

# Billiards Buzz

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# TOP OF THE WORLD

SIMONIS CLOTH

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FROM THE  
Head  
Rail

MIKE HOWERTON

**A**t the ripe old age of twenty four, Fedor Gorst has now won two World 9-Ball Championships. If that wasn't reason enough to congratulate him, with his \$250,000 payday, he now sits atop the World Nineballl Tour rankings, where he should be firmly entrenched for quite some time. Oh, and more important than both of these items, he announced this month on social media that he proposed to Kristina Tkach and she said yes. It's a good time to be a pool player right now.

Also of special note this month, it's a good time to be a WPBA pool player too. There was a time, not long ago, when the WPBA was struggling to keep its players happy with a limited schedule of events. Those times are in the past though, with a dozen events for the top women to play for this year. The board over at the WPBA have been doing great things for the ladies this year.

Since we are handing out congratulations, we also want to wish congratulations to Tkach for her third straight appearance in the finals of a WPBA singles event. She is going to break through and win a WPBA title very soon. Once again, it's a good time to be a pool player right now.

Until next time,  
Mike



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**becue**



## 20 Ouschan and Webb Win at WPBA Biker Week Showdown

Article by Skip Maloney - AzB Staff / Photos courtesy WPBA and Erwin Dionisio



## 24 Wei-Wei Wins WPBA Raxx Mezz Intitational

Article by Skip Maloney - AzB Staff / Photos courtesy Erwin Dionisio

## 18 Fedor Gorst Wins World Pool Championship

### 06 Practice a Variety of Shots Phil Capelle

### 10 Five Mental Mistakes Pros Hardly Ever Make Anthony Beeler

### 12 World Class Pool

### 14 Gospel Trick Shots Steve Lillis

### 26 Filler Wins in Dubai Article by Skip Maloney - AzB Staff / Photos courtesy Knight Shot

### 28 Chou Wins WPBA Soaring Eagle Masters Article by Skip Maloney - AzB Staff / Photos courtesy WPBA

### 30 Samm Diep-Vidal Named Instructor of the Year

### 32 Aveiga, Campas and Zamora Winners in Arizona Article by Paul Feltman - 3 Cushion USA / Photos courtesy 3 Cushion USA

### 34 Remembering Mike Asch and the Hi Cue Billiard Lounge By Steve Lillis / Photos courtesy Billie Billing

### 38 Fedor Gorst is Number One on WNT Article by Jack Mitchell - Matchroom Multi Sport / Photo courtesy Taka Wu - Matchroom Multi Sport

### 40 Kaci and Yapp Confirmed for Reyes Cup

### 42 Frederic Caudron Renews Deal with Aramith/Simonis

### 43 Gareth Potts Renews Contract with Strachan Cloth

### 44 BEF to Manage Monica Webb Challenge

### 46 Interview with Michal Rynkowski Interview by MACIEJ URBAN - WCBS / Photo courtesy WCBS

### 50 Tournament Results

### 54 Upcoming Events

### 55 AzBilliards Money List

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# PRACTICE A VARIETY OF SHOTS

It is said that variety is the spice of life – and this virtue holds true when it comes to practicing pool. Indeed, I would suspect that most, if not all, of you get bored to tears at the thought of doing drills that confine you to practicing the same exact shot, rep after rep after rep.

So, while you might become an expert at making that particular shot when you are practicing it, one after another, much like someone practicing free throws, this approach does little to prepare you for game conditions.

I certainly proved this concept to myself back in 2013 when I spent a solid month practicing nothing but straight in shots. While I become extremely good at them, when I then tried to practice 14.1, I found that mastering one shot did not prepare me for the moment when I went back to playing a real pool game.

In this column, I am going to present some exercises that start with a little variety, and then ramp up the variations in the ones to follow.

## MIRROR IMAGE SHOTS

**Diagram #1** shows one of the most valuable practice exercises, the Mirror Image Shot. When practicing these shots, you can amp up the variety by shooting Shot A, a 22 degree cut to the right, and then Shot B, which is a 22 degree cut to the left. Those of you who are righthanders may find Shot A the easier because you do not have to look over your bridge arm to see the pocket. Following this reasoning, lefties may find Shot B to be a bit easier.

When preparing to practice these shots, place the donuts in the correct positions. Then place the balls on them. You can elevate the variety and come closer to game conditions by placing the object ball and/or the cue ball a slight distance from the donut. I will have more to say on this method of practice in subsequent diagrams.

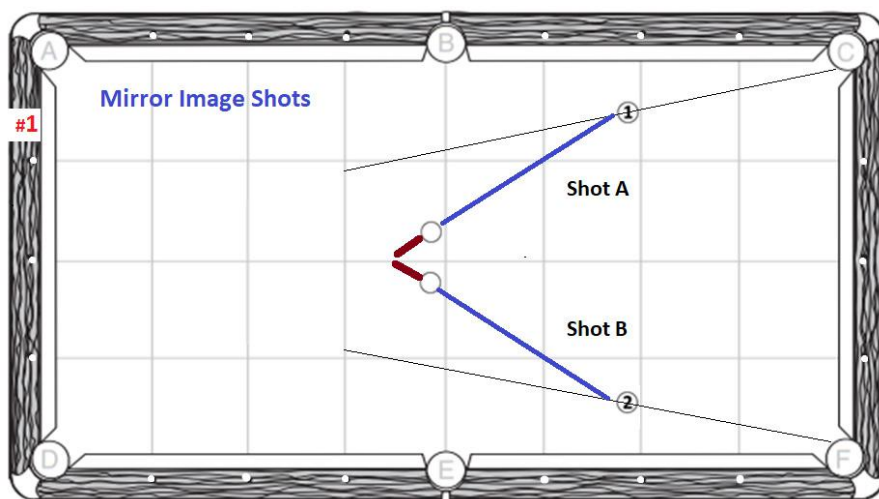
I advise that you play most the shots in this and the other ones in this column with your best speed of pocketing. For most players, that would fall between Medium Soft (4) and Medium Hard (6) speed of stroke. Cue on the vertical axis, usually from a half tip of draw to a half tip of follow. Your main goal is to broaden your arsenal of

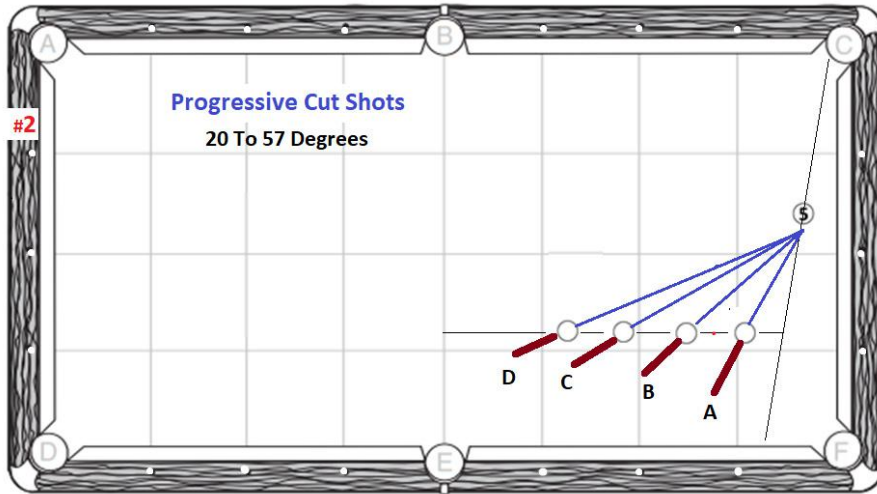
Shot Pictures. Once you become comfortable pocketing the various shot you can then pay attention to the cue ball's travels after contact.

Again, I advise that you mix up these shots by rotating back and forth, perhaps in a random fashion. For example, you could go A, A, B, A, B, B, AAA, B, etc.

## PROGRESSIVE CUT SHOTS

Progressive Cut Shots are pool's answer to raising the bar in the high jump, or starting with your wedge on the practice range in golf and working your way to down to your driver. The exercise in **Diagram #2** starts with a 20 degree cut from Position A and





goes up to a 57 degree cut from Position D.

As I advised in the previous exercise in Diagram #1, you can mix things up by playing these shots in a random order. For example, you could play it from Position B, then from C, A, D, B, B, A, D and so on. You could choose your positions using a random number generator.

Mixing the shots up makes this exercise a bit closer to game conditions, where you never know exactly what shot you will be playing next. You can add variety by moving the cue ball near to, but not on the donuts. You could also do the same with the object ball.

## ULTIMATE DISPERSION PATTERNS

A few years ago I wrote a column titled *The Endless Exercise* that appears in *Capelle's Columns, Vol. II*. In it, the first practice shot could be played from 25 positions for the cue ball, and the second from 81 positions. I gave it that name in recognition of the fact that the object ball and the cue ball positions for any shot that you encounter (not counting spot shots and the like) are never in the exact same positions as before. This makes shooting drills that feature the same shot over and

over a less than optimal way to practice.

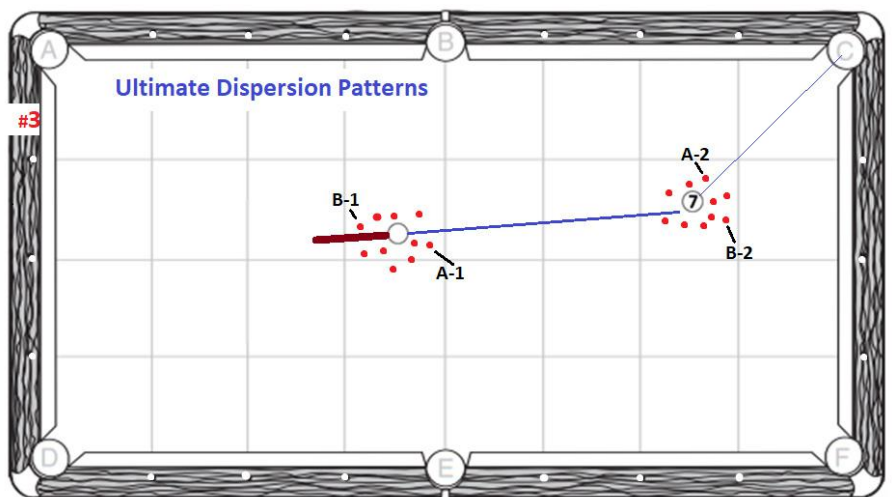
Recently I bought a book titled *Sprawlball* that shows dispersion patterns for shots taken in the NBA. The dots for each shot were all over the court. And this last weekend I watched golf's US Open, which featured graphics showing the dispersion patterns for the shots the golfers played on each hole. Dispersion patterns like these are similar to how our shots appear in competition, but most certainly not when doing drills of identical shots.

So, this gave me the idea for the Ultimate Dispersion Patterns exercise, which is shown in Diagram #3. The idea is to set up the baseline shot, in

this case it's a medium range 40 degree cut shot on the 7-ball. You, of course, want the Shot Picture of shots somewhat close to very close to this position to be part of your arsenal of shots. You then instantly recognize the basic kind of shot, and this will give you a big head start on positioning yourself to shoot, and to making any adjustments as needed.

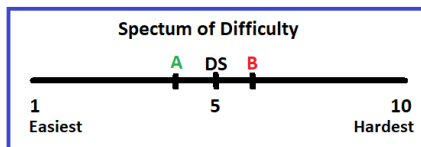
Now, rather than always setting up the cue ball and object ball in the precise locations as shown, use the donuts as reference points. Then pick a series of spots close to very close to the donuts, as I have done with the red spots (for the base of each ball). Next, shoot each one-of-a-kind shot. Then it's on to the next unique combination of cue ball and object ball positions. My dots in the diagram are for illustrative purposes only. Where you place the balls is entirely up to you!

Among the red dots show in the diagram, the combination of Positions A-1 and A-2 should be the easiest at the cut angle and the overall distance of the shot is at its minimum. Positions B-1 and B-2 combine to make up the longest and thinnest version of this exercise. So, we have a baseline shot where the donuts are positioned, and then an endless number of potential positions nearby for both the cue ball and object ball.



As you proceed through a position like this, you will begin to see, to really see, how a change in ball positions of just an inch or two can mean to the Shot Picture, and therefore to the shot you are about to play. Your well-trained eye for small differences in ball positions is what is going to add a great deal of precision to your play.

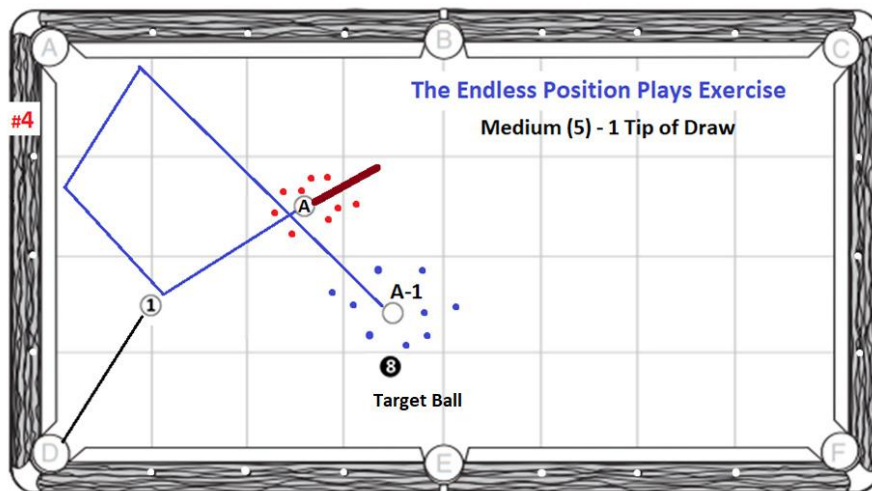
The chart below compares the difficulty of a drill shot to that of shots that fall on a spectrum of possibilities that come with the Endless Exercise. The basic set up for the cue ball and 7-ball is designated with the DS, for drill shot. If the shot is practiced from the same locations, its difficulty rating would always be the same. With the balls in the A positions, the shot is easier than the DS. And, with the balls in the B positions, the shot is harder. As you can see, if you move the balls all around the donuts, the degree of difficulty, and the challenge, will vary with every single attempt!



Each shot is unique, so this should encourage you to approach each one with the complete version of your Execution Cycle. This includes making a full stop in the standing position, perhaps make some air WUS, then landing as precisely as possible, making any adjustments as needed. Then it's time to go through your WUS cycle until you get the Go Signal. Now it's time to take your final stroke. In other words, you should be playing each one of these individual shots with the care and attention that you would id these shots came up in a game.

## ENDLESS POSITION PLAYS

The exercise in **Diagram #4** shows a 2-rail position play with Medium (5) speed and a tip of draw. In the base-



line version of the shot the cue ball starts at Position A and ends at Position A-1. In subsequent versions the cue ball is placed near to, but not on, Position A. It is played with the same cueing and speed.

In this exercise you will be taking special notice of the cue ball's ending location, which will create a dispersion pattern within the vicinity of Position A-1. In subsequent practice sessions you can vary the difficulty even more by also moving the position of the object ball, as was done in Diagram 3.

As you play each shot from the various positions, make your best estimate as to where the cue ball is going to stop. Then compare your result. You could even add a **Target Ball** (as shown by the 8-ball) where you think the cue

ball will stop, then compare your result to your guesstimate. And be sure to pay close attention to where the object ball enters the pocket as this will influence the cue ball's final resting spot.

