

# Billiards Buzz

an **A Z B** publication

vol.4, Issue January 2019

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# Billiards Buzz

Volume 4, Issue #29

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# FROM THE Head Rail

MIKE HOWERTON

**A**nyone who reads this section every month (and honestly, who wouldn't?) knows that I can be VERY pessimistic about where the sport of Pro Pool is right now. Especially Pro Pool in the United States. With that being said, I can honestly say that I am more excited about the upcoming year than I think I have ever been.

2019 will see the first US Open ran by Matchroom Multi Sport, and we know they don't produce anything but quality events. Before that, Predator and CSI are producing the first World 10-Ball Championship to be held in the US. Taking place just before that event, is the WPA and CSI's \$50,000 WPA Player's Championship. Pat Fleming has plans for the 2nd US International Open. Then we finish up the year with the Mosconi Cup in the US, and Matchroom Multi Sport has already announced that the player prizes will go up by 50% this year.

I can't believe I am typing this, but the USA looks to be the place for Pro Pool in 2019. Don't pinch me, if I'm dreaming then I don't want to wake up.



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# Tips For Staying In Midwinter Form



**JERRY BRIESATH**

It's getting to the middle of the league season now and you want to work your way up through the standings so you can get that trip to Vegas. Getting your game up to top form requires frequent self checks. For instance, have I missed too many easy shots in the last few weeks and what angles do I seem to have problems with? If you see a pattern, go to a table and work on those shots.

Remember, missing an easy shot gives your opponent a free trip to the table. Not very many games are won because you make a very tough shot but rather most games are lost because you missed a shot you should be able to make.

I'm going to give you the definition of an easy shot. If the cue ball and the object ball are on the same end of the table and the angle of the shot is 45 degrees or less, you must make them all. If you miss any of these shots, practice them until you don't.

Another thing to think about is banking. I think you'll find that most of the banks you miss are short of the pocket. If that's the case, start hitting your banks as if you are going to bank them a little bit past the hole and you will make a lot more banks. Try this and you'll see that it works like magic because nine out of ten banks are missed short of the pocket.

Another thing to watch closely is the break. If you are like most eight ball players and try to hit the front ball dead center, watch what the cue ball does after it hits the front ball. If it bounces straight back towards you and stops you hit it perfect. If it flies to a rail at high speed it means your accuracy was bad and you lost a lot of energy in the balls. Usually you will be consistent, if the cue ball goes left

off the front ball three times in a row, start changing your aim a little bit to the right. And if the cue ball goes to the right at high speed three times in a row, change your aim a little bit to the left. Pros are always tweaking their break to get the cue ball to do what they want, and when you hit the front ball dead center, you want that cue ball to bounce straight back at you and stay in the middle of the table. If the cue ball does not hit a rail, you hit it perfect.

Good Luck  
—Jerry



# FOCUS AND IMAGERY FOR POOL SUCCESS

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



**Your ability to focus will make – or break – your ability to play pool at a high level. The good news is that regardless of your current level of play, you have every ability to develop your focus to that of a champion-level, and all it takes is the desire and discipline to want to improve in this area.**

## The basics of focus

**T**he idea of focus is that you can direct and sustain your attention toward a target that is important for future success. There are three focus orientations – past, present, and future. Players who focus on the past struggle to make shots in the moment, and this occurs when a player is still upset at the last shot he missed rather than bearing down on the present shot. Focusing too far ahead can also be a problem, especially if it means taking the current shot for granted. The ideal focus state, therefore, is on the next shot – the only one that matters in the moment.

It's also important to focus on things that you control (being ready to play), and letting go of things you don't control (your next opponent at the tournament). Having a strong focus means paying attention to things that are relevant (like chalking your cue), and ignoring things that are irrelevant (how many people are watching you play).

## See your success

Imagery is a powerful sport psychology tool you can use, and in its most



basic form it is simply using your mind to “see” yourself making shots and winning games. Of course, using imagery won't automatically make the balls go in the pockets, but by priming your mind and attention to focus on things you want to occur, your mind and body will synchronize and give you the best chance to play with confidence (and avoid disruptive anxiety).

Before you approach a shot take a moment to really “see” the table, including exactly what you want to happen as you address the cue ball. Make it a

habit to do this for every shot, and not only will your focus improve, but so too will your pace, confidence, and even resiliency when things don't go perfectly.

Remember, great athletes often separate from the pack because they do the little things others aren't willing to do. Developing focus is something that you can do, but you have to be willing and disciplined to actually do it. The good news is that for a game like pool, focus is often the difference-maker and can quickly take players to the highest levels of the sport.

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

# OVERCOMING ANXIETY WITH EFT

ANTHONY BEELER

Competition is an important part of the game of pool. For most of us, winning is a lot more than just winning, and losing means more than just losing. There is a lot of mental and emotional baggage attached to both sides of the coin. If you're a pro player, you are often admired, respected, and looked up to.

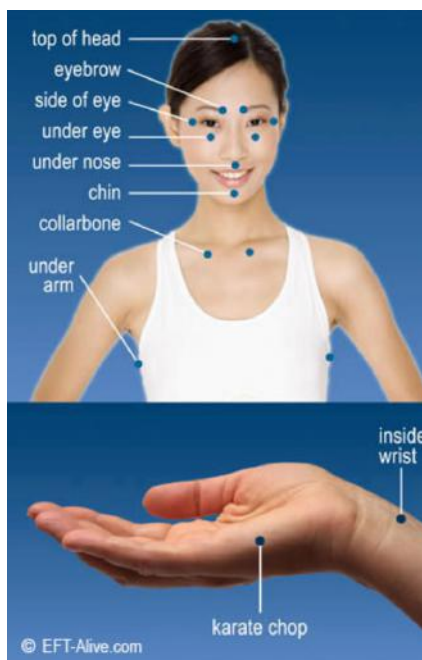
Losers, on the other hand, well, they're losers for a reason, and what do we usually call someone that we want to insult? A loser.

Needless to say, the fear of losing wreaks havoc with a player's ability to perform. According to many experts, "The Emotional Freedom Technique (EFT—also known as "tapping") was created by Gary Craig and works like emotional acupressure to quickly, gently, and easily release negative emotions and beliefs that are the root of all our problems and pain. EFT heals emotional problems by literally undoing damage from the past."

## EFT Basic Recipe:

**1. Select the Problem that You Would Like to Address** - Often, many of our mental game weaknesses are due to unhealed painful experiences that we have had in the past. One way to effectively remedy "negativity" is through the application of EFT to the painful memories that are at the root source of the problem.

In addition, it is also possible to use EFT to relieve negative in-the-moment emotions (e.g., anxiety, anger, sadness, discouragement, a fight with your teammate, etc.) that could be negatively affecting your game.



"EFT Tapping Points" - Photo Courtesy of EFT-Alive.com

**2. The EFT "Reminder Phrase"** - Come up with a short phrase used to refer to the painful memory or problem—the more specific, the better. We call this the "reminder" phrase because we will use it during the tapping process to stay focused on the memory or current problem. The way to create a reminder phrase for a memory is to give the memory a title, like the title of a movie.



## Examples:

- I'm furious at my opponent for sharking me during our last match (recent memory)
- Dad called me a "loser" when I lost the match (eight-year-old memory)
- I'm afraid of losing (current feeling)
- I do not trust my stroke (current feeling—though memories may need to be addressed)

**3. Rate the Intensity Level** - Assess on a 0 to 10 scale how painful the memory is or how intense the emotion is, where 0 is no intensity at all and 10 is the maximum intensity.

**4. Perform the "Set-up Affirmation"** - You do the set-up affirmation by saying a self-acceptance affirmation three times while tapping on the karate chop point.

The self-acceptance affirmation has the following form: "Even though \_\_\_\_\_, I deeply and profoundly accept myself." The blank is filled in with the reminder phrase that you came up with in step two. For example: "Even though I do not trust my stroke, I deeply and profoundly accept myself."

**5. The EFT Tapping Sequence** - Perform two passes through all ten points: Say the reminder phrase while quickly tapping on each point. You will say the reminder phrase once per point. This is just the reminder phrase without the “even though” and “I deeply and profoundly accept myself.”

**6. Reassess the Intensity Level** - Re-assess the negative level of the memory or negative feeling on a scale of 0 to 10. If the tapping is working, your negativity level should come down around 1 to 3 points per basic recipe. It may come down even more.

**7. Repetition** - Repeat steps four through six to apply another EFT Basic Recipe to the memory or painful emotions. Keep repeating the EFT Basic Recipe until there is zero pain associated with the painful memory or the negative emotion.

“ **PEOPLE ATTEMPTING EFT FOR THE FIRST TIME TEND TO HAVE AROUND A 50 PERCENT SUCCESS RATE, WHICH IS ACTUALLY PRETTY AMAZING WHEN YOU THINK ABOUT IT.** ”

If you try this on your own, you may experience complete relief in around ten minutes of tapping and see a big improvement in your game! You may also experience partial results or no results at all.

People attempting EFT for the first time tend to have around a 50 percent

success rate, which is actually pretty amazing when you think about it. On the other hand, half the people will experience little or no benefit on their own initially. However, if you work with an experienced EFT practitioner, your success rate will likely be near the 90th percentile.

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

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The banner features three yellow billiard balls with the letters A, Z, and B. Below them, the text 'MARKETPLACE' is written in large yellow letters, with 'The Official Billiard Supply For AZBers' underneath. The background shows several pool cues, including one with the 'P3 REVO' logo and a tiger graphic. In the bottom right corner, there is a logo for 'SEYBERTS.COM' featuring a pool ball with the number 8 and the text 'SEYBERTS BILLIARD SUPPLY'.



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# Tina Malm

**Tina Malm (formally Pawloski) is one of the fiercest female pool competitors around. Although she is tough on the table, she is a sweetheart off the table. But it's her passion and understanding of the game that is impressive. Plus, her outlook is different than most, as you will see from this interview. I am excited you all get to know her better!**

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

I grew up in Lexington, Nebraska, but was born in San Diego, California – my father was in the Navy. I didn't thrive in Nebraska to say the least, and took the first opportunity to move back to San Diego as soon as I could.

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

It was the summer of 1992. I had walked into a serious pool room, 'On

Cue Billiards' in San Diego, California, and knew I just wanted to play as good as all of those I saw play around me. I was 17 at the time, and I was about to go into my senior year of high school.

**Q:** You are currently enrolled in school - what degree are you going for?

I am currently taking classes from Pennsylvania State University. I am almost finished! The major is in Organizational Leadership with a minor

in Labor and Employment Relations. I plan on working in Human Resources.

**Q:** Do you play other sports other than pool?

Is poker a sport? :) I play tennis, and have enjoyed learning the game. It is more difficult to practice than pool, as you always need a partner. It gets boring practicing against a wall, and tedious to match schedules with someone else.

**Q:** I've always been impressed with how many titles you own. Did you happen to have goals to win certain tournaments?

Yes, actually :). There were three tournaments I had set for a goal for myself when I first started playing. Those were to be a California State 9 Ball Champion, a WPBA Amateur Nationals Champion, and a BCA Master's 8 Ball Champion (this is before they had a Grandmaster division). I won the first in 1999, the second in 2005, and with the third, the closest I came was 2<sup>nd</sup>, behind Mary Rakin in 2009.

**Q:** Quite a list, wow! And besides those titles, tell us about the Championships you have won.

I have multiple State Championships in every game, as well as being crowned the Tour Champion of four different women's tours in completely different regions of the country.

**Q:** That's impressive! So that leads me to ask, what has been your most coveted title or accomplishment?

The WPBA Amateur Nationals. I followed that tournament around the country *for years* until I finally won it in Tulsa, OK in 2005. I played the tournament in San Francisco a couple times, Myrtle Beach, NC, LA, I cannot remember where else, lol.

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

It was back in '94 I think, one year after I started playing. My boyfriend and I had gone to Tommy DiLorenzo's pool room in Arizona to play a tournament. It was that event where I had drawn my first female pro, Mary Kenniston. I was quite nervous and a little scared. My boyfriend at the time (who was a top player) gave me some advice. He told me to just push out to an easy shot on the one ball. He told me, "She'll make a few balls,



Copyright Ashi Fachler, 2005

and then when she misses late in the rack, you'll only have a ball or two to pocket."

