

# Billiards Buzz

an  publication

vol.8, Issue October 2023



# CHINA OPEN CHAMPIONS

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# FROM THE Head Rail

MIKE HOWERTON

**A**s this month's issue is being finished up, all of the talk is about the amazing display put on by Ko Ping Chung at the US Open 9-Ball Championship. Ko's performance just seems to point out the fact that when one of the top players in the game is able to master the break, they are going to be virtually unbeatable. It happened with Corey. It happened with Peach, and it happened with Ko at the Open.

The template rack seems to result in the same thing that the Sardo rack did, a repeatable rack of balls. The players are going to master a repeatable rack of balls. These guys are just too good not to.

Call me old school, but personally, I want to see a player make a big booming break (think Bustamante or Daulton) and then come to the table faced with a random layout of balls. How to make that happen though, I don't know.

Until next time



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# Making The POKER TO POOL Connection

Over time I believe that I have developed a nose for the kind of non-fiction books that are packed with insights that can be readily translated into the pool context. As luck would have it, I recently discovered Maria Konnikova's *The Biggest Bluff*.

What attracted me to the book was the subject matter and the blurbs on the back cover, which featured glowing comments by several of leaders in the thinking movement. These included Adam Grant, Daniel Pink, Nate Silver (the polling whiz), and, most

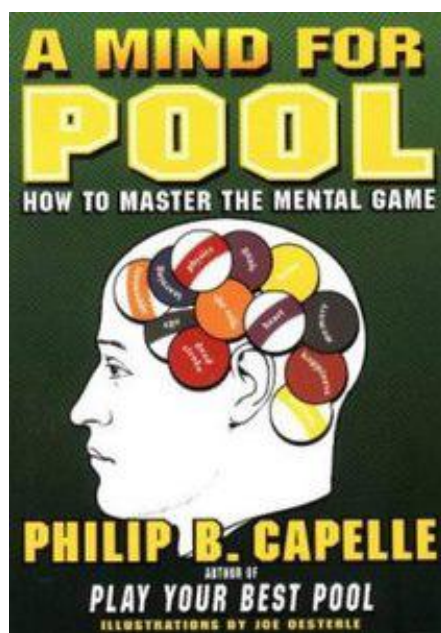
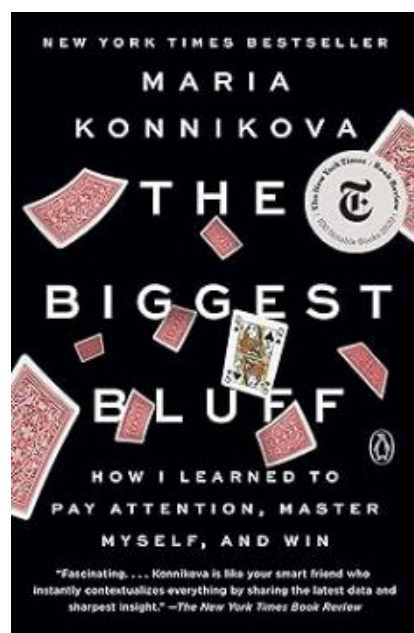
importantly, David Epstein. Indeed, it was his 2019 book, *Range*, which stresses the value of thinking across disciplines, and making original connections between them – a concept that solidified my approach to my upcoming book, *Pool Is The Answer* (PITA).

I thought I was on to a great one – and by page 20 my suspicions were quickly confirmed that this scholarly genius belonged on my short list of great thinkers – the kind that can add so much to my efforts to take pool to higher levels.

Before we dive into the Poker To Pool Connection, I am going to take a moment to provide you with a brief description of Konnikova's impressive credentials because I want you to accept her as an ideal messenger for the kind of thinking about games and life that can help in your quest to play your best pool. For starters, over the last decade she has authored three New York Times bestsellers. The first, *Mastermind*, teaches readers how to think like Sherlock Holmes. Now, who wouldn't want to be able to do that? Her next title, *The Confidence Game*, offers lessons on human nature and why we are susceptible to con men (and women). And yes, after consuming *Bluff* I went on to read both of these – so I can attest that these two are also rich with concepts that can so readily be applied to pool.

Her list of credits includes a degree from Harvard and a PhD in psychology from Columbia. In addition, her writings have appeared in such noteworthy publications as *The New York Times*, *The Atlantic*, *Scientific American*, and *The New Yorker*.

We all love a great story, and there are few I've come across that are as captivating as Maria's journey from a total novice to a player who can go toe-to-toe with some of the best poker



players in the world. Her top performance to date earned her \$84k (more on this later). This year she has won \$110k, and nearly \$500 for her career. Her first Hendonmob reported cash came in March 2017, and she has been a consistent money maker ever since.

Maria was able to ascend from the ranks of a competent player in such short order thanks to the teachings of Erik Seidel (\$44m in winnings). Erik was intrigued by her deep knowledge of psychology, so when she pitched him on her poker project, he agreed to make her his first student. One of Erik's first suggestions was to read books by Dan Harrington, the leading author on poker instruction. She devoured his books, and others like the consummate student that she happens to be. Along the way, she enlisted the advice of other big names in poker, including Johnny Chan, Blake Eastman, Daniel Negreanu, Phil Galfond, Jaren Tendler, Andrew (Chewy) Lichtenberger, John Von Neumann, and several more.

By now I trust that you are convinced that Maria Konnikova has much to say about poker and life. And I hope that I was able to take her words of wisdom and put them into the pool perspective, one that can be of great value to your pool game. And so, without further ado, let's now dive into The Poker to Pool Connection and to see where it leads us!

## **THE CONNECTIONS**

### **SIGNATURE SOUNDS**

The sounds of the game being played on multiple tables offers a special kind of music to the players of each game. In poker it's the riffing of the chips. With pool, it's the sound of racks being broken and balls entering the pocket. In both cases, the players gain much from this ambient noise.

### **SHARED TERMINOLOGY**

Poker and pool share many colorful terms. These would include fish, sweating, action, chop, dead money, busted, and bankroll, to name just a few.

### **VIEWING GOOD AND BAD LUCK**

Poker and pool players both share a similar penchant for complaining about bad luck, be it cards in poker, or lousy rolls in pool. At the same time, they are adept at ignoring their good breaks, ascribing good play to their unique set of skills! According to Maria, "When chance is on our side, we disregard it: it is invisible. But when it breaks against us, we wake to its power." Pool players can certainly relate to her view.

### **CERTAIN PEOPLE LOVE TO BE SEEN**

I came across Maria on the poker channel in Aug 2023, seven years after she took up the sport. She and the other characters at the table could easily double as comedians! These people love being seen on camera. Similarly, when it's down to the finals of a pro event and all eyes are on the two finalists that is just the way that the pros like it! According to Erik, an unfortunate development often takes place: "A lot of players start playing worse when they're on livestream because they're worried about how they look." Pool players are rightfully proud of their games, and they also love to perform for a crowd. But the

**“A LOT OF PLAYERS START PLAYING WORSE WHEN THEY'RE ON LIVESTREAM BECAUSE THEY'RE WORRIED ABOUT HOW THEY LOOK.”**

**ERIK SEIDEL**”

play of some of them suffers when they are on a livestream.

### **THE LONGEVITY CHALLENGE**

Poker has changed a lot in the last 30 years as the math whizzes who specialize in game theory are making their presence felt. "As with so many facets of modern life, the quantitative elements of poker have been passed over in favor the qualitative. Measurements presides over intuition," said Maria. In pool low deflection cues, jump cues, and faster cloth have each had a big impact on how the game is played. Despite these developments, players like Eric, Maria's mentor, and pool pro Ralf Souquet have shown a special talent for remaining competitive over a long time.

### **THE SKILL/LUCK BALANCE**

Poker players are well aware of the big role luck plays in determining the winner of certain hands, and of tournaments. Pool pros similarly recognize the role that luck plays, but they know that skill usually prevails in the end. Evidence that the cream rises to the top comes from the top finishers in most events, which are peppered with the players with the highest Fargo ratings. I would hazard a guess that poker is 80/20 luck to skill, whereas pool is 10/90 luck to skill.

### **TWO GREAT GAMES**

Poker and pool are both great games in that each, in its own way, challenges its players to think, to engage in problem solving, to analyze their competitors, to remain cool under pressure, and so much more. One big dif-

“**“UNTIL YOU GO THROUGH A MONTH OF EVERYTHING GOING WRONG, YOU WON'T KNOW WHETHER YOU HAVE WHAT IT TAKES.”**  
**DAN HARRINGTON**”

ference, however, is that pool is also a sport because it also require superb eye/brain/ hand coordination.

### **LIFE DECISION MAKING**

Both games can make a case for training players in life skills. With poker the lessons have to do largely with decision making and money management. According to Dan Harrington, one of Maria's mentors gambling is invaluable for life. He believes that people who are skilled at gambling at poker should have an edge among employers. I would echo that sentiment among top pool players.

### **SO MANY FORMATS**

Both poker and pool offer participants many different formats. In poker some of the most popular games are no-limit Texas hold'em (played at The Main Event), Seven-card stud, Stud poker, and Five-card draw to name just a few. The most popular game in pro pool is 9-Ball, followed by 10-Ball, Straight Pool, 1-Pocket, Eight Ball, and Bank Pool. Some players tend to specialize in one or two of their favorites while others like to play several games. These multi-game players love to compete at The Derby City Classic.

### **INJURY FREE!**

Both games are virtually injury free. I see this as a huge advantage over other sports like football and soccer that produce concussions and an assortment of other injuries. (I will have a lot to say about this in PITA.)

### **PLAYED INDOORS**

Poker and pool are obviously played indoors in climate controlled con-

ditions. This enables contestants to play day and night and in all kinds of weather. With temperatures worldwide increasing dramatically, the indoors advantage will only grow in the years and decades to come.

### **FOLLOWING A PROCESS**

I advise that players follow a process for planning, playing, and learning from each and every shot. I introduced The Shot Cycle in *Capelle's Practicing Pool*, and have been steadily refining it for years now in preparation for PITA. Similarly, Eric drilled into Maria the need for her to master a process for playing poker. "For Erik, the answer is simple: there is no answer. It's a constant process of inquiry. A hand (and a rack) can be played any number of ways, as long as the thought process is there," said Maria after she'd logged several months in the game. Indeed, as I read her book, the "Process" word kept coming up, so I did a word search on Amazon - it was used 60 times!

### **GAME FOR MOST AGES**

According to Harrington, "This (pro poker) is a young person's game, believe it or not." It may be that, but it's definitely not a kids game because

“**“A HAND CAN BE PLAYED ANY NUMBER OF WAYS, AS LONG AS THE THOUGHT PROCESS IS THERE,”**  
**ERIK SEIDEL**”

betting is integral to poker, so kids under 18 have no business wagering their lunch money on it. Poker can, however, be played late into one's life. In contrast, I like to say that pool is for those from 9-99+! While the best years for pros are from about 20-40, many players in their 50s still compete successfully against the best in the world.

### **IMITATION VERSUS REAL PRACTICE**

In the early stages of her development, Maria was advised to "practice" by playing poker online. This enabled her to control her expenses, and to learn to make decisions in real time. But once she started playing live poker, she quickly realized that it was an altogether different animal. In contrast, pool practice is done on a table the same as in competition. This enables pool players to more closely follow the axiom that says that you should practice like you play.

### **PLAYING STYLES**

Poker and pool both accommodate a player's tendencies to play anywhere on the spectrum from very conservative to super aggressive. And, you can switch your style in the short-term as conditions and opponent's games warrant.

### **DEALING WITH BAD FORTUNE**

In the short-term, players in both games need to accept the fact that good and bad breaks often come in clusters. Therefore, you need to recognize a run of good or bad luck and prepare for a shift in fortune. When developing her game, Maria was

taught that some of the most important lessons could only be learned from experiencing an extended period of hard knocks. According to Harrington, “Until you go through a month of everything going wrong, you won’t know whether you have what it takes.” I would add that his advice applies equally to pool.

## MAKING ADJUSTMENTS

Poker strategy is largely about making adjustments. As a hand progresses, you may fold, call, or raise, depending on the dynamics of the hand. Looking longer term, you may adjust your approach as your game and your confidence reaches higher and higher levels. Pool also requires adjustments – to the table, to how you are playing that day, and to the score. And, as you improve, you need to adjust your view of your game so that you can take advantage of your improvements. In other words, in both games, your confidence must grow in tandem with your skill.

## PLAYING UNITS

Poker and pool both have well-defined units of play. In poker, you must deal with the hand you are dealt, and your wins are called hands. In pool you must deal with each layout and its unique set of challenges. In 9-Ball and other games, each win goes on your side of the ledger. So, in poker you win hands, and in pool you win games. And it is the accumulation of these wins that enables you to advance to the next round in tournament play.

## THE ODDS OF WINNING

At the beginning of each round at the World Series Of Poker (WSOP), there are about 9 players at a table. All things being equal (which they are not) this means that the theoretical odds of winning each hand are 11%. As players go bust, the odds obviously go up until the finals when there are two

“**“WHAT KIND OF SADIST DESIGNED THIS INTERFACE.”**

**MARIA KONNIKOVA**”

players – in which case the odds are 50%. In pool, there are always 2 players, so the theoretical odds of winning each game are 50%. Obviously these odds don’t take into account the skill levels of the players. The 50% odds in pool squeezes out a hefty chunk of the luck factor. So, if you prefer games of skill to those laden with a hefty share of luck, pool is for you.

## MISTAKES AND POOR DECISIONS

In her early days of play, Maria freely admitted to her numerous mistakes, which came mostly from poor decision making. As part of her learning process, she would go over her hands with Erik, who would show her errors in her judgment. Because she is a quick learner, certain mistakes were ironed out of her game. In pool, it is universally accepted that we must learn from our mistakes. Taking this a step further, if you have mastered a process such as my Shot Cycle, then it can enable you to more easily pinpoint what went wrong, where, and why.