## THE BIG LESSON

Practice exercises in which you move the cue ball and/or object ball around a small but significantly sized area will help to keep you actively engaged in each and every shot. You will need to use your complete Execution Cycle as every shot and every Shot Picture is slightly different. This continuous attention to your shots keeps you from getting complacent and a bit sloppy with your execution, which is often the case when doing drills of the exact same shot, over and over.

## ABOUT PHIL CAPELLE

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



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# FIVE MENTAL MISTAKES PROS HARDLY EVER MAKE



## ANTHONY BEELER

### MENTAL MISTAKE 1: BIG EGO

Pool players all have a bit of ego in us, but more successful players are more in control of it.

First, what is ego? From my research, there are several psychological definitions and interpretations of it. Personally, I think of it as a drive to increase our sense of self-worth or standing with others through being good at something, in our case, pool.

The ego seeks pleasure, validation, and improving/maintaining identity through achieving external goals such as winning or impressing others. If we run out or get that decent finish in a tournament, *then* we will be happy, if we don't, we won't be.

#### What happens when we play "Ego Pool"?

The ego is constantly telling us stories about how good (or bad) we are and how we are viewed through the eyes of others. You have too much of your "self" invested in the game. Playing ego pool means that you attach your self-worth and/or your identity to

your performance. When you do this, the following can happen:

- You have too many highs and lows in a match
- Your confidence fluctuates depending on how you play and the score is
- It's hard to stay present and give all your attention to each shot
- With the mind constantly striving for results and judging, it's hard to get into DEADSTROKE.
- We fail to appreciate the beauty of the game, because it's all about the future outcome

#### Softening The Ego

Playing with less ego, doesn't mean you shouldn't care about how you play or that you can't be competitive. I work with many players who are super-competitive but don't have an ego mindset. They're not worried what others will think of them. If they don't succeed, they won't feel like less of a person.

Players who achieve great things can separate themselves from their results. Unfortunately, there are no

hacks or quick fixes for this – your ego is a conditioned unconscious process, but with daily repetition you can soften it over time.

### MENTAL MISTAKE 2: LACKLUSTER FOCUS

The ability to quiet the mind, bring yourself into the present moment and focus on precisely what you need to, when you want to, is probably the most important skill in pocket billiards, regardless of ability level. Whatever happened on the previous shot, or what might happen on the next, shouldn't affect how well you are able to focus.

Too many players lose focus at the critical moments and don't realize it. They find themselves focusing on doubts about their stroke or what they don't want to do or how their performance could be affected by a good or bad game.

Once you've decided on the shot you are going to play, what do *you* want to focus on? Is it consistent, right up to where the tip contacts the cue ball?

Or do you allow your mind to wander? Do you have a clear pre-shot routine? You should have one and embrace it every shot you shoot!

**MENTAL MISTAKE 3:  
NEGATIVE THINKING**

What are *your* negative thinking patterns that can trigger a loss of confidence and change your mood for the worse? What are the behaviors that you need to change? We all have them, we need to figure out what they are and develop awareness of when we are allowing our mind to go down that path.

Only when you know your triggers, your negative thinking patterns and behaviors can you do something about it and improve your mental game. With some awareness, you can intercept negativity and re-focus on something positive or neutral.

**MENTAL MISTAKE 4:  
BUILDING UP**

When I hear a player tell me “I’ve got a big tournament coming up”, I remind them that no one tournament or shot is “bigger” than another. They are all big! When we create the illusion of a shot or tournament being bigger than another, we increase pressure on it.

Notice your language and interpretation of specific tournaments or shots and change it so you are neutral about it – you should focus on giving 100% to your process.

**MENTAL MISTAKE 5:  
BOUNCING BACK**

We all suffer setbacks during play. We’ve all had a scratch in the side on the opening break, or a missed position shot on the four ball. The mindset you *choose* to have afterwards makes all the difference in what happens next. You could respond by saying “it’s going to be one of those days! What an awful start!” Or you could interpret it in a way that is constructive and helps you bring your best performance to your next shot.

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

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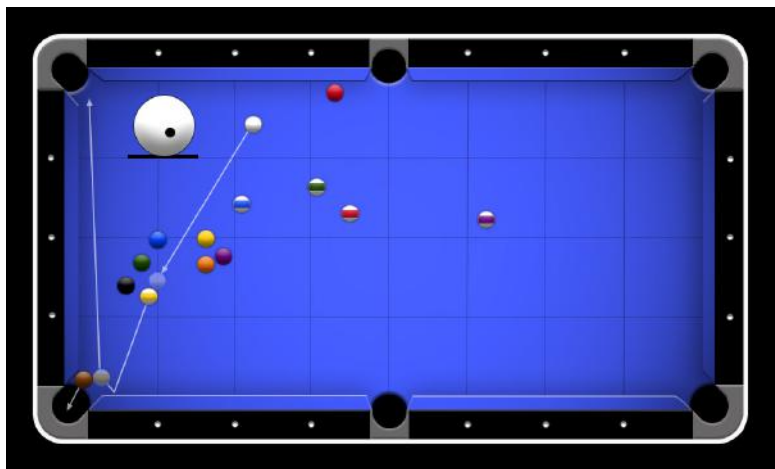
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**F R O M**



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

This month, Evan Lunda is the focus of our Shot of the Month, with this beauty against Tony Chohan at the 2024 Derby City Classic.

Lunda knew he was going to have to give Chohan the ball hanging in Chohan's pocket, but he came up with this creative way to make Tony's ball as well as one of his own.





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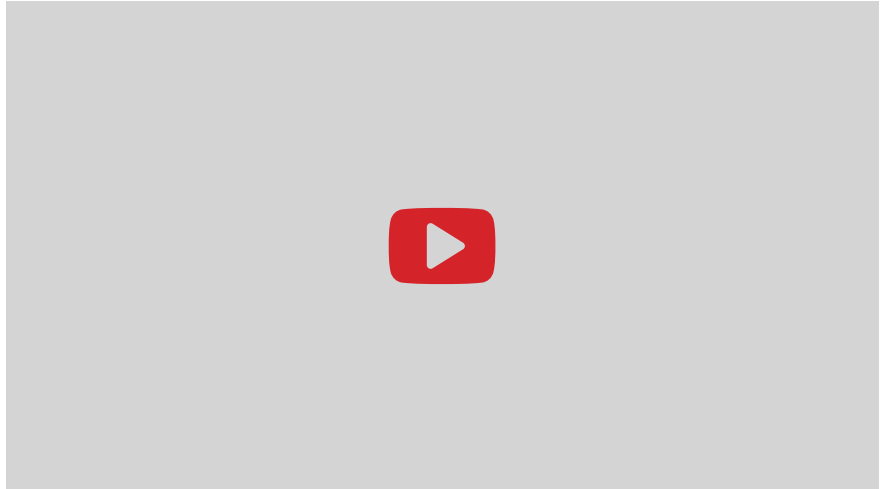
# Gospel Trick Shot #53

## The One Who Goes Before You

**History of the Trick Shot:** This Gospel Trick Shot is performed on a Chinese Heyball table. A similar version of the shot has been performed by a few of the top players around the world on standard American pool tables and English Blackball pool tables, however this version of the shot is done on a Chinese Heyball table as part of the vision of Gospel Trick Shot Ministries, Inc is to reach the Asian world with the Gospel of Jesus Christ. It is also a sneak peek into the soon to come Artistic Heyball which will pave the way to reach out to the east in the near future.

**GTS Name and Why:** This shot is called the “The One Who Goes Before You” shot. The significance behind this particular shot is the perfect timing it takes for the red 3-ball to go before the cue ball to clear the path for the cue ball to be made into the side pocket. Despite the many obstacles, God wants us to trust in His faithfulness to go before us to make a way where there seems to be no way. The red ball represents the Blood of Jesus and the New covenant He has for us and through Faith in his Blood we can rest assured to go where He sends us knowing that He will go before us and clear the way for us to carry out His divine will and plan for our lives!

**Scripture Reference:** Deuteronomy 31:8 – “And the Lord, He *is* the One who goes before you. He will be with you; He will not leave you nor forsake you; do not fear nor be dismayed.”



**Cue Ball Placement:** About two and a half balls from each cushion as diagramed.

**Object Ball(s) Placement:** The red 3-ball is about a half a ball from the cue ball. The 14-ball is about a ball and a half from the side rail. The 12, 15 and 14 balls are all touching. The 9 and 11 balls are also touching. The 11, 15 and 14 balls are all in a straight line. The 15-ball is positioned to make contact with the 11-ball at about half ball. The 12 and 15 balls are parallel with the long rails and so is the 9 and 11 ball. The solid balls are positioned so that the cue ball has a clear path between them to the side pocket.

**Objective:** Shoot the red 3-ball into the cue ball cutting it really fine toward the side pocket using quite a bit of bottom English. After the red 3-ball cuts the cue ball, the red ball will be driven directly off the short rail and will overtake the cue ball and then off the side rail and then into the 14-ball clearing the cluster of balls making a clear path for the cue ball to be made into the side pocket.

**Special Notes:** If the cue ball makes impact with the cluster of balls before the red 3-ball makes its way around to clear them, try cutting the cue ball finer resulting in slowing it down a bit and allowing the red ball to have more speed to clear the cluster of balls. You might need to adjust the position of the red 3-ball and the amount of bottom English to change the angle of the 3-ball into the side rail to contact the 14-ball full in the face.

**Crowd Reactions Through the Years:** This is a new Gospel Trick Shot adapted to the Chinese Heyball table. The setup creates an element of surprise for spectators as its not easy to figure out what is going to happen, especially using the red 3-ball to shoot into instead of the cue ball. The message behind this shot is very relatable to many Christians and is a great encouragement for those who have struggled with the obstacles of life. This shot is not an easy shot and will require a lot of practice. But once this shot is made, expect a loud cheer and a roar of applause.



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# Fedor Gorst

## Clinches Second World Pool Championship Title in Epic Showdown

Photos courtesy Matchroom Multi Sport

The Prince Abdullah Al-Faisal City Sports Hall in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia, witnessed a riveting battle of cue mastery at the World Pool Championship from June 3-8.

This prestigious event, held in partnership with the Saudi Arabian Billiard & Snooker Federation (SABSF) and the Saudi Arabian Ministry of Sport, showcased the pinnacle of the World Nineball Tour, captivating audiences worldwide through leading broadcasters like Sky Sports, SSC, Shahid VIP Sports, MENA, and DAZN.

Things were looking good early for defending champion, Francisco Sanchez Ruiz, as he kicked off the event with a commanding 9-2 win over Waleed Albaikhi and then a 9-5 win over Kyle Amoroto to swiftly secure his place in the Last 64 stage.

It was far from “smooth sailing” for Taipei’s Ko Pin Yi in the first round, as he trailed Jeffrey Ignacio 6-2 early on. Ko would once again display his resilience though, coming back for a 9-8 win. His 9-5 win over Roland Garcia to secure his spot in the final 64 was a little more routine.

Jayson Shaw, the 2024 Team Europe Mosconi Cup captain, demonstrated his prowess with a classic ‘Eagle Eye’ performance, defeating Jeffrey Roda and Johann Chua in back to back 9-4 matches.



Shaw's American counterpart, Team USA Captain Skyler Woodward, faced disappointment in the early rounds, dropping matches to Kuo Po Cheng and Max Lechner to fail to make the final 64. Former champion Carlo Biado was another tournament favorite who failed to make the final 64 after back to back 9-5 losses to Marco Teutschner and Dang Jin Hu.

The biggest upset came when Francisco Sanchez Ruiz's title defense came to an abrupt end in the round of 64, outplayed by the Danish Viking, Mickey Krause. Krause's masterclass performance propelled him to the Last 32, where he continued his winning streak against American Billy Thorpe.

As the tournament progressed, the excitement intensified. Shane Van Boening and Joshua Filler's hopes for a second title were dashed in the Last 16 stage, facing defeats against Wojciech Szewczyk and Anton Raga, respectively.



Eklent Kaçi and Fedor Gorst emerged as the finalists, setting the scene for a marathon race to 15. Gorst secured an early lead but faced a spirited comeback from Kaçi, culminating in a nail-biting final rack. With precision and determination, Gorst clinched victory, earning his second World Pool Championship title.

In a tournament marked by intense competition and unexpected out-

comes, Fedor Gorst's triumph not only cements his status as a top player on the World Nineball Tour but also etches his name in history as the youngest ever to win multiple World Pool Championship titles. The Prince Abdullah Al-Faisal City Sports Hall bore witness to moments of brilliance and drama, and fans can't wait to see if this event can surpass the drama of this year's event.

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# JASMIN OUSCHAN AND MONICA WEBB

## TEAM UP TO WIN WPBA EXHIBITION BIKER WEEK SHOWDOWN

Article by **SKIP MALONEY** - AzB Staff / Photos courtesy **WPBA** and **ERWIN DIONISIO**

**From the get-go, the idea seemed a little ... difficult to comprehend? Take 16 of the WPBA's top competitors and set them up to compete in an exhibition Scotch Doubles, 10-Ball event in the middle of the 101st Annual Motorcycle Week in the area of Laconia, NH?**

**T**he city, with its 2024 population of just over 17,000, plays host every year to over 300,000 motorcycles and the people (often more than one per motorcycle) who drive them there to participate in races,

shows, a motorcycle hill climb competition and peripherally-associated activities like riding mechanical bulls.

Like pool players, motorcycle enthusiasts have gone to great lengths to

clean up an 'act' that in the early '60s was characterized by a less than stellar reputation. In fact, as a result of a riot that broke out between motorcycle gangs and local police in the area during the summer of '65, city officials



*Jasmin Ouschan*



Monica Webb

and local police imposed stricter law enforcement that reduced the event down to a three-day weekend and as a result, witnessed a large decline in the Week's number of participants. It wasn't until the '90s that businesses in Laconia, looking to boost tourism in the area, negotiated with the Federation of American Motorcyclists to bring the rally back to a full week. Eventually, the businesses joined in a coalition with local motorcycle groups and founded the Laconia Motorcycle Rally and Race Association, which organizes and schedules all events associated with Motorcycle Week, which only in the hearts and minds of attendees, on or off motorcycles, is referred to as Biker Week.

Into this maelstrom of motorcycle activity rode the 16 women of the Women's Professional Billiards Association, as fearless apparently as the bikers. . uhh, motorcyclists with whom they

shared geographic space for about five days. Hosted by Winni Bar & Billiards in Gilford, NH (on the outskirts of Laconia), which housed the actual \$30,0000-prize-pool tournament, the nearby Margate Resort (walking distance) conducted a daily 'meet and greet' party, at which visitors were offered the opportunity to interact and compete against the women, who would alternate their tournament matches with time at the Resort.

"I think bikers represent that rebellious, free spirit in us," said WPBA competitor, Monica Webb. "Pool players, same thing. We're misfits. We understand each other."

Webb, in partnership with Austria's Jasmin Ouschan, came from the loss side of the exhibition tournament's 8-team bracket to down the team of Kristina Zlateva and Bean Hung in the finals of what many of the event's

participants hope will be an annual event.

"As soon as I drew Jasmin's name (in a random draw), I knew we were going to have a good chance," said Webb. "We have tremendous respect for each other's game and I knew that we were going to work very well with each other. We almost didn't even have to speak to each other."

The past four years have seen Webb field a cascade of health challenges, including hospitalization for complications associated with rheumatoid arthritis, just after the WPBA's Iron City Invitational in January. She has been adjusting to permanent elbow damage, which put some of the competition's tasks on her partner.

"I don't 'jump' as well as I used to," she said, "and Jasmin broke all of the games."

