

# Billiards Buzz

an  publication

vol.3, Issue July 2018



# FILLER

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# FROM THE Head Rail

MIKE HOWERTON

**W**ith the announcement of the fourteen prospective players for Team USA, Matchroom Multi Sport has officially eliminated the possibility of Shane Van Boening competing in this year's event. This will be the first year since 2006 without the South Dakota Kid representing the USA. It is going to look awfully strange to see a team out there competing for the US, without Shane. Maybe it is what we need though. Shane obviously wasn't enjoying himself playing in this event and made it pretty clear lately on Facebook that he wasn't going to participate in the bootcamp system that Johan is putting together this year.

While we won't see Shane in London this year, fans will be able to see him (as well as a large number of other top pro players) playing in open events all over the West Coast. The West Coast Swing is underway now (congrats to Jeff De Luna for press time win at the Cole Dickson Memorial) and will run until the BCA Nationals when the US Open 8-Ball and US Open 10-Ball will be played at Griff's in Las Vegas. If you can't get out to the West Coast for these events, be sure to support the online streams provided by POV Pool and Cue Sports International. Where else can you see the best in the world compete from the comfort of your home.

Until next month.



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Keith Paradise. Photos by Erwin Dionisio



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# Getting That Powerful Break Under Control

**Every pool player wishes he or she could break the balls so hard that two or three balls were always pocketed.**

Players that have a powerful break usually pocket more balls than players with softer breaks, but there is a downside to all that power and that downside is — controlling the cue ball.

Even with a level cue, when a power breaker strikes the cue ball, the cue ball actually leaves the playing surface and bounces down the table towards the rack and strikes the front ball after the first bounce. If the cue



JERRY BRIESATH

“  
**THE PROS ARE SMART ENOUGH TO KNOW THAT THEY MUST TAKE A LITTLE BIT OF POWER OFF IN ORDER TO CONTROL THE CUE BALL.**  
”

ball arrives at the front ball just a hair off the playing surface and strikes the front ball dead center, the cue ball bounces slightly into the air and back towards the player and stops in the middle of the table. That is a perfect break.

Now for the downside. When a player tries to use too much power, or more power than he or she can control, accuracy goes out the window, and if that same power player strikes the front ball a little to the left or a little to the right of center, the cue ball will fly off the table. This is why amateur power players jump the cue ball off the table a lot more often than the pros. Then the amateur will tell his buddies that he breaks so hard, he jumps off the table, when the truth is, he is so inaccurate that he jumps off the table.

The pros are smart enough to know that they must take a little bit of power off in order to control the cue ball.

Play smart — Jerry



Alex Kazakis

Photo by Erwin Dionisio

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# PLAY TENSION FREE!

ANTHONY **BEELER**

Throughout my career as a ACS Master Instructor I've found that whether you're a weekend warrior playing for bragging rights at a local league, or a professional player playing for your living, at one time or another we all feel a significant amount of performance anxiety.

**H**ow you deal with this pressure will determine how well you play. If you fail to handle it properly, you'll end up with a bad stroke and a bad performance. But if you are able to understand:

- How to keep your mind quiet while delivering your stroke
- How pressure effects us physically
- How to use pressure to your advantage
- How to play with confidence

Then, you will achieve the success you desire. You've probably already

guessed what the number one stroke killer is: excessive anxiety.

In this article my goal is to help you:

- Prevent tension in your pool stroke
- Become aware of body tension
- Reduce tension so you can stroke your cue more freely

We all want to play well during an important match. We all want the best results we can get. You know, our goal is to produce that winning feeling you get as you lift the championship tro-

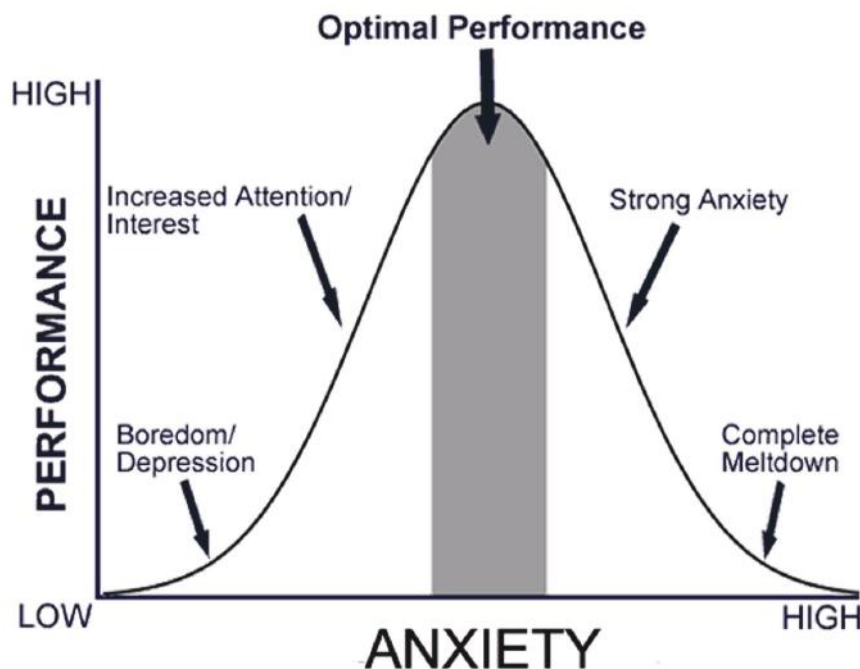


phy! But the bottom line is, the more we think about getting that result, the more we trigger the fear of failure which creates performance anxiety. We have to play in the present moment to be free from fear.

Whatever it is we are fearful of (missing the 9-ball), we usually have some sort of physical response. We tend to tense our muscles to protect ourselves from what we consider to be the threat (missing).

During any tournament match, stroke mechanics don't really change by themselves. Tension in the muscles destroy a fluid stroke and can change the entire pre-shot process that is commonly used by players when they are playing just for fun. This is one of the main differences between the practice room and tournament play (no consequences versus consequences). In order to play your best, you need to do your best to prevent tension, and if it still appears, be sure to notice it and deal with it appropriately.

So you might ask yourself the question, "How do I eliminate tension in my pool stroke?"



- Becoming engrossed in your pre-shot routine is the number one thing you can focus on to reduce tension. It is what you can control 100% of the time.
- Playing in the present moment – fear and pressure do not exist in the present.
- Not thinking about consequences – keeping focused on the purpose/strategy for each shot, not the consequences.
- Following a strict decision making process – focus on the strategy (angle, speed and spin), this allows you to be neutral and bounce back from poorly played shots.

How do we reverse the effects of tension in the pool stroke?

- Visualize all practice games as if they were the tournament



**WHEN YOU LEARN TO FOCUS ON THE PROCESS YOU WILL GET BETTER RESULTS AND WIN MORE TOURNAMENTS.**



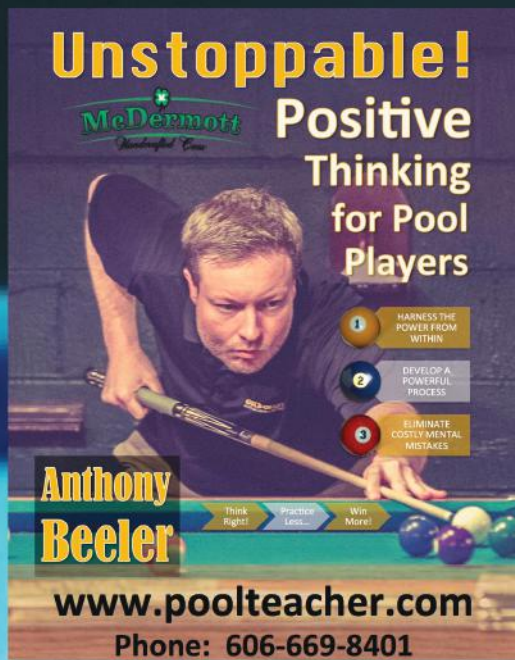
championship.

- Practice with different levels of tension in your muscles.
- Use muscle relaxation techniques.
- Learn deep breathing techniques.

Put all of these techniques and strategies into action and I have no doubt you'll play with a more fluid stroke. When you focus on winning you tend to fall into one of the games biggest pitfalls. When you learn to focus on the process you will get better results and win more tournaments.

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

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# KEEPING YOUR MIND POSITIVE & PRODUCTIVE AT ALL TIMES

The Sports Doc - Dr. CHRIS STANKOVICH  
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**Today's pool lesson may seem to be a simple one, but it is also a very powerful lesson to embrace.**

If you want to play pool to the best of your ability, it's important to always keep your mind in a **positive & productive** place. What does that mean? To answer that question it might actually be easier to first discuss what it *doesn't* mean.

## **The negative pool player**

Pool players who allow frustration, anger, anxiety, and stress to dominate their thinking actually play a tougher game against *themselves* than they ever would an opponent. Players who routinely become upset with missed shots, or whine about a particular opponent or draw at a tournament, are stealing their own mental energy -- and, in many ways, giving their opponents the easy inside track to beating them. These players -- negative pool players as I like to call them -- *allow their own thinking and behaviors to bring their game down, as opposed to losing to an opponent who is simply better on a particular day.*

## **The positive & productive player**

Why be the negative player when there is so much to gain by keeping a healthy, positive and productive mindset at all times? What this means

is committing to having a plan, staying positive at all times, and prompting yourself to think strategically (productively) every time you approach the table. The key, however, is not just agreeing with me in theory that this will work, but actually making a promise that 100% of the time while you play that you will do this. How can I ask you for such a promise? Because your thinking is 100% under your control, and every pool player has the ability to make this decision if he or she chooses.

## **Examples of positive & productive thinking**

- Preparing ahead of time by having a warm-up routine that puts your mind in a great spot.
- Always thinking proactively when it comes to problem-solving on the table, rather than becoming angry or feeling sorry for the lie you have been left.

- Not worrying about how good an opponent is, but reminding yourself that on any given day, on any given rack, that YOU can win.