I did what he said, and I pushed out to an easy shot on the one ball. Mary made that ball, and ran out. She then proceeded to break and run the next two racks! After the third rack, I looked back at him with a big scowl on my face and he looked at me with a big smile, shaking his head, silently saying "Sorry, so sorry!" multiple times, lol.

BTW, Kudos to Mary!

You see, it was my boyfriend's belief that Mary, pro or no, played so badly, and instructing me to play this push out stunt against her, is fodder for the obstacle I still struggle to overcome.

[You'll read more about this later.]

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

I like playing the women's regional tour championships, because I really enjoy round robin formats.

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

Oh, my goodness, PRACTICE. I had lost my focus and will to play in 2006,

but before that, I practiced longer and harder than most people I knew. That is why a lot of women who see me play at events can attest to always seeing me on an open table hitting balls. I have been called the "hardest working pool player" at many tournaments. I do this because historically I had always caught that gear over HOURS of playing. I have always been a feel player, and not very methodical. Feel is not something you can do by just walking in and starting to play. I am usually at the events when doors open, as I have to have hit a substantial number of balls before the first match.

I started practicing with intention again at the end of 2015. Unfortunately, only until recently I have come to find out there was a lot I could have been doing better.

**Q:** Why did you lose the will to play in 2006?

I had been playing full time on the Women's Professional Billiard Association (WPBA) pro tour, and had played 5 stops going into the Hollywood Florida Hard Rock event. I had been financing this myself, but had been told by two different people that they were going to/wanted to sponsor me. By stop 6, I was realizing they were nev-

er going to sponsor me - it was all talk. I was very stressed out by the Hard Rock event, as expenses every time I flew to the east coast were substantial. Additionally, I would have to fly in a day before to be able to make the player's meeting on Wednesdays when they were held, as I came from San Diego. Hotel was from Tuesday-Sunday, and the cost of this was almost 1,000 each tournament. Airfare was around 400, entry fee was 500 dollars, plus transport and food.

When I was playing (what would be my last pro match for the next 11 years) against Jennifer Barretta, I looked up in the stands to see a few other pro players laughing at my poor play - jeering at the culmination of the stress, broken promises, and rising debt that had surfaced through how I played that match. I also knew I had to do better than 5th place to get my money back, as the pro tour (like most pro tours) didn't pay a lot. It was at this time I had had enough, and came home and almost threw my cue in the closet. If it weren't for the APA, which at least kept me playing in the league system once a week, I wouldn't have played at all for a very long time.

**Q:** I think a lot of us have been through very similar experiences at some point in our journey that makes us want to quit. I am so sorry you went through that. I have to say you were still VERY successful from 2006 to 2015 even though you had taken a break from practicing "with intention." Why do you think that is?

When I stopped playing in 2006, I was surprised and happy to find out that the level that I was left with when not constantly practicing was just fine for me. It was with no practice I actually won a few semi-pro events again in 2010, plus the 2nd place finishes at both the 2009 BCA Master's 8 Ball and the 2010 US Bar Table Championships in 8 Ball and 9 Ball.



Dustin and Tina

**Q:** And what was the catalyst to get you back "practicing with intention" again?

After I had my daughter in 2014, I went into the pool room one day to hit balls on the regulation 9' foot tables, where I had played decently well on before. For whatever reason, that level I was left with that I enjoyed with no effort... was gone. I could never accept that level I was playing at in 2014, so I practiced with purpose and drive for the first time in 8 years to change that.

**Q:** Do you consider yourself a pro player?

[Tina laughs a little] Ah, that's a good question. When I am asked that directly, you can see in my face I don't know how to answer that. On one hand, I am ranked in the top 32 in the US. I definitely at times have a top pro level speed within me. I am the North American Pool Tour (NAPT) Regional Tour Champion for 2017, so that places me as one of the top semi-pro la-

dies in the nation. Hmm, pro. I used to play on the WPBA pro tour from 1999 to 2006. In that time I was getting seasoned and getting better with each tournament, but there's definitely a difference between playing on the pro tour and being "pro level." All of this goes to say that there really isn't a clear definition of what being a pro is, so I am not sure of the answer, lol. Perhaps if you have to wonder about it, maybe you just aren't.

**Q:** Okay, so you don't consider yourself a pro, but yet you played on the WBPA Tour? Explain that, please.

Back when I played on the tour, you had to qualify to get on. There were only two ways for non-pro's to earn a qualifying spot to play on the WBPA Tour: (1) win a qualifier at certain tournaments on regional ladies tours or (2) by winning a State Championship. I got on a lot because I used to consistently win the semi-pro events I played in all over the country. Then, in 2005 I set a goal to play full time on

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the WPBA Tour. Non-pro's could win a full-time spot on the tour if you were crowned as a Tour Champion (the player on a regional tour who was ranked first place on the end-of-year standings). So, I flew down to AZ every month to play their regional tour, the Arizona Women's Billiard Tour. And...I did end up winning their tour that year and earned a full-time spot on the WPBA Tour for 2006.

**Q:** That's quite a feat! Congrats! Besides that final match experience of the WBPA, how was it overall to play on the tour?

In all, I have played in probably 15 pro events. I enjoyed playing on the WPBA Tour. I had a friend, Megan Smith, with whom I traveled to all the tournaments. She made integrating and meeting with the other women easier as she knew most everyone because she was from the east coast. However, not many of the women were "welcoming" you could say. The only two women who always spoke to me with warmth in their voices and smiles on their faces were Allison Fisher and Jennifer Barretta.

I did finally start finding a groove, but had a lot of preconditioning to over-

come. It was beat into my head early on from everyone who surrounded me in the pool room that women couldn't win. I had always looked at women as inferior pool players, counting myself amongst that number of course. I remember one match in Prescott, AZ where Melissa Little trounced me, just beat me so fast and so easily, maybe a 25-minute match. She played great, and it was then that my mindset had started to switch from what was ingrained into me from all the men around me who talked about how badly even the top women played, and how they could give them the 5 out, etc.

**Q:** Hmm... Let's talk about that some more: the perception of female players.

Well, I hinted about this a couple of times already, but because it is important to me and it's a big part of what I went through, I will delve deeper into it.

I started playing pool in 1992, before there were many widely respected dominant female players. The pool room where I started, it was just a statement of fact that women played so far under men. That is why when I

started playing pool I developed such a big stroke. I wanted to play as good as the men, and when looking around myself I saw a lot of women rolling in balls, and not able to come with big outside English draw shots that bent off rails. I spent hours practicing these and other shots to set me apart from other women. This both helped and hurt me years later (but that is later).

Fast forward to the Jay Swanson Memorial Tournament, I am not sure the exact year, but it was in the early 2000s. Late into the day, I had drawn local San Diego favorite Victor Castro (Ignacio), who had won the Jay Swanson Memorial Tournament just the previous year. From the year I started playing pool, Victor, along with Louis Ulrich, Jay Swanson, and Steve Eakins were all top players. I played well, and was handily beating him in a race to 9. It was around 7-3 me that I started realizing that I WAS BEATING VICTOR CASTRO. I AM NOT SUPPOSED TO BEAT VICTOR CASTRO. I started getting really nervous, but somehow still won. I semi-hyperventilated after because I could not believe I had beat him! I then drew Steve Eakins the next match, and was beating him as well. It was at the end of that match I just fell apart, because this performance was running completely counter to what I had been told or heard in the little conversations around me, or inferred in the little laughing jabs or jokes over time, for years.

It was this way of thinking that held me back still on the women's pro tour. Because the women are supposed to play so poorly, *I'll get another shot*. I played these women not as hard, not with the attitude that "if I miss, I'll lose" like I do when I play the men. And, sure enough, I found out the hard way that yes, the women do play well and will run out.

**Q:** That's so interesting and intriguing, wow. And how are you doing with that lately?

This mindset prevailed, believe it or not, even as I moved to MD just in 2016. I had the opportunity to play both a men's and women's event in the same day often. I would go and play the men's match way better, and win, placing deep in these events. I would then go and play a woman in the ladies' event with a Fargo score almost 50 less points than myself and would be struggling trying to win still ahead, but barely. There is a mental disconnect that over time has led me to effectively have two sides of myself. I had tried lying to myself by stating, *if I miss, I lose*, but then, at these semi-pro events, that just wasn't the case – I'd get a shot, then another. I tried super focusing, but that just wasn't it either, although that sounds like that would have been the answer. It finally came down to understanding that I wasn't playing women with that fire in my chest, that aching desire to win. I mean – I wanted to win, everyone does. But, when I played the men, I had a burning deep down feeling to win, and with the women, I did not. Also, with the men, I knew that actually, yes – if I miss, I lose. I have learned how to manufacture that fire, but to do it sometimes takes a lot of extra effort (that then takes mental energy away from my game).

It really hit home for me how much I had been influenced by my way of thinking from my early beginnings at 17 when I sat down with my friend Steve McQueen (his actual name!) from San Diego about 3 years ago. He was one of those amazingly talented players at 13 years old I met when I first started playing. I asked him what it was that made him so good – what did he see that many others didn't? He turned to me and said flatly,

“It never occurred to me that I couldn't beat Efren.”

And there it was. His mind was fully unrestrained and so his performance was unhindered.

It is great to look around me now to see a lot of our juniors coming into the sport finding many dominant females for which to look up to such as Siming Chen (my favorite), Ga Young Kim and many others. These young ladies coming up in the game are not hearing the same conversations I had once heard.

One great experience I had recently was when I was in Frederick, MD at an Action Pool Tour event. I was standing in a circle of about 8 guys. Karen Corr was playing in this event, and she came up close to where we were standing to report her win to the tournament director and walked away. One of the guys was like, “THAT was Karen Corr! How awesome, she stepped so close to me!” Two others in the group were talking about how dominant her play was to the group and how much of a force she was to be reckoned with. I smiled while listening to these men speak and thought how wonderful that this new dialog is being brought about by such stellar play, and how that was a welcomed respite to the attitudes of the past I had been around.

**Q:** What a great conversation to hear! So, you recently took a lesson with Oscar Dominguez. Let's delve into that a bit. Why did you want a lesson after all these years of being so successful?

Like I said before, I started really trying to practice and play again in 2014. I started practicing a lot, and when I moved to Maryland in 2016, I had the opportunity to play a lot more events. I realized that for all the practicing, I wasn't really improving. This has been a constant for a while now. But, I would get those little flashes of greatness, so I felt like the answer was to just play a lot. However, I knew there must be a better way. I also knew to do this I had to become less of a feel player and instead more methodical. On my own, I had already started

to get rid of the Filipino stroke I was known for, opting instead for a stroke that came straighter into the cue ball.

**Q:** Wait, wait wait....before we go on, tell the fine folks what you mean by “Filipino stroke,” for those who haven't seen you compete in person or on a stream.

Hahah. Well, a Filipino stroke is one where the back elbow moves up and down (sometimes fast), yet the cue gradually slows down and then comes into the ball smoothly. It is definitely a good-looking stroke, and I had been told that coupled with the big stroke I utilized, that I was very intimidating to my opponents. To be a better player I had to let this go in favor of something I felt like needed less “feel” to perform, and therefore something more consistently repeatable.

**Q:** Thank you. Okay, back to the lessons.

Okay, so I had tried taking lessons when I first started playing pool. My first instructor in his first lesson tried to get me to play exactly how he played, instead of taking what I do naturally well and building on that. I knew that I didn't have to play his exact style, and felt the lesson and money was wasted. I had tried to find the right instructor for me a couple more times, but had never found what I was looking for. Everything I have done currently up until a couple of months ago I learned myself or by watching.

I wanted to try to take a lesson again after seeing so many of our young players having coaches. I had approached Oscar in the beginning of 2017 if he wouldn't mind helping me, and he agreed. He moved away shortly after to Las Vegas. In July 2018, I took a lesson from Jeremy Jones, which was always meant to be a one-time thing. I wanted extended help however and scheduled with Oscar for three full days of instruction the next



Ava and Tina

month in Las Vegas. I was blown away by the things I didn't know! I wanted to cry for all the years that I spent (26 years) not getting instruction that could have helped me be a much better player sooner.