After opening with a 6-3 victory over Caroline Pao and Briana Miller, Webb and Ouschan were defeated 6-4 in one of the winners' side semifinals by Kristina Tkach and LoreeJon Brown, who advanced to the hot seat match. The team of Kristina Zlateva and Bean Hung opened with two 6-victories over Kelly Fisher/Emily Duddy and Savannah Easton/Jennifer Baretta in the other winners' side semifinal. Zlateva and Hung downed Tkach and Brown 6-3 to claim the hot seat.

The exhibition event featured the current top three, ranked competitors on the WPBA. Two of them, with their partners, had lost their opening round matches. Tzu-Chien Wei (#1) and her partner, April Larson (#14) had lost to Tkach (#5) and Brown (#30) 6-1, while Kelly Fisher (#2) and her partner, Emily Duddy (#16) were defeated by Zlateva (#4) and Hung (#12) 6-2. They also lost their first, loss-side matches; Tzu-Chien and Larson falling, double hill, to Pao (#17) and Miller (#22), Fisher and Duddy losing to Brittany Bryant (#6) and Shanelle Lorraine (#48) 6-4.

Bryant and Lorraine picked up Ouschan and Webb, who defeated them 6-2 and advanced to the quarterfinals. Pao and Miller eliminated Savannah Easton (#10) and Jennifer Baretta 6-4 and joined them. Ouschan and Webb got by Pao and Miller 6-3 and advanced to their rematch versus Tkach and Brown in the semifinals.

In only the second, double-hill match of the event, Ouschan and Webb defeated Tkach and Brown, punching their ticket to the finals. Hopes for any kind of knock-down, drag-out, double-hill final took a bit of an early shower, when Ouschan and Webb came out gunning right from the start and ran five straight racks. Zlateva and Hung 'dried off' (so to speak), chalked up their first and proceeded to follow that with three more to draw within a single game at 5-4.

**“ I THINK BIKERS REPRESENT THAT REBELLIOUS, FREE SPIRIT IN US. POOL PLAYERS, SAME THING. WE'RE MISFITS. WE UNDERSTAND EACH OTHER. ”**  
- Monica Webb

That was, however, all she wrote, as Ouschan and Webb closed it out with two in a row. Both were elated, but it was Webb who nearly jumped out of her shoes and initiated the four-handed, big-smile-driven 'high fives,' two of them.

"After we suffered our first loss, I was in the pool room two hours before each day," said Webb later. "Worked out some kinks, warmed up my arm in the sauna over coffee each morning, as well, so altogether I warmed up and prepared my elbow and body for four hours each day, easily."

"We deserved the win," she added, "were favored to do so and I am so happy that we did."

It was, for more than just the winners, a happy experience that they hope to be repeating in the years to come. Ideas were reportedly floating around about taking some part of either the tournament or the 'meet and greet' portion of the events outside, onto the streets, closer to where the motorcycle crowd was conducting its own events.

"It's just an idea we were kicking around," said Webb. "I think they'd go hand-in-hand."

For Webb and a lot of the women, Scotch Doubles is not a generally familiar experience and there's a lot of things that they learned, collectively, like absorption of the notion that as Webb put it, "you're not just playing for you, but your partner, as well, and together, you do this sort of 'dance,' as you collaborate on runouts together."

"It was a great time, a great experience," said April Larson. "Everyone was really happy and looking for-

ward to coming back next year. It was the first time we ever did anything like this and there've been nothing but positive comments about it. And there are things we learned from and (can use to) plan for next year."

Larson is acting on the assumption that the WPBA will return for an encore performance next year and already making plans to join them. And if everything falls into place, she wants to come back to Laconia on a motorcycle.

"Everybody thinks that my personality would fit right in," she said.

Her Dad is the motorcyclist in the family, who, from afar, back in Minnesota, bought a number of raffle tickets for an Indian Motorcycle that was given away on the weekend. He didn't win it, but April's roommate back in Texas, who also bought a number of raffle tickets from afar, won a pool table.

The women were back on the move, almost immediately, as they prepared to switch locations and settle in to their more familiar routine of individually competitive pool at the \$40,000-added major event of the Soaring Eagle Masters at the Soaring Eagle Casino and Resort in Mount Pleasant, MI this weekend June 19-23.

In addition to congratulations to all participants, tour representatives thanked event sponsors Shawn Feaster and his Winni Bar and Billiards staff, along with Ron Boucher of Tavern Magazine, Dean Roeseler, and Dr. Pool Promotions, Inc. They also extended thanks to Main Sponsors Viking Cues, Diamond Billiard Products, Olhausen, Amoskaeg Brewing, Jameson and Twisted Tea.

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# 'WEI-WEI' GOES UNDEFEATED TO WIN \$20K-ADDED WPBA RAXX MEZZ INVITATIONAL

Article by **SKIP MALONEY** - AzB Staff / Photos courtesy **ERWIN DIONISIO**

**Featuring many of the same competitors who graced the 'stage' of Janet Atwell's new Borderline Brunswick Arena a month ago (May 1-5), the WPBA's Raxx Mezz Invitational, held this past weekend (May 30-June 2) at Raxx Pool Room, Sports Bar & Grill in West Hempstead (Long Island), NY, finished, in many respects, the same way.**

**O**f the top 12 finishers in the Borderline Brunswick Invitational, nine of them were among the top 12 at the end of their weekend on Long Island.

Tzu-Chien Wei (known as "Wei-Wei" among her WPBA friends) finished in the tie for 5th in May and went unde-

feated to claim the Raxx Invitational title. Kristina Tkach, who'd defeated Kelly Fisher in the hot seat match at Borderline Brunswick Arena, and lost to her in the finals, defeated her twice at this event; once in a winners' side quarterfinal and again in the event semifinals. Tkach, defeated twice by Tzu-Chien in this event, hot seat and finals, finished as runner-up at her second straight WPBA event.

Pia Filler, who finished 3rd in May, did not compete. Neither did Loree Jon

Hasson or Sofia "Pink Dagger" Mast, who had both finished in the four-way tie for 9th place in May.

As it turned out, Tzu-Chien did not face any of the competitors that she faced in the Borderline Billiards Invitational. After opening with an 8-4 victory over Jennifer Kraber, Tzu-Chien allowed only a single rack to each of her next three opponents – Erica Testa, Susan Williams and Sara Rocha. Tzu-Chien drew Bean (Meng-Sia) Hung in one of the winners' side semifinals. Tkach had a much tougher 'row to hoe,' opening with an 8-3 win over Chihiro Kawahara (who would eventually finish 4th), giving up a single rack to Lonnie Fox-Raymond, two to Janet Atwell and six to Kelly Fisher, before she drew Kristina Zlateva in the other winners' side semifinal.

Tzu-Chien got into the hot seat match with an 8-3 win over Hung. Zlateva battled Tkach to double hill, before Tkach prevailed. Tkach took an early, seemingly-commanding 6-2 lead before Tzu-Chien won six straight to claim the hot seat.



By the time Hung and Zlateva arrived to compete on the loss side, all but four of the top 14 women on the WPBA's ranking list had been eliminated, the exceptions being Tzu-Chien (#1), Kelly Fisher (#2), Jasmin Ouschan (#3; did not compete) and Tkach (#5). Hung (#14) drew Kelly Fisher, who'd followed her winners' side quarter-final loss to Tkach with a double-hill win over Japan's Yuki Hiraguchi and defeated Tapei's Wang Wan-Ling 8-3.

Zlateva (#4) picked up Chihiro Kawahara, who, as far as we could determine, was playing in her first WPBA event within the last two years at least. Not however, an unknown quantity, Kawahara's been competing professionally since she was 21 in 2006. In her best recorded earnings year (2016), she finished as runner-up in both the Ladies Division of the All Japan Championships and the WPA's Women's World 9-Ball Championships. She went toe-to-toe with

Kelly Fisher at last year's Michigan Open. Kawahara followed her opening-round loss to Tkach at this event with seven straight wins, over an impressive list of regular WPBA competitors, including Jeannie Seaver (2), JoAnn Mason Parker (1), Caroline Pao (1) and Brittany Bryant (5), before eliminating Sara Rocha (1) and Bojana Sarac (2), to draw Zlateva.

It was Kelly Fisher and Kawahara who squared off in the quarterfinals, after 8-6 victories over Hung and Zlateva, respectively. Fisher ended Kawahara's strong, loss-side streak 8-5 in those quarterfinals and then, for a second time, fell to Tkach 8-5.

Perhaps mindful of the issues inherent in allowing Tkach to get out in front the way she had in the hot seat match, Tzu-Chien opened the race to 10, by winning the first two racks and taking a lead she would never relinquish. Tkach, though, responded with two of her own for the match's first of

only two ties, at 2-2 and 3-3. Tzu-Chien came back to win three in a row, at which point, they traded racks back and forth, maintaining Tzu-Chien's three-point lead, all the way to 8-5.

Tzu-Chien won the critical 14th rack, which put her on the hill, ahead by four racks at 9-5. Tkach fought back to win her first (and only) three racks in a row and pull within a single rack of the lead at 9-8. Tzu-Chien avoided a double-hill, final rack by closing it out at 10-8.

Tour representatives thanked Holden Chin and his Raxx Billiards staff for their hospitality, along with sponsors Viking Cues, Jacoby Custom Cues, Brunswick, Diamond Billiard Products, Aramith, Kamui Tips, Iwan Simonis Cloth, How Tips, Big Family Custom Creations, Outsville, Iowa City Metro Pool League, Iowa City Women's 8-Ball League and Holt Family Dental Care.



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Action Photography ©mediumpool

# FILLER GOES UNDEFEATED TO WIN THE DEBUT KNIGHT SHOT DUBAI OPEN

Article by **SKIP MALONEY** - AzB Staff / Photos courtesy **Knight Shot**

**Gorst, in first outing after winning 2nd World Pool title, ousted by Hong Kong's Robbie Capito**

**A**s we began looking into the inaugural Knight Shot Open, the most recent event on the Mosconi-Cup-points-gathering World Nineball Tour Calendar, held in Dubai in the United Arab Emirates last week (June 12-15), we got a preliminary look into the Knight Shot Company itself, which organized the event. We learned that it's the most specialized game tables and sports company in the Middle East, boasting 35 years of brand experience, producing products related to pool and snooker tables, darts, table tennis, air hockey and foosball tables, kids play areas and both indoor and outdoor sports equipment. Merrily we read along and discovered that the event was hosted by Jayson Shaw's Billiards Lounge in Dubai. . .

Wait. What? Jayson Shaw owns a pool room in Dubai? While it's clear that while he can delegate responsibility for its day-to-day operations, it's hard to imagine how he manages to fit in whatever ownership responsibilities that crop up in a pool room. Given his reported penchant for being hands-on at the grill in his Connecticut pool room (US 1 Billiards & Bar in West Haven), we spent some time thinking about what sort of new food groups that he might be cooking in Dubai and what kind of frequent flyer miles he must be chalking up to get there, even if it's just 'once in a while.'

And then we moved right on to the event itself.

The 64-entrant field contained many of the top competitors on the current WNT Rankings list. In fact, all but four of the final 16 were among that list's top 35, commencing with Fedor Gorst (#1) and through (with gaps) to #25,

Hong Kong's Robbie Capito, who eliminated Gorst from the tournament on the loss side during the original, double-elimination phase of the event. Germany's Joshua Filler (#8) went undefeated to claim the event title,



*Joshua Filler*

downing Albania's Eklent Kaci (#3), who battled Gorst in the thriller finals of the World Championships. You can watch selected matches of this event on Knight Shot's YouTube channel, during which you'll discover that certain camera shots from one long rail to the other, contain an enormous poster of the owner. At least some of the matches are edited for time, removing segments from the completion of one shot to shooting the next and on occasion skipping a few shots altogether. Makes for shorter viewing times, though there have been mixed reactions to that idea.

Competitors had three shots from the winners' side of the double-elimination bracket to advance to single elimination. Those sent to the loss side had an additional one to four chances to be among the Final 16 from the loss side.

Filler's winners' side path went through United Arab Emirates' Salah Farough (9-2), USA's Billy Thorpe (double hill), and Austria's Max Lechner to join the Final 16. Albania's Eklent Kaci got by United Arab Emirates Nasser Saleh (9-4) and Greece's Antonis Karkaris, before he ran into Jonas Souto, who sent him to the loss side 9-7. Kaci played and won a single match on the loss side, downing Serbia's Aleksa Pecelj 9-4 to join the final 16. Joining Filler on the winners' side final eight were Bosnia-Herzegovina's Sanjin Pehlivanovic, Denmark's Mickey Krause, Lithuania's Pijus Labutis, Spain's David Alcaide Bermudez, the Philippines Johann Chua and Jayson Shaw.

Half of the eight players, advancing from the loss side to the Final 16 played only one loss-side match. Ralf



*Eklent Kaci*

Souquet, who'd lost to Mickey Krause in the last, winners' side qualifying round defeated Oscar Dominguez 9-2 to join the final 16. Mieszko Fortunski, defeated by Alcaide came over and defeated Alex Kazakis in a double-hill match to qualify. We mentioned Eklent Kaci and his loss-side victory over Pecelj, but his brother, Kledio, came back from a loss, as well, downing Syria's Mohammad Soufi 9-4. The other four loss-side qualifiers were Canadian John Morra, who won three on the loss side, winning a double-hill match versus the Philippines' Elijah Noli Alvarez and eliminating Thorsten Hohmann 9-6 and Wiktor Zielinski 9-4.

United Kingdom's Elliott Sanderson won two on the loss side, including a double-hill match against USA's Tyler Styer and the qualifying match against Mario He 9-6. Shane Van Boening won three on the loss side, including a 9-6 win over the German 'young gun,' Moritz Neuhausen and a 9-7 win over Max Lechner. Robbie Capito

played three on the loss side, finishing with the not-insubstantial feat of eliminating Fedor Gorst 9-2 and Carlo Biado 9-5.

After the opening round of single-elimination, eight competitors remained, not including (in any particular order) Shane Van Boening, who'd lost, double hill, to Pehlivanovic and Kledio Kaci, who'd not get the chance to compete against his brother after putting up a double-hill fight, but falling to Jayson Shaw. Robbie Capito, who'd ended Gorst's run, fell to the winner, Josh Filler. And Ralf Souquet was defeated by Jonas Souto.

In the quarterfinals, Souto eliminated Pehlivanovic 10-8, Eklent Kaci dispatched Morra 10-4, Filler sent Shaw to his kitchen (maybe) 10-8, and Johann Chua dispensed with Ralf Souquet 10-2. In the semifinals, Eklent Kaci downed Mickey Krause 11-5 and advanced to the finals, while Filler got way out in front of Chua and defeated him 11-3 to join Kaci

The finals almost went double-hill, which from a spectator point of view is a difference of about 10 (usually exciting) minutes, if that. Filler completed his undefeated run with a 13-11 victory.

**“ FILLER'S WINNERS' SIDE PATH WENT THROUGH UNITED ARAB EMIRATES' SALAH FAROUGH (9-2), USA'S BILLY THORPE (DOUBLE HILL), AND AUSTRIA'S MAX LECHNER TO JOIN THE FINAL 16. ”**

# CHOU WINS 9 ON THE LOSS SIDE

## DOWNS TKACH IN FINALS TO WIN WPBA SOARING EAGLE MASTERS

Article by SKIP MALONEY - AzB Staff / Photos courtesy WPBA

In what the WPBA described as a 'spectacular' debut, Taiwan's Chieh-Yu Chou (known as "Rita") came from deep on the loss side to down the woman who'd sent her there (Kristina Tkach) and claim her first WPBA title.