## **Why thinking matters**

How we think has a direct impact on our behaviors and physiology. When we think in a positive fashion our mind and body work in synchrony, allowing for perfect muscle-memory and great pool shots. When we think negatively, our thinking becomes distorted, and our bodies respond by feeling anxiety including rapid breathing, a faster heart rate, and tense muscles. You tell me who the better player is -- the one with a confident mindset, or the one who always looks like he's going to break his stick?!

Yes, the choices you make will have a direct impact on your level of play, so make it a point to choose wisely every time you play pool!

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

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# Andrew Cleary

## A Little Less Serious

Andrew Cleary is one of the funniest guys around. When I asked for photos for this interview, as I ask of each interviewee, he snapped a few JUST FOR this interview, which is a first. Can you guess which ones are recent? Hahaha.

**A**ndrew has been involved behind the scenes in pool for quite some time and also plays a good game of pool, too! Let's find out more about Andrew and see if we can get him to say something funny.

**Q:** Where did you grow up?

I grew up in Wadsworth, Ohio. About 40min south of Cleveland by Akron.

**Q:** How and when did you start playing pool?

I was always drawn to the game as a child. My parents would take us to the American Legion (and other member clubs) a couple nights a week and I'd beg to play pool. You had to play with an adult, so my table time was limited to maybe 1 rack per month.



As I became an adult, I just never knew about the concept of pool halls. I thought pool tables were at bars or if you were lucky enough, had one at home. When I was 24, a friend of mine took me to a pool hall in Akron, Ohio and I was blown away. I remember thinking, "Wow, this is like a bowling alley, but for pool!" From that day on, I was hooked.

**Q:** How many siblings do you have and do they play pool?

I have one older sister. She doesn't play pool. She's a teacher or something.

**Q:** Were you always interested in graphic design? How did you get interested in that?

Sort of. Growing up, I was always very creative. Did well in art class and by the time photoshop was coming around, I picked up on it quickly. It wasn't what I thought I'd do for a living, but it just worked out. Looking back, I'm so glad I did what I did.

**Q:** What is your degree in and where did you go to college?

I went to the University of Akron briefly straight out of high school. I'd love to tell you what I studied but honestly, I treated it like a joke. It was the college 10 min from home and I really just went there to party. After a couple weeks, I had forgotten what classes I was in and what days they were. So, school didn't last long for me. I was just wasting money. Instead, I invested in computers, cameras and software and taught myself. I have been making videos and taking photos since about 10th grade so I knew what I wanted and knew I had the talent and knowledge to get my foot in the door without a degree. So, I did it. A few years later I moved to New York City with my wife (girlfriend at the time). Got an unpaid internship and lived off nothing for about a year. The rest is history. Hard work and the internet probably got me further than I could have ever got at Akron University.

**Q:** You seem to travel a lot for work. What do you do and do you like that part of your job?

I work in television. I'm the art director and oversee the art department and employees for about 40 local channels in 11 states for a chain of news and sports channels across the country. So, yea, I fly a lot for work. It's hard being away from family, but it's nice to see the country and get paid to do it. I stay in nice hotels and eat the local food (a lot of steak) wherever I go. I also get to connect with pool friends that I'd really only see at a national tournament. Rackin' up those hotel and skymiles! So, yea, I like it.

**Q:** When I travel for work I don't have much time to also play pool or visit the local pool room. Do you make it a point to do that? Do you take your cue with you when you travel?

I take my cues with me sometimes. Thanks to AZBilliards and Facebook, I know people all over the country and



it's nice to go hang with them and play a little pool. It's fun to play in tournaments in other places, too.

**Q:** Since you fly so often, share with us what your favorite city is and why?

Austin, TX. The food! It's a cool city in general. I like the vibe and the people. The restaurants are amazing though, especially the BBQ! I'm addicted to Terry Black's BBQ. Maybe the best meal I've ever had. They also have a great pool scene. I normally stop by Skinny Bob's when I'm in town for their weekly tournament and to see the few people in town that I know.

**Q:** I love how funny you are all the time. Where do you think you got that gene? Do these funny things just come to you naturally?

My family is also always quick to joke around so I guess it just comes natural. My Uncle Cliff from Texas was a huge influence on me as a child and he was nonstop jokes. So, I'm a lot like that.

Also, I've always been a big guy and naturally that will attract jokes as a kid. Sort of like the Johnny Cash song "A Boy Named Sue," my fists got hard and my wits got keen. After a while the fighting got me in too much trouble, so I leaned on my wit.

**Q:** Are you saying you were bullied?

Yea, a little. Not physically just picked on for my weight and I had BAD acne! Puberty was rough! But honestly, iron sharpens iron... I wouldn't be who I am without getting picked on and learning to deal with it.

**Q:** How do you insert wit into those situations as a kid? And how do you even figure that out so young?

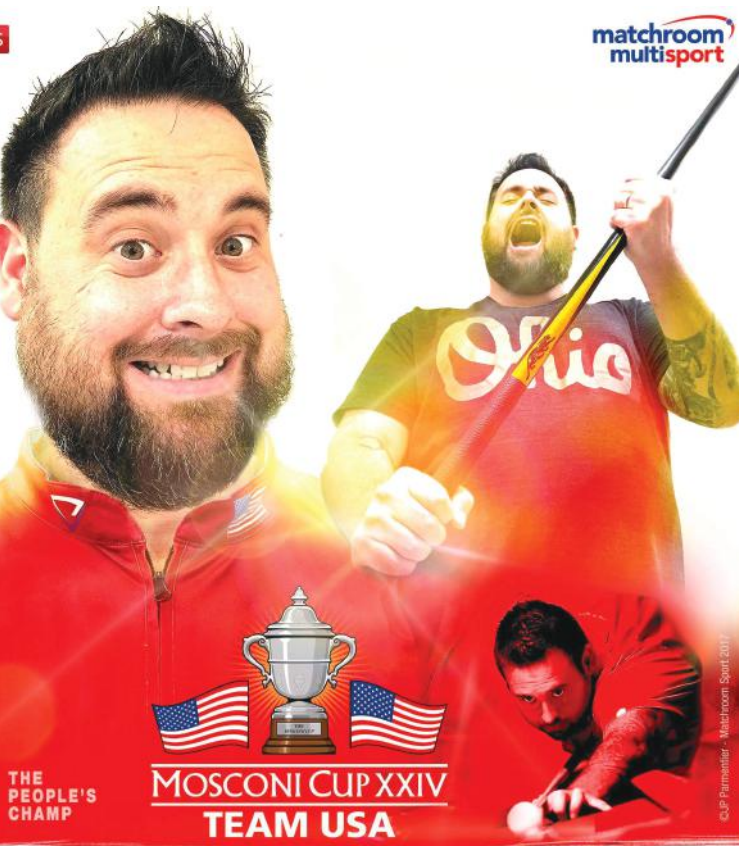
Well, I guess it came naturally and so I just had to find it within. Looking back, it took a while to really figure it

sky sports

matchroom multisport

CLEARY

ANDREW



out, but by high school, I could verbally get myself into and out of anything. Anyone who follows me on Facebook knows that. :)

**Q:** You do this hysterical thing where you create graphics and put your face and name on flyers of big events (like you're a featured player, but you're not even remotely invited haha). A recent one was the Mosconi Cup. You make the flyers look so real – do some people think it's true, lol?

I would imagine some people are confused by it if they don't know me, lol. To me, it's just so funny. I still go back and look at those for a good laugh. I'm sure it pisses some people off. Like everything that I do, a lot of people just simply don't understand it's a joke. My sense of humor is probably different than most. I almost like to give the impression that I think I'm the greatest

in the world... almost like I'm channeling my inner Kenny Powers, but as a joke. But of course people don't get it. It's almost a better joke that way, though. When people come up to me at pool tournaments and say "are you Andrew Cleary?" I normally say "noooo... that guy's an asshole!"

**Q:** Hahaha, that doesn't even surprise me! And just recently you've been taking photos with famous people and you look uninterested on purpose, lol.

Lol Yea, I just think it's funny to take pictures with celebrities and make it seem like they wanted to take a picture with me. And, that extends to pool players. I recently took a photo with Jayson Shaw where I wasn't even looking at the camera, but he seemed excited for the photo. It's too funny to me lol.

**POISON**  
by *PREDATOR*



**CYANIDE<sup>3</sup>** PICK YOUR POISON THEN STRIKE.

**Q:** And to the rest of us who saw it! Do you make it a point to bring humor to social media?

You can't take life too seriously, you'll never get out alive! That's just me. I keep it light at work, but I have a pretty big job, so I've gotta be professional most of the day. I gotta release it all somehow! But that's just how I've always been since the AOL days. I find humor in everything and it's my first instinct to just make a joke. To be honest, my humor (and personality) was probably what won my wife over. She's way out of my league lol. Also, it helped get my foot into the door of my current job.

**Q:** Speaking of, how did you and Ruth meet?

I met my wife on the last day of 9th grade. I still very much remember the exact place I was standing in the hallway of my high school when we first met. We became friends because we were both into making videos/production. During senior year my girlfriend cheated on me with her boyfriend lol. It was terrible at the time, but really worked out in the end. We ended up going to prom together, as friends (ughhhhhhhh) and I stayed in the friend zone until my 21st birthday.

Funny story, I was in Dallas, TX the week of my 21st birthday with friends.

I made a skate video and it was being premiered at a Skatepark during a very big yearly contest they used to have. Ruth had known that I was hard core in love with her but again, I was firmly stuck in the friend zone and it wasn't looking like I was getting out. At least, didn't seem like that to me. Well, while I was gone, Ruth was planning a surprise birthday party for me when I arrived back in Akron. The morning I was flying back, I called her before the plane took off to tell her about a scary dream I had that my plane was crashing. And then I heard the words I didn't think I'd ever hear, "I love you." I was in complete shock. When I said "I love you" back to her, my friend Ron who was sitting in the row in front of me shot his head around with a crazy look on his face in disbelief! We flew home, tapped the keg and while everyone else partied, we made out 8th-grade-style for hours. The cops showed up to break up the party, but we were unfazed lol. Four years later, we got married. Somehow, I haven't screwed it up yet!