What I would tell anyone reading this, is that instruction is SO important. But, the key is to find an instructor (at least for me) that had a similar style to my own. Or, at the very least, they understand that there are many styles that lead to great play. So, the lesson is to keep looking for someone to help you, even if you have to go through many options. Also, remember that the best player, isn't always the best instructor. Going along with that, the best instructor for you, doesn't mean that they needed to be a top player themselves.

**Q:** This is really great advice for the readers! Btw, most people think it's kinda taboo to share they got lessons – but yet you easily shared about your lesson on social media. Why is that?

I wanted anyone reading to be inspired to seek instruction for themselves, and receive all the benefits I had myself.

**Q:** That's so impressive! And, how are you doing after the lesson? Because as many know, our game goes down before going back up after lessons.

It DOES! I knew this of course. I bought myself my very first table, a beautiful Brunswick Gold Crown 4, and with that I have been doing so much better because I am getting to practice what Oscar showed me. I still at this early stage since getting the instruction, still revert a few steps back, as I am still working to implement the many things I learned. I feel still quite in flux, and probably won't feel solid for a while yet, but I am so much more consistent, and am playing better than I ever had.

**Q:** And finally, why do you recommend getting a lesson no matter the maturity of one's game?

Everyone can learn something! Oscar showed me during our three days together the drills that were asked of them to complete during the Mosconi Cup boot camp. He explained how much he had learned, and got out of the experience. We all have room to improve, you just need to be open wholeheartedly to it, and do the difficult work. You must also be accepting

of the performance lull that will follow and do not revert to make it easier. We all know that there will be a lull, but not many are willing to suffer through it.

**Q:** Many players feel nervous and pressure to play in a match that will be streamed. I asked you about this before for my blog, but can you share here why you announce on social media that you are about to play a match that will be streamed, and why that doesn't bother you?

Wow, well, now it's because I have played on so many. But to put things in perspective, I like to ask, "Remember that match I lost in 2003 on the 3<sup>rd</sup> stop of that so and so tour?" No? Neither do I! The thing about streaming is that those who watch you only form their opinions of you from maybe their last 3 times watching you play. If I play so poorly on the stream, those people and myself will forget about it soon enough. Secondly, I always focus on the people who love me that are watching. I always directly text a small group of people when I am playing and the link to the stream. I know they love watching me play, and support and love me no matter how I play. But really, now a lot of it has to do with because I have played so many times on a live feed.

**Q:** I just love your outlook so much! Btw, who is your sponsor?

I am a player representative for Lights Out Billiards, and am on their semi-pro team of sponsored players.

**Q:** You have helped me with mental advice over the years with my own game (thank you, btw, it was all very helpful!). Do you find yourself offering advice to friends a lot because of your experience? Why are you comfortable with that?

Yes! I have been hired by APA teams to come in and talk before compet-

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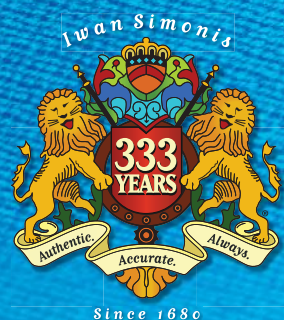
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ing for nationals. My mental game is well-honed over years of focused practice and reading many different books on the subject. When I was the Pro Instructor for the APA, I wrote an article about one facet of mental conditioning dealing with overcoming nervousness for their magazine. The link is here: <https://poolplayers.com/lesson-4-overcoming-nervousness-in-a-match/>

**Q:** I am so glad to hear you share your wisdom and experience with so many people through many different avenues! And do you give lessons?

I do!

**Q:** How did you and Dustin meet?

I met Dustin near the beach in San Diego while going to see a friend of mine play in a band. He was there with his brother and his brother's new girlfriend. Dustin's brother saw that I was standing and had nowhere to sit in the cramped venue, and offered me a seat. We met in 2012, and were married in 2013. I am very happy and feel very lucky to have found him.

**Q:** Your beautiful daughter, Ava, is four years old now. Did you always want to be a Mom?

I had not. I never knew if I wanted to be a Mom, but was scared of the not knowing, too. What I didn't want was to be 45 and look back with regret. She is amazing and she is the very best thing I have ever done!

**Q:** Explain how tough it is to be a military wife (Dustin is in the Marines), as Dustin has been gone for long stretches at a time.

Hmmm. Many spouses complain about how hard it is. I just knew it was something that had to happen, so I buckled down and just did what needed to be done. I didn't think a lot about the rest of it.

**Q:** You have lived in San Diego most of your life, but moved to the MD for a bit after getting married, and then moved back to San Diego. How was that transition?

Dustin's orders led us to Maryland, and then when he got his degree, the Marine Corps moved us back to San Diego. I thought it was going to be difficult in Maryland, but, I ended up loving it so much, for all the wonderful people I met, I am sad to be back in San Diego. (Wow!)

**Q:** Did you think you would still play pool after Ava was born?

Yes. Somewhere during this last 26 years I figured out that I was never going to truly quit playing this game.

**Q:** How do you find time to compete in tournaments out of state?

I have a wonderful husband who is very supportive of my playing pool, and I am very supportive of his love for riding motorcycles. It's important for the health of relationships for couples to support each other in their hobbies and interests.

**Q:** Who have been the most important people in your pool career?

The people to me that has been most important are my closest friends and supporters – those who are by my side *no matter what*. My two notable people are Amanda Lampert and Freddie Agnir. I get through the rough patches and the devastating loses with their support and love.

**Q:** What goals do you have (on and off the table)?

I don't want to be the number one player, or be as good as Allison. I like the Fargo rate system, because there is now a quantifiable way to judge one's level. Saying that, I would like to be in the 640-670 range. I think that is realistic and doable. Previous

to Fargo rate, when I was playing the pro tour and winning a lot of semi-pro events, I wanted to earn a cover on *Billiards Digest*.

**Q:** I have noticed that you excel at every job you have had (including pool, of course :). And by that I mean exceptionally know your job well, more than most, inside and out, and you always took care of the customers. Where do you think you gained your worth ethic from?

Thank you. I really do have a strong work ethic. It comes from believing that my work is a personal statement of who I am, so it has to be the best I can do.

**Q:** That's really awesome. And finally, what is your favorite quote or words you live by?

Words I live by are – I always do what I say I am going to do when I say I am going to do it. This is a matter of character for me and I take this promise very seriously.

**Your attitude, wisdom, outlook, and character have always impressed me, and I am so thankful you said yes to this interview so others can get a glimpse of it. Thank you so much, Tina!**

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



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



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# Team USA Wins Mosconi Cup

## DAY ONE

In a thrilling night of pool at Alexandra Palace, Team USA got the better of things to run out 3-2 leaders after the first day of the 25th annual partypoker Mosconi Cup. Lead by former European team captain Johan Ruijsink and his trusted lieutenant Jeremy Jones, the Americans showed plenty of resolve to fight back from 2-0 down in some intimidating conditions at the iconic London venue.

Marcus Chamat, the European captain, will have his mettle tested to-

tomorrow as he attempts to revive his team's fortunes after a sobering second half of the evening where his team won only four of the 19 racks played.

Ruijsink said, "At 2-0 down I wasn't panicking; we didn't really get that many chances. If we did get a chance, though, I knew we'd do better because we'd done better these last couple of weeks and months."

The opening match of the tournament featured all ten players in the traditional team match and it was

Europe who took the point in a game that went all the way. Having lost the opener, the USA needed a strong showing in the next but it didn't come as Skyler Woodward scratched on the break twice and Thorpe consequently had few opportunities.

That allowed the solid European pairing of Albin Ouschan and Jayson Shaw to coast ahead and complete a nice 5-1 victory to take the score to 2-0.

23-year-old rookie Tyler Styer was sent out into the bearpit next to face four-time MVP Niels Feijen of Holland.



Feijen has an outstanding singles record in this event but he couldn't carry it into this match as the youngster from Wisconsin rode his luck and played with a calmness that belied the circumstances to run out a 5-3 winner.

"It felt amazing out there, I appreciate the crowd – without them we wouldn't be here," said a composed Styer to Sky Sports presenter Andy Goldstein.

"I told coach Johan I wanted that match so I'm glad I got the pick and I'm glad I got the W. I knew I had to keep it simple, in the last rack I knew I had to shoot the 6/7 combo, you have to be aggressive in a race to 5.

"It looks good to see my name in red on the scoreboard. I have watched the Mosconi Cup every year since I've been playing pool and it is great to be here."

Ruijsink added, "After 2-0 down you don't really expect Tyler to beat Niels as he's a great player. But he turned it around and played great, beating Niels with his own weapons like the jump. And he stayed cool and after that we were flying.

There was more joy for the Americans in the penultimate match as veterans



Shane Van Boening and Corey Deuel took down the two European debutants Alexander Kazakis and Klenti Kaci. The Albanian World No.1 didn't look that comfortable in the vast, packed arena and the American duo took full advantage to complete a 5-1 victory.

That took the score to 2-2 and with Van Boening up next against Jayson Shaw, it afforded the USA the opportunity to take a first day lead for the first time since 2012. And that is what transpired as Van Boening looked a different man

from his last few Mosconi Cup outings as he put the hurt on the Scotsman with a 5-0 win to carry the evening in the USA's favour.

Commented the American captain, "We know our players, we know how good we are and we know our strengths, and we keep supporting each other and helping each other out. After today we can celebrate a bit but we realise that we still need eight more points to win the Cup. Tomorrow the plan is to win the day and play a little bit better."

European captain Marcus Chamat reflected, "I'm really proud of the guys, they played good. We're down 3-2 but there's still a long way to go. We didn't have luck on our side in a few matches and that's all it takes. This is part of sport, sometime you win matches and sometime you lose. We'll try and improve the things we can improve and it will be good if we can win the session tomorrow."

**DAY TWO**

There was more drama on Wednesday evening at the Alexandra Palace as the partypoker Mosconi Cup continued with five more matches. In the





end it was another 3-2 session win for Team USA and at the half-way stage, the seemingly impossible American victory is now a possibility.

USA captain Johan Ruijsink said, “After the first match we showed we were a team by picking up the next point immediately and get back in the lead.

“It was a nervous day because it was important that if we won two days, and I know a lot of people wouldn’t have thought this before we started, but we now actually have a chance to win the Mosconi Cup.

“That’s how important it was. We don’t care what they do, we don’t care

what the audience does, we don’t care about anybody, we just care about us,” he added.

With another 2,000-plus crowd in attendance the atmosphere was like nothing else seen in pool and in a high-tension opener, Jayson Shaw avenged his 0-5 defeat to Shane Van Boening the previous night with a superb 5-2 win against the American. The Scotsman’s adrenalin was coursing as he entered the arena and it ultimately worked for him as he fired up the crowd up to new heights.

Every step of the way Shaw urged the huge crowd on, celebrating every success and when he downed the final 9 there was pandemonium as the overall score moved to 3-each.

Van Boening however, had a trick up his sleeve as he returned in the next match accompanied by Skyler Woodward to secure an outstanding come-from-behind victory over Niels Feijen and Kazakis. Trailing 1-3 things looked ominous but the American



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duo clawed back the racks as the Euros wilted.

That restored the American's one-point lead before Albin Ouschan put in an ice-cool performance to beat veteran Corey Deuel 5-3 and get the crowd back on song.

Commented the Austrian star, "I felt really good. Jason gave me so much power in the previous match against Shane so I was feeling really good and I was ready for it. I could never do what Jayson does [around the table], because for him it gives him extra power but for me it gives me extra pressure. I am just staying calm like an iceman."

Parity didn't last long as the stylish youngster Tyler Styer, coupled with Billy Thorpe, dominated to beat Klenti Kaci and Jayson Shaw to put the US 5-4 ahead. Kaci was a bundle of nerves and made some telling mistakes whilst his fellow debutant, Styer was as cool as he was in his singles win against Niels Feijen the day before. The Wisconsin native was calmness personified as he coached his partner through some tricky moments and the US duo thoroughly deserved the point.