## THOSE INFERNAL TIME CLOCKS

Some poker events and the later stages of most pro pool events now feature play on a clock. The allowed time is usually 30 seconds. Since players in both games are used to playing mostly without a clock, and, in games that often require more than the allowed time to make a decision, the clock is looked at as an unpopular nuisance.

Maria, who is not used to pulling her punches, went on a rant on the clock in her book saying, “What kind of sadist designed this interface.” If I was a pro in either sport I might agree with Maria – but as a spectator I love the clock because it keeps the tortoises (and there are many) from taking their sweet time, as they are prone to do.

## IT’S ABOUT THE MONEY

In poker it seems like there is a heavy emphasis on money. The buy-in, the outrageous purses at so many events, the not-so-small fortunes some pros have earned, and those ever-present stack of chips (each color with a certain monetary value) all spells money. I have no doubt that the players like or possibly love to play poker. Still, it seems to me that the money takes center stage. In pro pool, the purses are miniscule in comparison, so no one would be crazy enough to make a career from playing pro pool unless, of course, they love the sport, and there indications are that most pros certainly do!

## LEVELS OF SKILL

Other player’s skills and their tendencies have an impact on a competitor’s strategy in both games. As Maria says, “You can’t just plow ahead with one strategy because it worked in the past or you’ve seen someone else employ it successfully.” (In *Play Your Best 9&10 Ball* I outline strategies for C, B, and A players.)

(Editor’s note: Phil found so many talking points in his book comparison, that we are going to take a break here and come back with the rest next month)

# FROM LIMITED TO LEGENDARY

If you're a serious pool player, chances are you keep up with the latest drills and methods to improve the technical and tactical aspects of your game.

**Y**ou probably study the latest mechanics, strategies and styles of play to stay one step ahead of your competition.

But if you're like most players you probably don't know where to go for help on the mental game.

Even though most billiard instructors have designated the psychological component as the 4<sup>th</sup> tier of player development, it is the one that is the most difficult for coaches to develop and is also the one that has the fewest resources available.

And yet, that psychological component might be the most important tier of development, especially for players hoping to compete at an elite level.

Let's start with some helpful descriptions on the mental game and mental toughness.

The mental game includes all the skills needed to perform at our best. These include skills like goal setting, energy management, emotion-regulation, focus, resilience, and the ability to perform under pressure.

I define mental toughness as the knowledge, ability, and discipline to play at your best, regardless of the circumstances.

- Can you play at your best when going against an inferior opponent and when going against a formidable foe?
- Can you play at your best when nobody's watching and when you are playing a professional player on YouTube?
- Can you play at your best when you're up by 4 games and down by the same?



- Can you play at your best when you're tired?
- Can you play at your best when you are performing at only 80% of your "A" game – can you extract 100% of that 80%?

Many players mistakenly assume that the most talented players are also the mentally toughest, but we already know this is false. This is where coaches can educate players by explaining how mental toughness is independent from talent. And mental toughness, as we've often seen, can sometimes make up for a lack of talent.

After all, if you don't believe that the mind influences your physical performance, then mental skills training is a wasted endeavor. Male athletes are usually the most skeptical about this, but women can be as well.

To make them understand this connection, ask players if they've ever been startled awake by a nightmare. There they are, startled out of a deep sleep, sweating, muscles tensed up, rapid heart rate, and shallow breathing. When they awaken, they find themselves in their comfy bed with no threats around, yet they could've sworn the horror of that dream was real.



Or ask them if they've ever cried during a movie scene or clutched a blanket over their head on the couch while watching a horror film. Again, in the friendly confines of their living room, they sit and watch, as their pulse races and the hairs on their arms and the back of their neck stand up.

Why? This happens because the mind often has difficulty differentiating fantasy from reality (it's also why visualization and imagery exercises are so effective in building confidence).

In pool, the mind-body connection is on full display when a player stands over the cue ball and the game is on the line. In practice, players may not feel any external pressure and consistently pocket the shot almost every time.

With the game on the line, however, and potentially thousands of eyes on their every move, a player can start to overthink themselves. What if I miss?

How will my friends react? What will the audience do? Have I practiced enough? Didn't I miss this same shot the last time I was under pressure?

When that happens, the brain sends signals and chemicals to the body indicating that there's a threat. The player's pulse races and muscles tighten, making it more difficult for blood to flow where it needs to go. It may even become difficult to breathe (this is where the phrase "choking" comes from).

The results, you can imagine, are often not good, which only reinforce how the mind and body will react to future moments of stress in competition.

However, legendary players are often able to exceed their performance by visualizing success before every shot. This makes them more intentional about their actions and the results they want to achieve.

I ask my students, where else in their lives are they putting self-imposed limitations on their performance? In a tournament? During match play? Every pool player should have the skills necessary to become more intentional about their actions and understand that winning and losing often comes down to the success they must often visualize for themselves.

Anthony Beeler is the current *Billiards Instructor of the Decade* and is a former BCAPL National Champion. He has numerous "Top 25" national finishes and is the primary author of the ACS *National Billiards Instructor's Manual*. He has also authored the book *Unstoppable! Positive Thinking for Pool Players*. Anthony currently has the highest established Fargo Rating of any Master Instructor. He has won over 300 tournaments and has defeated numerous professional players in tournament competition.

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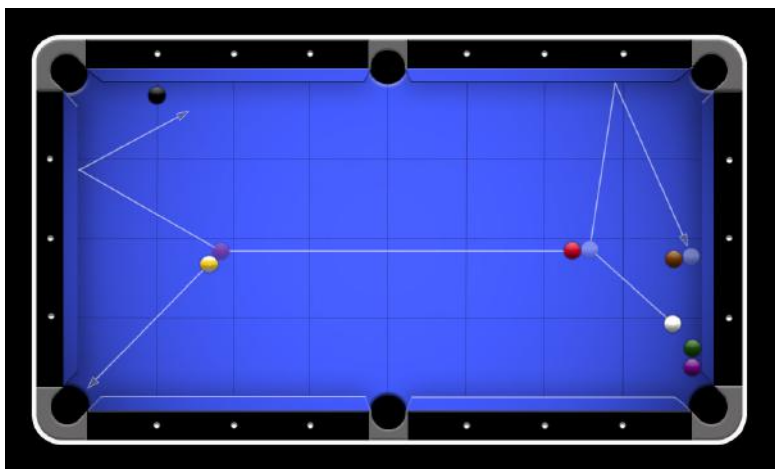
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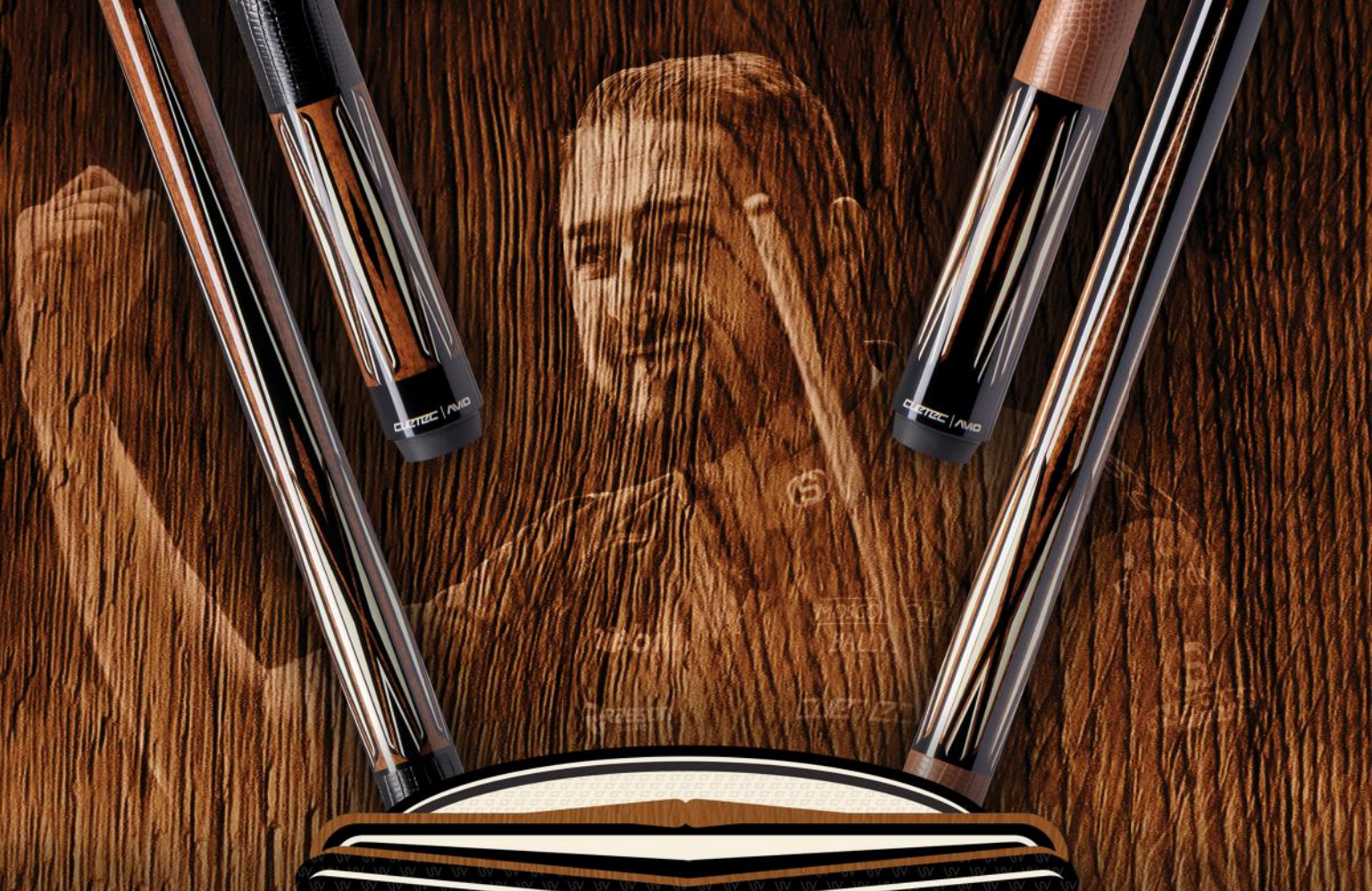


**A**ccu-Stats Video Productions has been bringing us World Class Pool on video for the last 30 years. With this column, we hope to bring you some examples of the best shots that come up between the greatest players who play this game.

This month's shot comes from the 2014 US Open 9-Ball Championship where a 27 year old Mike Dechaine was facing off against 24 year old Albin Ouschan.

While we know this was a two way shot, we are going to give credit to Dechaine for the creativity he displayed with his 3-9 combination and the perfect safety that he left with the cueball behind the 7-ball.





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# Gospel Trick Shot #44

## The 'Blood and Testimony Shot'

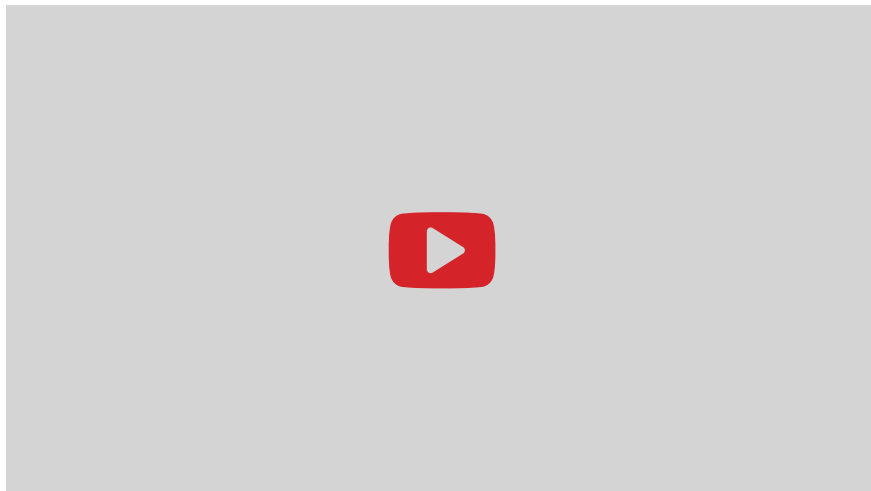
**History of the Trick Shot:** This Gospel Trick Shot done on an English Blackball pool table was developed from a shot which is featured in the new Artistic Blackball shot program in Discipline 7 entitled "Jump" shots and this is shot #3 worth 8 points which is being used at the GTS Classic Artistic Blackball Cup in South Africa this month during the Blackball International Hawley Cup event. This shot has a degree of difficulty (DOD) of 8 which is the hardest of the three shots in the "Jump" discipline. The shot entails making a ball into the corner pocket with the cue ball going over some blocker balls and making another ball combo into the diagonally opposite corner pocket. Wayne Parker from South Africa demonstrates how the two red balls represent very important aspects for a believer in overcoming.

**GTS Name and Why:** In the video, Wayne shares Revelations 12:11 regarding overcoming by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of our testimony. Hence the name being "The Blood and Testimony Shot". As believers in Jesus Christ, we can only overcome the enemy and the things in this world by what Jesus has accomplished for us when He shed His blood by dying on the cross for our sins, and by the word of our testimony for all that Jesus has done for us.

**Scripture References (NASB):** Revelations 12:11 - "...And they overcame him because of the blood of the Lamb and because of the word of their testimony, and they did not love their life even when faced with death."

**Object Ball(s) Placement:** The Cue ball is in hand. An object placed on the center diamond line of the table and adjustable between head cushion and the blocker balls. 5 blocker balls, all frozen to each other along the 1st diamond line from the head cushion, with the middle blocker ball on the center diamond line of the table. Another object ball hanging near the opposite corner pocket with a helper ball frozen to it as shown in the diagram.