**Q:** And thank goodness, because you two make a really great team! So, what goals do you have (on and off the table)?

On the table, I've never won a tournament lol. I don't play in much, but I always end up 2nd, 3rd, etc. Never first. I'd like to win one. I've won a lot of money, especially in the last few years, but just never got 1st. I mean, I don't take the game that seriously and maybe play in 5-10 tournaments a year, anyway.

Off the table, I don't know! I feel like I'm pretty satisfied. I have an amazing wife and two healthy great daughters. I have a fantastic job. So, I don't really have many goals other than to not screw it all up!

**Q:** What did you do to elevate your game?



Ruth and Andrew

In the past two years I feel my game has went up a lot. For one, I bought a house and got my own table. I normally went to the pool room to gamble or play in tournaments, now I have a place to practice. I also focused on fixing my fundamentals (somewhat) and found a good aiming and aligning system that works for me. That mixed with the Predator Revo shaft and BAM, my game went up. I did well in tournaments, made thousands of dollars and it almost paid for my bar tab.

**Q:** That's what I discovered, as well – it's not usually just *one* thing, it's several things coming together at once. BTW, are you funny when you compete?

I try to be. It's easy to take the heat, but I play my best when I'm talking at the table. There was a local player to NYC, a hustler named Gypsy, that I just loved. I watched him all the time before he ever knew who I was. He talked and talked and talked. He was hilarious too. Once he got to know me, shortly before he died, it was like he saw his mini me lol. I was probably one of the few that ever got the cash from Gypsy using his own moves haha.

**Q:** Talking a lot during matches is a shark move, ya know, lol. Are you doing this when gambling or also in tournaments?

I don't talk when others are at the table, only when I'm at the table. It also depends on who I'm playing. And yea, I wanna get in their head. It's too bad pool holds itself to this strange standard that it's better than other sports. You talk sh\*t in every other sport that I've ever played... baseball, basketball, football.

**Q:** Interesting point. Wait, are you trying to be funny or are you trying to annoy your opponents, lol? I don't think I'd like to play you, lol.



Both, I guess. I want to get in their head, but it's also very funny. It's even funnier when I'm losing or the other player is much better than me.

**Q:** Who has been a big influence in your pool game?

Raphael Dabreo, Gregg McAndrews, Minnesota Fats, Gypsy, Scott Simonetti... most you've never heard of, but all of have either helped me along the way or influenced me.

**Q:** Who has been a big influence in your life?

My mother and father. Hard working people. Came from nothing and made the best of what they had. My Aunt Patty as well.

**Q:** What is your most memorable match?

I was gambling with this guy at Steinway Billiards in Queens, NY. The whoooooole place thought I was getting robbed. I played really well and took all their money. :) lol I have a short memory.

**Q:** What is your favorite event to play in?

The Super Billiards Expo. I never really do well in the tournament, but I like the action tables. I used to like the BCAPL, but I don't agree with some things they do as an organization so I quit going. I do miss pool in Vegas, though. I've only been to Derby City once, it was fun but I'm just not about that life anymore I guess.

**Q:** Most people I interview have overcome something. Is there anything you'd like to share that we all can learn from? Or a difficulty you overcame?

Probably my lack of formal education in my career path. I taught myself where others have spent many, many thousands of dollars learning.

**Q:** You're an example that talent and hard work pays off. How did you get involved in helping out The Action Report (TAR)? What was your role?

I just became friends with Justin Collett along the way. I didn't really have a "role" exactly. I'd just make graphics for Justin and he would use them when he was able. Sometimes I would help him with a camera or switcher... but most of the time I would just come

along to drink and have a good time. I was more of an emotional support buddy. :) We had some great times, met some amazing people. Some will be friends for life. I still try to get Justin to have another TAR match, but I think that ship has sailed.

**Q:** Tell us about the project “Big Tony.” How did it start and why did it end? I was supposed to have a role in with that, and I want to know what happened to him.

The “Big Tony’s quest for US Open glory” was just a funny idea I came up with one night drinking with Justin. We just thought it would be a funny idea to have some nobody idiot act as if he could compete with the worlds’ best. I wish I would have kept it up, but life kind of got in the way and I just ran out of time.

**Q:** I really love your photos and you have a great eye to capture things in a very cool way.

Well, I’ve been taking photos since I can remember. I learned photography a bit in high school, but mostly I figured it all out on my own as well. I started with skating. I took photos for skating magazines in my early 20s. There for a while I did weddings to make ends meet in Ohio as well, but it’s been mostly a hobby ever since. I did a lot with skating before my pool days. I made videos that ended up all over the world. That’s sort of how I learned my profession.

**Q:** Do you think pool could become mainstream? If so, how?

Under the right conditions, absolutely. Pool has a lot of issues, but honestly the biggest problem with pool is the people *within pool*. It’s a mess and everyone is looking for some billionaire to hand them the keys to the castle... And a few times it’s sort of happened. But, I could 100% make pool mainstream with the proper



funding. It would piss a lot of people off, though... but I’m good at that.

**Q:** What’s your favorite quote or words you live by?

“Fake it till you make it”

**Q:** Tell us why you love all there is about The Cleveland Browns.

Well, I’m from the Cleveland area so I love the Browns, Indians and Cavs. I grew up rooting for them all. The Browns have struggled since I was a kid and I just refuse to lose hope. I also love a good underdog. I love the Browns so much, last year I flew to England to see them play against the Vikings. Everyone said I was crazy but whatever, I wanna see them lose on every continent possible. It was a

great trip and good excuse to see the world. Spend 5 days in London and 3 days in Paris. Best vacation ever.

**Q:** You will be moving to Florida from New York soon. Will we be seeing fire pit photos again soon?

I actually *just* moved from the NYC area to Clearwater, Florida. Since I travel a lot with work, I can sort of be wherever. We have a huge operation in the Tampa region and it would just be more family friendly down there. Right by the beaches, cheaper cost of living and just *not New York City*. 12 years working in NYC, I’m ready to move on. I’m sure I’ll have a fire pit down there as well, but you’ll probably eventually see me wrestling gators.

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**TH-6**

**Q:** Speaking of wrestling, tell us about the Mika Immonen challenge.

LOL oh man! About 7 years ago in Las Vegas for the BCAPL, I happened to be at the bar with Justin Collett and Mika was hanging around. We both lived in NYC, but he didn't know me very well. Clearly, I'm out of shape and he takes great pride in his physical appearance. With his ego, I knew he'd be incredibly easy to hustle. As Gypsy would say "mouse trap set!" I worked into the conversation with Mika 'clap push-ups' and as I hoped, I made a bet with him that I could do at least half as many clap push-ups as he could. A lot of people were around and everyone wanted to bet on Mika. So, we made our way outside to the sidewalk of the Las Vegas strip and did the challenge. As I had hoped, Mika went first. He did 23, so I knew I was straight up stealing getting 12. I stalled and stalled... Even asked to buy out while my friends got in more bets on me. Then I got down and did 13, just enough and one more



than I needed to be safe. Mika and his crew weren't happy, but they paid up. Two days later, Mika asked for a rematch. I accepted and even agreed to go first. I got down and did 20, betting he wouldn't hit 40. Luckily, I was right. I won again and still didn't show my true speed. He never asked to challenge me again. :)

**Q:** That's a funny story! And true! I witnessed the first bet in person. So, did you always know you wanted to be a Dad?

YES! I don't know why, but I've always just wanted to be a family man. I have two daughters (10) & (3). They're my favorite people in the world.

**Q:** Do they show humor?

Both are very funny! Not sure where they get it. My oldest had a talent show a few months back. All of the other kids were lip syncing and dancing to some nonsense songs... my daughter did stand-up comedy! That's so brave for a 9 year old. Her jokes, timing and delivery could use some work though. :)

**Q:** And finally, what has been your most coveted title or accomplishment?

Well, not much to show on the table, but I've won a few Emmy awards from my career! But, for sure 12 years of marriage! Seems most can't get to five.



Photo credit Vincent Rochefort

Melinda "ak-trigger" Bailey has been in the pool scene as a player and ambassador for pool for over 25 years.



Additionally, she was a Tournament Director for two large tours in Texas for over 15 years. She is a loyal blogger (<http://pooljourney.blogspot.com/>) and holds numerous BCA/ACS Texas State and National titles (singles, doubles, and teams).

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# Filler Surges Early Then Hangs On To Win Rasson Title

Article by Keith Paradise. All photos are courtesy of Erwin Dionisio

**Things weren't looking so hot for Joshua Filler on Thursday afternoon.**

**T**he fiery young German had just lost his first round match Shane Van Boening in the Rasson 10-Ball Masters Championship, leaving him 0-3 in World Pool Series events overall dating back to April's Aramith 9-Ball Players Championship.

"I think it was still in my mind that I lost the last two matches in the last event. That's why I didn't feel so well. I tried too hard and put too much pressure on myself," Filler said.

By Sunday night Filler was feeling much better. The Mosconi Cup Most Valuable Player rattled off eight consecutive victories, capped off with a 17-10 defeat of Greece's Alex Kazakis to earn top honors in the 41-player event at Astoria's Steinway Billiards.

Filler used a safety battle victory and a break and run to win the first two games but gifted Kazakis the third rack when he missed a routine 5-ball. Filler would miss a couple more balls

in the fifth and sixth games that allowed Kazakis to win back-to-back games and pull to within 4-3.

"I think that was because I was tired, to be honest. It was a very long event with races to 11, races to 13 and the finals being race-to-17," Filler said. "It's just tough and I just felt tired."

The young German used two more safety battles, a break and run and a Kazakis miss to win four consecutive



Tournament Director John Leyman, Joshua Filler, Alex Kazakis and Darren Appleton



*Joshua Filler*

“In the second half I just said to myself to take every chance that Josh or the table gives me,” Kazakis said.

However, a misplayed a safety on the 3-ball during the 25th game proved to be costly. Filler stepped to the table and executed a full-length, cross-table cut shot on the ball, propelling him to clear the rack and take a 15-10 lead. The German then closed out the match with back-to-back breaks and runs.

“He got more time at he table. He got more chances. But sometimes he didn’t take advantage of his chances. That’s why I won in the end,” Filler said.

Although both players struggled breaking, the opening shot was really a liability for Kazakis – breaking dry five times and scratching on the break once.

games to take an 8-3 lead. After the Greek won the 12th and 13th games Filler would win three of the next four to extend his lead to 11-5 heading into the 15-minute mid-match intermission.