The final match was a telling win for America as Billy Thorpe completed a miserable double for Klenti Kaci to give the USA a two-point lead at the halfway stage. Kaci never looked at ease in the arena and made a couple of glaring misses to assist Thorpe.

The Ohioan though, played with fire as he sensed Kaci's discomfort as the match slipped away from him. In a night of celebrations, Thorpe's relief at the end was as good as anyone's.

With it all to do, European captain Marcus Chamat said, "There were a

lot of tight games today and unfortunately, we lost a few so we're down two days going onto day three. We made a few mistakes today, no doubt about it.

"And that's part of the game – if you make a few mistakes you pay for it and we did. Tomorrow is another day and obviously we need to win every game and we're trying to win every game, otherwise we wouldn't be here."

## DAY THREE

Team USA are just two points away from winning the partypoker Mosconi Cup for the first time since 2009 as they won their third session in a row following a hard-fought evening at the Alexandra Palace. Incredibly, 2005 at the MGM Grand, Las Vegas, was the last time that the USA had won three sessions in a row at the Mosconi Cup.

Having not won for such a long time, America were understandably massive outsiders at the outset of the event but now stand on the brink of a stunning upset as the galvanised team played with heart, grit and a huge amount of skill.

As the competition entered the crucial third day, the tension on the table was palpable. The opening doubles match, easily the longest of the





Like two of the other three matches tonight, it went to a decider and no one could have predicted what drama entailed.

After levelling the match at 4-4 with a 3/9 carom from a cluster of balls, Woodward was in the driving seat with the break. He missed a bank shot on the 1 ball to set up a run out for Shaw but he missed a sitter under pressure.

Woodward then had the Scotsman hooked and he fouled, failing to hit a rail. Woodward messed up though with ball in hand as he got too close to the 4 ball. He left Shaw in a tight spot though and his attempted jump collided with the black 8 and Woodward made no mistakes with his second ball in hand of the rack.

The final match saw the widest margin of the evening as Alexander Kazakis and Albin Ouschan stood strong and beat Shane Van Boening and Billy Thorpe 5-1 to give Europe a glimmer of hope heading into the final day.

## DAY FOUR

The partypoker MOSCONI CUP has changed hands for the first time in eight years as Team USA enjoyed a

Mosconi Cup so far, went right down to a decider as Tyler Styer and Skyler Woodward took the point from Niels Feijen and Albin Ouschan to increase the USA lead to three.

Woodward was back out next to face Alexander Kazakis and got another point on the board for the Americans. Kazakis, making his Mosconi Cup debut, looked under pressure as he struggled to take the advantage. A poor position on a 9 ball, followed by a missed bank into the centre pocket just about summed up his match.

In another full-bore match, Europe pulled one back in an epic encounter, winning in the deciding rack. Amazingly, it was Niels Feijen's first victory of the event as well as the first for his partner Klenti Kaci.

At 4-1 up, it looked odds on for the Europeans but their opponents, Corey Deuel and Tyler Styer, staged a gritty comeback which exemplified the US spirit this year. Feijen broke in the decider and a good safety from Kaci off the break left nothing on but a hit and hope 3/9 for Styer. It went awry though and with the balls out in the open, the European duo ran out for the win.

Kaci said, "That was a big point for us. If we lose that we are 9-4 down and

we probably didn't have a chance but now it is 8-5 and we are fighting."

Feijen added, "We had to really work hard for it and we did and, in the end, we finally got a reward after two days of hard work. The fans are right behind us and the atmosphere is unbelievable and we are enjoying every minute."

The penultimate match featured home hero Jayson Shaw squaring off against Skyler Woodward, carrying a hot cue from his earlier singles match. And what a match it was!





“It means a lot to me. We worked hard together and I learned a lot from all these guys and have become a better player. We all get along and respect each other and the other team and that is important and that’s why we won, through working hard together.”

The Americans had led 9-6 going into the final day after having won the three daily sessions 3-2 apiece – the first time since 2005. Euro captain Marcus Chamat understandably needed to pack his early order out with his biggest guns and he went with Albin Ouschan who had won his previous singles match on Wednesday.

He faced Skyler Woodward, who thus far was having a dream Mosconi Cup after such a disappointing time last year. Like so many of the matches this week, it went down to a decider and after some exchanges on the 1 ball, Woodward took out a great jump shot on the 1 ball to pocket it and set up a superb run-out to put Team USA on the hill.

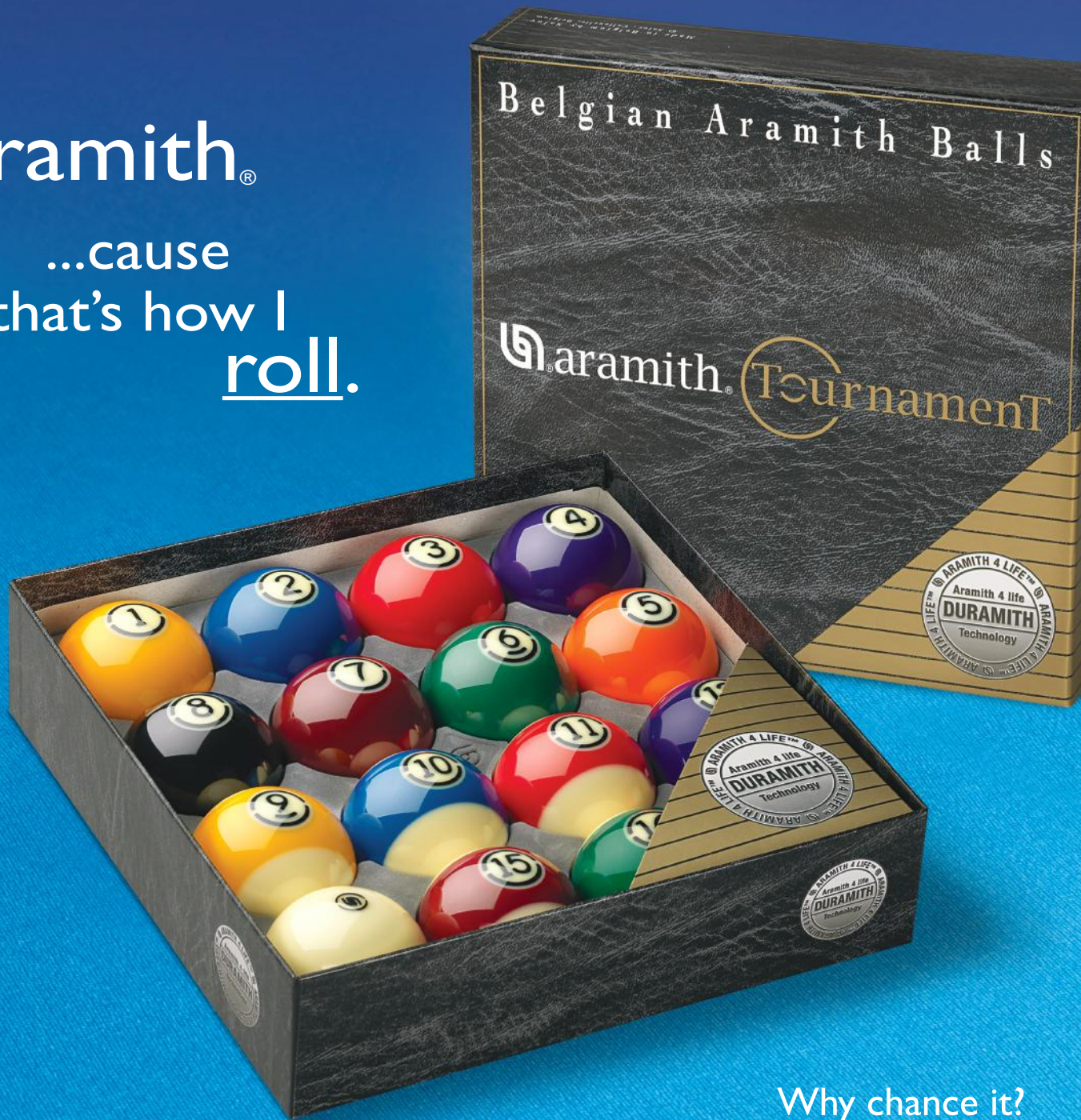
thrilling and dramatic 11-9 victory at the Alexandra Palace tonight. The last time they lifted the Cup was as long ago as 2009 and it was the same man – Shane Van Boening – who deposited the final 9 ball with a 3/9 combination to beat Alexander Kazakis and win the Cup.

For Van Boening it was his second MC win in 12 starts as his combo secured victory; “I’ve never felt so much pressure in my whole life, it was a guess shot! All those years struggling and we’ve finally won. I’m so proud of these guys and all the fans out there.”



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Every match was now do-or-die for the European team and it was Jayson Shaw who kept them alive as he beat Tyler Styer 5-3. The young American made too many mistakes for a player of Shaw's obvious quality as the score moved to 10-7 to the USA.

There was more Euro fightback in the next match as Niels Feijen looked a different player to the tentative performer of the first three days as he beat Corey Deuel. The American had been vulnerable throughout the week and Feijen capitalised on that.

With the score at 10-8 now, the Europeans were feeling a lot better than the start of the evening. And they pilled the pressure on the Americans as World No.1 Klenti Kaci came good to beat Billy Thorpe 5-2. It was now a pressure cooker in the arena and with the score 10-9, the Americans needed one and the Europeans needed two.

The stage was set for Shane Van Boening to complete the victory as he overcame a game Alexander Kazakis to send the US team and fans in delirium.

Skyler Woodward, who was named MVP for his leading tally of points said, "I'm so happy that we won it! It feels great to help the team win. When one

plays great, all of us play great and we couldn't have won it without each other.

"I couldn't play any worse than last year! Johan helped me out developing my stroke over the past six months

and I got more committed, quit drinking and started practicing more."

Finally, super-skipper Johan Ruijsink added, "It was completely different from handling Europe and more than hard work. They battled so hard on the last day. We worked for half a year and everyone puts in a lot of sacrifices and this is unbelievable. We're a team, we're committed and we work hard.

"We made a line up for last day with an anchor man at the front and anchor man at the back and anything else was a bonus. I'm so happy for Shane that he secured the Cup with a great combination.

"Jeremy Jones has got that table knowledge, experience and is a genuine character. Every time when I needed to be aware of behaviour of players, he's looking at table and the strokes. I can't explain how much he meant to the team with his work and knowledge and passion for pool."

**Match 1** Europe 5 – 4 USA

**Match 2** Ouschan & Shaw 5 – 1 Thorpe & Woodward

**Match 3** Niels Feijen 3 – 5 Tyler Styer

**Match 4** Kaci & Kazakis 1 – 5 Van Boening & Deuel

**Match 5** Jayson Shaw 0 – 5 Shane van Boening

**Match 6** Jayson Shaw 5 - 2 Shane van Boening

**Match 7** Feijen & Kazakis 3 - 5 Woodward & Van Boening

**Match 8** Albin Ouschan 5 - 3 Corey Deuel

**Match 9** Kaci & Shaw 2 - 5 Thorpe & Styer

**Match 10** Eklent Kaci 3 – 5 Billy Thorpe

**Match 11** Feijen & Ouschan 4 – 5 Woodward & Styer

**Match 12** Alexander Kazakis 3 – 5 Skyler Woodward

**Match 13** Feijen & Kaçi 5 – 4 Deuel & Styer

**Match 14** Jayson Shaw 4 – 5 Skyler Woodward

**Match 15** Ouschan & Kazakis 5 – 1 Thorpe & Van Boening

**Match 16** Albin Ouschan 4 – 5 Skyler Woodward

**Match 17** Jayson Shaw 5 – 3 Tyler Styer

**Match 18** Niels Feijen 5 – 1 Corey Deuel

**Match 19** Eklent Kaci 5 – 2 Billy Thorpe

**Match 20** Alex Kazakis 3 – 5 Shane van Boening

# Record Figures Make 2018 The Most Successful Year Ever For Partypoker Mosconi Cup

**USA's dramatic partypoker Mosconi Cup victory was witnessed by record viewers around the world and the highest live gate in the tournament's history with close to 2,500 fans packed into Alexandra Palace, London each night as America defeated Europe 11-9 to win back the famous trophy.**

**S**hown live by networks in over 130 countries worldwide, the drama of the 2018 partypoker Mosconi Cup was enjoyed by viewers across the globe. In USA, Central and South America and on the Indian Sub-continent the tournament's partnership with Facebook meant fans were able to enjoy a free live stream, which was seen by over 2million people. The continued growth of pool's biggest tournament was further evidenced online, where the partypoker Mosconi Cup's digital footprint continued to expand, reaching and engaging with more fans than ever before.