The \$40,000-added Soaring Eagle Masters, held this past weekend (June 19-23), drew 80 entrants to the Soaring Eagle Casino & Resort in Mount Pleasant, MI.

Chieh-Yu, who entered the tournament as the reigning 9-Ball Women's World Champion, went undefeated through the 48-entrant, Stage 1 of the proceedings. That double-elimination bracket yielded 16 competitors, eight from each side of the bracket, who moved on to join 32 seeded competitors in a second, double elimination bracket. In

aces to 7 in Stage 1, Chieh-Yu downed Kathy Friend and Laura Smith, both 7-2 and Ashley Benoit 7-3 to become one of the eight competitors who advanced to the second bracket from the winners' side of the Stage 1 Bracket. Her second round and eventual opponent in the finals of Stage 2, Kristina Tkach, was one of the 32 women who were seeded into Stage 2 from the start.

Joining Chieh-Yu from the winners' side of the Stage 1 bracket were Pia Filler, Shui-Ching Chiang, Kelly Isaac, Wan-Ling Wang, Shanna Lewis, Miina Tani, and Lisa Cossette. From the loss side, Nguyen Bich Tram, Naomi Williams, Billie Billing, Jordan Helfrey, Rachel Lang, Olivia Cheng, Ashley Benoit, and Janet Ritcey joined the Stage 2 bracket.

Chieh-Yu's Stage 2 work began well with an 8-4 victory over veteran WPBA competitor LoreeJon Brown, before she ran into Kristina Tkach for their first of two matches. In an early, exciting match, the two fought to double hill, before Tkach advanced and Chieh-Yu began her nine-match, loss-side winning streak that would culminate in a finals rematch.

For Tkach, who'd been awarded an opening-round bye, that double-hill, open-



ing-match victory was apparently a motivator as she turned to her next opponent Bean Hung and began a four-match march to the hot seat. She downed Hung, 8-3, gave up just a single rack to Janet Atwell and drew Allison Fisher in one of the winners' side semifinals. Margaret Fefilova, in the meantime, defeated Ashley Benoit (5), Pia Filler (double hill), and JoAnn Mason Parker (1) to draw Brittany Bryant in the other winners' side semifinal.

Tkach and Fisher battled to double hill, before Tkach advanced to the hot seat match, as Fefilova defeated Bryant 8-3 to join her. Tkach claimed the hot seat 8-5 over Fefilova.

On the loss side, Fisher and Bryant arrived to meet up with two formidable obstacles to further advancement; Bean Hung and (of course) Chieh-Yu, respectively. Hung had followed her loss to Tkach by defeating Lonnie Fox-Raymond 8-2, surviving a dou-

ble-hill battle versus Jasmin Ouschan, winning an almost double-hill match against JoAnn Mason Parker and then, eliminating the WPBA's top-ranked competitor, Kelly Fisher 8-5.

Bryant drew Chieh-Yu six matches into her loss-side streak, that had included victories over Kristina Zlateva (4), the WPBA's 2nd top-rated competitor Tzu-Chien Wei (6), and in a double-hill battle, Germany's Pia Filler (double hill), just prior to her match versus Bryant.

Fisher defeated Hung 8-4 and advanced to the quarterfinals. Chieh-Yu gave up just a single rack to Bryant and joined her. Chieh-Yu completed her loss-side run with two 8-5 victories, over Fisher in the quarterfinals and Fefilova in the semifinals.

In a way, just getting the chance to be in a final match against the opponent who'd made your your 'day' nine matches longer than it might have been otherwise would have been re-

demption enough. Not quite, though. Chieh-Yu and Tkach played a 'spirited' match that didn't quite live up to any double-hill expectations that might have arisen. Chieh-Yu pulled ahead and won the extended-race match 10-7 to claim her first WPBA title.

Tour representatives thanked the ownership and staff at the Soaring Eagle Resort and Casino, as well as sponsors Viking Cues, Olhausen, Jacoby Custom Cues, Brunswick, Diamond Billiard Products, Aramith Balls, Kamui Tips, Iwan Simonis, How Tips, Big Family Custom Creations, digitalpool.com, Outsville, Iowa City Metro Pool League, Holt Family Dental Care and Iowa City Women's 8-Ball League

The next event on the WPBA calendar, scheduled for the weekend of July 24-28, will be the Iron City Billiards Invitational IV at Iron City Billiards in Birmingham, AL.

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# SAMM DIEP-VIDAL

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Each year, the Professional Billiard Instructors Association recognizes a PBI instructor who has significantly advanced the organization's objectives.

This year, the distinguished Jerry Briesath Instructor of the Year Award has been bestowed upon PBI Master Instructor Samm Diep-Vidal.

A four-time national billiard champion in both 8-ball and 9-ball, Diep-Vidal serves as a master-level instructor with the PBI and ACS. She's also a senior instructor with Billiard University.

"I've dedicated nearly half my life to sharing my love and knowledge of pocket billiards with others through writing and teaching," Diep-Vidal said. "I'm fortunate to teach my passion as my full-time profession. Between private and group instruction, it occupies 5-20 hours per week."

David "Dr. Dave" Alciatore, Dean of Billiard University and himself a PBI Advanced Instructor who won the Jerry Briesath Instructor of the Year Award in 2021, nominated Diep-Vidal for the prestigious honor.

"Samm is a passionate, enthusiastic, active, and effective instructor, and she has had a positive impact on countless students and other instructors," Alciatore said. "It has been a pleasure working closely with her over the years. Her work supporting junior programs and players is especially commendable. Samm is the exact sort of person this award was created to honor."

Dr. Dave works alongside Diep-Vidal and Randy Russell as part of the pre-



eminent Billiard University Summer School Boot Camp team, so he's seen her work first-hand.

Over the last 20 years, many of her students have seen big success in local leagues and tournaments, as well as state championships.

"The local billiard community has always been an amazing support for all my endeavors," she said, noting most of her new students come from referrals. "I also teach weekly senior and youth classes through the Denver Parks & Recreation program to reach an audience that otherwise would not have access to formal instruction."

Additionally, she offers one-day small-group camps with tailored curriculums geared towards ladies, beginners, and intermediate players, sharing the Billiard University materials.

"I have shared the template for these courses with many fellow instructors across the country looking to create similar programs in their areas," Diep-Vidal said.

Diep-Vidal has guided North American junior players to Germany, China, and Austria to compete in the esteemed World Junior Championships.

After a brief hiatus from the junior billiard world to focus on her family, Diep-Vidal jumped back in head first by attending the 2023 BEF Junior Nationals as a supporting Board Member and later the 2023 WPA World Junior Championships as the North American Team Leader.

In 2023, the U.S. Team secured two silver medals and one bronze medal.

“These great honors have connected me with some incredibly talented young billiard athletes, one of whom is Sofia Mast from Florida,” she said. “She received a silver medal at the 2023 world event and continues to improve as a complete athlete through the rigorous training program we’ve put together for her. Though she attributes much of her recent success to our time together, none of it would be possible without her dedication and hard work. I’m hopeful that together, we can create an effective model that can be used for other players seeking more routine and discipline.”

Additionally, as the Executive Director of the Billiard Education Foundation, she organized the Junior National 9-Ball Championships for five consec-

utive years. In her final year, the event saw record attendance with over 200 student billiard athletes from 35 states participating.

Once a year, she organizes an annual Kidz Klinik, marketed to new young faces in the community who have never been around the sport before; whenever possible, she stops by the weekly junior league to help them prepare for upcoming events, also aiding in their fundraising efforts with monetary and product donations, and she produces the annual Colorado Junior State Championship event each year to qualify local young players for the BEF Junior National Championships.

Diep-Vidal is also well known for her YouTube instructional videos, which have surpassed more than half a million views.

“I’ve reached a new audience online through consistent instructional, motivational, product, and call-to-action social media posts,” she said. “I introduced a short video series called, ‘Abolish the Chicken Wing,’ where I incorporate various techniques, including stretches, to help players overcome the number one mechan-

ical ailment I see with my students. It’s been so much fun meeting and engaging with new billiard enthusiasts online.”

Diep-Vidal was humbled by the honor and feels she is in great company among the list of finalists.

**ABOUT BILLIARD CONGRESS OF AMERICA**

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

**ABOUT THE PBIA**

The PBIA (formerly the BCA Instructor Program, established in 1992) is the largest international organization of professional billiard instructors. Since its founding, the PBIA has improved its leadership position by growing cue sports through professional instruction, development of training products, contributing instructional articles to industry publications, participating in educational workshops and seminars, acting as certified referees or league officials, and directing some of the most notable billiard tournaments throughout the country. The PBIA’s mission is to provide quality billiard instruction to the public, as well as offer training and certification programs for individuals wishing to become qualified billiard instructors. For more information, visit [PlayBetterBilliards.com](http://PlayBetterBilliards.com) or call 303.243.5070.



# AVEIGA, CAMPAS AND ZAMORA WINNERS AT 3CUSHIONUSA QUECHAN TRIPLE CROWN

Article by PAUL FELTMAN - 3 Cushion USA / Photos courtesy 3 Cushion USA

**The Quechan Triple Crown event held May 26th through June 1st, at the beautiful Quechan Casino in Yuma AZ, saw several top players come out to compete for over \$35,000 in total prize money.**

**T**he event brought players from all over, as top players from Mexico, Colombia, and Ecuador, joined some of the top American players to make this a very competitive event.

The action kicked off on Sunday the 26th with the handicap event, where the top players all went to 40 points, and the handicaps went down from there. Players played the event to 35, 32, 30, 28, 25, 23, 20 and 18 points, depending on skill level. The event saw 42 players randomly drawn into six brackets of seven players each. The top two players, plus the four best 3rd place finishers moved on to a sixteen-player single elimination event.

The bracket winners for the most part were the usual suspects, with American great Pedro Piedrabuena winning his bracket with a 6-0 record and a 1.29 average. Ricardo Carranco Jr and Luis Aveiga both won their brackets, and both had identical averages of 1.404, the best for the preliminary rounds. Some great first round matches in the knockout round included Luis Aveiga beating Roberto Rojas, Hugo Patino beating Harry Pena and Pedro Piedrabuena beating Raymundo Munoz. When the dust settled it was a final between two of the best players at the event, with Luis Aveiga getting the win over Pedro Piedrabuena and taking home the title.

On Wednesday the Open tournament and the scotch doubles kicked off. The Scotch doubles was done a little differently this time, with players being ranked by their handicap, and the "A" players being randomly drawn to the "B" players. A handicap system was developed, and the tournament saw fifteen teams separated into three brackets. The top two came out, with the first and second place teams getting a bye, and the third through sixth place teams playing for a chance to join them in the final four. The only undefeated team to come out of the preliminary rounds was the team of Raymundo Munoz & John Guldali. The knockout round saw Rojas & Semerci defeat Zamora & Feltman Jr, and Aveiga & Campas defeat Pena & Tarhan. Aveiga & Campas proved unstoppable as they went through their next two games and won the scotch doubles event.

The Open event saw twenty-four players split into three brackets of eight, with the top four advancing to a twelve-man single elimination finals. Piedrabuena, Aveiga, Zamora and Patino all won their brackets and were given a bye in the first round of the elimination bracket. On the right side of the bracket, Rojas worked his way through matches with John Park, and Hugo Patino, to face off in the semifinals against Raymundo Munoz. Munoz had impressive victories over Luis Suarez and Luis Aveiga. On the



Luis Aveiga and Javier Campas

## Quechan Casino Triple Crown Event

We want to thank all of the participants who came out to support 3 Cushion USA at their Quechan Casino event. We would also like to thank all of our sponsors, Hollywood Tables, Million Products, McDermott Cues, Tiger Products and Perimeter lighting, for their continued support. 3 Cushion USA will be holding our next event in Madison, WI, at the Madison Three Cushion Billiard Club, October 9th through 13th. The tournament is the International Open and will have \$16,000 added with a \$10,000 first place. This will be a \$550 entry fee event, with some of the best players in the world participating. The event will be capped at forty-eight players.



Harry Zamora

left side Pedro Piedrabuena was able to defeat Sang Ho Kim while Harry Zamora was able to take down Harry Pena. The last four standing saw Raymundo Munoz get by Roberto Rojas, while Harry Zamora was able to get the win against Pedro Piedrabuena. The final started fast as Harry Zamora

jumped out to a big lead, only to see Raymundo Munoz close the gap. Raymundo was shooting for the win and was kissed out at the last second on what would have been his final billiard. Harry quickly came to the table and was able to make his last point to win the match 35-34.

**3 Cushion USA** will also be back at Quechan Casino January 11th through 18th for their grand slam event, with \$10,000 added and will feature a "B" championship, handicap event, scotch event, and an open event.

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# Remembering Mike Asch and the Hi Cue Billiard Lounge

## America's House of Champions

By STEVE LILLIS

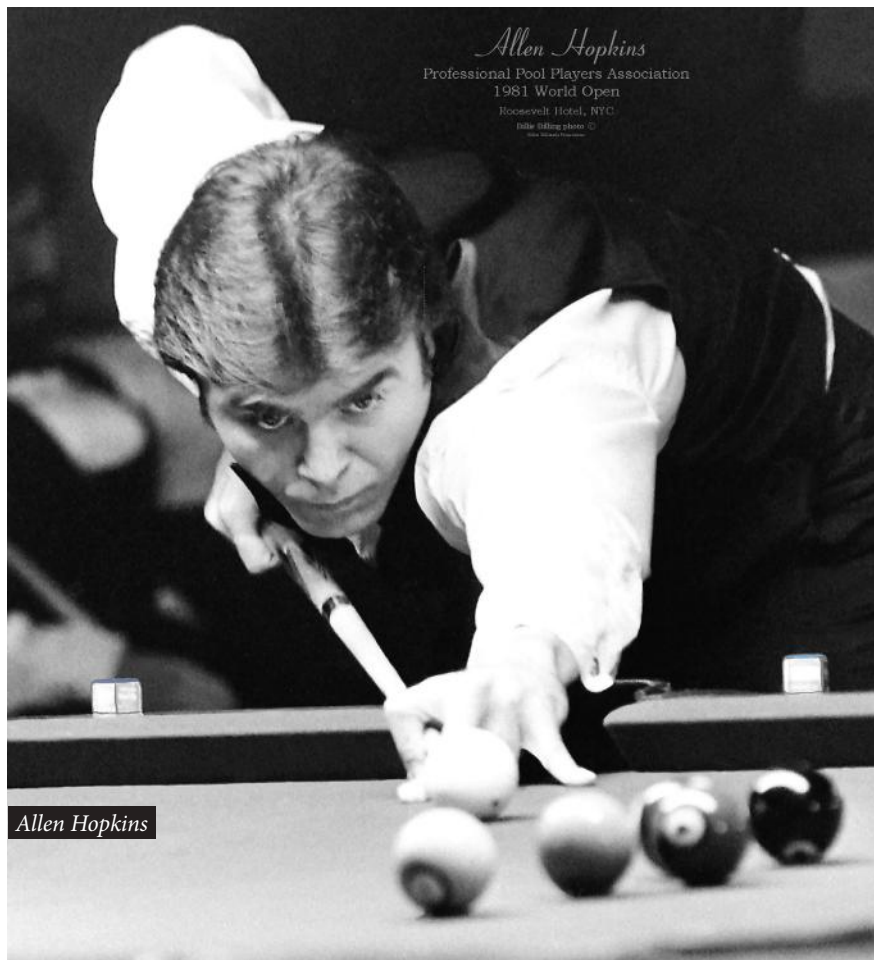
**The year was 1973 and I was a very impressable 22-year-old aspiring professional pool player. After 4 years of honing my skills in North Jersey at various local pool rooms like Guys and Dolls in Belleville, O'Dowd's in Pinebrook, Verona Billiards, Clifton Billiards, and the Main Street Recreation Center in East Orange, it was time to step up and play the big boys at the Hi Cue Billiard Lounge in Elizabeth, NJ.**

This pool room was known as "America's House of Champions" and champions were known to play there every night of the week. 14.1 straight pool was still the king of all billiard disciplines and the king of pool was BCA Hall of Famer Steve Miznerak who was in the middle of a run of four BCA U.S. Open 14.1 Straight Pool titles in the early 1970's. On a side note, I was delighted to hear while writing this article that the American cue company McDermott is sponsoring a free entry 14.1 straight pool event at the BEF Junior Nationals in Quincy, IL this year July 8-13 and Pat Fleming is hosting the International Straight Pool Open Nov. 23-26 in St. Augustine, FL. All the best to our 14.1 competitors!