**Objective:** Firmly shoot the 1 7/8-inch cue ball used on an English Blackball table into the object ball which is 2 inches causing it to be made into the pocket and then have the cue ball jump over the row of blocker balls, and then draw back across the table to make the combination ball setup in the opposite corner pocket as show in the diagram. This shot can be done on any American pool table as well with 2 1/4 inch balls but is obviously

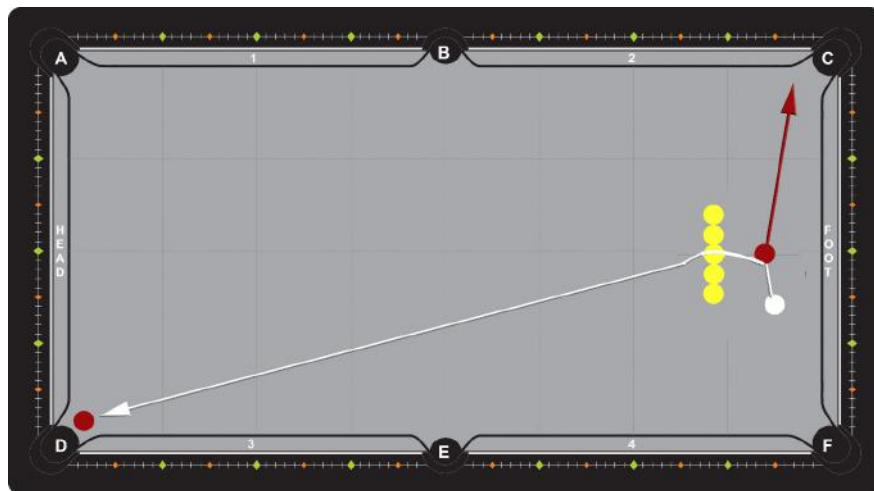


more difficult to jump over the object balls and draw the cue ball.

**Special Notes** Raise the butt end of the cue with an angle of about 20-25 degrees and aim with about one tip low English on the cue ball. Firmly hit the cue ball, and if the cue ball makes contact with the blocker balls, try either raising the butt end a little more or strike the cue ball with a little more power. If the cue ball misses the combination by contacting the short rail first, then apply a little lower English on the cue ball. To make the shot a little easier one could add a helper ball frozen to the ball hanging near the pocket.

**Crowd Reactions Through the Years:** This shot as mentioned will be part of the Artistic

Blackball program in South Africa this month, so we expect the crowd to be amazed, especially after the cue ball makes it over the blocker balls and then has a curve reaction toward the combination balls. We expect a loud roar of applause and cheering from all those watching the competition. As a Gospel Trick Shot in a GTS show, if one should miss the combination balls, address the crowd saying, "the cue ball forgot to use the word of his testimony, but with a little practice his testimony will be heard." The crowd should have a little chuckle of laughter and have more anticipation for the shot to be made. Keep attempting the shot to emphasize the importance of practicing sharing your testimony with others for what Jesus has done for you!



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# GERMANY'S JOSHUA FILLER

LOSES OPENING MATCH AT CHINA OPEN, COMES BACK TO CLAIM \$40K TOP PRIZE

*Han Yu goes undefeated to claim her third China Open Women's title*

Conventional pool wisdom dictates that players have to learn how to shrug off losses (games, matches, or tournaments) and focus on the ball, game, match in front of them. You'd have to think, though, that having spent more than just a few thousand Euros getting to and preparing to stay in Shanghai for a week, Germany's Joshua Filler might have had some initial trouble with the refocusing idea after his first match at the World Pool Association's (WPA) 2023 China Open in the 64-entrant, Men's Singles division. He faced Malaysia's Muhammad Almie Yakup and lost the match, double hill. He did, however, manage to apply the conventional wisdom and refocus quickly, magnificently as it turned out and went on to win it, downing Filipino Anthony "The Dragon" Raga in the final. It was Filler's second China Open win, hav-

ing won it previously in 2017, and his fourth overall 2023 title.

Fisher collected his \$40,000 first-place prize which, if nothing else, helped to offset what it cost him and his wife, Pia, to get there. Mrs. Filler helped out by finishing 3rd/4th in the Women's Division, thereby adding \$9,000 to their travel funds.

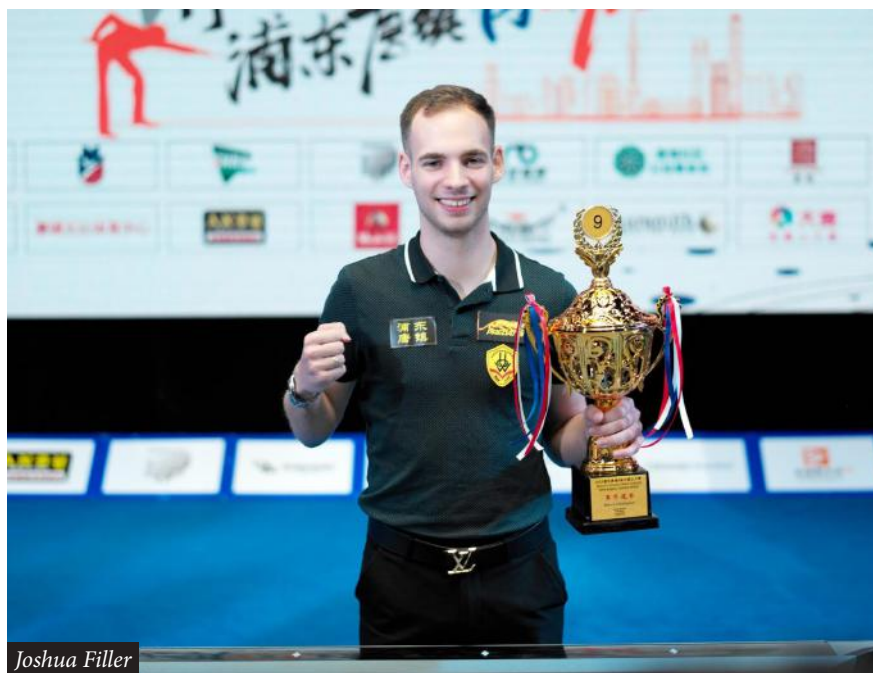
It was an all-China final in the 38-entrant Women's Division. Han Yu went undefeated, downing Liu Shasha in the finals. It was the third time Yu won this event. She competed in it and finished 17th in her first try (2009), 9th in her second and third ('11, '12) and 13th/16th in her fourth (2013). She chalked up her first (recorded) title in 2013, as well, winning the first of three Women's World 9-Ball Championships. She claimed her first China



Open title in 2014, finished 3rd in 2015 and hit the jackpot in 2016, claiming both her second China Open and World 9-Ball titles. In 2018, the year in which she and Filler were awarded the WPA's World Champion titles, she claimed the Women's World 9-Ball title again and finished 9th in the China Open. In 2019, she placed 3rd in the China Open, 5th in that year's Women's World 9-Ball and added her first All Japan Women's Championship title.

This was the first China Open since 2019, due in no small measure to the pandemic, which played out differently in China than it did here in the US. While they literally flocked from around the world to attend this returned China Open, the field for both events (no surprise) was full of Chinese and Asian talent, with expected entrants from (among other countries) the UK, Spain, the Philippines, Austria, Poland and Greece. Russia's Fedor Gorst sat this one out. The event's two divisions drew their 64 and 38 entrants to Pudong Tangzhen Culture & Sports Centre in Shanghai from Sept. 3-10

There were only two USA competitors; Michael Yednak and April Larson. Yednak lost two in a row to Chinese competitors (9-5, 9-2). Larson lost her



Joshua Filler

opener to China's Zheng Xiaochun 7-1, but in true 'put the losses behind you' spirit, battled to double hill versus Sakura Muramoto before being eliminated.

After his loss to Muhammad Almie Yakup, Filler had to win two to qualify for Phase 2. He downed Egypt's Wesam Hammam and Chinese Tapei's Hsieh Chia Chen, both 9-5 to qualify for single-elimination. Filler's four-match trip to the title went through Austria twice, Spain and Poland once and ended up in the finals against the Philippines. He almost got knocked out a second time, when Austria's Maximilian Lechner opened up the single-elimination (races to 11) phase against him with a double-hill fight. Filler survived it and then defeated Spain's David Alcaide 11-8, Austria's Mario He 11-5 and in the semifinals, Poland's Wojciech Szewczyk 11-7.

Anthony Raga, in the meantime, had gotten by Japan's Naoyuki Oi and countryman Johann Chua, both 9-5, to qualify for Phase 2. In Phase 2 (races to 11), he defeated Mongolia's Amgalanbaatar Yeruu (7), and got by Naoyuki Oi a second time (9). He advanced to down China's Liu Haitao (5) and in the other semifinal, Chinese Tapei's Wu Kun Lin (6).

Aside from the normal display of applause-winning shots, positional skills and the normal tension of an international final, the match lacked the kind of hoped-for drama spectators may have been expecting in a match between two 'above 800' Fargo Rate competitors separated by only three points in their ratings; Filler, 843 and Raga, 840. At the end of game 4, with Filler up 3-1, the possibility of a tense, back-and-forth battle to the finish was still on the table. Raga, though, never chalked up more than two games in a row, as Filler kept the pressure on, winning eight of the next 12 games to claim the title 11-5.



Han Yu

### Three-time winners of WPA Women's World 9-Ball title battled for China Open title

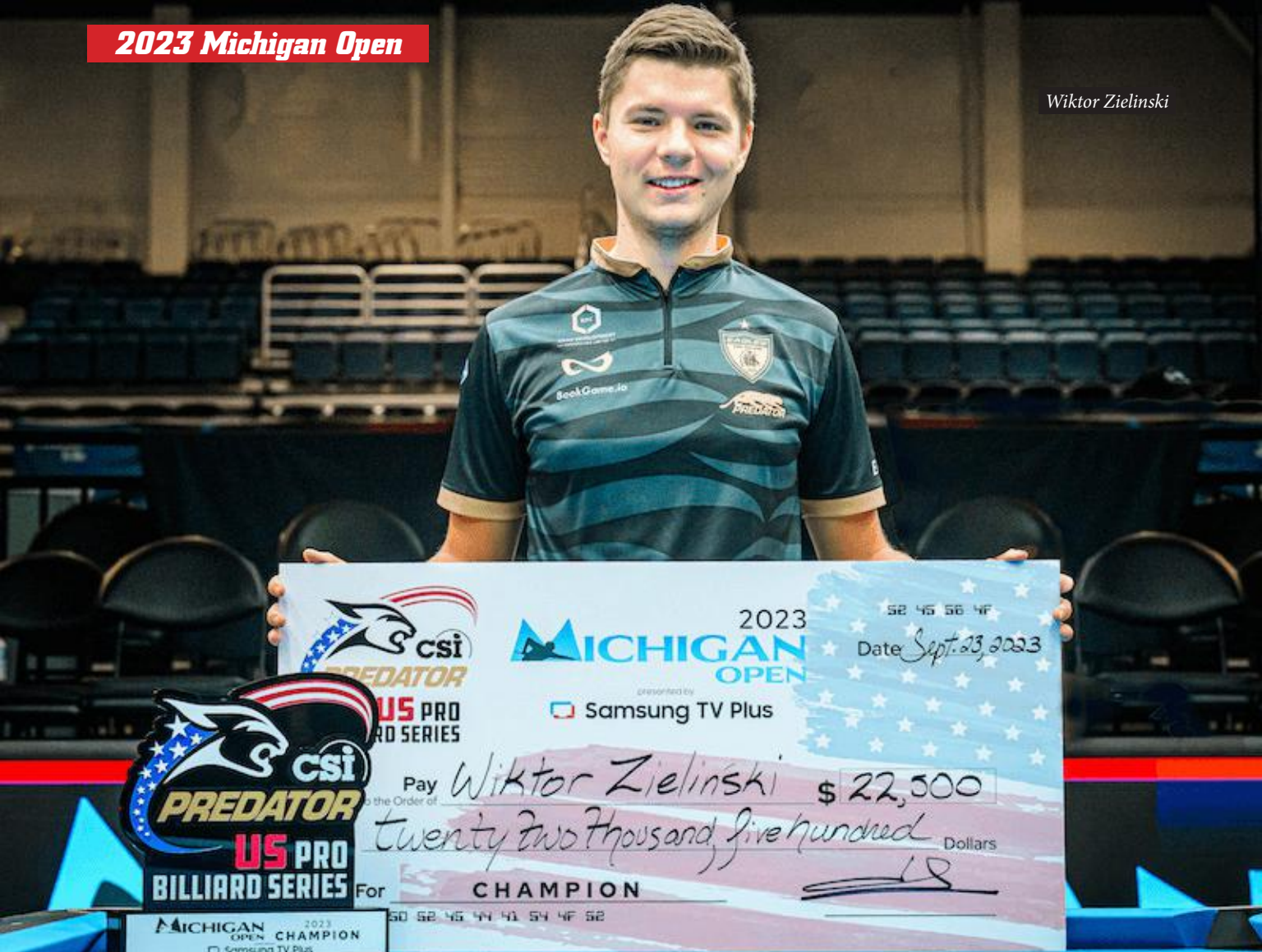
For those of us on this side of the Pacific Ocean who may be unaware of them, we noted previously that Han Yu came to Shanghai looking for her third China Open title. Her opponent, Liu Shasha, was looking for her second. Shasha won her first in 2013, the year before Yu won her first. At that 2013 China Open, the two finalists, both from China (Shasha & Siming Chen), arrived having defeated the Fisher 'twins' to get there; Siming Chen surviving a double-hill match versus Kelly Fisher in one semifinal, as Liu Shasha was busy eliminating Allison Fisher 9-6 in the other one. Yu and Shasha came into this year's China Open tied for the most WPA Women's World 9-Ball Championship titles (3), one behind Allison Fisher's 4.