Unlike the Aramith event, Kazakis attempted to fight back but unforced continue to plague him. He left a 6-ball in the jaws with a chance to pull to within 11-7 and missed another 6-ball in the 22nd game.

“I’m really disappointed about the match because the balls I missed, they were all easy balls,” Kazakis said. “I don’t know what happened. I guess I was just tired.”

Despite the missed opportunities, Kazakis used mutual breaking woes as well as some safety play and a break-and-run to climb to within 14-10.



*Dennis Orcollo mounted a major comeback against Filler.*



*Alex Kazakis turned in his second runner-up performance*

row 12-11 lead against James Aranas but was seated in his chair watching as his opponent cleared the rack in the 24th game. While Kazakis mentally prepared for a possible sudden death shootout Aranas missed a makeable 8-ball, handing his opponent a routine three-ball out earn a spot in the semi-finals. Sunday afternoon Kazakis appeared to be on the verge of letting an 11-3 lead to Dennis Orcullo slip away until Orcullo missed a routine 6-ball in the corner pocket in the 22nd game, allowing the Greek to get back to the table and gut out a 13-10 victory.

The Rasson 10-Ball Masters Championship was the second event of the four-tournament 2018 World Pool Series. Created by Darren Appleton, the WPS is sponsored by Aramith, Rasson, Predator, Iwan Simonis, Tiger, and Kamui and our suppliers and partners are Billiards Digest, CueScore, Let's Go Print, Outsville, UpState AL, and the WPA.

It was the second consecutive runner-up finish at the World Pool Series for Kazakis, who didn't fall upon the late match luck that he had in the previous three matches.

Friday afternoon the Greek was able to capitalize on a couple of unforced errors in his match with Lee Vann Cortez to advance to Saturday's semi-finals. The next day Kazakis held a nar-

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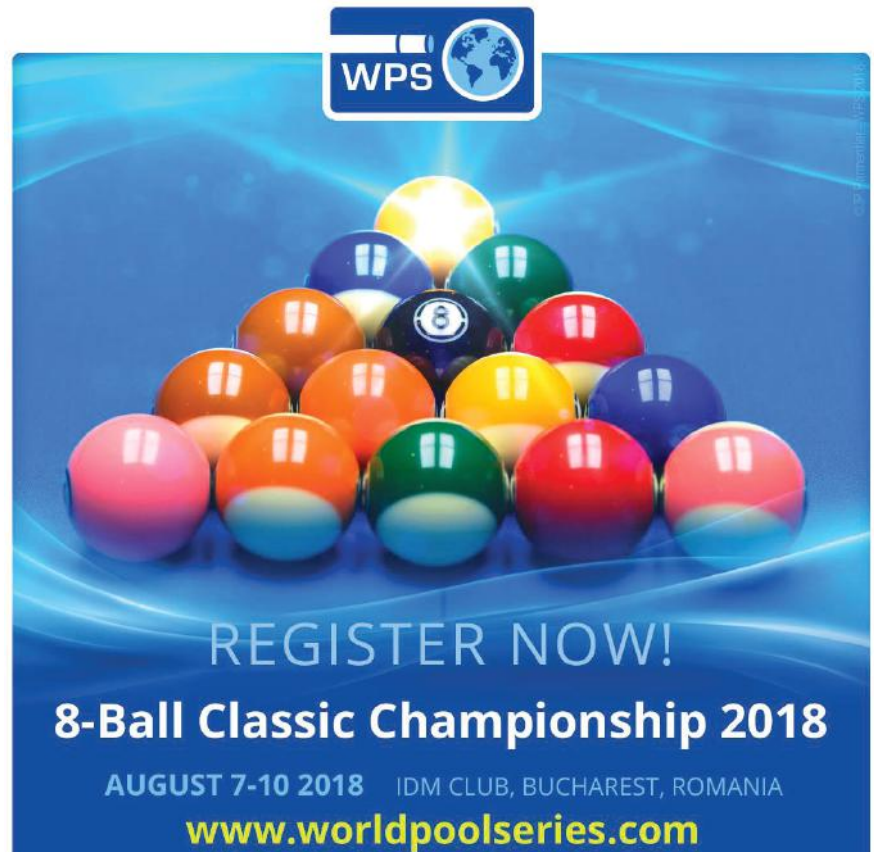
# WPS Announces Details For Next Event in Bucharest, Romania

**The World Pool Series is announcing that our next event will take place in the IDM Club in Bucharest, Romania, from August 7-10. The 8-Ball Classic Championship will be the third event of the 2018 World Pool Series and the first ever to be held in Europe.**

**D**arren Appleton & Shirley Ang: “The WPS is happy to be able to announce that we’ll be organizing our first event in Europe, thanks to the wonderful help of Robert Braga and the IDM Club especially. We hope that our first European tournament will attract the players that have supported us from the start and will also appeal to brand-new players to the tour. This is another step in the vision we have for the WPS and are excited about the future!”

The IDM Club in Bucharest has hosted many local, national, and international events and are the ideal host for the WPS’ first venture outside of the United States. The IDM Club is open from 9 AM until 5 AM and is offering our players free table time from start till end, even after the pool tournament schedule has finished each day. With the special TV arena that has been set up, the tournament is set to be a spectacle for all spectators at the venue or watching at home.

The live stream will be available again as usual but now with an expanded offering of tables. The full details of the live stream will be announced in due course. The WPS has arranged a hotel deal with Hotel Yesterday. A special rate of €45 for a double room and €41 for a single room can be booked by emailing [hotel@yesterday.ro](mailto:hotel@yesterday.ro) and mentioning the special WPS-IDM booking code.



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The 8-Ball Classic Championship will carry Mosconi Cup ranking points and is fully sanctioned by the WPA. As the tournament will take place in Europe, the WPS will be accepting entry fees in euro and the prize money will be paid out in euro too. €10,000 will be added to the prize pool with a €350 entry fee of which €50 will go towards the administration costs and green fees, and €50 to the Grand Final.

Make sure to register now before it’s too late! Email [info@worldpoolseries.com](mailto:info@worldpoolseries.com)

for the payment details for registration.

The 8-Ball Classics Championship is the third event of the four-tournament 2018 World Pool Series. This event is being held at the IDM Club, Spl. Independentei 319B, 060044 Bucharest, Romania. The World Pool Series is sponsored by Aramith, Rasson, Predator, Iwan Simonis, Tiger, and Kamui. Our suppliers and partners are Billiards Digest, CueScore, Let’s Go Print, Outsville, UpState AI, and the WPA.

# Texas Tornado blows down from Canada and storms to undefeated WPBA victory in Louisiana

Fresh off her victory over Brittany Bryant in the Ashton Twins Classic in Calgary last weekend (June 14-17), Vivian Villarreal flew down to New Iberia, Louisiana on the weekend of June 22-24 to join 62 other WPBA competitors in what was billed as the “Signature Tour Stop.”

She went undefeated through the field. Punctuating her undefeated run, the Texas Tornado, sitting in the hot seat, almost shut out Allison Fisher in a true double elimination final to claim the event title. The \$13,000-added event was hosted by Emerald Billiards and through the services of Ray Hansen and his PoolActionTV crew, was streamed live via Facebook.

It took Villarreal seven matches to claim the title, four of which went double hill. She started with a double hill win over Gerda Hofstatter Gregerson, got by Louisiana Le 7-2, and then, in a re-match against Brittany Bryant, whom she'd defeated twice in the Ashton Twins Classic, she won her second double hill match; up on the hill at 6-1, Villarreal watched Bryant fight back and force a deciding 13th game. Villarreal then got by Gail Eaton 7-5 (reaching an aggregate score of 28-19) to draw Jia Li in one of the winners' side semifinals.

Allison Fisher, in the meantime, advanced to her winners' side semifinal against Monica Webb, sporting an aggregate score of 28-13. She'd given up two racks (one each) to Kelly Cavanaugh and Meghan Buchanan, before running into teenage 'phenom' April Larson, who battled her to double hill, before she (Fisher) advanced to meet and defeat Jennifer Baretta 7-5 and then, draw Webb.

Fisher downed Webb 7-1 and, in the hot seat match, faced Villarreal, who'd chalked up her third double hill win

against Li. Villarreal and Fisher battled to double hill, as well, before Villarreal closed it out to sit in the hot seat.

“**VILLARREAL REACHED THE HILL IN THE NEXT RACK, AND SUDDENLY, FOR THE FIRST TIME IN NINE RACKS, THINGS STARTED TO TIGHTEN UP.**”



Vivian Villarreal (File photo courtesy of Erwin Dionisio)

On the loss side, Webb picked up Line Kjorsvik, who, after being defeated by Jia Li in a double hill, winners' side quarterfinal match, had chalked up two more double hill wins, eliminating Larson and Gail Eaton. Li drew Bryant, who was in the midst of a four-match, loss-side streak that included a 7-3 win over Emily Duddy and 7-2 victory over Gerda Hofstatter Gregerson.

Jia Li and Bryant locked up in a double hill fight that eventually advanced Li to the quarterfinals, where she was met by Kjorsvik, who'd shut out Webb. Li eliminated Kjorsvik 7-5, only to be eliminated by the same score by Fisher in the semifinals.

Having endured the double hill hot seat match against Villarreal and Fisher, spectators, as well as commentators on the stream, were expecting a tight final match, possibly two in the double elimination format. It never came to pass. The Texas Tornado

**“ ON THE LOSS SIDE, WEBB PICKED UP LINE KJORSVIK, WHO, AFTER BEING DEFEATED BY JIA LI IN A DOUBLE HILL, WINNERS' SIDE QUARTERFINAL MATCH, HAD CHALKED UP TWO MORE DOUBLE HILL WINS, ELIMINATING LARSON AND GAIL EATON. ”**

blew into that final match, brimming with confidence, a sense of humor, and in spite of an alternate break format, she was up quickly 4-0. In the fifth rack of this quick, and even to Villarreal, surprising run, Fisher left her with the necessity of making a jump shot from the middle of the table. Villarreal reached for a new bridge she's recently acquired, and reaching deep over the table, using that bridge, she jumped the middle ball, sunk her target ball, made a long-table shot at the 8-ball and left herself in perfect position to chalk up the fifth rack.