Back to our story, on any given night you could walk into the Hi Cue Billiard Lounge and find a dozen legends of the game matching up and playing mostly 14.1 straight pool. Plaques were on walls and posts in the pool room hovering over various tables signifying on a given date what player had run 300 or more balls. Local New Jersey players like BCA Hall of Famer Allen Hopkins, Ray Martin, Pat Fleming, along with other New Jersey legends like Jack Colavito and Neptune Joe Frady were consistently on

hand to match up. Other legendary players like Pete Margo, Mike Sigel, and Earl Herring from New York, and the "fighting" Fusco's, Mike, Jimmy, and Pete from Philadelphia with Jim Rempe from Scranton, PA would all frequent the Hi Cue for tournaments

and action. Top road players would come through only to find tough action and often bitter disappointment. The highlight was always the tournaments and the man behind it all was legendary pool room owner and pool promoter Mike Asch.



## Peter Margo

Professional Pool Players Association

World Open 1980

Roosevelt Hotel, NYC

Billie Billing photo

BillieBilliards.com



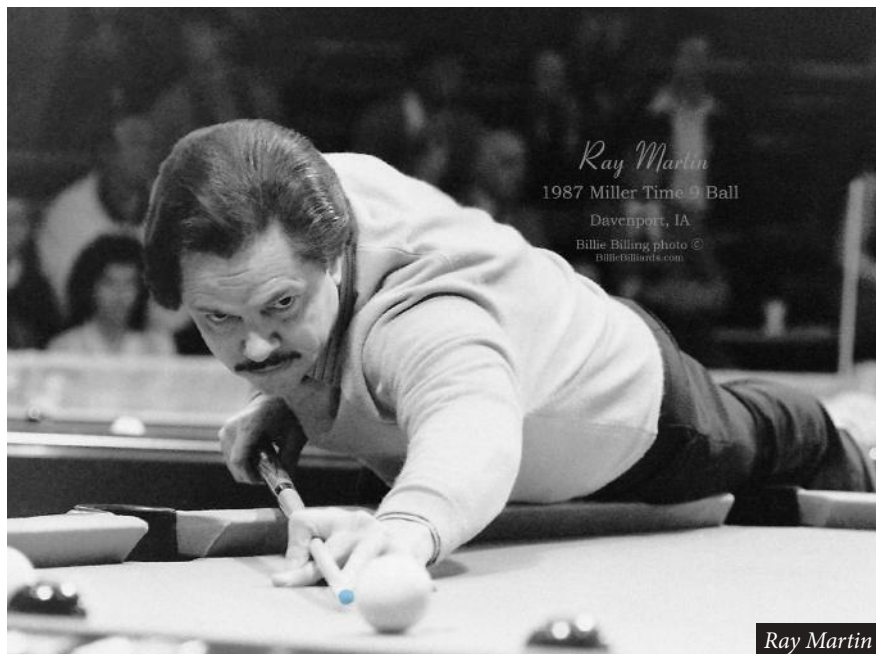
Pete Margo

The tournaments were a happening as a massive 30-foot-high thick curtain would close off 4 majestic Brunswick Gold Crown 9-foot pool tables in the back room with tiered seating for about 150 people. With his distinct Jewish cultural roots, maybe for Mike that huge curtain was symbolic of the veil in the Temple of King Solomon in ancient Israel leading to the Ark of the Covenant in the most Holy of Holies. That back room seemed so sacred especially to an aspiring young pool player like me! The projector and a large screen with a scorekeeper would go into place to project the ongoing match scores for all to see. Legendary 14.1 straight pool referee Cue Ball Kelly who went all the way back to the days of Greenleaf and Mosconi would lead a contingent of top referees from New York and New Jersey. Tickets would go on sale at the front desk for \$5 each with a doorman waiting to take your ticket stub to get into that sacred back area arena. Every table in the front part of the pool room would be buzzing with action while the stage

was set in the back for the best of the best to have it out tournament style with the legend himself Mike Asch as the great chorographer of it all!

Entering my first professional pool tournament in 1973 alongside of all

these legendary pool players in a legendary pool room was to say the least memorable. I entered the all-important 14.1 straight pool qualifier for the 1973 BCA U.S. Open 14.1 Straight Pool Championships in Chicago. If you did not qualify then you did not go to this fabulous event which was without a doubt the most prestigious event of that era. My first match was against Pete Margo formerly from New Jersey but now located in Staten Island, New York. Pete was generally considered at that time one of the top 4 straight pool players in the world along with Steve Mizerak, Allen Hopkins, and Ray Martin all from New Jersey. Our match began with me delivering an opening safety after losing the lag with Pete finding 8 balls to run before being forced to play a safe back at me. I found a shot and ran 18 balls and missed! Pete got up and ran 117 balls and out for the win! I sat for maybe 45 minutes without a shot and watched a master straight pool player run rack after rack for a 125-18 victory. After the match, Pete gallantly walked over and shook my hand and said these famous words that I still hold near and dear in my heart, "welcome to the big leagues kid!" For me that ex-



Ray Martin

1987 Miller Time 9 Ball

Davenport, IA

Billie Billing photo ©  
billiebilliards.com

Ray Martin

## History

perience and those words provided an inspirational turning point in my career as I still compete and play professional pool some 50 years later. I have also performed my Gospel Trick Shot shows all over the world in 35 countries to help inspire people with stories of hope and faith!

For over half a century, I continue to be propelled by the vision Mike Asch imparted to me for professional pool tournaments and professional pool players. He gave many nicknames to the top players of the day for the purpose of promotion and many are still in use today. He staged legendary challenge matches in his Hi Cue Billiard Lounge arena which changed the trajectory of famous pool players careers like an older legendary Luther “Wimpy” Lassiter vs Allen “Young Hoppe” Hopkins in a 1000 point straight pool match won by Allen and the well-seasoned pro Steve “The Miz” Mizerak vs. Jim “King James” Remppe in a 9-Ball race to 100 won by Jim. Mike even gave me a nickname Steve “Leapin” Lillis and told me that people bought tickets to see me play as I had quite a leap back then! We became great friends and I was inspired and learned much from him. While traveling on the road as a professional pool player in the late 1970’s and early 1980’s I was blessed to have the oppor-

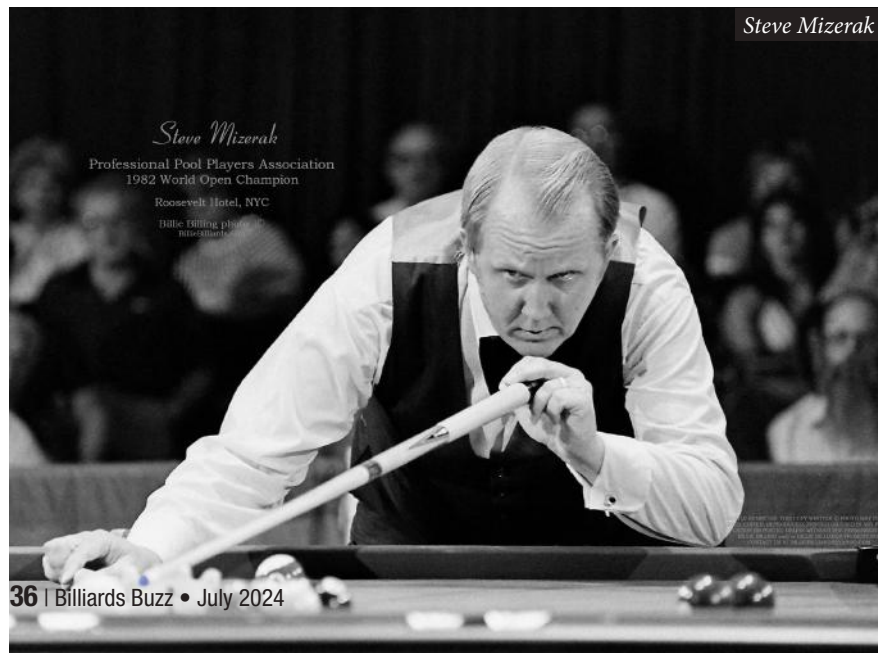


Steve Lillis

tunity to share the knowledge learned from Mike to help run some landmark pool tournaments with people like Scott Smith and Grady Mathews in Colorado and Mike Massey in Tennessee. Additionally, I had the privilege to work with Pat Fleming and Mike Asch at the Hi Cue Billiard Lounge in the early 1970’s helping to promote and run the beginnings of what was to become the pro lady’s tour with legendary female players like Jean Balukas, former WPBA President Billie Billing, Fran Crimi, Debbie Smith, Glo-

ria Walker, and a very young Loree Jon Ogonowski.

We have a great history of American pool and people like Mike Asch need to be recognized and remembered. There are many more American pool stories that are being shared by those who are still with us and can thoughtfully remember our American pool roots! With the help of many friends in and out of the billiard industry, I had the wonderful opportunity to write two books about my pool journey. Both books are available on Amazon.com by typing in Steve Lillis. It is my hope that others will be encouraged to share their American pool stories as I feel particularly blessed to have shared in this article a little bit about my New Jersey pool story of where I grew up. Learning the game and competing with some of the greatest American pool players of all time here in New Jersey at the start of my career was indeed a privilege. Legendary pool promoter Mike Asch was in the middle of it all in the 1970’s at the Hi-Cue Billiard Lounge in Elizabeth, New Jersey which was appropriately named “America’s House of Champions.”

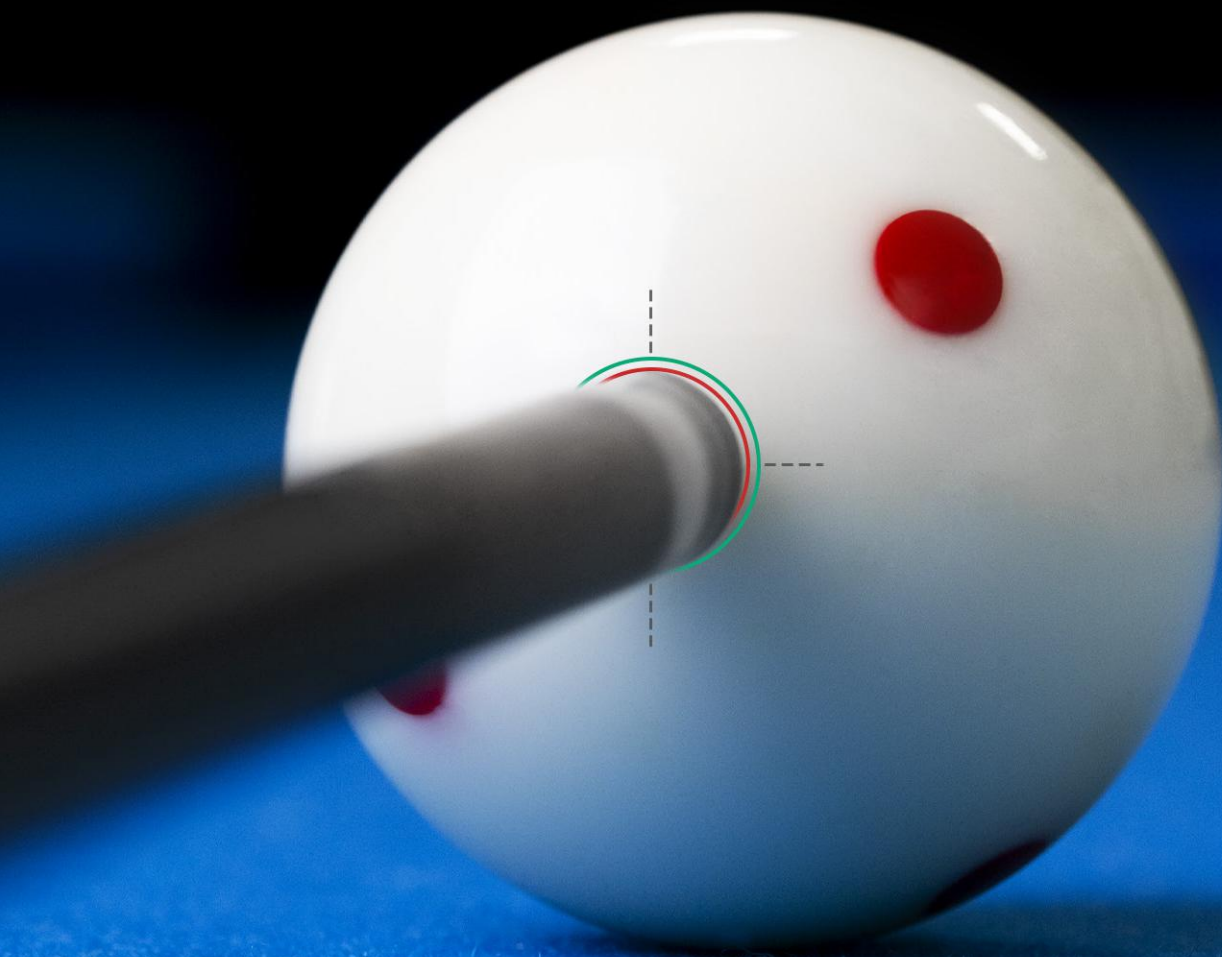


Steve Mizerak

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# FEDOR GORST

## IS NUMBER ONE ON THE WORLD NINEBALL TOUR

Article by JACK MITCHELL - Matchroom Multi Sport / Photo courtesy TAKA WU - Matchroom Multi Sport

**Fedor Gorst has reached the top of the World Nineball Tour rankings after being crowned World Pool Champion at the Prince Abdullah Al-Faisal City Sports Hall in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia.**

**G**orst ascended from No. 2 to No. 1 on the World Nineball Tour, bolstered by a record-breaking first prize of \$250,000. His total earnings acquired from ranking events now stand at \$398,411, the highest amount ever achieved on the World Nineball Tour rankings.

Fedor Gorst stated: “Being both the World Champion and the top-ranked player in the world feels overwhelming. This is a tremendous achievement for me—not only reaching number one again but also becoming the youngest player to win multiple World Pool Champion titles. The sense of

accomplishment is incredible, and I hope to maintain my position as number one for a long time.”

Alongside the American champion, Eklent Kaçi has risen to No. 3 on the WNT rankings after finishing as runner-up in the World Pool Championship, earning a prize of \$100,000.