Yu came into the final undefeated, having faced four other women from China and two from the Philippines. She survived two double-hill battles versus Shi Tianqi and Zhang Muyan in the double-elimination phase and downed the Philippines' Chezka Centeno 7-2 in between. She entered

Phase 2 with a 9-6 win over Liu Xiazhi, followed it with a 9-5 victory over the Philippines' Rubilen Amit and eliminated Chinese Tapei's Chen Chia Hua 9-3 in one of the semifinals.

As luck would have it, the two finalists in the 2013 China Open met twice in this year's China Open. It was Siming Chen who sent Shasha to the loss-side of the double-elimination bracket 7-5. Chen followed her over when she lost a subsequent, double-hill match against Austria's Jasmin Ouschan. Shasha and Chen met for the second time in the loss-side's final qualifying match and to no one's surprise, it came to a double-hill final game. Shasha won it and advanced to single-elimination, where she defeated China's Fan Langtong (5) and Bai Ge (7) before spoiling any hopes the Filler's were maintaining of a husband/wife sweep of the event by defeating Pia Filler 9-3 in the other semifinal.

This final maintained a sense of drama through 70% of its potential 17 games. The two battled back and forth to a 6-6 tie. Shasha added one more to the total, while Yu chalked up three, closing it out at 16 games, 9-7, to claim her third China Open title.



# ZIELINSKI TRIUMPHS AS 2023 MICHIGAN OPEN CHAMPION

Article and photos courtesy Predator Pro Billiard Series

**Aloysius Yapp appeared virtually unbeatable in Battle Creek. When he orchestrated a comeback from being one set down against Gorst in the semifinal, the enticing chance at a third win in a row in Michigan seemed well within reach. Only one polish player could stop his dream: Wiktor Zielinski.**

Despite facing recent struggles, Zielinski exhibited exceptional form throughout the tournament. In the first semifinal, he launched like a juggernaut, executing three break-and-runs in the initial set

to secure a remarkable 4-0 victory in just 20 minutes. His compatriot, Fortunski, although starting off strong in the second set, bore witness to a game-changing moment when Zielinski executed a remarkable kick-shot

on the two ball, decisively shifting the momentum in his favor.

## Gorst vs. Yapp: A Rollercoaster Ride

The second semifinal witnessed a brilliant start from Fedor Gorst, who

## 2023 Michigan Open

The match was filled with heart-stopping moments. At 2-2 in the score, Yapp's scratch on the 9 ball proved to be a pivotal setback. In the second set, Yapp had a chance to reach the hill, but a missed 7 ball opened the door for Zielinski, who capitalized on the opportunity to level the score. Another error from Yapp on the 4 ball, followed by a bank shot from Zielinski, solidified Zielinski's victory, who took the first prize of \$22,500 and his third US Pro Billiard Series trophy.

Zielinski expressed his elation, saying, "Last couple of weeks were really tough for me, so I am happy that I'm finally back on winning ways. I was feeling really good throughout the match, really confident, and Aloysius made a couple of mistakes, which I took advantage of it. Amazing feeling."

Yapp reflected, "I feel nervous, because I've been struggling for quite a bit in this tournament... the day I played Tyler Styer I played really bad, but I'm happy that I somehow managed to find some mental strength and keep myself in it."



Aloysius Yapp

dominated the first set with three break and runs, securing a 4-0 victory. Yapp didn't touch the cue in the first set. Yapp faced dry breaks in the second set, but capitalized on a couple of mistakes from Fedor, ultimately winning the second set 4-3. The third set saw a shift in momentum. Fedor made an unbelievable 2 rail kick shot but then missed the 8 ball. Yapp was finding success on the break, ultimately leading to a 4-3, 4-2 victory after a challenging start.

### Yapp-Zielinski, the ultimate battle for the third title

The final match could not have been more thrilling. Both players, each with two US Pro Billiard Series titles to their name, demonstrated their prowess. Yapp, a two-time consecutive winner of the Michigan Open, faced off against Zielinski, who had claimed victory at the Las Vegas Open two times in a row.

Both lost their winners qualification matches and reached the final from the losers' bracket. Zielinski faced a defeat against Fortunski, while Yapp's journey took a detour after a loss to Tyler Styer.

The final began with Yapp taking a 2-0 lead in both sets. However, Zielinski showcased resilience, battling back to secure victories in both sets. A pivotal moment occurred when, at a 2-1 score, Yapp missed a crucial long 1 ball, providing Zielinski with an opportunity for a jump shot and a subsequent cross bank on the 2, turning the tide in his favor.

Fedor Gorst



# KELLY FISHER

## DEFENDS THE TITLE

Article and photos courtesy Predator Pro Billiard Series

**Fisher defeated Chieh-Yu Chou in 2 sets to claim her second consecutive Michigan Open victory.**

The final day in Battle Creek, Michigan couldn't have been more exciting, with women's Final 4 showcasing an outstanding level of play.

The opening semifinal faced-off Chinese Taipei stars Chieh-Yu Chou and Tzu-Chien Wei. Reigning world 9-Ball and 10-Ball champion Chou took the opening set 4-2. Wei Wei, last year's Michigan Open runner-up, played flawlessly in the beginning of the second set, but made a couple of unforced errors to go on the hill. Chou capitalized on Wei's miss on the 9-Ball to steal the second set 4-3 and advance to the final.

Remarkable performance from Chiehiro Kawahara, the tournament's underdog, who reached the semifinals without dropping a match. until she encountered defending champion Kelly Fisher. Kawahara, who was 3-2 up in the first set, assisted to a car-

om masterclass by Fisher making 2 unbelievable early 10-balls that turn around the score. Fisher ended up winning the crucial first set 4-3. The second set was full of safeties from Fisher and stunning escapes from Kawahara. One of them, an incredible 2-rail kick shot, could easily be the shot of the tournament. Kawahara tied the match winning the second set 4-2 but couldn't hold Fisher in the third set (4-2).

Final started shaky for both players. Chou took advantage and clinched the first set 4-1. Despite Fisher's struggles at the beginning of the match, she found another gear in the sec-



Kelly Fisher



*Chieh Yu Chou*

tough field of 48 players and a total prize fund of \$60,000. Champion Kelly Fisher took \$18,000 first prize, while Chou earned \$10,500 as runner-up. This victory means that Kelly Fisher not only becomes the two-times defending champion but also holds the record for the most Pro Billiard Series titles with a total of 5. Fisher won the Austria Open in 2021, Las Vegas Open and Germany Open in 2022, and two back-to-back titles in Michigan.

The Michigan Open was the third stop of the year for the Predator Pro Billiard Series. The Series will host three WPA World Championship events in Austria in October: The Predator WPA World 8-Ball Men's Championship, Predator WPA World 10-Ball Women's Championship, and Predator WPA World 10-Ball Junior Championships. The year ends in San Juan, Puerto Rico with the Medalla Light Puerto Rico Men's and Women's Opens and the WPA World Teams Championship

ond set and started flying towards her back to back victory. 4-1 in both second and third sets for Fisher, who couldn't believe it: "I'm absolutely delighted to have won that tournament. Who would have known? Coming in, I didn't really have any expectations. I just came in and was going to play my

best. I've been in China a lot, playing Chinese pool and not as much 10-Ball, so I'm absolutely thrilled. Honestly, I really can't believe it. So happy to have won it two years in a row."

The Michigan Women's Open presented by Samsung TV Plus had a

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# FEDOR GORST WINS TURNING STONE CLASSIC XXXVII

Fedor Gorst avenged his only loss of the event, with a nail biting 13-10 win over Mika Immonen in the finals of the Turning Stone Classic XXXVII at the Turning Stone Resort & Casino in Verona, NY on Sunday September 3rd.

Immonen was the man to beat all weekend, after marquee wins over defending champion Jayson Shaw, Thorsten Hohmann and then Gorst in the hot-seat match.

After Hohmann defeated Jeremy Sousei on the one loss side, he ran into Gorst in the semi-final match. It probably wouldn't have mattered who it was that Gorst was facing, as he dominated this match, running out to a 6-0 lead before Hohmann could get on the scoreboard. Hohmann managed to win two games, before Gorst regained control and won the match 9-2.

The rematch with Immonen in the finals, an extended race to thirteen, was a back and forth battle between these two champions. The players exchanged one rack leads early, until Immonen was able to take advantage of two dry breaks by Gorst, and build a two rack lead at 7-5. A couple uncharacteristic errors by Immonen let Gorst back into the match, and he tied things back up at 9-9.

Gorst picked the perfect time to regain his break, with two table runs as

he took the hill at 12-9. Gorst gave Immonen one last chance, missing a two ball that would have led to an open table in rack twenty-two, but Immonen was only able to put together two racks before missing a one ball that allowed Gorst control of the table, that he didn't relinquish, making a rail-first one ball and running out the rack for the 13-11 win.

The title is the first Turning Stone Classic title for Gorst, in just his third appearance at the event. First place was worth \$10,000 for Gorst, with Immonen taking home \$6,500 for second place.



Fedor Gorst and Mika Immonen

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# NEUHAUSEN NO. 1 IN WEST HAVEN AFTER MAIDEN SUCCESS

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

**Moritz Neuhausen is the latest entrant in the WNT Winners' Circle after landing the CueLees Connecticut 9-ball Open – beating Chang Yu-Lung 13-6 in the final to secure a maiden WNT Ranking title.**

**T**he 19-year-old German delivered an incredible tournament at US 1 Billiards & Bar in West Haven, Connecticut, defeating the likes of five-time US Open champion Shane Van Boening, WNT No. 11 Ko Ping Chung and a phenomenal 9-0 whitewashing of European Open champion David Alcaide – with seven consecutive break and run-outs to boot.

Defeat to Carlo Biado last weekend in the Raxx Pool Room Open was the motivation to spur Neuhausen on, with success in Connecticut capping off a fantastic fortnight in the United States.

The \$15,000 top prize moves the German prodigy into the WNT top 16 and Mosconi Cup contention for Team Europe, where a strong run at the US Open Pool Championship – with action getting underway from 10:00am ET Monday 25th September on DAZN in the United States – could see him secure the second automatic spot in December's historic 30th edition of the trans-atlantic tussle.

Chang Yu-Lung showed the stacked 126-man field what he was made of en-route to the final. Wins over Team USA Mosconi Cup hopeful Billy Thorpe, European Open runner-up Anton Raga and WNT No. 4 Mario He lead the Chinese Taipei star to \$8,200 WNT Ranking Points.

Van Boening carried the flag for the US – the only American to go beyond the last 16 before falling to Neuhausen in the semi-final. SVB's brilliance was showcased with a magnificent 10-0 thrashing of Lee Van Corteza – featuring eight break and run-outs.

Tied on five titles at the US Open with the legendary Earl Strickland, a top-four finish puts the South Dakota Kid in strong-stead for a shot at the title in Atlantic City.



Moritz Neuhausen

# PHOTO GALLERY

Credit Erwin DIONISIO



# BIADO & FEIJEN

## STORM TO RANKING EVENT SUCCESSES

Carlo Biado and Niels Feijen both had a weekend to remember on opposite sides of the Atlantic, picking up World Nineball Tour Ranking Event victories in the United States and Serbia respectively.

### LATEST WORLD NINEBALL TOUR RANKINGS

#### RAXX POOL ROOM OPEN

2021 US Open Pool champion Biado made the perfect preparation for a return to Harrah's Resort, Atlantic City, for the 46th instalment of pool's most historic major from September 25-30th live on Sky Sports in the UK & Ireland and DAZN in the USA, by landing the Raxx Pool Room Open in a hill-hill thriller with Germany's World Cup of Pool finalist Mortiz Neuhausen.

The Black Tiger was the cream of a strong 126-man field in West Hempstead, New York, having beaten the likes of European Open champion David Alcaide, former World Pool Master Alex Kazakis and 2022 US Open Pool Championship finalist Max Lechner en-route to the final.

19-year-old prodigy Neuhausen had showcased his qualities throughout the tournament, having sent Biado to the loser's bracket in a commanding 9-4 display earlier in the tournament.

Victories over Kazakis and former World Champion Fedor Gorst project the German's ability to thrive at the top of the game for many years to come.

#### LONGONI LOZNICA OPEN

Niels Feijen's quest for a 15th appearance at the Mosconi Cup were enhanced after landing the \$3,000 first prize in Loznica, Serbia. The veteran Dutchman flexed his superiority on the Nineball Balkan Tour, remaining unbeaten throughout to defeat Serbian Luka Bulatovic 9-5 in the final.



Niels Feijen



Victory for Feijen strengthens his position inside the top 16 of the WNT Rankings, who will be targeting a deep run to the latter stages of the US Open, where two more players will secure their places in Team Europe and USA at the 30th Anniversary Mosconi Cup taking place at Alexandra Palace, London from December 6-9th 2023.

The competition couldn't have been hotter in Central Europe, with all four quarter-finals matches going hill-hill, seeing World Cup of Pool stars Sanjin Pehlivanovic and Aleksa Pecelj eliminated by Faruk Terzic and Bulatovic respectively.

JS Junior Open champion 13-year-old Maks Benko continued a stellar year with a run to the semi-finals – losing out to eventual champion Feijen.