Already, tickets for the 2019 partypoker Mosconi Cup - to take place at Mandalay Bay Resort, Las Vegas from

November 25-28 - have seen their highest ever opening-week sales, with Gold seating sold out. As a result, there will be an increase in both win and appearance fees for the 2019 partypoker Mosconi Cup with both winners' and runners-up prize money increased by 50%.

Emily Frazer, Chief Operation Officer of promoters Matchroom Multi Sport, said: "After our most successful and entertaining year at the partypoker Mosconi Cup, it only felt right to reward the players with an increase in prize money by 50%.

"This year's event reached our highest live attendance numbers, television and live stream viewership and is now ranked as the best event in this sport

- and therefore it should be taken to the next level. The atmosphere was electric at the Alexandra Palace and we have our 2,500 fans to thank for this and we only hope to recreate this at the Mandalay Bay from November 25th.

"Pool is in a great place right now, and let's make sure everyone knows it!"

Tickets for the 2019 partypoker Mosconi Cup are available now at [www.mosconicup.com](http://www.mosconicup.com). Prices start at \$48 per session with season tickets at \$161 silver. Gold seating is now sold out. VIP Platinum packages are available priced \$225 per day or \$950 for all four days and include a breakfast buffet, unlimited drinks, VIP seating in the front three rows and much more.



# FILLER WINS

## World 9-Ball Championship

Watching the finals of the 2018 WPA Men's World 9-Ball Championships between defending champion Carlo Biado from the Philippines and eventual winner, Germany's 21-year-old 'phenom' Joshua Filler offered a stark reminder, if any was needed, that while the sport of pool has its roster of clear world-class players, the game itself can turn on a dime and send any one of them into the dustbin of a given tournament, whether it's in Houston, TX or being hosted by The Qatar Billiard and Snooker Federation at the Al Arabi Sports Club in Doha, Qatar, where this year's championships played out from December 10-20.

It has a way of giving your average, regional tournament guy or gal a measure of hope to watch a top-notch professional rattle a ball in a hole, miss one sitting in the jaws of a pocket, or miscalculate cue ball speed in a way that can put a subsequent shot, game or match out of reach.

Take the opening rack of the race-to-13 finals. Filler won the lag and dropped

just one ball on the break. He had to elevate his cue over another ball to take aim at the 1-ball, which he was hoping would travel down-table and hit the 8-ball, perched right on the lip of the left corner pocket. He hit the cue ball with speed designed to drop the 8-ball, but leave the 1-ball out of the pocket for his second shot. They both dropped in, and while two balls with one shot is generally a good thing, it left Filler with no

shot on the 2-ball. He played safe, laying the 2-ball on one short rail and the cue ball behind a pack up-table. Biado had no clear-line shot at it, but played a two-rail kick shot, angling to the left of the pack that was blocking the path to the 2-ball. The cue ball bounced off the long rail, skittered right, hit the short rail, and then, touched the 2-ball with just enough speed to send it up-table and into the right corner pocket. Filler



Joshua Filler

*Carlo Biado*

stood up from his chair to watch it drop. The audience applauded this brilliantly executed shot, while Biado stood there, absent-mindedly chalking his cue, with the age-old pool question furrowing his brow.

What now?

The 3-ball was back up-table in the pack he'd just broken out of and the cue ball was an inch away from the short rail at the opposite end. He took the same kind of two-rail shot he'd just executed so brilliantly, in reverse, only this time, it broke the 3-ball out of the pack, leaving Filler an easy shot at it, from which he went on to clear the table to open the scoring.

So, from the break, we had one miscalculation on cue ball speed (Filler), a good, though ultimately not good enough safe shot (Filler), a brilliant two-rail kick shot (Biado), a not-so-good safe shot (Biado) and the runoff (Filler). With the break as something of a 'wild card' at the start, that makes three mistakes, one brilliant shot and a connect the dots runout. In the opening game of the world championships.

With 128 entrants, they split up into 16 groups of eight for a couple of double elimination rounds, each yielding four entrants into a group of 64, who continued competing in five, single-elimination rounds. Players had to win two matches to advance, either on the winners' side or, having lost, one or two on the losers' side of the bracket. Filler advanced to the single-elimination competition with victories over Stanimir

Ruslanov 9-5 and Mazen Berjaoui 9-5. Biado got by Llano Jorge 9-3 and Sergey Lutsker 9-5.

Among the surprises who failed to advance was Billy Thorpe, who won his opening round match 9-4 over Ahmed Aleqaly, lost in the second round 9-7 to Liu Ri Teng, and was eliminated by Roland Garcia 9-5. Thorsten Hohmann (winner in 2003& 2013) lost his first match to Jason Theron 9-6 and though he won his first loss-side match 9-7 over Takhti Zarekani, he was eliminated by Wu Jiaqing 9-6.

That left four brackets of 16 players each. Play continued until each of those four, single-elimination brackets produced two quarterfinalists. There were a few more surprises in store as the single-elimination part of the event moved forward. In one of those 16-player brackets, Albania's Klenti Kaci was knocked out in the second round by Robbie Capito in a tightly-contested double hill match. That group of 16 sent

Joshua Filler and Albin Ouschan (winner, 2016) to the quarterfinals; Filler having knocked out Nikolaos Malaj 11-9, Nguyen Anh Tuan 11-6 and Capito 11-1.

Another group of 16, saw Neils Feijen (winner, 2014) get eliminated by Alex Kazakis, double hill, and John Morra fall to Corey Deuel 11-6. Kazakis and Deuel advanced to the quarterfinals. In Biado's group of 16, Jeffrey Ignacio and Alex Pagulayan (winner in 2004) were eliminated in the opening round. Lin Wu Kun and Biado, who defeated Vitaliy Patsura 11-9, Konrad Juszczyszyn 11-7 and Wu Jiaqing 11-9, advanced to the quarterfinals.

The group of 16 that included Shane Van Boening saw a few unexpected casualties, although Van Boening, advancing to the quarterfinals, was not among them. Van Boening advanced after his 11-5 win over Melling. Also eliminated from among this group were Jeffrey De Luna and Ralf Souquet (winner in 1996), who downed Ruslan Chinakhov in the opening round, but fell 11-6 to the man who advanced with Van Boening to the quarterfinals, Jung-Lin Chang.

The four quarterfinal matches were, as they say, worth the cost of admission. Filler defeated Ouschan 11-6, Kazakis eliminated Deuel 11-8, Biado pretty much ran right over Lin Wu Kun 11-4 and Van Boening moved on with an 11-8 victory over Jung-Lin Chang 11-8. This set up an even more intriguing set of semifinal matches. Two strong Euro

*Alex Kazakis*

## World 9-Ball Championship

Tour competitors, both looking to claim their first world title would square off in one, while the event's defending champion would take on Shane Van Boening, fresh off his and his team's victory over Europe in the Mosconi Cup.

The Filler/Kazakis matchup proved to be far more dramatic than the final that followed it. Filler took an early 4-1, but Kazakis fought back steadily to a tie, and then, moved two racks ahead for a 6-4 lead. They fought evenly over the next eight racks, at the end of which, Kazakis was on the hill at 10-8. But one of those aforementioned mistakes that you don't really expect to see in a world championship gave Filler the 19th rack and with the break, he ran the 20th rack to force a final deciding game. A 'safe' by Filler in the final rack led to a foul by Kazakis. Filler cleaned the table and moved on to the championship final.

Meanwhile, Biado was running what the WPA Press Officer Ted Lerner called a "masterclass. . . mastering the break shot, always getting a ball or two down and leaving (himself) a shot at the 1-ball."

"The first half of the match was close," Turner went on to write in his official WPA press release, "but Van Boening didn't stand a chance, as Biado cruised to an 11-6 win."

Slow start turns into an epic struggle in finals

After the opening rack of the final, detailed previously, things at the start



Shane Van Boening

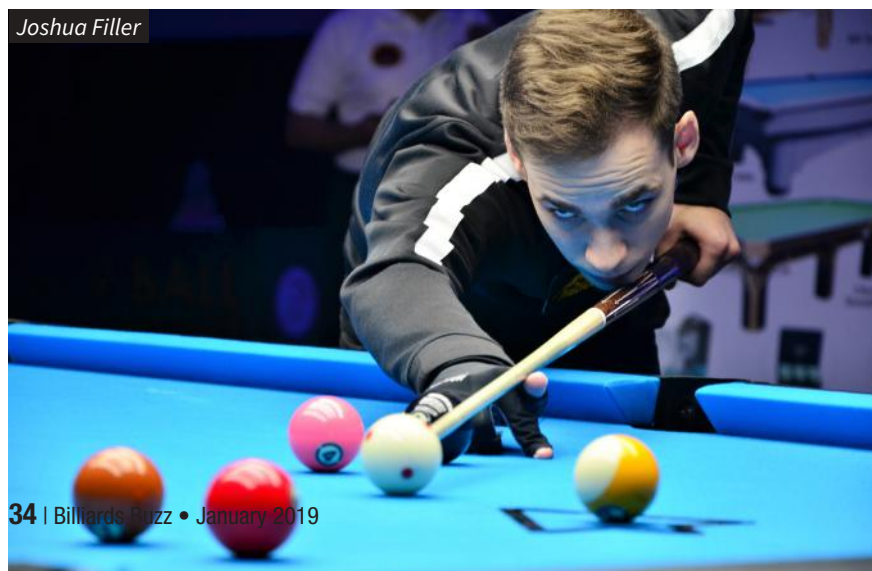
went from bad to worse for Biado. He broke the second rack, ran to the 6-ball and then, in an attempt to jump over the 9-ball, the cue ball went airborne, right into a pocket. With ball in hand, Filler ran the table to take a 2-0 lead. In rack #3, Filler dropped two on the break, but couldn't see the 1-ball and was forced to push. In so doing, he re-located the 8-ball and turned the table over to Biado, who promptly said, "No, thanks." Filler played safe, and Biado returned the favor, or tried to. The 1-ball was exposed. Filler took a long shot, made it and ran to the 7-ball. With the cue ball dead center of the table, and the 7-ball about six inches from the side pocket, Filler took aim and hit it way too hard, the 7-ball jumping in and out of the pocket. Biado missed his shot at the 7-ball as well, which gave Filler the opening he needed to run the rest of the table. It wasn't pretty, any of it, but Filler was up 3-0.

Biado broke the 4th rack and showed the crowd its first 'break and run' which they applauded. Filler stepped to the table to break the 5th rack and showed them its first dry break, allowing Biado to step up and make it 3-2. Biado broke, sinking three balls, and added two more before playing a good safety, which stymied Filler, who not only didn't hit the target ball, but didn't hit any balls at all. Biado stepped to the table and tied the score.

They traded racks (Filler chalking up another 'break and run') to tie things at 4-4. Filler then checked in with his second dry break, and Biado ran them to take his first lead, which he followed with a 'break and run' to go ahead by two (6-4).

Rack #11 was their safety party. Neither one wanting to give an inch on any shot at all, which led to five successive safety shots, trying to drop the 2-ball. Filler finally got it, but rattled his next shot in the hole. Biado then did the same thing. Filler finally broke the pattern and dropped the 9-ball to pull back within one. At 6-5, one game away from halfway through the match, they both appeared to develop a so-far absent sense of urgency, as they each checked in with back-to-back 'break and runs' to make it 7-6.