Fedor Gorst and Emily Frazer

### TOP 10 WNT RANKINGS

- 1) **Fedor Gorst** (USA) – \$398,411
- 2) **Francisco Sanchez Ruiz** (Spain) – \$182,428
- 3) **Eklent Kaçi** (Albania) – \$166,418
- 4) **Ko Ping Chung** (Chinese Taipei) – \$139,278
- 5) **Jayson Shaw** (Great Britain) – \$137,182
- 6) **David Alcaide** (Spain) – \$111,912
- 7) **Wiktor Zielinski** (Poland) – \$105,746
- 8) **Joshua Filler** (Germany) – \$104,366
- 9) **Mario He** (Austria) – \$92,417
- 10) **Aloysius Yapp** (Singapore) – \$91,850

View the full World Nineball Tour rankings at <https://matchroompool.com/world-rankings/>.

Players will have the opportunity to gain further ranking points at the next signature Matchroom multi-table event, the European Open Championship in Fulda, Germany from August 6-11 at the Hotel Esperanto.



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# KACI AND YAPP CONFIRMED FOR THE REYES CUP

## The countdown starts for Team Asia vs Team Europe

**E**klent Kaçi and Aloysius Yapp are the first players confirmed to star in the inaugural Reyes Cup, in partnership with Puyat Sports Inc. and Sky Sports as the broadcaster for the UK and Ireland. The Reyes Cup will follow the same four-day team format as the Mosconi Cup, pitting the best of Team Asia against Team Europe.

The 2024 World Pool Championship marked the initial cut-off stage for determining the first two players to qualify for both Team Asia and Team Europe.

The Albanian, Eklent Kaçi, was the first to qualify for Team Europe after finishing runner-up at the 2024 World Pool Championship, which moved him up to third in the World Nineball Tour (WNT) rankings.

Kaçi said: "I'm thrilled to be part of the first-ever Reyes Cup. Competing at

this level and representing Team Europe for the first time is an incredible honour, and I can't wait to showcase my talent at this prestigious tournament."

After maintaining his position at 10th on the WNT rankings, the Singaporean, Aloysius Yapp became the first player to join Team Asia.

Yapp said: "It's an amazing feeling to be selected for Team Asia in the inaugural Reyes Cup. I am excited to compete against the best and bring my best game to the table. This tournament is going to be something special."

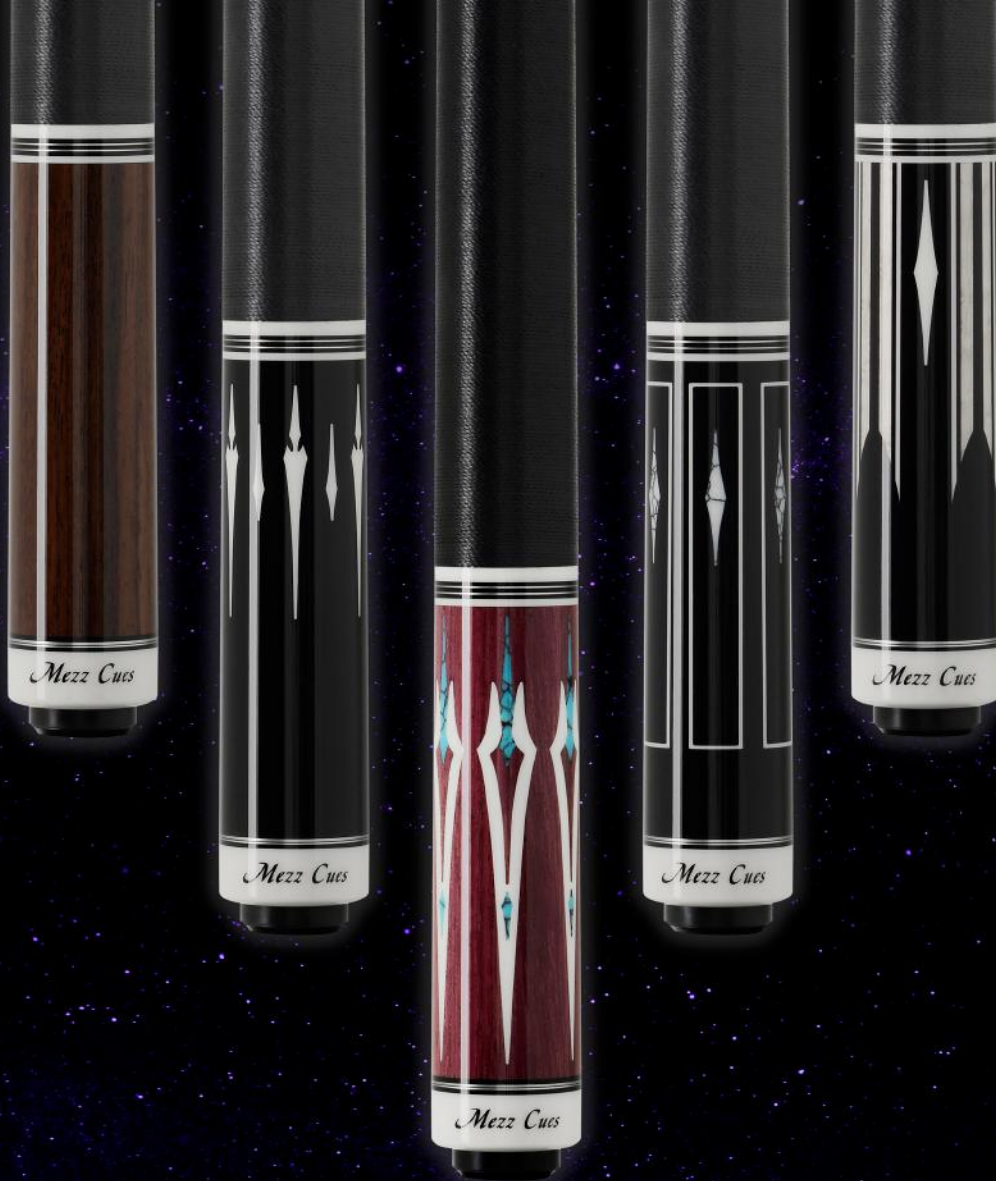
Qualification for the Reyes Cup will proceed in two more stages. One player for each team will be announced following the European Open in Fulda, Germany, and the US Open Pool Championship in Atlantic City, USA.

These selections will be based on the 2024 one-year rankings for both Team Asia and Team Europe.

The inaugural Reyes Cup will be held in Manila, capital of the Philippines, in honour of pool's greatest player and tournament namesake, Efren 'Bata' Reyes. A World Pool Championship and US Open Pool Championship winner, Reyes is widely regarded as the sport's greatest-ever player, serving as inspiration for millions of pool fans across the globe.

The tournament will follow in the footsteps of the four-day team format of the Mosconi Cup, which celebrated its 30th anniversary at Alexandra Palace, London last December. Team Asia will be represented by the top-three ranked players from the World Nineball Rankings one-year list, with two additional wildcards selected by Team Asia captain.





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# GARETH POTTS

## RENEWS SPONSORSHIP CONTRACT WITH STRACHAN CLOTH

Considered as one of the best pool players of his generation, The 4-time World English Eightball Champion and 3-time World Chinese Eightball Champion just renewed its collaboration with Strachan, the World's leading brand of Snooker, English and Chinese pool cloths.

**B**orn in England in 1983, the one called “The Golden Boy” by his fans and fellow opponents started playing pool at a very early age at his parents’ pub. Standing on a crate at 7 years-old, he was already hitting his first balls and learning how to play English Eightball. It didn’t take long for his talent to be noticed and he quickly managed to get his first sponsorships. He decided to quit school to fully practice and at the age of 17, Gareth won his 1st Junior World Pool Championships.

After winning these Junior World Championships a 2nd time in a row, his professional career was definitely launched. Gareth Potts claimed 3 World Eightball Championships between 2005 and 2008 and became a Legend in English pool. This is when he decided in 2009 to change discipline and to consider playing Chinese pool, also called Heyball.

In 2013, Gareth Potts won his first World Chinese Eightball Masters after beating Chris Melling during the finals. Success continued the following year with a 2nd World Chinese Eightball Masters title, which he won a 3rd time in 2017. In March, Gareth Potts finished 5th at these Masters organized by Joy Billiards who also renewed their sponsorship contract with Gareth Potts.

Gareth Potts: “Strachan has been a long-time partner in my career. It is recognized today as the leading name in Snooker, English pool and Chinese

pool cloth. This is why it’s the official cloth for all the major billiards events worldwide. Strachan cloths have a perfect nap which gives me the speed, precision and confidence I need as a professional player. And for all players, Strachan cloths will help you improve your game and make it much more enjoyable.”

Duncan Kettell (CEO of WSP Textiles Ltd): “Gareth is a very talented player. We have been very proud to sup-

port him these last few years and we will continue doing so for the years to come. As the official and exclusive cloth supplier of the Joy World Heyball Masters, it is also great to have this unique partnership with one of their Top players.”

For further information, please visit our website <https://strachan.co/> or contact our Marketing & Communication manager at [arthur.broudehoux@SimonisAramithStrachan.com](mailto:arthur.broudehoux@SimonisAramithStrachan.com)



# FRÉDÉRIC CAUDRON

## RENEWS SPONSORSHIP CONTRACT WITH ARAMITH AND SIMONIS

**The Belgian 3-cushion Champion who just returned to the UMB after 4 successful years in Korea with the PBA has just renewed his partnership with the World's leading billiard cloth and ball brands.**

**B**orn in Mons in 1968, Frédéric Caudron started playing carom at the age of 8 years-old. He was going to his father's club who was himself a great player. Having the club just seconds away from his parents' home, Frédéric quickly became hooked to carom, and especially the Classic games. After being trained by the other club members, his father saw in Frédéric his potential for becoming a professional player.

From the age of 14 years-old, Frédéric Caudron took weekly lessons with the internationally renowned and World Champion Emile Wafflard. He claims his first Belgium and European titles and decides at the age of 24 to fully commit to 3-cushion. As the titles are piling up, Frédéric wins his first 3-cushion World Championship in 1999 after beating Dick Jaspers in the semis and Torbjörn Blomdahl during the finals.

From there, Frédéric Caudron quickly gained recognition from his peers and a Legend was born. So far in his career, Frédéric claimed 21 World Cup ti-

bles, 11 World Championships, 14 European Championships and countless titles in his home country. In 2019, he decides to go play for the PBA in Korea where he won 7 tournaments and 1 World Championship, making him a national celebrity with by far the largest number of titles.

In 2024, Frédéric returns to Europe and rejoins the UMB tour. This new chapter in his long career resumed successfully with his participation to the 2nd UMB World Cup of the season in Vietnam at Ho Chi Minh.

Frédéric Caudron: "Iwan Simonis has been sponsoring me since the beginning of my career. Aramith has been another key partner for several years now. As a pro player, but also for amateurs, it is important to play with the most reliable equipment to enjoy the game and improve. With Aramith and Simonis, you benefit from the excellence and consistency of the World's leading ball and cloth brands."

Jérôme Poncelet (Group Commercial Director): "It is fantastic to have such legends as Frédéric Caudron partnering with our brands. Aramith and Iwan Simonis being 100% Belgian from the development to the manufacturing of our products, our staff at the factory is also very proud to sponsor a national Legend. We look forward to keep supporting him in this new career chapter."

For further information, please visit our websites <https://www.aramith.com/> & <https://iwansimonis.com/> or contact our Marketing & Communication manager at [arthur.broudehoux@SimonisAramithStrachan.com](mailto:arthur.broudehoux@SimonisAramithStrachan.com)



# BILLIARD EDUCATION FOUNDATION TO MANAGE THE MONICA WEBB CHALLENGE OF JUNIOR CHAMPIONS EVENT

**The Billiard Education Foundation (BEF) and the Junior Billiard Scholarship Fund (JBSF) have agreed to collaborate and ensure the Monica Webb Battle of The Junior Champions remains a marquee junior cue sports event for years to come.**

**S**hane Tyree, BEF managing director let the cat out of the bag earlier this month during an appearance on the Window's Open podcast. Tyree hinted at the collaboration while promoting this year's BEF Junior National Pool Championships beginning July 8 in Quincy, IL and then formally sealed the deal with the founder and CEO of JBFS Eddie Altman, last week.

Altman, a longtime advocate of cue sports for juniors, was thrilled to finalize the discussions ensuring the continuation of an event he had invested with both his heart and pocketbook. "We started discussions with the BEF Board about six months ago. The agreement between the BEF and Monica Webb Battle of The Junior Champions will benefit junior competitors and provide growth opportunities for pool families for years to come." Altman referenced enhancements to the event that will translate into more qualitative opportunities for participants. "The Billiard Education Foundation are well positioned to take the helm of the Monica Webb Battle of the Junior Champions event and ensure the event's competitors have more opportunities to compete at the highest level."



Constantly seeking to improve the BEF's event schedule and the American players' competitiveness on an international stage, the BEF was not about to let an existing gem like the Monica Webb Battle of the Junior Champions become anything less than another jewel to showcase America's young superstars. "The teams competition model Eddie and JBFS apply to the Monica Webb Battle of the Junior Champions is very exciting to both watch and participate in and the BEF will leverage the event to provide more opportunities to develop Team USA," Tyree explained. "This year's BEF Junior National 10-Ball champions will have their travel to New Zealand covered and the BEF will utilize this new event to continue to improve prizes and travel stipends for Team USA members."

Details surrounding the 2025 Monica Webb Battle of the Junior Champions

will be announced after the 2024 WPA World Junior 10-Ball Championships in Auckland, New Zealand. Team Captains for the 2025 Monica Webb Battle of the Junior Champions will consist of the 18&U Boys and Girls 10-Ball champions from the 2024 BEF Junior National Pool Championship, and player selection will be determined by player performance during BEF qualifying events, BEF state championships, the BEF Junior National Pool Championships and the WPA World Junior 10-Ball Championships.

## ABOUT BILLIARD EDUCATION FOUNDATION

The Billiard Education Foundation (BEF) was formed in 1993 as a 501(c)(3) nonprofit charity committed to promoting a life-long love of pool and building the next generation of players through youth programs and academic scholarships. The BEF also sanctions Junior State Championships, produces the annual BEF Junior National 9-Ball Championships and qualifies young players each year to compete at the WPA World Junior Championships. Visit [BilliardEducation.org](http://BilliardEducation.org) to learn more about junior programs in your area.



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# FIVE YEARS OF COOPERATION WITH BILLIARDS

## AN INTERVIEW WITH DR. MICHAŁ RYNKOWSKI REGARDING DOPING IN BILLIARDS

Interview by MACIEJ URBAN - WCBS / Photo courtesy WCBS

### What does the Polish Anti-Doping Agency do?

Above all, POLADA is the creator of the anti-doping policy in Poland, it is responsible for the implementation of all programs related to anti-doping control, educational and investigative activities. The agency's task is also to cooperate nationally with bodies such as the police, military police, and prosecutor's offices. It is also international cooperation with the World Anti-Doping Agency, the European Council, or even the World Confederation of Billiards Sports (WCBS).

### Cooperation with WCBS. How can you evaluate this cooperation? It would seem that this is not a discipline particularly exposed to such violations.

It is true that billiard sports are assessed by us as low risk. This translates into a smaller number of tests in comparison with high-risk disciplines, such as combat sports, strength or endurance sports, i.e. classic sports based on high physical activity. However, in billiards, doping sometimes occurs. It has a direct impact on sports results. These may be, for example, beta-blockers, the use of which has a very positive effect on the player's performance. This means that ones actions take place in an atmosphere of peace, so one can hit more precisely and is not stressed. These substances lower blood pressure and optimize the game.