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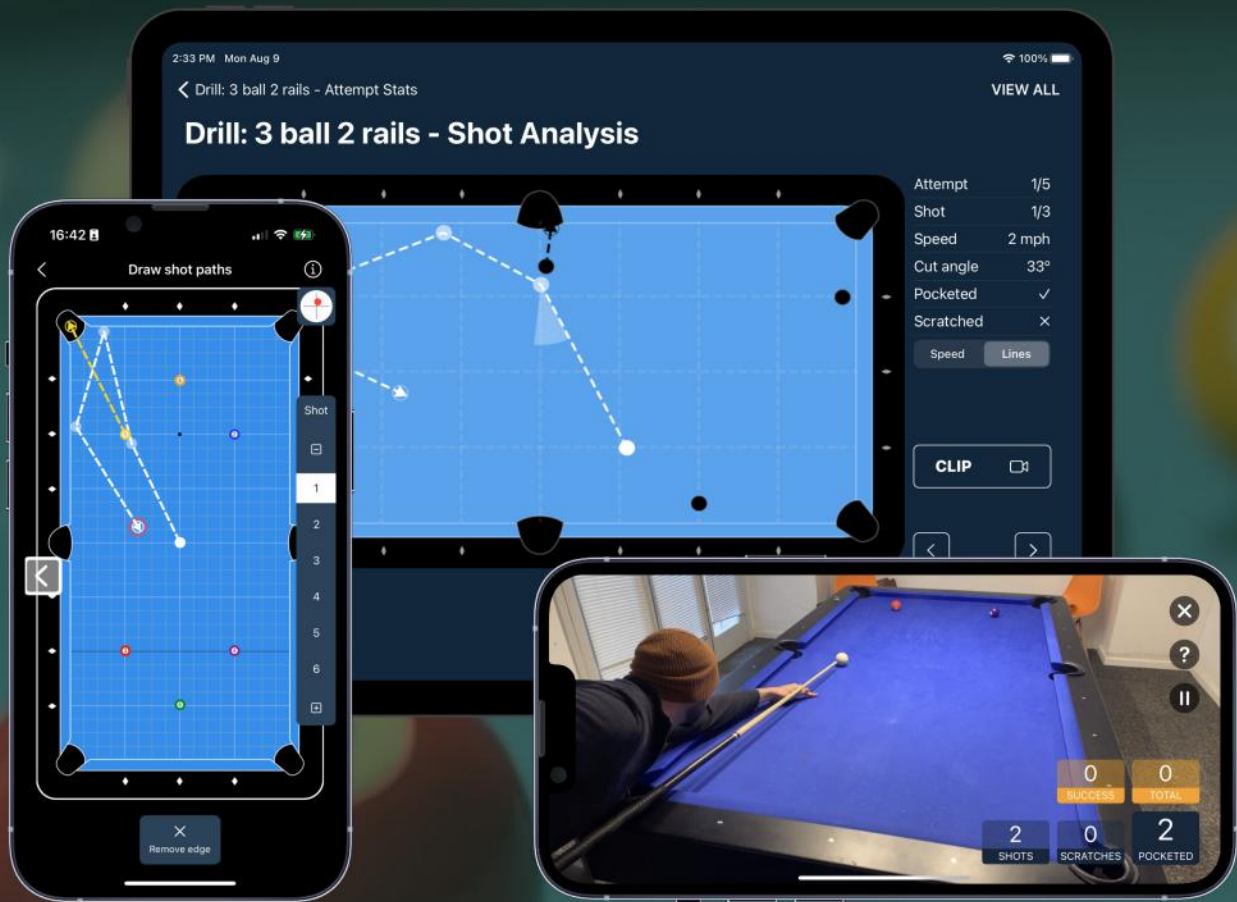
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# BEAN HUNG

## WINS THE INAUGURAL PENNSYLVANIA STATE WOMEN'S 9-BALL CHAMPIONSHIP

Article by FRANK MAIALETTI - Photos courtesy J. PECHAUER Northeast Women's Tour

**The Inaugural Pennsylvania State Women's 9-Ball Championship presented by PA Pro-Am Pool and the J. Pechauer Northeast Women's Tour (JPNEWT) was held this past weekend (Sept 16th-Sept 17th) at Bluegrass Billiards in Philadelphia, PA.**

The \$1,500-added event for the new, highly coveted "Doris Sciarra Women's Championship Belt," supplied by TrophySmack.com., drew 65 women from four different countries and 12 states. When the dust settled, Bean Hung from Brisbane, Australia had gone undefeated, besting JPNEWT's tour director, Briana Miller in the finals to claim the event title.

Hung opened with a surprising first-round, double hill match against Giovanna Napolitano. She advanced from that promising start to give up only five racks over the next four matches. She shut out Kristen Gore and gave up two to Eugenia Gyftopoulos before coming up against Miller for the first time in a winners' side quarterfinal. Hung took the first of her two against Miller 6-2 and then, advanced to the hot seat match with a 6-1 victory over junior competitor Sofia Mast in one of the winners' side semifinals.

Aside from the main story of the finalists and their immediate predecessors, Mast and Brianna Aristeo were two of the event's other major stories. Mast, known as The Pink Dagger, is a seasoned-veteran, not yet out of high school, who arrived to the winners' side semifinal against eventual winner Hung, having given up only four racks to reach her and securing advancement to Day Two of the event.

Aristeo entered the tournament with an APA skill level of 3, having never

played in a tournament before, let alone a state championship with players of the caliber she faced at this one. She came with a personal goal of winning a single match. She won three on Day One by an aggregate score of 18-

10 and then, in a winners' side quarterfinal, drew Karen Corr. Nerves no doubt played a role in her shutout loss to the legendary Hall of Famer. Aristeo went on to win two on the loss side. Her second, on Day Two, was her last



Meng-Hsia (Bean) Hung

## Pennsylvania State Women's 9-Ball Championship

as she fell to Giovanna Napolitano 5-1 and finished in the tie for 7th place.

Corr followed her victory over Aristeo, with a winners' side semifinal, 6-1 win over Lai Li, which put her into the hot seat match against Hung. In a match that could have been a Main Event at any women's tournament in the world, Bean downed the Irish Invader 6-1 to claim the hot seat.

Meanwhile on the loss side, Briana Miller was running a five-match gauntlet of races to 5, against top-notch competitors, destined to get her into a rematch against Hung in the finals. She started with a 5-2 win over the famed Dawn Hopkins and then, defeated WPBA star Emily Duddy in a double-hill thriller. She picked up Lai Li, fresh from her winners' side semifinal loss to Corr, defeated her 5-1 and then, eliminated The Pink Dagger, Sofia Mast, 5-1 in the quarterfinals.

Next up for Miller, Karen Corr in the semifinals. Though likely not as 'breezy' as the score might indicate, Miller, who was five-years-old when Corr won her first WPBA title in 2000, defeated Corr 5-2 and turned to her re-



Briana Miller and Meng-Hsia (Bean) Hung

match against Hung in the finals. Miller and Hung squared off with a crowd of over 100 in attendance and over 300 watching on the PA Pro-Am Live stream which collected \$1,000 in donations during the broadcast towards the University of Pennsylvania's Cancer Research center. Bean prevailed to complete her undefeated run with a hard-fought 9-6 win to claim the in-

augural Pennsylvania State Women's 9-Ball Championship title.

Tournament Directors Frank Maialetti and Briana Miller thanked the ownership and staff at Bluegrass Billiards for their hospitality along with sponsors Integrity Cues, J. Pechauer Custom Cues, Kamui Tips, TrophySmack.com, Forth Worth Billiards Superstore, In-TheBox Sports Apparel, Salotto and Advanced Pool Instructor George Hammerbacher. The next event for PA Pro-Am Pool is the \$2,500 added Pennsylvania State 9-Ball Open at Bluegrass Billiards in Philadelphia, PA on Oct 7th-8th. The next event on the JPNEWT (Stop #8), scheduled for the weekend of Oct. 21-22, will be a \$1,000-added event, hosted by Eagle Billiards in Dickson City, PA on October 21st -22nd .

Live stream recordings of the Pennsylvania State Women's 9-Ball Championship matches, presented by PA Pro-Am Pool and the JPNEWT can be seen at [youtube.com/@paproam-pool](https://youtube.com/@paproam-pool). Brackets for the event can be found at <https://digitalpool.com/tournaments/pa-state-womens-9-ball-championship-hosted-by-jpnewt-and-pa-pro-am-pool/overview>



Final eight players

# BILLIARD WORLD CHAMPION INKS DEAL

**Billiard world champion Kelly “Kwikfire” Fisher, from the United Kingdom, is a name that is synonymous with excellence in the world of snooker and billiards. With her precision, focus and strategic game-play, she has become one of the most formidable players in the industry.**

**F**isher’s dedication to the sport is evident in her numerous victories and accolades, spanning more than 20 years as a pro.

Fisher is 44, and her journey to becoming a pool legend started at age seven. Her parents owned a pub where she would practice shooting balls, day after day, playing against customers. Her father, seeing her natural ability, took her to a snooker club where she began to be coached at age 12 by her now coach of 32 years, Mr. Lionel Payne. Under his tutelage,

she honed her skills through rigorous practice and began to compete in various tournaments around the world. Her hard work paid off when she became a snooker world champion and billiards world champion, titles she has successfully won multiple times.

Kelly Fisher’s latest step in her career is to announce her partnership with her manager, Steve Rau, from Corona. Rau, 47, a promotion and events executive, previously from the world of pro wrestling, has hosted pro wrestling shows, autograph appearances

and fan experiences. In the last several years, though, Rau has been working with cast members, especially Tom Wopat, who played Luke Duke from the hit, iconic TV show, “The Dukes of Hazzard.” Organizing and marketing events comes naturally to Rau.

Together, Kelly Fisher and Steve Rau have formed a formidable team that will propel Fisher to further success in her career. Their partnership combines Fisher’s exceptional table skills and Rau’s marketing and business acumen, creating a winning formu-



Kelly Fisher



Steve Rau with new clients, Kelly Fisher and Wei Tzu Chien

ships and experience to further his efforts in promoting Fisher and Chien, and the billiard sport at large.

Rau added, “The world of billiards is new to me. I have memories of watching Jeanette Lee and Allison Fisher play but became excited when I learned that the sport of billiards has been on an uptick for quite some time. I know Covid hampered things a bit, but I am hopeful that my contributions can help promote the sport to new audiences that are not familiar with the vastness that this sport offers. The tremendous effort that I see the WPBA, Predator World Billiard Series, Cue Sports International and oth-

la that attracts both fans and sponsors. By leveraging their individual strengths, Fisher and Rau will be able to maximize their impact in the billiard marketing and advertising world. He will help her secure endorsements, special events and fan experiences, but will also provide guidance and support, both on and off the table.

The two then became three. Shortly after Fisher and Rau began discussions, Fisher mentioned to Rau that billiard pro player Wei Tzu Chien, from Taipei, Taiwan is interested in meeting Rau to ink a deal to become her manager, too. As initial talks with Rau and Fisher continued, so began the talks between Wei Tzu Chien and Rau. Delighted for the opportunity to manage both female pro billiard players, this sounded like an exciting opportunity for Rau.

“I am very grateful that Kelly and Wei Wei have given me this opportunity to be a part of their lives and storied careers. They are both wonderful human beings, and I am going to do my best to make a lot of opportunities happen for them.”

From broadcast TV, radio, press releases and marketing campaigns, Rau will utilize his existing media relation-

## PRO BILLIARD CHAMPIONS

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Kelly Fisher

**Wei wei**  
THE WAVE

### STEVE RAU

MANAGER FOR BILLIARD WORLD CHAMPION  
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- SHOUT OUT VIDEOS
- BUSINESS NETWORKING
- KEYNOTE SPEAKERS
- MEDIA INTERVIEWS & PODCASTS
- ENDORSEMENTS

FOLLOW  
WEI WEI

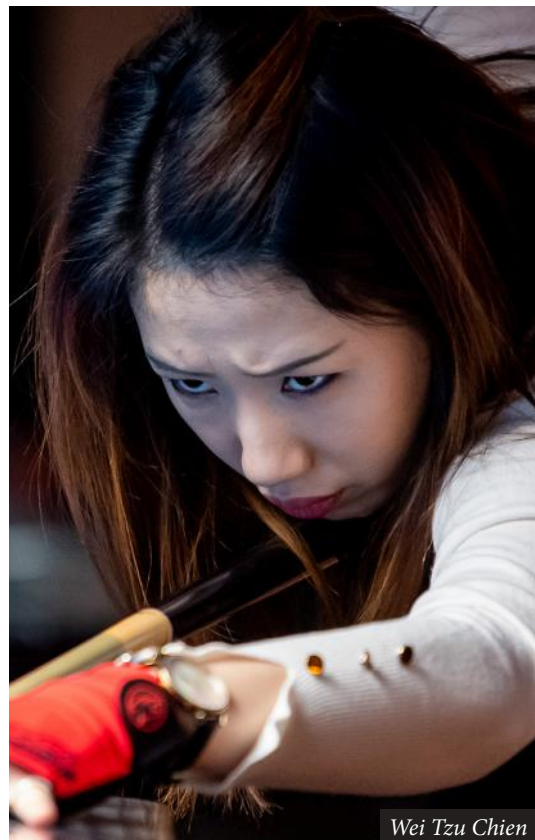
er great promotional companies from around the world put into the tournaments is admirable. I see the number of logistical and planning hours of work it takes. It is no easy task. They are doing a great job to give an incredible platform to all the men and women pro pool players from around the world.”

When asked what the first goal to be accomplished was, Rau mentioned that “a marketing and advertising kit and promotional packet is a must, and those marketing and advertising tools need to be in place to ratchet things upward.” Rau believes that once the mainstream of society catches a glimpse of this sport, the number of new fans and followers will grow substantially.

The game of pool has become a global phenomenon, with thousands of fans tuning in to watch major billiard events. This widespread popularity has opened a world of sponsorship opportunities for players like Kelly Fisher and Wei Tzu Chien. With their exceptional skills and captivating personalities, they have become global sensations, attracting major sponsorship opportunities, and revolutionizing the way the game of pool is perceived.

Sponsors recognize the immense reach and engagement of billiard events, making it a lucrative platform to showcase their brands. From cue manufacturers to apparel companies, various industries have recognized the potential of aligning themselves with pool legends. The global nature of pool ensures that sponsors can reach diverse audiences, making it an attractive proposition for both established brands and emerging companies.