And then, two racks later, with Villarreal one rack away from reaching the hill first, the momentum shifted, briefly. Villarreal broke the rack, and though she sank a ball, she missed her opening shot at the 1-ball. Fisher calmly stepped to the table and cleared it to get on the board at 7-1. Villarreal reached the hill in the next rack, and suddenly, for the first time in nine racks, things started to tighten up. Villarreal became just a tad more cautious, as Fisher promptly won two in a row to make it 8-3. It was as far as Fisher got. Villarreal chalked up rack #12 to capture the event title.



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# 2018 PARTYPOKER MOSCONI CUP

## Initial Team USA squad is named

**WITH THE 2018 Mosconi Cup now six months away, the initial group of 14 American players has been announced.**

The 14 will attend a series of team get-togethers, training camps and tournaments as they work towards victory at the 25th annual partypoker Mosconi Cup which takes place at Alexandra Palace, London this December 4-7.

Of the 14 players named, over half of them have previous Mosconi Cup experience with Corey Deuel at ten appearances being the most seasoned. There are six players in the squad who have yet to taste the fiery atmosphere of the event. The final team of five will be announced at the end of October.

The 14 players are:

1. Corey Deuel (10)
2. Dennis Hatch (5)
3. Skyler Woodward (3)
4. Justin Bergman (3)
5. Oscar Dominguez (2)
6. Billy Thorpe (1)
7. Brandon Shuff (1)
8. Justin Hall (1)
9. Donny Mills
10. Josh Roberts
11. Mitch Ellerman
12. Chip Compton
13. Chris Robinson
14. Tyler Styer

(Number of previous Mosconi Cup appearances in brackets)

Commented Ruijsink, “Myself and Jeremy have chosen a big group to start with because we want to have



options. We know what we are looking for in a player that represents the United States in the Mosconi Cup; professionalism, maximum commitment and focus, and a good team-spirited mentality.

“Because of the heavy loss last year, every player starts at zero, blank. Credits don’t come from an 11-4 loss, so every player in this group has an equal chance to show his skills and abilities.

“We will have to see which players will actually show the motivation and discipline to do the work and which players will be able to handle the pressure best to make sure they perform to the best of their abilities in London.

“It will be a tough but rewarding journey to get there, but myself and Jeremy are looking forward to it and will

be doing everything in our power to make this successful.”

From early July, there will be a series of training camps and team gatherings mainly in the USA but with a trip to Russia to compete in the star-studded Kremlin Cup, as well as play a Mosconi Cup-style match against a team of local aces.

Most of the USA-based gatherings will be centred around tournaments while the team travel to Europe for the Cup on the 20th November to include the final boot camp in Holland and then a team match against the UK’s finest before the Mosconi Cup breaks off on Tuesday 4th December.

Tickets for Mosconi Cup XXV are on sale now priced from £25 per session, with season tickets available priced £90. Premium seating in rows 4-7 is available at £49 per session or £175 for a season ticket, with VIP Hospitality packages from £155 per person per session with a season ticket priced at £549.

2018 Mosconi Cup is sponsored by Rason Billiards who supplies the Official Table; the cloth is supplied by Iwan Simonis and the Official Balls are Super Aramith by Saluc. Predator is the Official Cue of the event and Ultimate Team Gear provide all Mosconi Cup apparel. APA are the Official Team Sponsor of Team USA.

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# KAZAKIS COMES BACK FROM HOT SEAT LOSS, DOWNS PAGULAYAN IN BEASLEY CUSTOM CUES 9-BALL OPEN

**In its language of origin (Greek), the name ‘Alex’ means ‘warrior.’ Two of them battled twice in the first Beasley Custom Cues 9-Ball Open (formerly the Don Coates Memorial), held on the long weekend of June 13-17.**

**T**he annual event, sponsored by and with \$10,000-added by Doug Beasley, has traditionally drawn the country’s (and increasingly, the world’s) best players, and this year, was no exception. Included in the roster of 85 entrants (among many others) were last year’s winner and runner-up, Sky Woodward and

Zoren James Aranas; the 2016 winner, Rodney Morris, Johnny Archer, Neils Feijen, Ronnie Alcano, and the two Alex ‘warriors’ who fought twice to claim the title – Alex Kazakis and Alex Pagulayan. Kazakis lost their hot seat match but returned from the semifinals to defeat The Lion in the finals. The event, as always, was hosted by

Brass Tap & Billiards in Raleigh, NC, whose history is longer than the event itself.

“Back in the 80s & 90s, they’d hold Wednesday night tournaments,” said Doug Beasley, on-site throughout the weekend at his table/booth, displaying his custom-made cues. “These



*Alex Kazakis, Brass Tap Owner Rick Kuntz and Alex Pagulayan*

weren't money-added, or anything like that. They were just weekly tournaments, and you'd see Earl (Strickland), who used to live down here, Johnny Archer, Kim Davenport and Efren Reyes (among others).

"The former owner of the place (Tony Coates) was good friends with Johnny," he added, "and he'd call him up and let him know he was getting an event together. They were all traveling around (more or less) together at the time, and they'd come in here, just for the weekly tournaments, so there's a lot of history (related) to this room."

The size of the room, dominated by the tables, lent itself to a 'small bar' atmosphere, which, in light of the talent on display during the weekend had a way of transforming it into a 'big bar' event; something akin to seeing a popular musician perform in a small nightclub. Tour directors Herman and Angela Parker, who took the reins of this event for the first time last year and operate the Viking Cues' Q-City 9-Ball Tour, run a tight ship and in spite of some common (and relatively insignificant) issues related to the room's size, the increasing rise in temperature (as spectators grew toward the final day), and well-known personality issues, the event went off without a hitch. Herman took lead on the 'issues' as they arose, from navigating rule disputes, imagined and real personality clashes and the general melee of top-notch, and sometimes volatile professional pool players all in a room together, trying to win the \$5,000 first prize.

By Saturday, June 16, the field had narrowed down to its final 12 players. Before the day was over, it would be down to six. The two Alexes advanced to a winners' side semifinal; Kazakis squaring off against Josh Roberts (whom he'd meet and defeat twice), and Pagulayan, facing Ronnie Alcano. Kazakis got into the hot seat match with a 9-5 win over Roberts, and faced

**“ KAZAKIS SEALED THE DEAL WITH RACK #23 AND AT 13-10, CLAIMED THE TITLE TO THE 1ST BEASLEY CUSTOM CUES 9-BALL OPEN. ”**

Pagulayan (the sport's best comedian), who'd sent Alcano to the loss side 9-6. Pagulayan claimed the hot seat 9-6 over Kazakis and waited on his return from the semifinals against Roberts.

On the loss side, where, at this point, everyone was 'in the money,' there were a lot of dangerous competitors, any one of whom could have advanced to challenge Pagulayan's occupation of the hot seat. New York's Joey Korsiak, Brandon Shuff, Shannon Fitch (a Viking Cues' Q City 9-Ball regular, who played well throughout the weekend) and Filipino Jeff DeLuna were the first to be eliminated in the event's first money round (13th through 16th). Alcano, coming over from the winners' side, picked up Zoren James Aranas, who'd eliminated Rodney Morris 9-6, and Tony Chohan 9-5. Roberts drew the increasingly dangerous, 19-year-old Albanian, Klenti Kaci, who'd defeated Justin Martin 9-2 and Fedor Gorst 9-7 to reach him.

Aranas got by Alcano 9-7, as Roberts chalked up two impressive wins in a row; defeating Kaci 9-5, and then, by the same score in the quarterfinals, Aranas. This set up the semifinal rematch between Kazakis and Roberts.

The room was getting a little 'tighter,' as humidity and a degree of oxygen deprivation was beginning to have an effect on the way the balls were rolling on the table. This, by way of an observation from UpstateAL, who along with Levi Combs, under the auspices of #LiveAction Media Streaming, was providing the broadcast for the event.

Roberts made the event's semifinal match a little closer than their previous match in the winners' side semifi-

nals. It was a tight match, but Kazakis pulled ahead to win it 9-7 and earn (definitely earn) his re-match in the finals against Pagulayan.

Not surprisingly, the race-to-13, single match final shaped up early as something of an epic battle. Tied up at 2-2, Kazakis and Pagulayan moved into a repetitive (alternate) break and win sequence, that began when Pagulayan took two in a row to go ahead 4-2. Kazakis won rack #7 to narrow the gap to a single game. They repeated this win one, lose one sequence through the next seven games, until Kazakis broke through to win two in a row and create the match's second tie at 7-7.

Pagulayan answered with two in a row of his own to get back in front by two (9-7), for the fourth time since rack #6. It was, with one exception, the last winning rack for Pagulayan. Kazakis went on a five-rack run that was eventually interrupted by Pagulayan's 10th winning rack. Kazakis sealed the deal with rack #23 and at 13-10, claimed the title to the 1st Beasley Custom Cues 9-Ball Open.

Tour directors Herman and Angela Parker thanked Rich Kuntz and his Brass Tap staff for their hospitality, as well as title sponsor Doug Beasley Custom Cues, the Coastal Carolina TAP League, Omega, AZBilliards, #LiveAction Media Streaming (with Levi Combs, and Upstate Al commenting), and Outsville Great White Pro Chalk.

The Parkers will be back at work with the Viking Cues' Q City 9-Ball Tour next weekend, June 23-24, when they will hold a \$500-added event at Speakeazy Billiards in Sanford, NC.

# **The Texas Tornado**

**goes undefeated to win the 3rd Annual Ashton Twins Classic**

**With its two previous winners 'in the house' – Brittany Bryant and April Larson - the 3rd Annual Ashton Twins Classic got underway on June 14, at 6 p.m. in Calgary, Alberta, Canada.**

**T**hough Bryant would get two chances, hot seat and finals, to win her second Ashton Twins Classic, the attempts were disrupted by a Texas Tornado known as Vivian Villareal, who went undefeated to claim the event title. Defending champion, April Larson, was sent to the loss side in the third round by Line Kjorsvik in a live-streamed match on Saturday and was eliminated in a double hill, loss-side match by Liz Cole to finish in the tie for 9th place. Emily Duddy, who was third in the inaugural event and battled Larson in the finals for the title last year, defeated one of the Ashton twins (Beverly) in a second-round match, and then, after being sent to the loss side by Cathy Metzinger, was defeated in her second loss-side

match by the second Ashton twin, Joanne. The \$8,000-added event drew 46 entrants to The Hidden Spot in Calgary.