Michał Rynkowski

We have been cooperating with WCBS since 2019. It evolved because at the beginning we only acted within the framework of disciplinary proceedings. There was a need for the federation to seek support at the international level and the Polish Anti-Doping Agency was chosen. This happened because we were one of the first to establish a disciplinary panel, something like an anti-doping court that operates under the Act on Combating Doping in Sport. It is a professional and independent body. WCBS, as an organization with a rather limited scope of operation and capabilities at

that time, was looking for a reliable partner.

### How much work do you actually have in billiard sports?

Not counting national controls, we have about 10 anti-doping controls a year. In addition, WCBS conducts its own inspections at the most important tournaments, i.e. approximately 30 tests per year. These are not big numbers. It is worth noting here that at the beginning of our cooperation, there were several positive results in which prohibited substances were detected. In total, we cooperated with

WCBS in examining five doping cases, which resulted in convicting the players. Each case was, of course, a little different. We had a player from Iran, a player from the United States, there was a player from Croatia... One case concerned violating the conditions of serving a sentence.

We consider each case separately, and we do not assume in advance that a given athlete has knowingly or unknowingly committed an anti-doping rule violation. It happens that a substance was taken accidentally, for example by taking it as part of a medicine or dietary supplement where it was not included in the label. Ignorance will not mean that such a person will be acquitted. It is the responsibility of every athlete to make every effort to ensure that the substance does not enter the body. We may be dealing with a personal tragedy, but the anti-doping rules are the same for everyone.

Currently, POLADA cooperates with WCBS to a much wider extent than at the beginning, because in addition to the above-mentioned proceedings, we also cooperate in the field of educational activities, support WCBS in the field of inspections, but also in the extensive WADA Compliance Program, or the compliance of the WCBS program with World Anti-Doping Agency. Our support in this area consists in developing appropriate documents taking into account contemporary trends in anti-doping. This must be done so that the WCBS program is at the highest possible level and is consistent with the latest guidelines.

### **What is the WADA Compliance Program?**

This is the adaptation of WCBS regulations to WADA standards, which took about 2 years. Here, the role of Mr. Marcin Krzemioski is crucial. It is our main partner from WCBS in the preparation and implementation of specific

programs. It will be of a development nature. I think this partnership, which has been developed over the years, serves both parties. A classic win-win situation and I assume this will continue. As a partner of WCBS, we see more and more efforts being made, more and more funds are being allocated to the fight against doping, and emphasis is placed on educational activities, which is very important because well-educated athletes will make conscious choices, not dividing them into good and bad. In such a situation, if someone uses prohibited substances, we can assume that they are probably doing it on purpose. Through education, we eliminate cases of unconscious use of prohibited substances.

### **And you can see the consequences. Cases of doping in this sport are not common, and if they did occur, all cases were won. Is this a rule regardless of the discipline?**

No. There are cases of players being acquitted, but I wouldn't treat it as a win or a loss. What is simply most important is that an athlete accused of doping has the opportunity to use a professional and independent disciplinary body that will objectively look at one case and then assign a punishment appropriate to the guilt. This is the most important thing. If a player is acquitted, one deserved it, justice is served.

### **What does the entire "application - accused - Disciplinary Panel" process look like?**

A classic situation when we detect a prohibited substance in a sample taken from an athlete during anti-doping control at a tournament. The waiting time for the results is about 20 days, we receive the result, it is positive in our jargon, so a prohibited substance has been found, we notify the athlete about it, informing him about the possibility of analysing the B sample,

based on which we verify the correctness of the A sample test. In 99 percent of cases, they are consistent, although there have been cases in history where the result was different or inconclusive, resulting in acquittal at an early stage of the proceedings. If this is not the case, after completing this process, we move on to the proper phase of the proceedings, i.e., we file charges, and the case is transferred to the disciplinary body.

### **WCBS, having no money, established the WCBS Solidarity Anti-Doping Fund. How do you evaluate this initiative and do other organizations also have such ideas?**

This is a rare situation where the federation works so actively for the purity of sport, for example by seeking financial resources for such purposes. This is usually done at your own expense, but in the case of WCBS, additional funds were obtained, which in my opinion are completely sufficient for the federation to implement its anti-doping policy. This is definitely a big step forward and a good example for others.

### **Anti-doping control representatives are increasingly visible during billiard sports events, which has a positive impact on the importance of the event. Do you agree?**

We feel needed and welcome. This definitely makes the work of anti-doping controllers easier. In favourable conditions, they can easily carry out their tasks, which is not so obvious, because there have been unpleasant situations that did not concern billiard sports. These are just incidents that are exceptions to the rule. Generally, if we have good cooperation, for example between judges, officials and controllers, it definitely has a positive impact on the entire process, also in the minds of the players who are exposed to stress. This is extremely important.



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# Tourney Results

## Jun 01 - Jun 01

### Predator Tri State Tour 2024 Stop

#### Shooters Family Billiards

Wayne, New Jersey

- 1 Alex Guerrero \$730
- 2 Matej Kovac \$430
- 3 Bud Robideau \$280
- 4 Jorge Decia \$170
- 5 Joe Rubino \$105
- 5 Laura Xie \$105

## Jun 01 - Jun 01

### Q City 9-Ball Tour Stop

#### Brews & Cues on the Boulevard

Glen Burnie, Maryland

- 1 Colston Harrelson \$250
- 2 Gage Smith \$150
- 3 Hunter Humphrey \$125
- 4 Bradley Harrelson \$55

## Jun 01 - Jun 01

### 2nd Annual Rack Race Event Ten

#### Rack and Grill II

Augusta, Georgia

- 1 Josh Roberts \$800
- 2 David Crocker \$400
- 3 Todd Blackwell \$300
- 4 Billy Holmes \$200
- 5 Derrick Bridges \$120
- 5 Ian Jones \$120
- 7 James Smith \$100
- 7 Justin Clark \$100
- 9 Chuck McCool \$50
- 9 Darrel Williams \$50
- 9 Jacob Blake \$50
- 9 Mike Wise \$50

## Jun 02 - Jun 02

### Mezz Cues LA 9-Ball Series Stop

#### Good Timez Billiards

Huntsville, Alabama

- 1 Paul Vinas \$700
- 2 Nico Scalise \$450
- 3 Terrence Lee \$310
- 4 Francis Lanag \$200
- 5 Butch Barba \$130
- 5 Joseph Leon \$130
- 7 Dexter Vallapando \$130
- 7 Rhino Lay \$130

## Jun 03 - Jun 08

### World Pool Championship 2024

#### Saudi Arabia

- 1 Fedor Gorst \$250,000
- 2 Eklent Kaci \$100,000
- 3 Johann Chua \$50,000
- 3 Wojciech Szewczyk \$50,000
- 5 Anthony Raga \$27,000
- 5 Jeffrey Ignacio \$27,000
- 5 Jin-Hu Dang \$27,000
- 5 Wiktor Zielinski \$27,000
- 9 Chris Melling \$15,000
- 9 David Alcaide \$15,000
- 9 Joao Grilo \$15,000
- 9 Joshua Filler \$15,000
- 9 Marc Bijsterbosch \$15,000
- 9 Mickey Krause \$15,000
- 9 Mohammad Soufi \$15,000
- 9 Shane Van Boening \$15,000
- 17 Alexandros Kazakis \$7,000
- 17 Bader Al Awadi \$7,000
- 17 Billy Thorpe \$7,000
- 17 BJ Ussery \$7,000
- 17 Elliott Sanderson \$7,000
- 17 Jayson Shaw \$7,000
- 17 Lee Vann Corteza \$7,000
- 17 Mario He \$7,000
- 17 Maximilian Lechner \$7,000
- 17 Naoyuki Oi \$7,000
- 17 Oscar Dominguez \$7,000
- 17 Patric Gonzales \$7,000
- 17 Pijus Labutis \$7,000
- 17 Ping-Chung Ko \$7,000
- 17 Ralf Souquet \$7,000

- 17 Yu-Lung Chang \$7,000
- 33 Ajdin Piknjac \$3,500
- 33 Albert Manas \$3,500
- 33 Aleksa Pecelj \$3,500
- 33 Alex Pagulayan \$3,500
- 33 Ali Al Obaidly \$3,500
- 33 Aloysius Yapp \$3,500
- 33 Ameer Ali \$3,500
- 33 Bernie Regaliaria \$3,500
- 33 Che-Wei Fu \$3,500
- 33 Denis Grabe \$3,500
- 33 Fitim Haradinaj \$3,500
- 33 Francesco Candela \$3,500
- 33 Francisco Sanchez-Ruiz \$3,500
- 33 Hunter Lombardo \$3,500
- 33 James Aranas \$3,500
- 33 Jani Uski \$3,500
- 33 Jonas Souto Comino \$3,500
- 33 Kledio Kaci \$3,500
- 33 Konrad Juszczyszyn \$3,500
- 33 Kun Lin Wu \$3,500
- 33 Marco Teutscher \$3,500
- 33 Moritz Neuhausen \$3,500
- 33 Mustafa Alnar \$3,500
- 33 Oliver Szolnoki \$3,500
- 33 Pin-Yi Ko \$3,500
- 33 Ping Han Ko \$3,500
- 33 Po Cheng Kuo \$3,500
- 33 Ri Teng Liu \$3,500
- 33 Robbie Capito \$3,500
- 33 Roland Garcia \$3,500
- 33 Sanjin Pehlivanovic \$3,500
- 33 Toh Lian Han \$3,500

## Jun 06 - Jun 09

### Dallas 8-Ball League 16th Anniversary 8-Ball

#### Stixx And Stones Billiards

Lewisville, Texas

- 1 Greg Sandifer \$1,230
- 2 Friday Abismo \$900
- 3 Ryan Braselman \$600

- 4 Shane McMinn \$300
- 5 Christian Young \$180
- 5 Curtis Tidmore \$180
- 7 Jason Gladden \$120
- 7 Ruben Adame \$120
- 9 Chase LaFerney \$70
- 9 Jamie Tidmore \$70
- 9 Johnny Garcia \$70
- 9 Pat Adams \$70

## Jun 06 - Jun 09

### Dallas 8-Ball League 16th Anniversary 9-Ball

#### Stixx And Stones Billiards

- Lewisville, Texas
- 1 Shane McMinn \$435
  - 2 Christian Young \$325
  - 3 Greg Sandifer \$220
  - 4 Jesse Wilcoxson \$110

## Jun 06 - Jun 09

### Dallas 8-Ball League 16th Anniversary One Pocket

#### Stixx And Stones Billiards

- Lewisville, Texas
- 1 Roman Bayda \$1,305
  - 2 Gus Briseno \$770
  - 3 Shane McMinn \$500
  - 4 Clint Freeman \$200

## Jun 06 - Jun 09

### Dallas 8-Ball League 16th Anniversary Banks Ring Game

#### Stixx And Stones Billiards

- Lewisville, Texas
- 1 Roman Bayda \$325
  - 2 Chris Smith \$195
  - 3 Randy Staggs \$130

## Jun 06 - Jun 09

### Dallas 8-Ball League 16th Anniversary Juniors 18 & Under Boys

#### Stixx And Stones Billiards

- Lewisville, Texas
- 1 William Banda \$125
  - 2 Gavin Mathew \$75
  - 3 Lee Arroyo \$50

## Jun 06 - Jun 09

### Dallas 8-Ball League 16th Anniversary Juniors 18 & Under Girls

#### Stixx And Stones Billiards

- Lewisville, Texas
- 1 April Gonzales \$45
  - 2 Kiley Mullenix \$30
  - 3 Katelyn Schultz \$20

## Jun 06 - Jun 09

### Dallas 8-Ball League 16th Anniversary Juniors 16 & Under Boys

#### Stixx And Stones Billiards

- Lewisville, Texas
- 1 Lucah Gianino \$170
  - 2 William Banda \$105
  - 3 Lee Arroyo \$70

## Jun 08 - Jun 09

### JPNEWT Tour 2024 Stop #4

#### Concord, NH

- 1 Ashley Benoit \$800
- 2 Briana Miller \$625
- 3 Savannah Easton \$450
- 4 Stacie Bourbeau \$300
- 5 Amanda Soucy \$130
- 5 Erica Testa \$130
- 7 Sandy Cheng \$80
- 7 Shuang Gao \$80

## Jun 08 - Jun 09

### Q City 9-Ball Tour Stop

#### Dot's Cue Club

- Rocky Mount, NC
- 1 Tommy Prater \$650
  - 2 Eddie Altamonte \$450
  - 3 Ron Sellers \$250
  - 4 Jose Irizarry \$130
  - 5 Delton Howard \$55
  - 5 Glenn Weatherly \$55

## Jun 12 - Jun 15

### 2024 WPBA Biker Week Showdown

#### Winnie Bar and Billiards

- Laconia, NH

- 1 Jasmin Ouschan \$4,500
- 1 Monica Webb \$4,500
- 2 Kristina Zlateva \$2,500
- 2 Meng-Hsia Hung \$2,500
- 3 Kristina Tkach \$2,000
- 3 Loree Jon Hasson \$2,000
- 4 Briana Miller \$1,500
- 4 Caroline Pao \$1,500
- 5 Brittany Bryant \$1,250
- 5 Jennifer Barretta \$1,250
- 5 Savannah Easton \$1,250
- 5 Shanelle Loraine \$1,250
- 7 April Larson \$1,000
- 7 Emily Duddy \$1,000
- 7 Kelly Fisher \$1,000
- 7 Tzu-Chien Wei \$1,000

## Jun 12 - Jun 15

### Knight Shot 9-Ball Open

#### Jayson Shaw's Billiard Lounge

- 1 Joshua Filler \$15,000
- 2 Eklent Kaci \$8,000
- 3 Johann Chua \$4,000
- 3 Mickey Krause \$4,000
- 5 Jayson Shaw \$3,000
- 5 John Morra \$3,000
- 5 Jonas Souto Comino \$3,000
- 5 Sanjin Pehlivanovic \$3,000
- 9 David Alcaide \$1,750
- 9 Elliot Sanderson \$1,750
- 9 Kledio Kaci \$1,750
- 9 Mieszko Fortunski \$1,750
- 9 Pijus Labutis \$1,750
- 9 Ralf Souquet \$1,750
- 9 Robbie Capito \$1,750
- 9 Shane Van Boening \$1,750

## Jun 15 - Jun 15

### 2nd Annual Rack Race Event Eleven

#### The Rack & Grill III

- Aiken, SC
- 1 Josh Roberts \$1,000
  - 2 Robbie Shelley \$500
  - 3 Kim Davenport \$350
  - 4 Ian Jones \$150
  - 5 James Council \$100
  - 5 Richard Kilgore \$100
  - 7 Jason Finley \$80
  - 7 Justin Clark \$80

- 9 Chris Coleman \$50
- 9 George Spires \$50
- 9 Jamie Huggins \$50
- 9 Ricky Boughman \$50

## Jun 15 - Jun 16

### Q City 9-Ball Tour Stop

#### Breaktime Billiards

Cary, NC

- 1 Kelly Farrar \$700
- 2 Jose Irizarry \$480
- 3 Mark Bolton \$260
- 4 Jason Rogers \$160
- 5 Dona Selman \$110
- 5 Katie Bischoff \$110