Readers are invited to follow the journey of Kelly Fisher, Wei Tzu Chien and Steve Rau online on the Steve Rau Pro Billiards management team page, [www.facebook.com/steverauprobilliards](http://www.facebook.com/steverauprobilliards)



Wei Tzu Chien



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Action Photography ©Medium Pool

# WOODWARD

## SKIPS INTERNATIONAL OPEN FOR TRICKS AND TREATS



Looking over the list of players who are signed up for the International 9-Ball Open coming up late in October, a fan will find a literal “Who’s Who” of top American talent amongst the 128 player field. Names like Van Boening, Strickland, Deuel, Styer, and Thorpe are all there.

**O**ne name that you will not find on that list this year is that of Skyler Woodward, and the scheduling conflict keeping him from competing in this event is a big one.

Woodward, currently ranked just outside of the top ten on the World Nineball Tour rankings, is having a great year with nearly \$65,000 in tournament winnings, a Mosconi Cup spot locked up on Team USA and a brand new signature Cuetec cue line being released this week.

The scheduling conflict keeping Woodward from competing in the International 9-Ball Open this year is a trip around his neighborhood of Lubbock Texas on Halloween night with his three year old son Daxton. “My son is old enough now that he loves to dress up and go for candy, and I don’t want to miss that. I’m gone enough already, and that is big for me so I want to stay home to take him trick or treating.” said Woodward. “It’s family first for me”

While the Halloween plans will keep him from the International, Woodward thinks the sentiment behind that decision has helped him and his game accel this year. “I’m getting older and more mature. Having a family now has progressed me as well. I know everything means more now than ever before.” he says.

Woodward hasn’t decided what his next event will be, after the Halloween break. For the moment he is just thinking about family. “All I know is, I’m gonna be spending time with my family during Halloween and practicing working on my game. First thing is to enjoy the time with the family!” he said.



Daxton and Sky Woodward

# INTHBX SPORTS SIGNS ALEX KAZAKIS

**InThBx Sports is one of the hottest new sports clothing brands quickly gaining popularity in the billiards community, thanks to the drive of owner and CEO Elvis Rodriguez, and also due to their fully customizable designs and high quality fabrics.**

**T**his past weekend they added to their impressive roster of sponsored players, former World Number One pool player, Alex Kazakis. The 32 year-old Greek signed with the company this weekend at the MVP Open which took place at Raxx Sports Bar in East Hempstead.

The company CEO, Elvis Rodriguez said, "We are super excited to sign Alex to InThBx. He is one of the elite players in the world and we only expect him to continue to impress us with his talent and charisma."

Alex has won outstanding titles all around the world on the felt. Most impressively, he was the 2018 World Number one player (according to the World Pool Billiard Association), also, a former European 10 ball champ, 2018 Australian Open Winner, two-time Mosconi cup member, 2021 World Pool Masters Champion and most recently, the reigning Apex Wisconsin Open Champion 2023.

After his admirable third place finish out of a field of killers this weekend at the MVP Open, he signed with InThBx

and had this to say, "I am happy to be a part of this wonderful team and looking forward to representing the brand. I will be heading to the Michigan Open next, I am hoping for a good finish and that the rolls will go my way."

At the Michigan open, Alex will be sporting designs customized for him by InthBx, which anyone will be able to purchase soon.

Check out InThBx sports at <https://inthbx.net/> and also on Facebook and Instagram.



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# RALF SOUQUET

## ANNOUNCES NEW CUE SPONSORSHIP WITH ARTHUR CUES

**Ralf Souquet has had a career that a lot of players can only dream of. World Championships in 8-ball and 9-ball, a US Open 9-Ball Championship and a record six World Pool Masters Titles are just the top of a very impressive resume.**

**F**or the last sixteen years, Souquet has been winning those titles with a Predator cue, but he will be winning future titles with a new cue and a new cue sponsor.

Souquet recently announced the end of his sponsorship with Predator and the beginning of a new deal with long-time friend Marcus Dienst from Arthur Cues.

“With my deal ending with Predator, I thought it was a good time to try something new and different than before” said Souquet. “I’ve known Marcus for over 30 years and he made a cue for me a few months back. I liked the way it played and after a couple small changes, I was ready to give it a serious long term try”.

Souquet will have more than enough opportunities to give his new Arthur cue a serious long term try, with nearly a dozen events on his upcoming schedule, including the Connecticut 9-Ball Open, US Open 9-Ball Championship, American 14.1 Straight Pool Championship and International 9-Ball Open coming up.

More information on Arthur Cues can be found online at <https://www.billiard-dienst.de>.



Marcus Dienst and Ralf Souquet

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# WORLD NINEBALL TOUR INTRODUCES THE HANOI OPEN POOL CHAMPIONSHIP AS PART OF EXCITING PROFESSIONAL RE-BRAND

The new era of Nineball has today been bolstered with the addition of the new Hanoi Open Pool Championship, broadcast live on Sky Sports in the UK & Ireland, which replaces the former Asian Open Pool Championship in a strategic name change.

Some of the game's greatest players will descend on the capital of Vietnam for the inaugural championship as they compete for the \$200,000 prize fund.

Beginning on Capital Liberation Day on 10 October, the tournament will create a landmark legacy for the City of Hanoi with the World Nineball Tour pledging its commitment to stage this world-class international sporting event every year in Vietnam.

It will also adopt the newly named Hanoi Junior Open in which some of South-East Asia's brightest pool prospects will showcase their incredible talents.

Both the Hanoi Open Pool Championship and Hanoi Junior Open are fully backed by Hanoi City which has endorsed the event with its former name strategically changed as part of Matchroom's exciting vision to build a sporting legacy in Hanoi.

Players who had registered to take part in this year's Asian Open will automatically compete in the latest addition to the WNT calendar which will be held annually. Those who have obtained/requested visas or booked hotels based on the previous name will not be affected by the name change.

Reigning 2023 World Champion Francisco Sanchez Ruiz, who defeated Mohammad Soufi 13-10 in the final live on Sky Sports in the UK & Ireland, will

be looking to dominate once again as he heads the field of 256 players taking part at Hanoi Indoor Games Gymnasium, Hanoi City, Vietnam.

Emily Frazer, Matchroom's CEO of Multi-Sports, said: "This is major news for Nineball and it underlines

our commitment to staging the first of many world-class annual events in what is one of the sport's premier international destinations in the historic city of Hanoi.

"We are incredibly excited that many of the game's leading players will take



part in the rebranded Hanoi Open Pool Championship, which enhances the World Professional Nineball Pool Corporation's schedule.

"We are also delighted to receive support from the relevant authorities in Hanoi, who share our vision to take this tournament – and the Hanoi Junior Open – to grand new heights."

Vietcontent President Ms. Tran Thuy Chi added: "Vietnam currently is one of the countries with the largest number of pool players in Asia and the World.

"In Hanoi, the capital has been considered as a strong city of 9-ball pool for many years – with Hanoi athletes having contributed 3 SEA Games gold medals to the Pool National team in 2009. It's the reason for Hanoi to cooperate with Matchroom to host the very first Hanoi Open Pool Championship – the best opportunity to bring Hanoi to the world in bring the world to Hanoi.

**“ IN HANOI, THE CAPITAL HAS BEEN CONSIDERED AS A STRONG CITY OF 9-BALL POOL FOR MANY YEARS – WITH HANOI ATHLETES HAVING CONTRIBUTED 3 SEA GAMES GOLD MEDALS TO THE POOL NATIONAL TEAM IN 2009. ”**

"Together with Hanoi City, Vietcontent is excited to be the host partner of this event, a very meaningful event for sports fans in Vietnam."

Live rack-by-rack scoring will be available throughout the event at [www.matchroompool.com](http://www.matchroompool.com) thanks to our partners PRP.

Wherever you are in the world, you can catch the action through Matchroom's global broadcast partners, or via Matchroom.Live in selected territories.

Fans in the UK and Ireland-based fans being able to catch this on Sky

Sports and those watching in Scandinavia, the Baltics, Poland, and Netherlands can enjoy live on Viaplay. The final two days will also be available through Rigour Media for cuesports fans in China.

Hanoi Open Pool Championship partners VietContent will broadcast all six days on their channels for fans in Vietnam. The opening four days will be available globally via the Matchroom Pool YouTube channel.

Full broadcast details will be published ahead of the Hanoi Open Pool Championship, with ticket details to follow in the coming days.

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# UNIVERSAL CHINESE TAIPEI TO LAUNCH SERIES OF WNT RANKING EVENTS

The World Nineball Tour is heading to Chinese Taipei with the addition of the inaugural Universal Chinese Taipei Open – the first in a series of WNT Ranking Events held in Taipei.

Hosted by WNT partner Fullcan Management Consulting between 16-18th November at Hulk Billiards Flagship Hall in Taipei Ximengding, the latest WNT Ranking Event will welcome the brightest Nineball talents from across the continent to one of Taipei’s premier pool rooms.

Chinese Taipei is a hotbed for producing global talent, with current World Pool Master Ko Pin Yi and brother, WNT No.11 ranked Ko Ping Chung hailing from the City of Azaleas.

With a total prize fund of \$15,460 and conducted under the WNT Event Rules, the Universal Chinese Taipei Open is the latest in a string of WNT Ranking Events heading to South-East Asia.

Bolstering the World Nineball Tour in Asia, alongside the recent addition of the Hanoi Open Pool Championship, Vietnam’s capital will play host to the Peri 9-Ball Open in the days ahead of Matchroom’s latest Major. Between November 29th to December 3rd, Singapore will host the TE Capital 9-Ball Open for the second consecutive year.

This first event will act as a springboard to expand Matchroom’s activity in Chinese Taipei, with the second Open event set to be held in December, with a view for four additional WNT Ranking Events held in Taipei in 2024.

Marvin Wang from Fullcan Management Consulting said: “We feel honoured to become a joint promoter

of Matchroom for the Chinese Taipei Open (CTO).

“Pool in Taipei has had a very prosperous and fruitful growth and produced several world champions such as Chao, Wu, Chang, and the Ko brothers for the men’s and Liu, Lin, and Chou for the women’s. We appreciate all the great efforts from our players to bring

almost 30 world titles for Chinese Taipei.

“These remarkable achievements makes Chinese Taipei famous for pool not only in Asia but also worldwide. Fullcan is a CPBA affiliate company managing for the sales and channel marketing for CPBA and Moori worldwide.



“We are grateful to see World Nineball Tour Ranking events held in Taipei. Asia has a total population over 4.2 billion. There are tonnes of good players in Asia and we want to create stages for these underdogs to shine.

“We are privileged to have Universal as our title sponsor for our inaugural event – a highly-reputable global cue manufacturer. Hopefully, we can see more partners and sponsors joining our dream to create a stronger environment for the Asian pool community.”

Hulk Pool Room’s Claire Chen added: “Taipei is the fourth safest city in the world and we welcome all players worldwide to enjoy the warm and hospitable atmosphere.

“With Six Metro lines, Taipei is one of the most accessible transport systems in the world to allow player’s to join us at Hulk.

**“ POOL IN TAIPEI HAS HAD A VERY PROSPEROUS AND FRUITFUL GROWTH AND PRODUCED SEVERAL WORLD CHAMPIONS SUCH AS CHAO, WU, CHANG, AND THE KO BROTHERS FOR THE MEN’S AND LIU, LIN, AND CHOU FOR THE WOMEN’S. ”**

“In the daytime, I wish you all the very best performance during the tense competition. At night, we welcome you to experience the beauty of our capital, to relax, and to recharge yourself.”

Matchroom Multi Sport CEO Emily Frazer is excited about the direction of the WNT in Asia: “Since the birth of the WNT, it is integral to our professional tour to work with partners who share our vision of a truly global tour for everyone.

“I’d like to express my thanks to Marvin and the team at Fullcan Management for their collaborative efforts in launching a new series of events with us in Chinese Taipei. This is an

untapped market for Nineball with substantial growth and demand, plus with our reigning World Pool Masters Champion hailing from that region, it makes this the perfect next launch. I am thrilled at our progression of events in South-East Asia which will only further expand and develop as we look ahead to 2024.

“A truly global, professional tour.”

More details will follow soon for Player Entries, as well as how fans will be able to watch the action live through Matchroom Pool’s social media channels. For further information, please contact Jackie Ku at jackieku99@yahoo.com.

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# IPA PARTNERS WITH BILLIARD TV



**The IPA – the only official recognised Pro body for ‘small table’ pool, is delighted to announce details of it’s new partnership with Billiard TV which will see all IPA events shown live via various platforms, to around 100 MILLION homes.**

All told, the live events total 20 broadcast days and will add more than 200 hours of live content to Billiard TV annually. With the IPA partnership in place, Billiard TV will now stream nearly 1,000 hours of live events each year thanks to its founding partnership with Predator Group and CueSports International.

Billiard TV is your go-to network for everything pool related where you can watch your favorite players from all over the world compete on the biggest stage! A free, ad-supported 24/7 network, Billiard TV is a partnership between Triple-B Media and Predator Cues, and is distributed throughout the world.

“Billiard TV continues to be a live event leader in the FAST (Free Ad Supported Television) channel space,” said Brendan Canning, Co-Founder and Chief Commercial Officer, Triple-B Media. “We’re very pleased with the addition of the IPA as a channel partner and we ex-

pect the 350M billiards fans throughout the world to be pleased as well.”

Kevin Barton, IPA Chairman added “The IPA is thrilled to be working in partnership with Billiard TV over the coming months and years. This is a superb opportunity to showcase the best players in the world from the IPA Pro ranks, to a whole new audience, through Billiard TV. We look forward to a prosperous partnership with Billiard TV and what new opportunities this will create for the players and audiences alike.”