After being awarded an opening round bye, Villareal got by her first three opponents by an aggregate score of 27-4, giving up two racks to Leandra Gaff, and one each to Claire Pipestem and Valerie Franiel, which set her (Villareal) up to face Monica Webb in one of the winners' side semifinals. Bryant, in the meantime, who was not awarded an opening round bye, worked her way to the other winners' side semifinal with an aggregate score of 36-17, sending Elizabeth Jensen (1), Aryana Lynch (5), Sandy Badger (4) and Line Kjorsvik (7) to the loss side and turn-

ing to face Cathy Metzinger in the other winners' side semifinal.

Monica Webb put up a fight against the Tornado, chalking up more racks against her in the winners' side semifinal than all of Villareal's previous opponents combined. Villareal, though, advanced to the hot seat match 9-5, and faced Bryant, who'd sent Metzinger west 9-1. Bryant proved to be Villareal's second strong challenge in a row. She chalked up seven against her, but once again, Villareal advanced, sitting in the hot seat, waiting for what turned out to be Bryant's return.

On the loss side, Webb picked up Teruko Cucculelli, who, after a defeat by Metzinger in a winners' side quarterfi-



*Beverly Ashton, Brittany Bryant, Vivian Villareal, Cathy Metzinger and Joanne Ashton*

nal, had downed Bonnie Plowman 9-3 and eliminated Kjorsvik 9-6. Metzinger drew Joanne Ashton, who, after eliminating Emily Duddy 9-6, had also eliminated Franiel 9-5 and Liz Cole 9-7 (Cole had just eliminated Larson).

Webb ended Cucculelli's loss-side run 9-3, and in the quarterfinals, faced Metzinger, who'd eliminated the last-standing Ashton twin 9-2. Metzinger and Webb locked up in a double hill, quarterfinal battle that eventually advanced Metzinger to the semifinals against Bryant.

Bryant, apparently very determined to get a second shot at Villareal, allowed Metzinger only two racks in those semifinals. In what proved to be a nail-biting, extended-race-to-13 final, Bryant got out in front early, staking herself to a 5-1 lead, which by rack #13 had been extended to a 9-4 lead and then, quickly, an 11-6 lead.

Over the next 40 minutes of the match, Villareal had cut that lead down to a single game. She capped the four-game run by attempting an 8-9 combination which initially failed, only to have the 8-ball continue to travel and drop into a side pocket, leaving Villareal with a straight-on shot at the 9-ball in the opposite side pocket. It was 11-10, with Villareal breaking.

Bryant stopped the bleeding to reach the hill first at 12-10, but the Texas Tornado, which had been lurking on the horizon through much of the match, started to pick up some speed. She won game #23 and when Bryant missed a tough shot on the 7-ball in rack #24, Villareal jumped on it and won the rack to force a single deciding game.

Bryant broke the last rack, sunk a ball and had a clean, albeit bridge-necessary shot at the 1-ball. She dropped the 1-ball in a lower corner pocket,

but as she drew back from the shot, her right wrist nudged the 9-ball forward, out of its original position by about an inch. Tournament officials took a minute or two to sort that out to Villareal's satisfaction, as Bryant contemplated the difficult shot she'd left herself on the 2-ball. She made the 2-ball, but on a much easier shot, rattled the 3-ball in a corner pocket.

Villareal pocketed the 3-ball and played safe, leaving Bryant with a potential jump shot to make the 4-ball. She opted for a kick off the long rail, putting the 4-ball back up-table on a short rail with the cue at the opposite end of the table, leaving Villareal a long, sharp cut shot. A subsequent missed bank shot by Bryant left Villareal with a long-rail cut shot at the 4-ball, which she made, and proceeded to drop the next four balls, including the 9-ball to claim the 3rd Ashton Twins Classic title.

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# The "Kid" chalks up another one, going undefeated at the 3rd Annual 8-Ball Classic in Duluth

**Efren Reyes, in the midst of a 'retirement tour,' scheduled to conclude this August, chalked up the latest in an incredibly long list of US and world championship titles with an undefeated run on the 3rd Annual 8-Ball Classic, held on the weekend of June 2-3.**

The event drew 16 of the world's best talents at the table to The Break Room in Duluth, MN.

He's known as "Bata," which translates into "Kid," because when he was younger, there was another player with the same name. As the younger of the two, he was designated "Bata" to distinguish him from the other player. The need to make that distinction disappeared a long time ago, as year after year, the "Kid" morphed into "the man" at the tables. In spite of eye surgery in 2005 and his own admission that he's been 'slowing down,' the only difference between the younger and older versions of "Bata" Reyes can be found in his motion as he moves around the table. He's never been a speedball at the table strolls, when he's assessing the lay of the balls and choosing his target, but he's a little slower and deliberate now. What hasn't changed is what has often been described as his 'genius' in making shots, which has earned him a secondary nickname as "The Magician.' To many of us otherwise normal human beings, some of these magical shots can seem downright impossible. He made more than just a few of his signature 'genius' shots at this 8-Ball Classic, including some in his second and finals match against Dennis Hatch. His pre-shot routine doesn't vary much, and motionless beyond the movement of his right arm in the practice strokes, he's the same as he ever was, up to and including a monster break.

Reyes opened strong with a 15-7 victory over Danny Olson, allowed Vince Chambers to get a little closer, but advanced with a 15-13 victory over him to face fellow countryman, "The Lion" – Alex Pagulayan – in a winners' side semifinal. Hatch, in the meantime, after downing

Sergio Rivas 15-11, defeated Shane Van Boening 15-12 to draw Corey Deuel in the other winners' side semifinal.

By identical 15-11 scores, Reyes and Hatch sent Paguyalan and Deuel to the loss side. By a third 15-11 score, Reyes



claimed the hot seat over Hatch, and waited for his return.

On the loss side, “The Lion” drew Can Salim, who’d been defeated on the winners’ side by Deuel and then eliminated Danny Olson 15-9 and Billy Thorpe 15-11. Deuel drew a re-match against Jason Klatt, whom he’d defeated in the event’s opening round, and was in the midst of a five-match, loss-side streak that would take him as far as the semifinals. He eliminated Michael Perron, Jr. 15-10, Vince Chambers 15-9 and Roberto Gomez 15-13 to earn a re-match against Deuel.

Klatt wreaked his vengeance on Deuel for the earlier loss with a 15-13 win that sent him to the quarterfinals against Pagulayan, who’d sent Salim home 15-8. Klatt then downed Pagulayan 15-13 and squared off against Hatch in the semifinals.

Hatch, who was instrumental in the production of this event, stopped Klatt’s

loss-side run 15-11 in those semifinals, and then turned to face the “Kid” a second, and if he wanted to take home the title, a third time in the double elimination finals.

The two started out with a typical trading of racks through the opening rounds, until Reyes began to pull out in front, eventually to a 9-4 lead. Hatch mounted a comeback, slowly but surely, to draw within two at 11-9. Reyes, though, re-widened that lead and reached the hill, five racks ahead (14-9). Hatch closed that gap with four in a row to draw within one at 14-13. Hatch broke what proved to be the final rack but came up dry. Reyes, significantly sunk his first high ball, and broke a solid ball away from the 8-ball, which had, until that moment, presented him with his toughest challenge of the layout.

Reyes proceeded to run the table to claim the event title. He concluded with a fist-pumping, smile-enhanced little

dance around the table before stepping to Hatch for a handshake.

It is a final match worth watching and thanks to On the Wire Media, and its owners/commentators Ra Hanna and Beau Runningen, who streamed selected matches of the event throughout the weekend, can be found on On the Wire Media’s Facebook page.

Last summer, Reyes interrupted the early stages of his own retirement tour to return to the Philippines, citing fatigue. In an interview/article with a Filipino television station last summer, the author (Dominic Renor) noted that “Father Time has caught up with him; that his eyesight isn’t as dependable as it used to be, making long-range shots more difficult to convert. His wrist isn’t as steady as before.” That said, Reyes was back in form for this 3rd Annual 8-Ball Classic and looks to add a few more master strokes to his already considerable legacy as his retirement tour continues.



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# Upcoming Tournaments

Each month *Billiards Buzz* looks ahead at the events on our calendar to give both players and fans the information they may use to plan their activities.