## Jun 19 - Jun 23

### 2024 WPBA Soaring Eagle Masters

#### Soaring Eagle Casino & Resort

Mt. Pleasant, MI

- 1 Chieh-Yu Chou \$16,000
- 2 Kristina Tkach \$10,000
- 3 Marharyta Fefilava \$6,500
- 4 Allison Fisher \$4,500
- 5 Brittany Bryant \$3,500
- 5 Meng-Hsia Hung \$3,500
- 7 Kelly Fisher \$2,800
- 7 Pia Filler \$2,800
- 9 April Larson \$2,000
- 9 Janet Atwell \$2,000
- 9 JoAnn Mason Parker \$2,000
- 9 Tzu-Chien Wei \$2,000
- 13 Jasmin Ouschan \$1,500
- 13 Kristina Zlateva \$1,500
- 13 Miina Tani \$1,500
- 13 Savannah Easton \$1,500
- 17 Eleanor Callado \$1,100
- 17 Lonnie Fox-Raymond \$1,100
- 17 Nguyen Bich Tram \$1,100
- 17 Sara Miller \$1,100
- 17 Shui Ching Chiang \$1,100
- 17 Sofia Mast \$1,100
- 17 Veronique Menard \$1,100
- 17 Yuki Hiraguchi \$1,100

## Jun 21 - Jun 24

### Mezz Bucharest Open

#### Club IDM

Bucharest

- 1 Mickey Krause \$10,700
- 2 Hubert Lopotko \$4,815
- 3 Can Salim \$2,140
- 3 Oliver Szolnoki \$2,140
- 5 Cliff Castelein \$1,070
- 5 David Alcaide \$1,070
- 5 Francesco Candela \$1,070
- 5 Wiktor Zielinski \$1,070
- 9 Christos Papageorgiou \$535
- 9 Fabio Petroni \$535
- 9 George Antonakis \$535
- 9 Karl Gnadeberg \$535
- 9 Mika Immonen \$535
- 9 Talal Alblooshi \$535
- 9 Walter Laikre \$535
- 9 Yuma Dorner \$535
- 17 Andrea Grosso \$315
- 17 Anthony Vandenbussche \$315
- 17 Babken Melkonyan \$315
- 17 Cristian Surdea \$315
- 17 Daniel Kandi \$315
- 17 David Vaizman \$315
- 17 Dean Shields \$315
- 17 Dennis Laszkowski \$315
- 17 Dominik Zajac \$315
- 17 JJ Faul \$315
- 17 Joshua Filler \$315
- 17 Mario Valchev \$315
- 17 Mika van Berkel \$315
- 17 Mustafa Alnar \$315
- 17 Niklas Dohr \$315
- 17 Panagiotis Xypoliteas \$315
- 33 Alexandru Florescu \$175
- 33 Andrea Milioli \$175
- 33 Antonis Brabin \$175
- 33 Antonis Kakaris \$175
- 33 Gareth Esprit \$175
- 33 Georgi Georgiev \$175
- 33 Georgios Sofronis \$175
- 33 Ciprian Gandac \$175
- 33 Ioan Ladanyi \$175
- 33 Ioannis Charlaftis \$175
- 33 Mario Cardona \$175
- 33 Niels Feijen \$175
- 33 Quinten Pongers \$175
- 33 Ralf Souquet \$175
- 33 Spasian Spasov \$175

## Jun 22 - Jun 23

### NWPA Tour 2024 Stop 2

#### Golden Fleece

Everett, Washington

- 1 Molina Ortiz \$750
- 2 Regene Lane \$560
- 3 Iris Wang \$400
- 4 Suzanne Smith \$270
- 5 Angela Higgins \$170
- 5 Maryann McConnell \$170
- 7 Katherine Robertson \$100
- 7 Kathie MacDonald \$100
- 9 Andrea Turner \$80
- 9 Elaine Eberly \$80
- 9 Shaundra Radford \$80
- 9 Tylyn Holzapfel \$80

## Jun 22 - Jun 22

### West Coast Women's Tour 2024 Stop 2

#### Hard Times Billiards - Sacramento

Sacramento, CA

- 1 Gigi Callejas \$430
- 2 Samantha Shaw \$320
- 3 Lela Andrews \$230
- 4 Kim Cuarisma \$160
- 5 Cary Horner \$100
- 5 Khanh Ngo \$100
- 7 Donna May Bulandi \$50
- 7 Robin Roderick \$50

## Jun 22 - Jun 23

### 2024 DFW 9-Ball Tour Stop 6

#### Bearded Monkey

Forney, Texas

- 1 Clint Freeman \$1,050
- 2 Ricky Jaramillo \$710
- 3 Michael Pickering \$500
- 4 Gus Briseno \$310
- 5 Blake Lopez \$230
- 5 Max Sun \$230
- 7 Keith Diaz \$180
- 7 Roman Bayda \$180
- 9 Casey Dawson \$130
- 9 Jourdan Herzog \$130
- 9 Nam Tran \$130
- 9 Shawn Reilly \$130

## Jun 22 - Jun 23

### Q City 9-Ball Tour Stop

#### Mickey Milligan's Sports Bar

New Bern, NC

- 1 JT Ringgold \$600
- 2 Mac Harrell \$380
- 3 Wilson Dorsey \$200
- 4 Jim Courter \$100
- 5 Eddie Williams \$55
- 5 Joe Blanton \$55

## Jun 22 - Jun 22

### Predator Tri State Tour 2024 Stop

#### Shooters Family Billiards

Wayne, New Jersey

- 1 Jorge Decia \$800
- 2 Pascal Dufresne \$450
- 3 Gustavo Ardon \$215
- 3 Hunter Sullivan \$215
- 5 Aaron Butler \$100
- 5 Juan Pena \$100
- 5 Kevin Scalzitti \$100
- 5 Marc Lamberti \$100

## Jun 25 - Jun 30

### Maldives Open 2024

#### Maldives

- 1 Denis Grabe \$32,000
- 2 Alexandros Kazakis \$16,000
- 3 Carlo Biado \$8,000
- 3 Konrad Juszczyszyn \$8,000
- 5 Daniel Maciol \$4,500
- 5 Dimitris Loukatos \$4,500
- 5 Mario He \$4,500
- 5 Pin-Yi Ko \$4,500
- 9 Aleksa Pecelj \$2,000
- 9 Bader Al Awadi \$2,000
- 9 Fedor Gorst \$2,000
- 9 Jui An Hsu \$2,000
- 9 Michael Baoanan \$2,000
- 9 Ping-Chung Ko \$2,000
- 9 Sanjin Pehlivanovic \$2,000
- 9 Yip Kin Ling \$2,000
- 17 Aloysius Yapp \$1,000
- 17 Alvin Anggito \$1,000
- 17 Andri Januarta \$1,000
- 17 Aria Falahati \$1,000
- 17 Bernie Regaliaria \$1,000
- 17 Jeffrey Ignacio \$1,000
- 17 Johann Chua \$1,000
- 17 John Morra \$1,000

- 17 Jonas Magpantay \$1,000
- 17 Kun Lin Wu \$1,000
- 17 Mieszko Fortunski \$1,000
- 17 Naoyuki Oi \$1,000
- 17 Roman Hybler \$1,000
- 17 Sean Mark Malayan \$1,000
- 17 So Shaw \$1,000
- 17 Wojciech Szewczyk \$1,000
- 33 Abdullah Al-Enezi \$500
- 33 Ahmed Shiwaz \$500
- 33 David Zalman \$500
- 33 Hayato Hijikata \$500
- 33 Hui-chan Lu \$500
- 33 James Aranas \$500
- 33 Jerico Bonus \$500
- 33 Kaven Zarakani \$500
- 33 Laksh Sharma \$500
- 33 Lin Ta-Li \$500
- 33 Patrick Gonzalez \$500
- 33 Petr Urban \$500
- 33 Ping Han Ko \$500
- 33 Radoslaw Babica \$500
- 33 Tadasu Sugihara \$500
- 33 Thorsten Hohmann \$500

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# Upcoming Tournaments

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

## JULY/AUGUST

### 2nd Annual Jack Bryant Memorial Tournament

**Jul 06 - Jul 06**

Tony's Billiards  
Guelph, Ontario

### 2024 BEF Junior Nationals

**Jul 08 - Jul 13**

Oakley-Lindsay Center  
Quincy, Illinois

### 2024 The Americas Heyball Championships

**Jul 08 - Jul 11**

Oakley-Lindsay Center  
Quincy, Illinois

### West Coast Women's Tour 2024 Stop 3

**Jul 13 - Jul 13**

Diamond Billiards  
Modesto, California

### NWPA Tour 2024 Stop 3

**Jul 20 - Jul 21**

Bobalou Billiards  
Roseburg, Oregon

### WCBS Championship Poland 2024

**Jul 23 - Jul 29**

Kielce, Poland

### WPBA Iron City Invitational IV

**Jul 24 - Jul 28**

Iron City Billiards  
Birmingham, Alabama

### Tony Chohan's Big Easy Classic

**Jul 29 - Aug 04**

Buffalo's Billiards  
Jefferson, La

### TAOM Maxrack Nineball Helsinki Open

**Aug 01 - Aug 04**

Biljardi 247  
Helsinki

### European Open 2024

**Aug 06 - Aug 11**

Hotel Esperanto  
Fulda Germany

### 2024 US Women's Snooker Open

**Aug 09 - Aug 11**

Ox Billiards  
Seattle, Washington

### Shane vs Fedor 10-Ball Challenge

**Aug 15 - Aug 17**

Railyard Billiards  
Louisville, KY

### NWPA Tour 2024 Stop 4

**Aug 17 - Aug 18**

The Pocket  
Boise, Idaho

### 2024 U.S. Open 9-Ball Championship

**Aug 19 - Aug 24**

Harrah's Resort Atlantic City  
Atlantic City, NJ

### WPBA Surge Chicago Invitational

**Aug 22 - Aug 25**

Surge Billiards - Albany Park  
Chicago, IL

### West Coast Women's Tour 2024 Stop 4

**Aug 24 - Aug 24**

Buffalo Billiards  
Petaluma, California

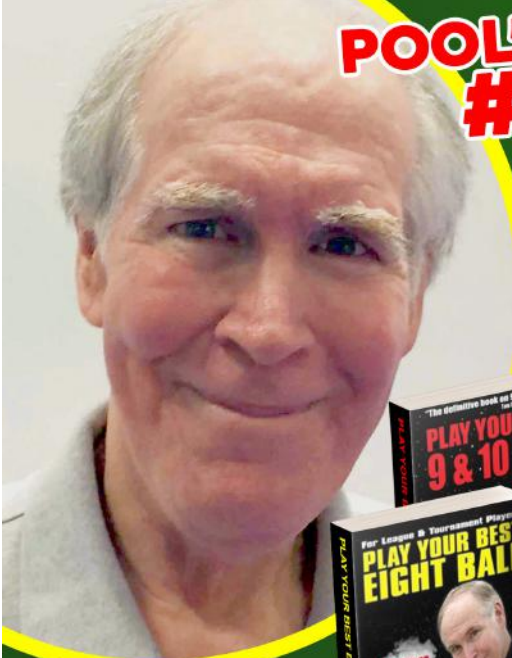
### Turning Stone Classic XXXIX

**Aug 29 - Sep 01**

Turning Stone Casino  
Verona, NY

# MONEY LISTS

	NAME	COUNTRY	\$ AMOUNT	
	Fedor Gorst	 USA	397.013,00 US\$	
	Joshua Filler	 GER	151.413,00 US\$	
	Eklent Kaci	 ALB	128.007,00 US\$	↑
	Shane Van Boening	 USA	110.138,00 US\$	
	Carlo Biado	 PHI	105.550,00 US\$	↓
	Chieh-Yu Chou	 TPE	62.750,00 US\$	↑
	Wiktor Zielinski	 POL	61.545,00 US\$	↑
	Francisco Sanchez-Ruiz	 ESP	58.877,00 US\$	↓
	Lee Vann Cortez	 PHI	58.400,00 US\$	↓
	Naoyuki Oi	 JAP	58.162,00 US\$	↓



**POOL'S #1** INSTRUCTIONAL AUTHOR


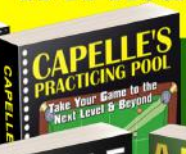



**Phil Capelle**

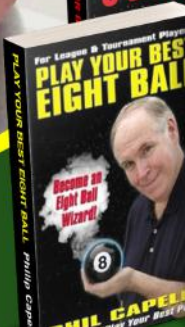

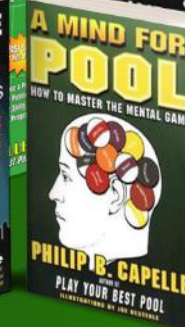


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PAT FLEMING PRESENTS

Nov. 18<sup>th</sup> - 26<sup>th</sup> 2024

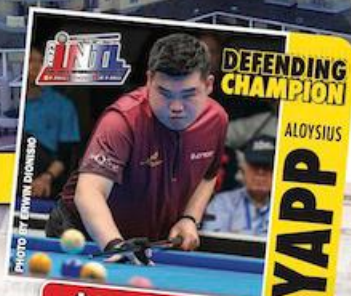
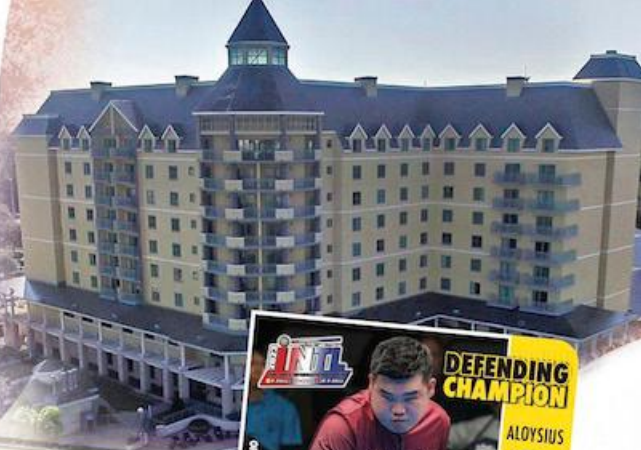
2024



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THE 2024 INTERNATIONAL OPEN

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Mon. Nov. 18 - Fri., Nov. 22

9 2024 INTERNATIONAL 9-BALL OPEN

128 Player Field — \$750 Entry — \$40,000 First Prize

TOTAL PRIZE FUND \$171,000, PAID TO THE TOP 32 PLAYERS — DOUBLE ELIMINATION (SINGLE ELIMINATION FINAL 16)

\$75,000 added

9 INTERNATIONAL 9-BALL SEMI-PRO OPEN

200 Player Field — \$125 Entry — \$6,000 First Prize

SINGLE ELIMINATION WITH A \$50 BUY-BACK

\$10,000 added

Sat. Nov. 23 - Sun. Nov. 24



BIG FOOT INVITATIONAL 10-BALL

8 Professional Players — \$500 Entry — \$4,000 First Prize

SINGLE ELIMINATION — 10-FOOT DIAMOND TABLE — TOP FOUR FINISHERS SHARE IN THE \$8,000 PURSE

\$4,000 added

Sat. Nov. 23 - Tues., Nov. 26

14 INTERNATIONAL STRAIGHT POOL OPEN

Formerly Peter Burrows' American 14.1 Straight Pool Championship

48 - 64 Players — \$400 Entry

ROUND ROBIN FORMAT — FINAL 16 WILL ADVANCE TO SINGLE ELIMINATION — FIRST PRIZE \$10,000

\$30,000 added

Wed. Nov. 20 - Fri., Nov. 22

JR 2024 JUNIOR 9-BALL INTERNATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP JR

16-PLAYER JUNIOR MEN'S and 8-PLAYER JUNIOR WOMEN'S DIVISIONS

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