Biado broke rack #14 and promptly scratched shooting at his first ball. Filler took advantage, knotted the score at 7-7, and then, won rack #15 on his



Joshua Filler

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own break to take his first lead, 8-7, since rack #7. If there was a single, most important turning point in the match, it could be argued that it came in the next rack. Biado broke and had both a shot at the 1-ball, and a wide-open table to play with. He dropped the 1-ball, and watched the cue ball drift up table, close to the rail, for a good shot at the 2-ball. But the cue ball took a little hitch on its way and nestled into up-table corner of the side pocket, making a shot at it impossible. Biado took a wild, and arguably ill-advised, multi-rail shot at it, but missed everything. With ball in hand, Filler went up by two, 9-7.

Filler won the next two, as well, to take, at this stage of the proceedings, what would have to be considered a commanding lead at 11-7, his largest so far. An illegal break by Filler in Rack #19 gave Biado his 8th rack, which he followed with his 4th break and run to bring it to 11-9. Pulsing with energy, Filler dropped three balls on the next break, but in trying to soft roll the 2-ball into the corner pocket, the 2-ball wouldn't cooperate and sat on the lip. Biado sunk it, cleared the table to pull back within one at 11-10, and broke the next rack for a chance to tie it.

Biado dropped only a single ball on the break, but had a shot at the 1-ball. He took it and ran to the 3-ball, where he was forced to play safe; a good one, as it turned out. Filler tried to kick at it and missed everything. With ball in hand, Biado dropped the 3-ball, only to have the cue ball bounce back and scratch in the side pocket. Filler ran the table to get on the hill at 12-10

Nerves were a serious factor now, as Filler stepped to the table for rack #23. He broke and sunk two balls but left himself a tough shot at the 1-ball, nestled tight against a short rail. He played safe, but gave Biado a shot. Biado opted for a safety, a good one, and Filler safed right back. Biado tried another safety, but left Filler with the shot he needed. Filler ran to the 9-ball and stepped away from the table, brushing his hair and retreating for a second or two to his chair. He



Pia and Joshua Filler

stepped up, took aim and dropped the championship 9-ball into the hole.

All of the pent-up emotion he'd so adequately kept in check throughout the tournament and into the roller coaster ride of the final match exploded in a body-tightening, fist-clenching burst as he threw his cue to the floor, shouting "Yes!!" He shook hands with Biado briefly, but the adrenaline rush kept him in motion until he climbed up on the table to expend the energy.

"Hats off to Carlo Biado for getting back into the final," he told Ted Lerner afterwards. "That's an amazing accomplishment and he could have very easily been the winner. For me, it's a dream come true and I'm still overwhelmed with the situation. I'm the number one in the world. I can't believe that."

"I played well," said Biado, "but the table was a bit bouncy and I was getting frus-

trated. I was thinking too much about the table and it kind of affected me."

"I'm happy for Joshua (and) I congratulate him," he added. "He played really well and he deserves it."

Filler and his wife, Pia had celebrated their first wedding anniversary the day before, and the World 9-Ball Champion didn't forget that in the moment of his triumph.

"I want to thank my wife," he said. "Without her, I wouldn't be the new world champion. She supported me the whole week, gave me power and confidence. . . I think (the title) was a good present." He and his wife will no doubt share in the \$40,000 first-place prize in the year ahead as Filler looks to "take a few days off and relax" and then, "work even harder and win every title I can get. The expectations are higher now, so I have to set a bigger goal and work harder."

*The players competed on Wiraka DYNASTY Tables with Simonis 660 Cloth, Electric Blue Color, and using Aramith Tournament Pro cup TV Pool Balls, featuring the new Duramith Technology. Media coverage of the event was supported by the American Poolplayers Association. The author would like to gratefully acknowledge the work of the World Pool-Billiard Association's press officer, Ted Lerner, who wrote a series of reports on this event that can be found on AZBilliards. Beginning with a preview and ending with the event's final day, he kept our readers intelligently informed of this event, as it was happening. The quotes from the players were drawn from his final report, as were isolated bits and pieces of tournament information throughout this article. The man knows the players, the events they've been in and the game itself and his reports on this and other major events is a credit to the industry and the WPA he serves as its press officer.*



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# Han Yu wins her third WPA Women's World 9-Ball Championship

**In a way, the Chinese women were making up for a little lost time. The annual World Pool-Billiards Association's Women's 9-Ball Championships have been contested since 1990, but it took 10 years for a woman from China (to include Chinese Taipei, capital city of Taiwan) to claim the title.**

**L**iu Hsin-Mei started the Chinese Taipei ball rolling (so to speak) with victories in 1999, and after Julie Kelly from Ireland (2000) and Allison Fisher (2001; claiming her fourth title) chimed in, Liu returned to win again in 2002. Then, the Koreans joined the party, with Ga Young Kim winning it twice in a row (2004 and 2006; the women's event was not held in 2003 or 2005). Ting Pan Xiao became the first mainland Chinese women to win the world title in 2007, beginning a string of 11 Chinese world titles, interrupted only once, by Kelly Fisher in 2012. The Chinese chalked up their 11<sup>th</sup> title last month, when China's Han Yu won her third world title adding to the titles she captured in 2013 and 2016. The event drew 64 entrants to the Gymnasium of Hainan Tropical Ocean University in Sanya, the southern-most city on Hainan Island from December 6-10. Of those 64, 44% (28) were from either mainland China or Chinese Taipei.

Han Yu appears to thrive when she flirts with disaster. In winning her first title in 2013, at the age of 21, Yu had to survive a double hill fight just to get in to the single-elimination round of 32. In this most recent event, another double hill fight, against Austria's

Jasmin Ouschan, whom she would meet twice, put her on the brink of elimination again. Yu had started the proceedings on Thursday, Dec. 6 with a 7-4 win over China's Yang Fan, which set her up to face Ouschan. In the meantime, Russia's Kristina Tkach, who'd defeated Korea's Lim Yun-Mi 7-2, faced China's Han Fang. Both of these matches went double hill, leaving Ouschan and Fang as this group of eight's winners' side entrants to the single-elimination phase of the event.

Yu and Tkach moved to the loss side and each faced a single opponent. Yu met up with China's Gao Meng, who'd defeated Yun-Mi 7-3 to reach her. Tkach drew Yang Fan, who'd eliminated Japan's Yukawa Kieko 7-2. Yu shut out Meng and Tkach downed Fan to become the two losers' side entrants of their group to enter the single elimination phase.

Yu's eventual opponent in the finals, China's Wang Xiao Tong, had worked her way through her own initial group of eight, downing Canadian Leanne Lini 7-1 in her opening round of play and then, Korea's Park Eun-Ji 7-3 to become one of the two winners' side entrants into the single-elimination phase. Of the 32 competitors who

advanced to the single elimination phase of the tournament, 20 of them were from China or Taipei, including defending champion Siming Chen. Great Britain (Kelly and Allison Fisher), Japan and Korea each had two, while Russia, Indonesia, Slovenia, Austria (Jasmin Ouschan), the Philippines and Germany each had one.

Yu was at three down, and five to go. She defeated Slovenia's Ana Gradisnik 9-4 in the opening round of the single-elimination series and drew a rematch against Ouschan. Yu allowed Ouschan only three racks in that rematch and then turned to face the competitor who would prove to be her toughest opponent in the single elimination phase, Kelly Fisher. Displaying another tendency toward flirtation with disaster, Yu saw this quarterfinal match go double hill before she finished it to face the Philippines' Rubilen Amit in one of the semifinals. Xiao Tong, in the meantime, after downing Wei Tzu-Chien (Taipei) 9-7, Zhang Pan (China) 9-4 and Jiang Teng (China) 9-3, faced China's Fu Xiaofang in the other semifinal.

Yu earned her slot in the finals with a 9-6 win over Amit. Xiao Tong and Xiaofang locked up in a double hill fight that eventually sent Xiao Tong to join Yu in the (not surprising) all-Chinese finals. Amit and Xiaofang squared off in a third-place playoff match, won by Amit 9-5.

The final match, live, in Chinese, on YouTube was compelling for a lot of

**“THE CHINESE CHALKED UP THEIR 11<sup>TH</sup> TITLE LAST MONTH, WHEN CHINA'S HAN YU WON HER THIRD WORLD TITLE ADDING TO THE TITLES SHE CAPTURED IN 2013 AND 2016.**

”



reasons, although if you were among the many who watched it, you might not have known it from hearing the assembled spectators, who, unlike the recent crowd at the last Mosconi Cup, were exceedingly polite. The air vents in the hall made more noise than the crowd did during the match. They applauded at the end of each game, at (one might wager) the exact same decibel level every time, rendering it impossible to determine whether they were rooting for or against one or the other of the two opponents. Of course, both finalists being from China, it was something of a win/win situation for the crowd.

Han Yu won the lag, by a lot, and began a match-long string of alternating breaks that never failed to pocket a ball. There were a lot of single-balls that dropped, a few twos and the occasional three balls, but throughout the 15 games, there wasn't a single dry break. Yu dropped the 1-ball on the opening break but missed the 2-ball. Xiao Tong took a shot at the 2-ball, but scratched. Yu ran them to open the scoring.

Whether it was simply 'nerves' associated with their battle for the title, or the normal ups and downs of any pool match, both players came out a

little stale; missing shots they normally wouldn't, or being forced into tough situations by unlucky rolls. There was very little, if any, safety play at the outset. Turnovers occurring more by circumstance than calculated tactics.

Yu jumped out to an early lead, chalking up just more than half of the racks she needed (five) to win. On the fifth rack of the early going, Yu recorded the finals' first break and run. She'd end up with only two of the five 'break and run' racks recorded.

Xiao Tong came right back to record her first break and run and get on the board, commencing a discernible momentum shift that would bring her within one rack of Yu's five-rack lead. Yu broke the next rack, but an awkward position forced her to jack up shooting at the 2-ball and she missed. Xiao Tong capitalized, ran the rack and it was 5-2.

Xiao Tong broke the eighth rack, sinking two, but was forced to play safe on her first shot, at the 2-ball. It wasn't a good safety, and left Yu with a clear shot. But Yu missed her shot at it, and Xiao Tong ran the table to make it 5-3. In a clear response to momentum shift in Xiao Tong's favor, the two women tightened up a bit in the ninth

rack, broken by Yu. Six shots into the rack, they were both still trying to put the 1-ball away. Yu eventually found it, put it away and then cleared the table to make it 6-3.

Xiao Tong broke the 10<sup>th</sup> rack, sinking just the 6-ball, but ran the table for her second break and run. With Yu breaking the 11<sup>th</sup> rack, the 6-ball dropped and left her with a clear shot at the 1-ball. She poked at it, uncharacteristically, and it rattled in the hole. Xiao Tong stepped to the table and ran it to draw within one at 6-5.

Recognizing the possibility of knotting the match at 6-6, Xiao Tong turned on a few 'after-burners' and sunk three balls breaking the 12<sup>th</sup> rack (2, 5 & 8). She had, took and made her shot at the 1-ball, and cleared to the 6-ball, where she found herself looking at a full-table-length shot. It was an important turning point in the match. Xiao Tong opted for a safety that didn't quite work. Yu saw the 6-ball, sank it and ran the rest of the table to go up 7-5.

Yu sank two balls on the subsequent break and ran to the 5-ball, which looked to be blocked in its potential path to an intended corner pocket by the 9-ball. She went for the combination, the 9-ball dropped and Yu was on the hill at 8-5.

Xiao Tong picked rack #14 to chalk up her third 'break and run' to draw back within two, but unfortunately for her, Yu chose rack #15 to chalk up her second break and run. She only sank the 1-ball on the break but ran to the 8-ball quickly. In the only visible display of emotion, by either woman, throughout the match, Yu stood up before shooting that 8-ball, and let out a breath of air that filtered through and puffed her cheeks out. She bent to the task at hand, dropped the 8-ball and then, the 9-ball to complete her third Women's World Championship title.

# BILLIARDS 2024 OLYMPIC CAMPAIGN LAUNCHES

At one of the world's greatest iconic buildings, the Eiffel Tower, billiards sports launched its bid to get on the program of the 2024 Paris Olympic Games.



Florian Kohler, Jeremy Bury, Shaun Murphy and Jasmin Ouschan

The Conference was organised by the Billiards 2024 Committee on behalf of the World Confederation of Billiards Sports (WCBS), and was attended by many dignitaries and billiard industry leaders. A media contingent of 35 was present to report on the news.