**JULY 04 - AUGUST 26**

## West Coast Challenge One Pocket

**07/04 - 07/06**

California Billiard Club  
Mountain View, Ca

## 2018 APA Junior Championships

**07/05 - 07/08**

Renaissance Hotel  
St. Louis, Missouri  
Website: <http://www.poolplayers.com>

## West Coast 10 Ball Pro Challenge

**07/06 - 07/08**

California Billiard Club  
Mountain View, Ca

## Florida Pool Tour 2018 Stop 7

**07/07 - 07/07**

Fat Cat's  
Mt. Dora, Florida  
Website: <http://uspoisontour.com/>

## Arizona Women's Billiards Tour 2018 Stop 4

**07/07 - 07/08**

Main Street Billiards  
Mesa, AZ  
Website: <http://www.awbt.net>

## Gulf Coast Women's Regional Tour 2018 Stop 4

**07/07 - 07/08**

Bogies Billiards & Games  
Houston, TX  
Website: <http://gulfcoastregionaltour.com>

## Lone Star Billiards Tour 2018 Stop 6

**07/07 - 07/08**

Bogies Billiards & Games  
Houston, TX  
Website: <http://www.lonestarbilliardstour.com/>

## Predator Pro-Am Tour 2018 Amateur

**07/07 - 07/08**

Amsterdam Billiard Club  
New York, NY  
Website: <http://www.predatorproamtour.com/index.asp>

## Predator Pro-Am Tour 2018 Pro

**07/07 - 07/08**

Amsterdam Billiard Club  
New York, NY  
Website: <http://www.predatorproamtour.com/index.asp>

## 2018 BEF Junior Nationals

**07/10 - 07/14**

New Orleans Convention Center  
New Orleans, Louisiana  
Website: <http://billiardeducation.org/>

## Freezer's Icehouse 1-Pocket Challenge

**07/11 - 07/13**

Freezer's Ice House  
Tempe, Az

## Freezer's Icehouse 10-Ball Challenge

**07/13 - 07/15**

Freezer's Ice House  
Tempe, Az

## Sunshine State Pro Am Tour 2018 Stop

**07/14 - 07/14**

Stokers 2  
Tampa, FL  
Website: <http://www.sunshinestateproamtour.com/>

## DFW 9-Ball Tour Stop

**07/14 - 07/15**

The Hideaway  
Dallas  
Website: <https://dfw9bt.com>

## Southeastern Billiards Tour Stop

**07/14 - 07/14**

Park Avenue Billiards  
Orange Park, FL  
Website: <https://www.facebook.com/thecarolinabilliardstour>

## New England 9-Ball Tour Stop #27

**07/15 - 07/15**

Crow's Nest  
Plaistow, New Hampshire  
Website: <http://mdpromotions.com/>

## 2018 BCAPL World Championships

**07/18 - 07/28**

Rio All-Suite Hotel & Casino  
Las Vegas, NV  
Website: <http://www.playbca.com/>

## Dynamic European Championships

**07/19 - 07/31**

NH Hotel Koningshof  
Veldhoven  
Website: <http://www.epconline.eu/>

# Upcoming Tournaments

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**JULY 04 - AUGUST 26**

## AllOutPool Tour 2018 Stop 5

**07/21 - 07/22**

Shooters Billiards  
Port St. Lucie, Florida

## New England 9-Ball Tour Stop #28

**07/29 - 07/29**

Stix and Stones  
Abington, MA  
Website: <http://mdpromotions.com/>

## Sunshine State Pro Am Tour 2018 Stop

**08/04 - 08/04**

Park Avenue Billiards  
Orange Park, FL  
Website: <http://www.sunshinestateproamtour.com/>

## DFW 9-Ball Tour Stop

**08/04 - 08/05**

Wizards Sports Cafe  
Richardson, Texas  
Website: <https://dfw9bt.com>

## Gulf Coast Women's Regional Tour 2018 Stop 5

**08/04 - 08/05**

Skinny Bob's Billiards  
Round Rock, Texas  
Website: <http://gulfcoastregionaltour.com>

## Lone Star Billiards Tour 2018 Stop 7

**08/04 - 08/05**

Skinny Bob's Billiards  
Round Rock, Texas  
Website: <http://www.lonestarbilliardstour.com/>

## Sunshine State Pro Am Tour 2018 Stop

**08/05 - 08/05**

Park Avenue Billiards  
Orange Park, FL  
Website: <http://www.sunshinestateproamtour.com/>

## 8-Ball Classic Championship

**08/07 - 08/10**

Club IDM  
Bucharest

## Diamond Pool Tour 2018 Stop 4

**08/11 - 08/12**

Bullshooters  
Phoenix, AZ  
Website: <http://www.diamondpooltour.com>

## New England 9-Ball Tour Stop #29

**08/12 - 08/12**

Snookers - Sports Billiards, Bar & Grill  
Providence, RI  
Website: <http://mdpromotions.com/>

## 2018 NAPT Summer 10-Ball Classic

**08/16 - 08/19**

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

## Arizona Women's Billiards Tour 2018 Stop 5

**08/18 - 08/19**

Pockets Billiards  
Tucson, AZ  
Website: <http://www.awbt.net>

## Turning Stone Classic XXX 9-Ball Open

**08/23 - 08/26**

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

# Tourney Results

## 06/01 - 06/03

### The Break Room's 8-Ball Classic 2018

#### The Break Room

- Duluth, Minnesota  
 1 Efren Reyes \$8,000  
 2 Dennis Hatch \$6,000  
 3 Jason Klatt \$4,000  
 4 Alex Pagulayan \$3,000

## 06/02 - 06/03

### Joss Tour 2017-2018 Stop 15

#### Snookers - Sports Billiards, Bar & Grill

- Providence, RI  
 1 Josh Friedberg \$1,000  
 2 Bucky Souvanthong \$700  
 3 Bill Cote \$550  
 4 Joe Darigis \$400  
 5 Alex Morin \$300  
 5 Reggie Cutler \$300  
 7 Mike Minichello \$200  
 7 Suad Kantaravic \$200  
 9 Rich Kravetz \$100  
 9 Mike Pettit \$100  
 9 Nelson Oliveira \$100  
 9 Ranulf Tamba \$100

## 06/02 - 06/02

### Sunshine State Pro Am Tour 2018 Stop

#### C.M.'s Place

- Seminole, FL  
 1 Tommy Kennedy \$700  
 2 Anthony Meglino \$450  
 3 Donny Mills \$300  
 4 Mitchell Keiser \$200  
 5 James Roberts \$135  
 5 Steve Knoll \$135  
 7 Nathan Rose \$90  
 7 Dale Stanley \$90

## 06/02 - 06/03

### Arizona Women's Billiards Tour 2018 Stop 3

#### Kolby's Corner Pocket

- Tempe, AZ  
 1 Nina Tagley \$590  
 2 Heather Cortez \$300  
 3 Rae Evans \$230  
 4 Pearl Ortiz \$140  
 5 Susan Williams \$80  
 5 Mel Smith \$80  
 7 Terri Johnson McCauley \$40  
 7 Donna Taylor \$40

## 06/02 - 06/03

### Tri State Tour 2017-2018 Stop

#### Steinway Billiards

- Astoria, NY  
 1 Max Watanabe \$1,000  
 2 Jim Gutierrez \$650  
 3 Matt Klein \$400  
 4 Ada Lio \$260  
 5 John Stiles \$150  
 5 Debra Pritchett \$150  
 7 Ron Bernardo \$120  
 7 Duc Lam \$120  
 9 Bob Toomey \$90  
 9 Ambi Estevez \$90  
 9 Luis Jimenez \$90  
 9 Juan Melendez \$90

## 06/02 - 06/03

### Maryland State 9-Ball Championships

#### Brass Tap Billiards

- Raleigh, NC  
 1 James Aranas \$1,400  
 2 Eklent Kaci \$1,000  
 3 Reymart Lim \$770  
 4 Alexandros Kazakis \$590  
 5 Brandon Shuff \$350

- 5 Shane Albough \$350  
 7 Shaun Wilkie \$290  
 7 Matt Krah \$290  
 9 Adam Kielar \$220  
 9 Ronnie Alcano \$220  
 9 Jorge Rodriguez \$220  
 9 Eric Moore \$220  
 13 Tim Tanana \$145  
 13 Jennifer Barretta \$145  
 13 Derick Daya \$145  
 13 Greg McAndrews \$145  
 17 John Francisco \$100  
 17 R.J. Carmona \$100  
 17 Tina Pawloski Malm \$100  
 17 Fred Crislip \$100  
 17 Brett Stottlemeyer \$100  
 17 Jim Ward \$100  
 17 Tony Long \$100  
 17 Rick Scarlato \$100

## 06/02 - 06/03

### Q City 9-Ball Tour Stop

#### The Steakhorse Restaurant and Billiards

- Spartanburg, SC  
 1 Matt Harrell \$1,600  
 2 Jonathan Pinegar \$1,000  
 3 Brian Bagwell \$600  
 4 Mackie Lowery \$400  
 5 Mike Bumgarner \$200  
 5 Derek Pierce \$200  
 7 Daniel Adams \$125  
 7 Rob Hart \$125  
 9 Don Lilly \$75  
 9 Sammy Manley \$75  
 9 Collin Hall \$75  
 9 Blade Best \$75  
 13 Norris Brady \$50  
 13 Michael Dill \$50  
 13 Stevie McClinton \$50  
 13 Chad Vinesett \$50

## 06/02 - 06/03

### Joss Tour 2017-2018 Stop 15 Second Chance

#### Snookers - Sports Billiards, Bar & Grill

Providence, RI

- 1 Holden Chin \$300
- 2 Francisco Cabral \$200
- 3 Mike Pettit \$120
- 4 Jared Demalia \$80
- 5 Nick Brucato \$40
- 5 Mike Demarco \$40

## 06/07 - 06/10

### 10-Ball Players Championship

#### Steinway Billiards

Astoria, NY

- 1 Joshua Filler \$8,000
- 2 Alexandros Kazakis \$4,000
- 3 Dennis Orcollo \$2,500
- 3 Lee Vann Corteza \$2,500
- 5 James Aranas \$1,750
- 5 Alex Pagulayan \$1,750
- 5 Denis Grabe \$1,750
- 5 Ralf Souquet \$1,750
- 9 Shane Van Boening \$500
- 9 Niels Feijen \$500
- 9 Jayson Shaw \$500
- 9 Marc Bijsterbosch \$500

## 06/09 - 06/10

### Diamond Pool Tour 2018 Stop 3

#### Freezer's Ice House

Tempe, Az

- 1 Joey Barrera \$1,100
- 2 Tim Daniel \$785
- 3 Joe Guerra \$500
- 4 Dave Mark \$310
- 5 Ed Scott \$200
- 5 Bill Vanderwyst \$200
- 7 Josh Murphy \$130
- 7 Scott Vogelsberg \$130
- 9 Jose Gonzalez \$90
- 9 Jesse Johnson \$90
- 9 Bryan Bach \$90
- 9 Brian Long \$90
- 13 Gilbert Leon \$50
- 13 Eric Beaver \$50

13 Dave Friedel \$50

13 Ruben Silva \$50

## 06/10 - 06/10

### Tri State Tour 2017-2018 Stop

#### CueBar Billiards

Bayside, NY

- 1 Matt Klein \$720
- 2 Pascal Dufresne \$480
- 3 Amy Yu \$300
- 4 Joe Romeo \$195
- 5 Dave Shlemperis \$120
- 5 Nathaniel Raimondo \$120
- 7 Jim Gutierrez \$90
- 7 Alex Osipov \$90
- 9 Lidio Ramirez \$70
- 9 Ambi Estevez \$70
- 9 Ron Chau \$70
- 9 Michael Fedak \$70