Billiard TV is a free, ad supported television channel that is available to nearly 100M homes and is distributed on Samsung TV Plus (US and India), YouTube TV, XUMO, LG, Sling TV, Fubo, Xiaomi, Local Now, Plex, TCL, sports.tv, The Grio, SportsTribal TV, Distro TV, Freebie TV, Rad TV, RedBox, Freecast, Stremium, Channel Box and Streamstak, Triple-B Media’s owned and operated platform.



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# Tourney Results

## Sep 02 - Sep 02

### Mezz Cues LA 9-Ball Series Stop

#### Gladi8or Billiards

- Los Angeles, California  
 1 Beau Runnigen \$600  
 2 Cody Gragg \$420  
 3 Chaokun Li \$300  
 4 Rhino Lay \$200  
 5 James Harris \$130  
 5 Jerry Lazzareschi \$130  
 7 Jose Centeno \$85  
 7 Nuoen Liu \$85

## Sep 02 - Sep 03

### Q City 9-Ball Tour Stop

#### Break Time Billiards

- Winston-Salem, NC  
 1 Clint Clark \$800  
 2 Joey Tate \$600  
 3 Mark Bolton \$350  
 4 Travis Summerlin \$250  
 5 David Honeycutt \$100  
 5 Steve Yarab \$100  
 7 Jason Rogers \$60  
 7 Travis Guerra \$60

## Sep 02 - Sep 05

### 2023 Spokane Open

#### Black Diamond Billiards

- Spokane Valley, WA  
 1 Joe Spence \$4,800  
 2 Stephen Holem \$3,000  
 3 Damion Pongpanik \$1,700  
 4 Marharyta Fefilava \$1,100  
 5 Blake Baker \$700  
 5 Brady Gollan \$700  
 7 Brian Butler \$400  
 7 Erik Vargas \$400  
 9 Daniel Sardoncillo \$250  
 9 Lake Mackey \$250  
 9 Nick Kruger \$250  
 9 Steven Weakly \$250  
 13 Chris Rodriguez \$150  
 13 Jeff Boucher \$150

- 13 Max Eberle \$150  
 13 Tony Waters \$150  
 17 Bob Danielson \$100  
 17 Chandler Decoteau \$100  
 17 Clay Belvoir \$100  
 17 Dan Louie \$100  
 17 Josh Anderson \$100  
 17 Nate Nearguard \$100  
 17 Phil Tourangeau \$100  
 17 Tim Lezard \$100

## Sep 03 - Sep 10

### 2023 China Open

#### Shanghai Chine

- 1 Joshua Filler \$40,000  
 2 Anthony Raga \$20,000  
 3 Kun Lin Wu \$10,000  
 3 Wojciech Szewczyk \$10,000  
 5 Carlo Biado \$6,000  
 5 Haitao Liu \$6,000  
 5 Luong Duc Thien \$6,000  
 5 Mario He \$6,000  
 9 Albin Ouschan \$3,000  
 9 Alex Pagulayan \$3,000  
 9 Alexandros Kazakis \$3,000  
 9 David Alcaide \$3,000  
 9 J. Schertl \$3,000  
 9 Jin-Hu Dang \$3,000  
 9 Naoyuki Oi \$3,000  
 9 Xiao Huai Zheng \$3,000  
 17 Amgalanbaatar Yeruult \$2,000  
 17 Daniel Maciol \$2,000  
 17 Denis Grabe \$2,000  
 17 Francisco Sanchez-Ruiz \$2,000  
 17 Hao Wu \$2,000  
 17 James Aranas \$2,000  
 17 Jeffrey Ignacio \$2,000  
 17 Jung-Lin Chang \$2,000  
 17 Lo Ho Sum \$2,000  
 17 Maximilian Lechner \$2,000  
 17 Pin-Yi Ko \$2,000  
 17 Ping-Chung Ko \$2,000  
 17 Sanjin Pehlivanovic \$2,000  
 17 Wiktor Zielinski \$2,000

- 17 Zhen Qi Xue \$2,000  
 17 Zhi Ping Dang \$2,000

## Sep 03 - Sep 10

### 2023 China Open Ladies Division

#### Shanghai China

- 1 Han Yu \$36,000  
 2 Sha Sha Liu \$18,000  
 3 Chia Hua Chen \$9,000  
 3 Pia Filler \$9,000  
 5 Ge Bai \$5,400  
 5 Hye Ju Jin \$5,400  
 5 Jasmin Ouschan \$5,400  
 5 Rubilen Amit \$5,400  
 9 Eylul Kybaroglu \$2,700  
 9 Kristina Zlateva \$2,700  
 9 Lang Tong Fan \$2,700  
 9 Meng-Hsia Hung \$2,700  
 9 Mu Yan Zhang \$2,700  
 9 Xia Zhi Liu \$2,700  
 9 Xiao Tong Wang \$2,700  
 9 Xiao-Fang Fu \$2,700

## Sep 09 - Sep 10

### The Maine Event XV

#### TJ's Classic Billiards

- Waterville, Maine  
 1 Dave Hall \$1,050  
 2 Beau Powers \$750  
 3 Cleiton Rocha \$600  
 4 Tommy Cayer \$450  
 5 Dillon Nickerson \$300  
 5 Jeff Mosimann \$300  
 7 Michael Perry \$150  
 7 Rick Matarazzo \$150

## Sep 09 - Sep 10

### Raxx 10-Ball Open Tournament

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

- West Hempstead, NY  
 1 Lee Vann Corteza \$3,200  
 2 Moritz Neuhausen \$2,100  
 3 Jose Alberto Delgado \$1,000

4 Mhet Vergara \$600  
5 Jonas Souto Comino \$350  
5 Lukas Fracasso-Verner \$350  
7 Hunter Lombardo \$200  
7 Mika Immonen \$200

## Sep 09 - Sep 09

### Q City 9-Ball Tour Stop

#### Big Orange Billiards

Knoxville, TN

1 Derek Formby \$600  
2 Danny Demetro \$420  
3 Carey Stringfield \$260  
4 Daniel Autrey \$150  
5 Timmy Dasey \$80  
5 Zach Wilson \$80  
7 Erik Winchenbach \$55  
7 Rick Rogers \$55

## Sep 09 - Sep 09

### Garden State Pool Tour Women's Invitational

#### Shooter's Family Billiards

Wayne, NJ

1 Rachel Lang \$600  
2 Julie Madlener \$300  
3 Mercedes Uribe \$200  
4 Jennifer Pass \$160  
5 Jamie Ochoa \$110  
5 Susan Weimann \$110

## Sep 09 - Sep 10

### The Maine Event XV Second Chance

#### TJ's Classic Billiards

Waterville, Maine

1 Kyle Carpenter \$320  
2 Mike Renshaw \$220  
3 Robert Lee \$160  
4 Tyler Hallowell \$100

## Sep 09 - Sep 10

### BWPPA 2023 Stop 3

#### Savanna Pool and Snooker

Whitefield, Manchester

1 Dave Beaumont \$306  
2 Tony Southern \$122  
3 Danny Luton \$98  
3 Fred Dinsmore \$98

## Sep 15 - Sep 17

### Michigan Fall Classic

#### Eastside Billiards

Grand Rapids, Michigan

1 Roland Garcia \$7,200  
2 Nathan Wallace \$4,550  
3 Brandon Thomas \$3,000  
4 Roberto Gomez \$2,000  
5 Jonathan Pinegar \$1,350  
5 Shawn Buchholz \$1,350  
7 Jeremy Seaman \$850  
7 Stu Mactaggart \$850  
9 Jason Kirkwood \$500  
9 Jordan Davis \$500  
9 Joven Bustamante \$500  
9 Louis Demarco \$500  
13 Aaron Coniglio \$250  
13 Derrick Baize \$250  
13 George Kieselat \$250  
13 Pedro Arrona \$250  
17 Dave Miedel \$200  
17 Erik Hjorleifson \$200  
17 Jamie Stedman \$200  
17 Jesse Piercey \$200  
17 John Skofic \$200  
17 Marcus Wronski \$200  
17 Paul Tytler \$200  
17 Ryan Lambert \$200

## Sep 15 - Sep 17

### Stevie Chan Memorial

#### Piazza's Sports Bar

Aurora, Colorado

1 Mike Banks Jr. \$4,090  
2 Ruben Bautista \$2,550  
3 Donovan Pedroncelli \$1,900  
4 Mark Haddad \$1,500  
5 Marco Vidal \$950  
5 Sharik Sayed \$950  
7 Adam King \$490  
7 Shane McMinn \$490  
9 Jared Ackerman \$240  
9 John Amo \$240  
9 Jose Cruz \$240  
9 Nick Tafoya \$240  
13 Billy Skinner \$180  
13 Drake Spencer \$180  
13 Kiko Ibarra \$180  
13 Steven Wyatt \$180

## Sep 16 - Sep 17

### NWPA Tour 2023 Stop 5

#### The Golden Fleece

Kenmore, WA

1 Molina Ortiz \$865  
2 Kathie MacDonald \$600  
3 Hsin Huang \$400  
4 Regene Lane \$275  
5 Jeanne Christiansen \$195  
5 Susie O'Conner \$195  
7 Frances Tso \$135  
7 Katherine Robertson \$135  
9 Alisha Dodd \$95  
9 Cindy Sliva \$95  
9 Kristi Palmer \$95  
9 Liz Cole \$95

## Sep 16 - Sep 17

### JPNEWT Tour 2023 Stop #7

#### Bluegrass Billiards

Philadelphia, Pa

1 Meng-Hsia Hung \$1,600  
2 Briana Miller \$950  
3 Karen Corr \$600  
4 Sofia Mast \$430  
5 Giovanna Napolitano \$255  
5 Lai Li \$255  
7 Brianna Arsiteo \$190  
7 Emily Duddy \$190  
9 Charlene Capers \$150  
9 Dawn Hopkins \$150  
9 Kari Anderson \$150  
9 Rachel Walters \$150  
13 Ashley Benoit \$75  
13 Bethany Sykes \$75  
13 Lynn Richard \$75  
13 Serena Copenace \$75

## Sep 16 - Sep 17

### DL Billiards Tour Open Stop 6

#### Big Tyme Billiards

Spring, Texas

1 Bill Fuller \$690  
2 Darryl Amos \$441  
3 Andrew Rodriguez \$262  
4 Martyn Glancy \$189  
5 Kenny Price \$110  
5 Mike Nguyen \$110  
7 Francisco Galindo \$73  
7 Ron Sellers \$73

## Sep 16 - Sep 16

### Garden State Pool Tour Amateur Stop

#### Players Billiards

- Eatontown, New Jersey
- 1 David Schull \$600
  - 2 Jason Halpin \$300
  - 3 Nick Torraca \$200
  - 4 David Marchant \$140
  - 5 Alex Vangelov \$100
  - 5 Aurelio Romero \$100

## Sep 16 - Sep 17

### Longoni Loznica Open

#### Balkan Billiard Centre

- Petrich
- 1 Niels Feijen \$3,206
  - 2 Luka Bulatovic \$1,603
  - 3 Faruk Terzic \$855
  - 3 Maks Benko \$855
  - 5 Aleksa Pecelj \$427
  - 5 Georgi Georgiev \$427
  - 5 Nick Malai \$427
  - 5 Sanjin Pehlivanovic \$427
  - 9 Ajdin Piknjac \$214
  - 9 Ante Sola \$214
  - 9 Djordje Radulovic \$214
  - 9 Ioan Ladanyi \$214
  - 9 Marko Lisnic \$214
  - 9 Miroslav Kremenovic \$214
  - 9 Mitja Gradisnik \$214
  - 9 Zoran Svilar \$214

## Sep 16 - Sep 17

### 2023 Centex Tour Stop 6 Jack and Jill Scotch Doubles

#### Fast Eddie's Sports Bar & Grill

- Culebra, TX
- 1 Eric Aicinena \$420
  - 1 Mille Almaraz \$420
  - 2 Matthew Shoemaker \$325
  - 2 Sophie Lopez \$325
  - 3 Jaden Acuna \$240
  - 3 Sandra Gonzalez \$240
  - 4 Jonathan Puentes \$170
  - 4 Stephanie Reyes \$170
  - 5 Frank Ferrer Jr. \$110
  - 5 Kawania Watson \$110
  - 5 Marilina Nieves \$110
  - 5 Roy Medina \$110

## Sep 16 - Sep 16

### Q City 9-Ball Tour Stop

#### The Clubhouse

- Lynchburg, Virginia
- 1 Jonathan Ailstock \$600
  - 2 David Parker \$300
  - 3 Nick Call \$170
  - 4 Travis Guerra \$130

## Sep 16 - Sep 17

### League Room Customer Appreciation Tournament

#### The League Room

- Parkersburg, West Virginia
- 1 Kevin Jackson \$1,150
  - 2 Jason Tysinger \$950
  - 3 Terry Barker \$700
  - 4 Jerald Hesson \$450
  - 5 Brian Hoover \$450
  - 5 Ernie Jones \$450

## Sep 19 - Sep 23

### Michigan Open 2023

#### Kellogg Arena

- Battle Creek, Michigan
- 1 Wiktor Zielinski \$22,500
  - 2 Aloysius Yapp \$13,125
  - 3 Fedor Gorst \$6,563
  - 3 Mieszko Fortunski \$6,563
  - 5 Denis Grabe \$3,281
  - 5 Jan Van Lierop \$3,281
  - 5 Joven Bustamante \$3,281
  - 5 Wojciech Szewczyk \$3,281
  - 9 Abdullah Al-Enezi \$1,641
  - 9 Daniel Maciol \$1,641
  - 9 Georgi Georgiev \$1,641
  - 9 Konrad Juszczyszyn \$1,641
  - 9 Maximilian Lechner \$1,641
  - 9 Robbie Capito \$1,641
  - 9 Tyler Styer \$1,641
  - 9 Vitaliy Patsura \$1,641