The WCBS is the world governing body for all billiard sports and is a member of the IOC. Its members are the world governing bodies for their respective disciplines of Carom, Pool and Snooker.

The Conference started with a trick and fancy shot display by the world's greatest trick shot player, Florian Kohler who delighted the crowd with his amazing skills on a pool table that

had been specially installed for the occasion.

Speeches followed by WCBS President Ian Anderson (Australia), FFB President Jean-Paul Sinanian (France) and co-ordinator Jean Pierre Guiraud and by video link, European Carom President, Diane Wild (Switzerland).

Three of the great players from each discipline and all world champions, Jeremy Bury (France), Shaun Murphy (UK) and Jasmin Ouschan (Austria) addressed the Conference to tell everyone of their passion for the sport and what hard work is involved to maintain their high standards. They also expressed how important it would be to them and their player colleagues if billiards would find its way onto the Olympic program.

After the formalities were dealt with, more entertainment from Florian, followed by media questions and interviews.

An absolute show of unity was on display between the various sports federations, personalities and the people representative of their own interests.

A great deal of appreciation must be paid to the dedicated Billiards 2024 Committee for the wonderful effort in putting all of this together. The amount of hard work that it took is unimaginable.

On 11th and 12th March 2019, a demonstration tournament will be conducted in Paris. Further details of this event will be announced soon.



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# Predator and CueSports International Bring the World 10-Ball Championship to the U.S.

**Predator Group and CueSports International (CSI) are excited to announce a partnership that will bring the World 10-Ball Championship to the United States for at least the next three years.**

**T**he event will be staged at the Rio All-Suite Hotel & Casino in Las Vegas during the BCA Pool League World Championships and USA Pool League National Championships. The 2019 event will be held July 22-26. The 2020 and 2021 dates will move to March with the BCA Pool League and USA Pool League events.

The World Pool-Billiard Association (WPA)-sanctioned Category 1 World Championship, with \$100,000 added prize money, will be the first ever World 10-Ball Championship in the United States. This is a great push for cue sports as no WPA-sanctioned World Championship in 8-ball, 9-ball or 10-ball has occurred in the United States since 1997, when Johnny Archer won the World 9-Ball Championship in Chicago.

“We’re excited to give back to the sport,” said Predator CEO Karim Belhaj. “Cue sports in the United States has lacked WPA events for quite some time and teaming up with CSI allows us to bring fans and top pros together.”

This prestigious event will be played on 9-ft pool tables in the Pavilion Ballroom of the Rio Convention Center and will be free for all spectators, including participants of the BCA Pool League and USA Pool League events. Existing leagues not already sanctioned by the BCA Pool League are encouraged to do so immediately so all members can participate in the BCA Pool League World Championships and watch this incredible event live. To join, simply visit [www.playbca.com](http://www.playbca.com) or call 866-USA-POOL.



“We are thrilled to partner with Predator on this project,” said CSI CEO, Ozzy Reynolds. “CSI and Predator share the same passion and vision for pool, so this is a natural partnership. We are both committed to elevating the entire sport and this will be a great step toward that goal.”

There will also be a preceding event, open to anyone, held July 17-20 on 9-ft pool tables. All other details of the 2019 World 10-Ball Championship and the preceding event will be released in the coming weeks at [www.world-10ball.com](http://www.world-10ball.com).

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cues and accessories by developing revolutionary technology that enhances performance for billiard players worldwide. A third of WPA top-twenty professionals trust their games to Predator®, the choice of champions. Headquartered in Jacksonville, Fla., USA, Predator Cues is a division of Predator Group, whose core brands also include Poison Billiards and Uni-Loc®. For more information regarding Predator Group’s products, visit [www.predatorgroup.com](http://www.predatorgroup.com). For information on Predator Cues, visit [www.predatorcues.com](http://www.predatorcues.com), or look for Predator Cues on Facebook, YouTube, Instagram and Twitter.

CSI is an international pool league and event leader, and is currently comprised of three divisions: CSI leagues, CSI events and CSI media. CSI leagues manages the BCA Pool League and USA Pool League, CSI events produces numerous amateur and professional events around the globe and CSI media creates live streaming and digital content. Through its vision and strategic alliances, CSI is “shaping the future of pool.” For more information about CSI or any of its divisions, visit [www.playcspool.com](http://www.playcspool.com) or find CueSports International on Facebook, YouTube, Instagram and Twitter.

The World Pool-Billiard Association (WPA) is the international governing body for pocket billiards and is comprised of six member federations representing North America, South America, Europe, Asia, Africa and Australia. The WPA is the world-recognized body for sanctioning World Championship events. It is also one of the three member organizations of the World Confederation of Billiards Sports (WCBS), representing the billiard disciplines of pool, snooker and carom. For more information about the WPA, visit [www.wpapool.com](http://www.wpapool.com).

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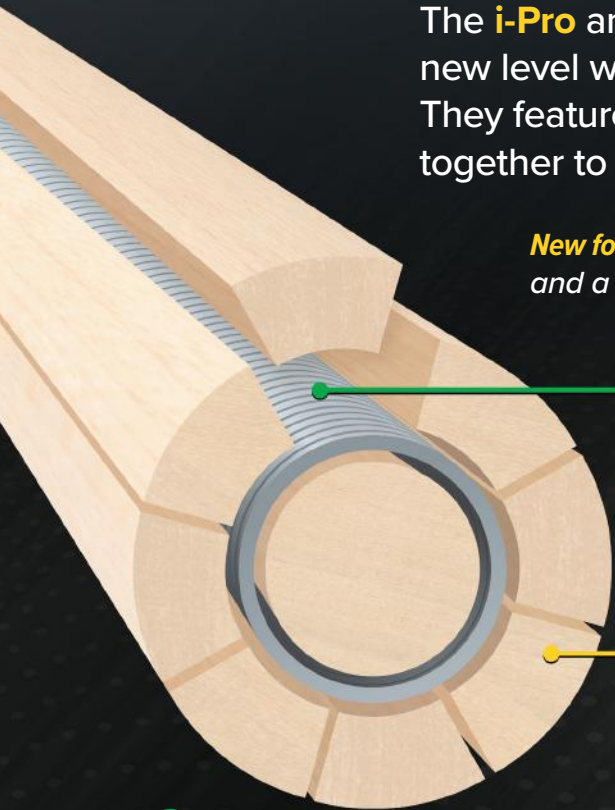
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# **Team Europe Wins ACC With Impressive Performance**

**The European Junior's Team once more won the Atlantic Challenge Cup against the US junior team. This year, the final result was 11:0 for Team EUROPE.**

**T**he European contestants were having an away match this year. Due to the alternating rhythm of hosting the ACC, this year Las Vegas, NV, USA was the host city for the junior team challenge between Europe and USA. Europe was represented by Weronika Karwik (POL), Valeria Trushevskaya (RUS), Patrick Hofmann (GER), Fedor Gorst (RUS), Jan Van Lierop (NED) and Wiktor Zielinski (POL). The team captain was the European Youth Sports Director Tomas Brikmanis (LIT). The US team consisted of Michelle Jang, April Larson, Justin Martin, Joey Tate, Shane Wolford and Kaiden Hunkins. The team captain was Allison Fisher.

The event was over after two days only with the best possible result for Europe. Not a single match was lost against the US kids. After day one, Europe had a score of 6:0 with only two matches that were close. The team match between Europe and the US was won 6:4 and the boys double between van Lierop/Hofmann vs Wolford/Hunkins even went hill/hill before team Europe was able to also put that point into their account.

Day two started with another frustrating result for the US selection. Zielinski smashed Kaiden 6:0 in the boys singles match. Then, Larson was up against Trushevskaya. That match also went hill/hill with the better end for Trushevskaya. When team Europe was up 10:0, the final match was played between van Lierop and Tate. Another hill/hill heartbreaker took place with van Lierop potting the final



9-ball of the event, sealing the white-wash for the US team this year.

The MVP trophies were awarded to April Larson and Valeria Trushevskaya.

Tomas Brikmanis stated after the event: „The US team had several chances in some matches but the tension and their nerves prevented them from winning. They missed several balls in an open position and allowed the European team to get ahead.“

## **RESULTS DAY 1**

### **Europe v USA 6:4**

Triples - Trushevskaya/van Lierop/Hofmann v Larson/Wolford/Hunkins 6:1

Triples - Karwik/Gorst/Zielinski v Jang/Martin/Tate 6:3

Boys Doubles - van Lierop/Hofmann v Wolford/Hunkins 6:5

Girls Doubles - Karwik/Trushevskaya v Jang/Larson 6:3

Boys Singles - Gorst v Wolford 6:2

## **RESULTS DAY 2**

Boys Singles - Zielinski v Hunkins 6:0

Girls Singles - Trushevskaya v Larson 6:5

Mixed Doubles - Karwik/Hofmann v Jang/Martin 6:3

Mixed Doubles - Trushevskaya/van Lierop v Larson/Hunkins 6:2

Boys Singles - van Lierop v Tate 6:5

# Derby City Classic Bigfoot Challenge Field Full

With the 2019 Derby City Classic almost one month away, excitement is already starting to build for the annual Bigfoot 10-Ball Challenge event.



A field of sixteen players has paid \$1000 entry to play 10-ball on the 10-foot Diamond table with the best players in the world for their share of \$32,000 in prize money.

It is hard to pick an early tournament favorite in a field with this much talent. The 2019 field of players is ...

- 1) Jayson Shaw
- 2) Fedor Gorst
- 3) Joshua Filler
- 4) Alex Pagulayan
- 5) Shane Van Boening
- 6) Dennis Orcollo
- 7) Roberto Gomez
- 8) John Morra
- 9) Lee Vann Corteza

- 10) Mika Immonen
- 11) Corey Deuel
- 12) Konrad Juszczyszyn
- 13) Chris Melling
- 14) Eklent Kaci
- 15) Francisco Bustamante
- 16) Jung-Lin Chang

Fans who can't make it to the Horseshoe Southern Indiana to watch the action in person will be able to watch selected matches on the Accu-Stats live PPV coverage of the event. More information on that stream is available at [www.accu-stats.com](http://www.accu-stats.com). Action gets underway on January 25th, with the finals scheduled for the night of January 28th.



# Champions Reignite at Space City Open VII

**James Davis, Jr., “Junior”, of Austin, Texas, went undefeated in a 128-player field, to win the Space City Open VII, open 9-ball title, becoming the second player to win it twice. Josh “The Beast” Roberts not only defended his one pocket title, but finished second in banks, and thirty-third in the 9-ball, earning himself the “All-Around” title, and a hefty \$1,500 bonus.**

**F**irst-time competitor, Evan Lunda of Detroit, Michigan, cleaned up in the 32-player, 9-ball banks division, going hill-hill with only a single opponent. In the 32-player, ladies 9-ball, Ming “The Empress” Ng redeemed herself in the second set of the true, double elimination final, securing her second title, and becoming the first, two-time winner in this division. Nine junior players, including eight young men, and one young lady, traveled from across Texas to compete in their very own division. Lazaro “Little Laz” Martinez, III, of San Antonio, Texas, went undefeated in this category, earning the first win in this division debut.

For years, Space City Open has featured top players from across America, and this year was no exception. Former Mosconi Cup players, contenders, and champions alike were in attendance, vying for a piece of the \$53,415 payout. Space City Open superstars included Justin Hall, Josh Roberts, Danny Smith, Shane McMinn, John Morra, Charlie “Hillbilly” Bryant, Richie Richeson, Alex Calderone, Sylvester Ochoa, Ernesto Bayaua, James Davis, Jr., Can Salim, Chris Robinson, Evan Lunda, Jamie Baraks, Manny Perez, Justin Espinosa, Tommy Tokoph, and Jesus Atencio.



James Davis Jr.