## 06/13 - 06/17

### Beasley Custom Cues 9-Ball Open

#### Brass Tap Billiards

Raleigh, NC

- 1 Alexandros Kazakis \$5,000
- 2 Alex Pagulayan \$3,300
- 3 Josh Roberts \$2,000
- 4 James Aranas \$1,500
- 5 Ronnie Alcano \$1,000
- 5 Eklent Kaci \$1,000
- 7 Fedor Gorst \$700
- 7 Tony Chohan \$700
- 9 Rodney Morris \$400
- 9 Omar Alshasheen \$400
- 9 Justin Martin \$400
- 9 Ruslan Chinakhov \$400
- 13 Joe Korsiak \$150
- 13 Brandon Shuff \$150
- 13 Shannon Fitch \$150
- 13 Jeffrey De Luna \$150

## 06/14 - 06/17

### 3rd Annual Ashton Twins Classic

#### The Hidden Spot

Calgary,

- 1 Vivian Villarreal \$4,000
- 2 Brittany Bryant \$2,800
- 3 Cathy Metzinger \$2,000

- 4 Monica Webb \$1,500
- 5 Teruko Cucculelli \$1,000
- 5 Joanne Ashton \$1,000
- 7 Line Kjoersvik \$600
- 7 Liz Cole \$600
- 9 Kathie MacDonald \$400
- 9 Bonnie Plowman \$400
- 9 Val Franiel \$400
- 9 April Larson \$400

## 06/16 - 06/17

### Action Pool Tour 2018 Stop 6

#### Diamond Billiards

Midlothian, VA

- 1 Roberto Gomez \$700
- 2 Chris Bruner \$400
- 3 Scott Roberts \$250
- 4 Larry Kressel \$160
- 5 Greg Sabins \$100
- 5 Cameron Lawhorne \$100
- 7 Cary Dunn \$50
- 7 Mat LeMire \$50

## 06/16 - 06/16

### AllOutPool Tour 2018 Stop 5

#### Shooters Billiards

Port St. Lucie, Florida

- 1 Julio Burgos \$650
- 2 Anthony Meglino \$450
- 3 John Ditoro \$275
- 4 John Foster \$200
- 5 Anthony Kolbe \$125
- 5 Sam Kantar \$125
- 7 Erick Poveda \$75
- 7 Willie Rubin \$75
- 9 Rick Charles \$50
- 9 Scott Franck \$50
- 9 Lou Figueroa \$50
- 9 David Jacobs \$50

## 06/16 - 06/16

### Tri State Tour 2017-2018 Stop

#### Clifton Billiards

Clifton, New Jersey

- 1 Juan Guzman \$600
- 2 Jowen Pichardo \$325
- 3 Michelle Brotons \$200
- 4 Sabrina Sherman \$120
- 5 Amy Yu \$70
- 5 Matt Klein \$70

## 06/20 - 06/24

### 5th Annual Junior Norris Memorial Shoot Out Open 9-Ball

#### Wichita Falls Tournament Venue

- Wichita Falls, Texas
- 1 Robb Saez \$4,200
  - 2 Manny Chau \$3,200
  - 3 Omar Al Shaheen \$2,100
  - 4 Dennis Orcollo \$1,500
  - 5 Johnny Archer \$800
  - 5 Jeff Melton \$800
  - 7 Chris McDaniel \$500
  - 7 Efren Reyes \$500
  - 9 Shane McMinn \$300
  - 9 Roger Senn \$300
  - 9 Rick Stanley \$300
  - 9 Johnny Bass \$300
  - 13 Tommy Tokoph \$200
  - 13 Jesus Atencio \$200
  - 13 Jeremy Freeman \$200
  - 13 Jeremy Jones \$200
  - 17 Tony Klima \$150
  - 17 Ryan Lane \$150
  - 17 Michael Delawder \$150
  - 17 Kevin Guimond \$150
  - 17 Justin Espinoza \$150
  - 17 Doug Winnett \$150
  - 17 Chip Compton \$150
  - 17 Billy Dyke \$150
  - 25 Mason Stewart \$125
  - 25 Joey Gray \$125
  - 25 Joseph Gilpin \$125
  - 25 Jack Melton \$125
  - 25 Ernie Sanchez \$125
  - 25 Chris Fields \$125
  - 25 Andrew Pettenger \$125
  - 25 Wayne Munnerlyn \$125

## 06/20 - 06/24

### 5th Annual Junior Norris Memorial Shoot Out Ladies 9-Ball

#### Wichita Falls Tournament Venue

- Wichita Falls, Texas
- 1 Alicia Stanley \$900
  - 2 Brittany Maynard \$670
  - 3 Kawania Watson \$450
  - 4 Chris Fields \$230
  - 5 Ellen Robinson \$100
  - 5 Sophia Lopez \$100

## 06/20 - 06/24

### 5th Annual Junior Norris Memorial Shoot Out Open 10-Ball

#### Wichita Falls Tournament Venue

- Wichita Falls, Texas
- 1 Dennis Orcollo \$2,200
  - 2 Shane McMinn \$1,650
  - 3 Omar Al Shaheen \$1,100
  - 4 Jeremy Jones \$600
  - 5 Efren Reyes \$225
  - 5 Robb Saez \$225
  - 7 Johnny Archer \$100
  - 7 Ryan Henry \$100

## 06/22 - 06/24

### WPBA Signature Tour Stop

#### Emerald Billiards

- New Iberia, LA
- 1 Vivian Villarreal \$5,500
  - 2 Allison Fisher \$4,200
  - 3 Jia Li \$3,100
  - 4 Line Kjoersvik \$2,200
  - 5 Brittany Bryant \$1,600
  - 5 Monica Webb \$1,600
  - 7 Gerda Hofstatter Gregerson \$1,200
  - 7 Gail Eaton \$1,200
  - 9 April Larson \$900
  - 9 Emily Duddy \$900
  - 9 Helena Thornfeldt \$900
  - 9 Jennifer Barretta \$900
  - 13 Melissa Little \$600
  - 13 Loree Jon Hasson \$600
  - 13 Beth Fondell \$600
  - 13 Ashley Rice \$600
  - 17 Susan Wilbur \$300
  - 17 Maureen Seto \$300
  - 17 Mary Beth Nix \$300
  - 17 Laura Smith \$300
  - 17 Kaylin Wikoff \$300
  - 17 Jessica Barnes \$300
  - 17 Belinda Calhoun \$300
  - 17 Teruko Cucculelli \$300

## 06/23 - 06/24

### Sunshine State Pro Am Tour 2018 Stop

#### Boulevard Billiards

- Ocala, FL
- 1 Jeffrey De Luna \$800
  - 2 Ronnie Alcano \$540

- 3 Les Duffy \$380
- 4 Nathan Rose \$280
- 5 Tommy Kennedy \$180
- 5 Trenton White \$180
- 7 Gary Orefice \$120
- 9 Dale Stanley \$80
- 9 Jason Richko \$80
- 9 Thomas White \$80
- 9 Bobby Garza \$80

## 06/23 - 06/24

### DFW 9-Ball Tour Stop

#### Click's Billiards

- Arlington, Texas
- 1 Chase Rudder \$1,010
  - 2 Greg Sandifer \$700
  - 3 Steve Raynes \$510
  - 4 Donnie Gregory \$450
  - 5 Douglas Pitts \$340
  - 5 Josh Keller \$340
  - 7 Suliman Abu Salem \$220
  - 7 Sean Black \$220
  - 9 Alberto Garcia \$150
  - 9 James Dabel \$150
  - 9 Daniel Herring \$150
  - 9 Aram Hassan \$150
  - 13 Amos Bush \$80
  - 13 Jesse Hernandez \$80
  - 13 Billy Guy \$80
  - 13 TJ Davis \$80

## 06/23 - 06/24

### Predator Pro-Am Tour 2018 Amateur

#### Raxx Pool Room, Sports Bar & Grill

- West Hempstead, NY
- 1 Rikki Ragoonanan \$1,400
  - 2 Dave Shlemperis \$900
  - 3 Jim Gutierrez \$600
  - 4 Jason Goberdhan \$400
  - 5 Keith Jawahir \$225
  - 5 Michael Mathieu \$225
  - 7 Paul Everton \$170
  - 7 Ryan Dayrit \$170
  - 9 Adrian Daniel \$120
  - 9 Allison LaFleur \$120
  - 9 Eddie Kunz \$120
  - 9 Chulo Castro \$120
  - 13 Ramilo Tanglao \$80

- 13 Matthew Harricharan \$80
- 13 Steve Kalloo \$80
- 13 Gordon McDaniels \$80

## 06/23 - 06/24

### Predator Pro-Am Tour 2018 Pro

#### Raxx Pool Room, Sports Bar & Grill

- West Hempstead, NY
- 1 Joe Korsiak \$800
- 2 Zion Zvi \$550
- 3 Tony Robles \$300
- 4 Frankie Hernandez \$150

## 06/23 - 06/24

### JPNEWT Tour 2018 Stop 4

#### Champion Billiards & Sports Café

- Frederick, MD
- 1 Karen Corr \$920

- 2 Kim Whitman \$500
- 3 Christina Madrigale \$375
- 4 Nicole King \$180
- 5 Char Dzambo \$130
- 5 Bethany Sykes \$130
- 7 Val Nolan \$100
- 7 Teri Thomas \$100

## 06/23 - 06/24

### Q City 9-Ball Tour Stop

#### Speak Eazy Billiards

- Sanford, NC
- 1 JT Ringgold \$800
- 2 Barry Mashburn \$500
- 3 Dave Brown \$300
- 4 Stevie McClinton \$150
- 5 Joshua Shultz \$100
- 5 Jason Rogers \$100
- 7 Dylan Letchworth \$100
- 7 Donnie Stewart \$100

## 06/30 - 06/30

### Q City 9-Ball Tour Stop

#### Pal's Bar & Grill

- Piedmont, SC
- 1 Norris Brady \$500
- 2 Steven Ellis \$300
- 3 Dalton Messer \$120
- 4 Tom Manley \$75

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