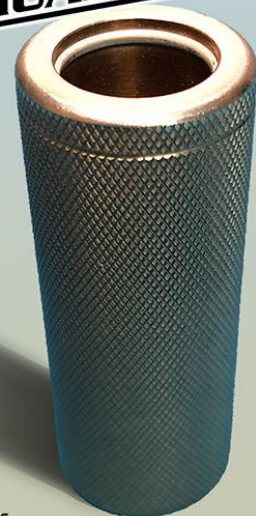
Silver Star Saloon
Vancouver, Washington

AZBILLIARDS MONEY LIST

	NAME	COUNTRY	\$ AMOUNT	
	Joshua Filler	 GER	102.807,00 US\$	
	Fedor Gorst	 USA	65.600,00 US\$	
	Shane Van Boening	 USA	57.600,00 US\$	
	Roberto Gomez	 PHI	45.875,00 US\$	↑
	Denis Grabe	 EST	43.825,00 US\$	↓
	Pijus Labutis	 LTU	39.950,00 US\$	↑
	Billy Thorpe	 USA	38.100,00 US\$	↓
	Moritz Neuhausen	 GER	34.600,00 US\$	↓
	Mickey Krause	 DEN	34.000,00 US\$	↑
	Tony Chohan	 USA	31.450,00 US\$	↑

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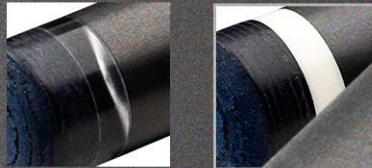
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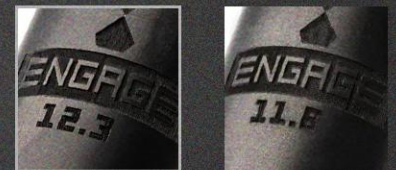
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- /Top Accuracy
- /Pro Taper



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