## Sep 21 - Sep 24

### Michigan Women's Open 2023

#### Kellogg Arena

- Battle Creek, Michigan
- 1 Kelly Fisher \$18,000
  - 2 Chieh-Yu Chou \$10,500
  - 3 Chihiro Kawahara \$5,250

- 3 Tzu-Chien Wei \$5,250
- 5 Allison Fisher \$2,625
- 5 Jasmin Ouschan \$2,625
- 5 Kristina Tkach \$2,625
- 5 Meng-Hsia Hung \$2,625
- 9 Chia Hua Chen \$1,313
- 9 Eylul Kybaroglu \$1,313
- 9 Kristina Zlateva \$1,313
- 9 Marharyta Fefilava \$1,313
- 9 Sara Rocha \$1,313
- 9 Seo Seoa \$1,313
- 9 Wan-Ling Wang \$1,313
- 9 Yuki Hiraguchi \$1,313

## Sep 21 - Sep 24

### Eighth Annual Seniors One Pocket Classic

#### Bogies Billiards & Games East

- Houston, TX
- 1 Nick Varner \$4,500
  - 2 Mark Dimick \$2,400
  - 3 Jerry Matchin \$1,400
  - 4 James Davis Sr \$1,000
  - 5 Joey Aguzin \$650
  - 5 Sammy Jones \$650
  - 7 Howie Salstein \$400
  - 7 John Ditoro \$400

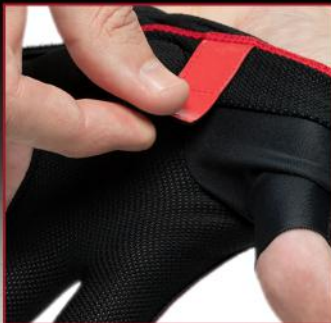
## Sep 22 - Sep 23

### CueLee's Connecticut 9-Ball Open

#### US 1 Billiards & Bar

- West Haven, CT
- 1 Moritz Neuhausen \$15,000
  - 2 Yu-Lung Chang \$8,200
  - 3 Mario He \$4,000
  - 3 Shane Van Boening \$4,000
  - 5 Anthony Raga \$2,200
  - 5 Naoyuki Oi \$2,200
  - 5 Ping-Chung Ko \$2,200
  - 5 Ri Teng Liu \$2,200
  - 9 Billy Thorpe \$1,500
  - 9 Carlo Biado \$1,500
  - 9 Jayson Shaw \$1,500
  - 9 John Morra \$1,500
  - 9 Jose Alberto Delgado \$1,500
  - 9 Kun Lin Wu \$1,500
  - 9 Lee Vann Corteza \$1,500
  - 9 The Kien Do \$1,500

^ X IS



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## Sep 23 - Sep 23

### 2023 Infinity Ladies Tour Stop 4

#### Big Tyme Billiards

Spring, Texas

- 1 Ming Ng \$575
- 2 Jennifer Kraber \$350
- 3 Jillian Nickerson \$240
- 4 Lisa Bailey \$110

## Sep 23 - Sep 24

### 2023 DFW 9-Ball Tour Stop 9

#### Jeffro's Billiards

Canton, Tx

- 1 Shane McMinn \$1,280
- 2 Gus Briseno \$740
- 3 Pasini Taloa \$600
- 4 TJ Davis \$350
- 5 Blake Kamiab \$280
- 5 Max Sun \$280

## Sep 23 - Sep 24

### Q City 9-Ball Tour Stop

#### Action Billiards

Inman, SC

- 1 Chris Clary \$800
- 2 Junior Gabriel \$570
- 3 Ryan Houston \$360
- 4 Casey Looper \$240
- 4 Landon Hollingsworth \$240
- 7 Caleb Gibson \$75
- 7 Hunter Zayas \$75

## Sep 25 - Sep 30

### 2023 U.S. Open 9-Ball Championship

#### Harrah's Resort Atlantic City

Atlantic City, NJ

- 1 Ping-Chung Ko \$50,000
- 2 Fedor Gorst \$25,000
- 3 Aleksa Pecelj \$13,000
- 3 Aloysius Yapp \$13,000
- 5 Jayson Shaw \$6,750
- 5 Maximilian Lechner \$6,750
- 5 Robbie Capito \$6,750
- 5 Wiktor Zielinski \$6,750
- 9 Carlo Biado \$4,500
- 9 Daniel Maciol \$4,500
- 9 David Alcaide \$4,500

- 9 Joshua Filler \$4,500
- 9 Mario He \$4,500
- 9 Miguel Silva \$4,500
- 9 Ralf Souquet \$4,500
- 9 Skyler Woodward \$4,500
- 17 Chris Reinhold \$3,000
- 17 Francisco Sanchez-Ruiz \$3,000
- 17 Gerson Martinez \$3,000
- 17 Jeffrey De Luna \$3,000
- 17 John Morra \$3,000
- 17 Jonas Souto Comino \$3,000
- 17 Jung-Lin Chang \$3,000
- 17 Lee Vann Corteza \$3,000
- 17 Marc Bijsterbosch \$3,000
- 17 Marco Teutscher \$3,000
- 17 Mieszko Fortunski \$3,000
- 17 Naoyuki Oi \$3,000
- 17 Oliver Szolnoki \$3,000
- 17 Oscar Dominguez \$3,000
- 17 Pham Phuong Nam \$3,000
- 17 Sanjin Pehlivanovic \$3,000
- 33 Albin Ouschan \$1,750
- 33 Alexandros Kazakis \$1,750
- 33 Amil Andre Gangflot \$1,750
- 33 Ang Tuan Nguyen \$1,750
- 33 Billy Thorpe \$1,750
- 33 BJ Ussery \$1,750
- 33 Chia-Chen Hsieh \$1,750
- 33 Daniel Guttenberger \$1,750
- 33 Darren Appleton \$1,750
- 33 Earl Strickland \$1,750
- 33 Fitim Haradinaj \$1,750
- 33 Imran Majid \$1,750
- 33 Jan Van Lierop \$1,750
- 33 Jani Uski \$1,750
- 33 Jeremy Sossei \$1,750
- 33 Jesus Atencio \$1,750
- 33 Joven Bustamante \$1,750
- 33 Kim Laaksonen \$1,750
- 33 Kun Lin Wu \$1,750
- 33 Mickey Krause \$1,750
- 33 Moritz Neuhausen \$1,750
- 33 Niels Feijen \$1,750
- 33 Omar Al Shaheen \$1,750
- 33 Pijus Labutis \$1,750
- 33 Pin-Yi Ko \$1,750
- 33 Roland Garcia \$1,750
- 33 Shane Van Boening \$1,750
- 33 The Kien Do \$1,750
- 33 Tyler Styer \$1,750

- 33 Vitaliy Patsura \$1,750
- 33 Wojciech Szewczyk \$1,750
- 33 Yu-Lung Chang \$1,750

## Sep 27 - Oct 01

### WPBA Iron City Invitational II

#### Iron City Billiards

Birmingham, Alabama

- 1 Kelly Fisher \$7,500
- 2 Marharyta Fefilava \$5,500
- 3 Kristina Tkach \$4,000
- 4 Tzu-Chien Wei \$2,800
- 5 Brittany Bryant \$2,200
- 5 Kristina Zlateva \$2,200
- 7 Meng-Hsia Hung \$1,700
- 7 Veronique Menard \$1,700
- 9 Allison Fisher \$1,200
- 9 Eylul Kybaroglu \$1,200
- 9 Julie Cone \$1,200
- 9 Kaylee McIntosh \$1,200
- 13 April Larson \$850
- 13 Sara Rocha \$850
- 13 Sofia Mast \$850
- 13 Tina Larsen \$850
- 17 Bethany Tate \$500
- 17 Caroline Pao \$500
- 17 Joanne Ashton \$500
- 17 Kim Housman \$500
- 17 Line Kjorsvik \$500
- 17 Pamela Kelly \$500
- 17 Savannah Easton \$500
- 17 Teruko Cucculelli \$500

## Sep 30 - Oct 01

### Joss Tour 2023-2024 Stop 3

#### The Golden Cue Billiard Lounge

Albany, NY

- 1 Alex Bausch \$1,200
- 2 Danny Hewitt \$850
- 3 Bucky Souvanthong \$600
- 4 Vincent Beurivage \$450
- 5 Joe Darigis \$300
- 5 Tony Chaker \$300
- 7 Jordan Turner \$200
- 7 Ryan Cullen \$200
- 9 Bob Forchilli \$100
- 9 Chance Chin \$100
- 9 Nick Coppola \$100
- 9 Ron Casanzio \$100



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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.

## OCTOBER

### WPA 9-Ball Qatar Open 2023

**Oct 04 - Oct 10**

Doha, Qatar

### Peri 9-Ball Open

**Oct 05 - Oct 09**

Vietnam

### Northeast 9-Ball Open XXXV

**Oct 07 - Oct 08**

Utica Billiards On The Boulevard  
Utica, New York

### Hanoi Open Pool Championship

**Oct 10 - Oct 15**

Hanoi

### Ohio Open 2023

**Oct 11 - Oct 14**

Roberts Centre  
Wilmington, Ohio

### 5th Annual Dennis Dieckman Memorial 3 Cushion

**Oct 12 - Oct 15**

Amazin Billiards  
Malden, Ma

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

**Oct 14 - Oct 14**

Corner Pocket  
Largo, FL

### Joss Tour 2023-2024 Stop 5

**Oct 14 - Oct 15**

Yale Billiards  
Wallingford, Connecticut

### WPA Predator World 8-Ball Championship 2023

**Oct 17 - Oct 22**

Sportpark Klagenfurt  
Klagenfurt Austria

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

**Oct 18 - Oct 21**

Sportpark Klagenfurt  
Klagenfurt Austria

### 2023 WPA Predator World Junior 9-Ball Championships

**Oct 19 - Oct 22**

Sportpark Klagenfurt  
Klagenfurt,

### JPNEWT Tour 2023 Stop #8

**Oct 21 - Oct 22**

Eagle Billiards  
Dickson City, Pa

### Joss Tour 2023-2024 Stop 6

**Oct 21 - Oct 22**

Brickhouse Billiards  
N. Syracuse, New York

### 2023 American Straight Pool Championship

**Oct 23 - Oct 28**

Q-Master Billiards  
Virginia Beach, VA

### Inaugural Battle of the Bull

**Oct 23 - Oct 29**

Wolf's Den Billiards  
Roanoke, Virginia

### On The Snap Tour Stop #9

**Oct 28 - Oct 29**

CK Billiards  
Dallas, Tx

### JPNEWT Tour 2023 Stop #9

**Oct 28 - Oct 29**

Bluegrass Billiards  
Philadelphia, Pa

### DL Billiards Tour Ladies Stop 7

**Oct 28 - Oct 29**

Big Tyme Billiards  
Spring, Texas

### DL Billiards Tour Open Stop 7

**Oct 28 - Oct 29**

Big Tyme Billiards  
Spring, Texas

### Joss Tour 2023-2024 Stop 7

**Oct 28 - Oct 29**

American Pool & Billiards  
Portland, Maine

### 2023 International 9-Ball Open

**Oct 30 - Nov 04**

Sheraton Norfolk Waterside Hotel  
Norfolk, Va

# AZBILLIARDS MONEY LIST

	NAME	COUNTRY	\$ AMOUNT	
	Fedor Gorst	 RUS	204.729,00 US\$	
	Joshua Filler	 GER	166.895,00 US\$	↑
	Francisco Sanchez-Ruiz	 ESP	148.895,00 US\$	↓
	Ko Ping Chung	 TPE	141.705,00 US\$	↓
	Shane Van Boening	 USA	122.819,00 US\$	
	Eklent Kaci	 ALB	120.950,00 US\$	↓
	Wiktor Zielinski	 POL	93.128,00 US\$	↑
	Ko Pin Yi	 TPE	78.490,00 US\$	↓
	Skyler Woodward	 USA	69.300,00 US\$	↓
	Jayson Shaw	 SCO	66.488,00 US\$	↑

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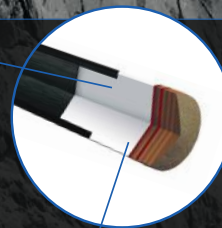
## FRONT END CONSTRUCTION/POLYURETHANE FOAM CORE

Hit harder and more accurate with the Lucasi Pinnacle Carbon Composite Shaft and experience the game like never before. The Pinnacle features an ultra-high-density polyurethane foam core which adds stability and comfort to every stroke. This, paired with the light weight construction allows for less deflection and more accuracy.

## HIGH FOCUS FERRULE

The Pinnacle features a white Ivorine Ferrule to provide precise sighting lowering the chance of a mishit, as well as providing a stable platform for tip maintenance and replacement throughout the lifetime for the shaft.

**IVORINE FERRULE**



## 11.75MM OR 12.5MM EVEREST TIP

To top off this innovated shaft, the Pinnacle features a high quality premium layered Tiger Everest Tip. This tip holds its shape like a hard tip, hits like a medium and controls like a soft, giving you unmatched ball control and comfort that Lucasi is known for.

**11.75MM OR 12.5MM  
EVEREST TIP**

## TAPERED TO PERFECTION

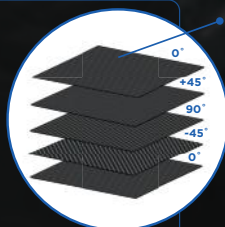
The Lucasi Pinnacle shaft features a low-rise pro taper unmatched by its competition. This ultra-light weight shaft provides the lowest rate of rise taper in the industry, providing the greatest radial consistency and most durable construction.

**PRO TAPER**

## CRAFTED FOR STABILITY AND DURABILITY

Lucasi Pinnacle is constructed from multidirectional carbon fiber filaments and a strenuous heat curing process that ensures extreme durability for years of play. This process has been perfected over twenty years to bring you unmatched effortless play, elevating your game to a whole new level.

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