This year's \$7,500 added, Space City Open VII, was held December 6<sup>th</sup>-9<sup>th</sup>, 2018, and implemented a number of positive changes, including a \$1,500 All-Around bonus, and a seventeen-and-under, juniors 9-ball division. In its seventh year, the “derby-like” event, now hosting five divisions over four days, was also held at a brand new venue. Big Tyme Billiards in Spring, Texas, stepped up to host, generously adding \$4,000 to the purse, providing twenty Diamond bar tables and six nine foot tables, on which to compete. Twenty-six, brand

new, Cyclop “Zeus” ball sets, and Accu-Racks by Outsville, were provided by Space City. The bar tables were a popular change from the eight foot tables used in previous years (for the open 9-ball division), and the format changes for one pocket and banks were also a huge hit. These divisions were still held on nine foot tables, but in a single elimination format as opposed to double, and the consensus was clear. Players loved the expediency, along with the added pressure and intensity of the “one-and-done” arrangement. For the first time, all

divisions filled, with players on standby.

The open 9-ball division presented a monstrous, challenging field, played on the great equalizer; the bar table. On the road to victory, James Davis, Jr. defeated Matt Williams, Charlie Bryant, 9-8, Evan Lunda, 9-8, and Shelby Green, 9-5, to reach the winners' side final eight. Espinosa logged wins over Angelina Dean, 9-1, Marshal Ward, 9-2, Eric Aicinena, 9-4, and Victor Rojas, 9-7, while Danny Smith defeated Mike Landry, 9-2, Colton Berzins, 9-1, John Morra, 9-5, and Mike Alonzo, 9-8. Jamie Baraks made quick work of Beto Cavazos, 9-3, Rick Moreno, 9-3, David Thomas, 9-7, and Shane McMinn, 9-4. Houston's Andy Jethwa passed Grady Cooper, 9-1, Mark Galicia, 9-5, Sylver Ochoa, 9-8, and Corey Flud, 9-6. Richie Richeson ousted Alan Myers, Jerry Miller, 9-8, David Chow, and Billy "Big Tyme" Sharp, 9-4, while Alex Calderone overcame Chase Wheeler, 9-2, Ricki Casper, 9-6, Aaron Springs, 9-7, and Germany's Can Salim, 9-8. On the one loss side and in the money, Kenneth Price upset Chris Robinson, 7-5, and bested Flud, 7-7, while Morra topped Curt Sheldon, 7-3, and Shelby Green, 7-2. Bryant subdued Angel Mentzel, but fell to Sharp by the same score, 7-2. Galicia upended Aicinena, 7-4, but fell to Salim, 7-2, while Moreno won an impressive five matches, ousting Springs, 7-3, and Rojas, 7-4. Following a second round loss to Morra, Ernesto Bayaua made a phenomenal comeback, securing five matches, including wins over Derek Fontenot, 7-3, and Poon, 7-0. Jesus Atencio, on a similar mission, marked up five on the one loss side, among the ruins, Reginal Samples, 7-1, and Alonzo, 7-5. Jimmy Krone racked up five victories on the one loss side, but was stopped by Ochoa, 7-4. Ochoa was taken out by McMinn, 7-6, wrapping up top sixteen action. Back on the east side, Espinosa throttled Perez, 9-1, Baraks triumphed over Smith, 9-7, while Davis, Jr. snuck



Josh Roberts

by Jethwa, 9-7, and Calderone inched by Richeson, 9-8. Espinosa squeaked by Baraks, 9-8, and Davis Jr. served it up cold to Calderone, 9-4. The hot seat match-up marked an Austin-area shoot-out, and a short-lived set for Espinosa, who sustained his first blow from Davis, Jr., 9-5. On the west side, Morra took a stand, ending Price, 7-3, and Perez, 7-2, while Salim took out heavy hitters Sharp, 7-3, and Smith, 7-2. Bayaua recorded his seventh win on the one loss side, ending Moreno, 7-1, and Jethwa, 7-3. Ochoa finished off Atencio, 7-3, but fell to Richeson, 7-5. Salim went on to defeat Morra, 7-5, and Calderone, 7-3, while Bayaua buried Richeson and Baraks, 7-3. Bayaua registered his ninth win, but no more. Winning the case game against Bayaua, Salim secured his sixth win, and slid into third place. Espinosa was ready for Salim, but got off to a slow start. At a 6-3 deficit, Espinosa came back to win, 7-6, earning himself a second shot at Junior, and the title. Once again, Espinosa found himself in troubled waters, as Davis was in perfect rhythm with the table, and couldn't be denied. Davis Jr. surged to a 9-3 win, and his second 9-ball title since the inception of Space City.

In the one pocket division, Josh Roberts took no prisoners, eliminating

Charlie Bryant, Jamie Baraks, and Chris Robinson, 4-3, while Alex Calderone defeated Greg Trent, Jim McCary, and Sylver Ochoa, 4-2. Local favorite, Richie Richeson, defeated Marc Garza and Manny Perez, by the same score, 4-1, and John Morra, 4-1. Ernesto Bayaua rounded out the final four, booking wins over Bobby Roland, Aaron Springs, 4-3, and Evan Lunda. In the final four round, Roberts shut-out Calderone, 4-0, and Richeson slid past Bayaua, 4-3. For the first time, Richeson found himself at the end of the board, facing the defending champion. The pressure was on, as both players were in close running for the All-Around bonus. In the final, numerous games came down to the case ball. The fans were treated to an offensive juggernaut; a display of maneuvers and banks, not soon forgotten, but even the creativity of the venerable Richeson, was not enough. With an accounting of two, eight-and-out runs, Roberts was up 3-2, with one ball remaining in game six. Following an unforced error by Richeson, Roberts took it home, along with his second, Space City Open one pocket title.

Evan Lunda was in charge of the banks. The Detroit product eliminated Jim Walker, 4-0, Danny Smith, 4-3, and Jose Barbosa, 4-1. His upcoming chal-



Evan Lunda

lenger, Shane McMinn, took out Mike Alonzo, Gail Eaton and James Davis, Jr. by the same score, 4-2. Josh Roberts overwhelmed Marc Garza, 4-1, Kent Berthelot, 4-0, and John Morra, 4-1, while Richie Richeson completed the final four, with wins over Bret Harlan, 4-0, Jamie Baraks, 4-2, and Justin Hall, 4-3. Lunda ended McMinn, 4-2, and Roberts robbed Richeson, 4-1. Lunda and Roberts found themselves in their first, banks final, vying for new milestones; Lunda, aiming for his first title, and Roberts, going for first-time champion of two different divisions. Lunda's casual style showcased epic moves, and wowed spectators as he banked his way to victory. He shut out Roberts in the final of the single elimination schedule, 4-0, to win his first Space City Open title.

On Sunday morning, thirty-two women started battling it out in the ladies 9-ball division. The 2013 ladies 9-ball division champion, Ming “The Empress” Ng, began her trek with wins over Terri Resendez, 7-2, two-time ladies 9-ball champion, Gail “Virginia Slim” Eaton, 7-6, and Kim “Texas Heat” Pierce, 7-1, as Robyn Petrosino plowed through Ruth Paine, 7-0, Brittany Kromer, 7-3, and Teresa “Princess of Pool” Garland, 7-1. Yvonne “Cash-er” Asher made her way to the cash,

defeating Karen Reilly, Tam “MZ Tam” Trinh, 7-3, and Jillian Nickerson, 7-6, while Ricky “The Ghost” Casper, drifted past Matty Sword, 7-1, Sara Bork, 7-3, and Hopey “Hurricane” Lawrence, 7-2. Ng went on to shut out Petrosino, 7-0, and Casper stopped Asher, 7-4. In the hot seat match, Ng emerged victorious over Casper, 7-4. On the one loss side and in the final eight, Pierce and Eaton shut out Garland and Nickerson, respectively, 5-0. Pierce derailed Asher, and Eaton eliminated Petrosino, moving into the final four. Eaton went on to eliminate Pierce, 5-0, and

Casper, 5-4, to meet Ng in the finals. Ng, going for her second title, and Eaton, searching for her third, battled to the bitter end. In the first set, Ng simply couldn't get it together, and Eaton was on fire, taking the first set, 7-1. Following a five minute break, the second set got underway. This time, Ng took her turn, beating Eaton 5-3, to win her second, Space City Open title.

Nine players, seventeen and under, competed in the inaugural, juniors 9-ball division. Lazaro Martinez, III, aka “Little Laz”; outplayed April Gonzales, 5-2, and Alex Fonseca bested Jonathan Cortez, 5-1. Jacob Gonzales beat John Benavides, but fell to Kyle Yi, while Gabriel Martinez passed Nathan Garay, 5-1. Martinez, III logged a third win against Fonseca, 5-2, and G. Martinez ousted Yi, for a brother versus brother, hot seat match-up. G. Martinez denied his brother, and awaited his final opponent. On the one loss side, and in the final six, Fonseca eliminated Garay, and Yi overcame Benavides. Yi eliminated Fonseca, but fell to Martinez, III. Once again, “Little Laz” faced off with brother, Gabriel, in the final. The final told a different story, as Little Laz overwhelmed Gabriel, 5-2, 5-3, to win his first Space City Open title.



Ming Ng

Space City Open VII goes down in the record books as the most successful one to date. “I have no words for the outpouring of support from the Texas pool community. Even with the last minute venue and format changes, the event over-filled. Billy Sharp and Deborah Sharp of Big Tyme Billiards came through for all of us” commented Kim Newsome, Space City Open Founder and Director. Space City Open extends a heartfelt “thank you” to everyone involved in the production of this event; John Newsome and Johnny Gonzales of Eagle Plumbing who sponsored the \$1,500, All-Around bonus; staff members Kim Newsome, John Newsome, Erica Hanlon, and Chuck Adams who managed every facet of the event; Ceferina Ramirez and Ruth Paine for their contributions; Mike Fabacher with Southern Streaming who provided a free, four-day live stream; Chris Lue of Next Action Media, whose photographs captured the essence of the event; sponsors Roger Schuett with the APA of North Harris County, Mike McDonald of VaporKnightsUSA.com, Poison by Predator Cues, Cyclop Pool Balls, Chris Renfro with Outsville Billiards, Charlie and Heather Bryant



*Gabriel and Lazaro Martinez with Kim Newsome*

of Brutal Game Gear, and David Taylor and Teresa Garland with Houston Best of Billiards; vendors Jerry Olivier Cue Repair, Joe Salazar Connoisseur of Custom Cues, Arthur Politte with Qxtender.com, Darrold Stiehl with Champions Cues, and Brutal Game Gear.

Finally, Space City would like to extend its deepest gratitude to the players who support this event, year

in and year out. Without the players, none of this would be possible.

Space City Open is one of the biggest billiard events in Texas, and is held annually, the first week in December. For more information, visit [www.SpaceCityOpen.com](http://www.SpaceCityOpen.com).

Written By: Kim Newsome  
Photos By: Chris Lue,  
Next Action Media

**PAYOUTS:**

**Open 9-Ball – 128 players  
(Total \$30,230)**

- 1<sup>st</sup> James Davis, Jr. \$3,300/\$5,700
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Justin Espinosa \$2,000/\$3,800
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Can Salim \$1,300/\$2,850
- 4<sup>th</sup> Ernesto Bayaua \$900/\$1,900
- 5<sup>th</sup>-6<sup>th</sup> Jamie Baraks, Alex Calderone \$500/\$950 ea.
- 7<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> Richie Richeson, John Morra \$300/\$650
- 9<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> Danny Smith, Andy Jethwa, Sylvester Ochoa, Manny Perez \$170/\$400
- 13<sup>th</sup>-16<sup>th</sup> Billy Sharp, Jesus Atencio, Rick Moreno, Kenneth Price \$110 ea.
- 17<sup>th</sup>-24<sup>th</sup> Shane McMinn, Victor Rojas, Corey Flud, Charlie Bryant, Mark Galicia, Mike Alonzo, Shelby Green, Jonathan Poon \$70 ea.
- 25<sup>th</sup>-32<sup>nd</sup> Aaron Springs, Jimmy

Krone, Derek Fontenot, Curt Sheldon, Eric Aicinena, Chris Robinson, Angel Mentzel, Reginald Samples \$50 ea.

**One Pocket – 32 players  
(Total \$9,400)**

- 1<sup>st</sup> Josh Roberts \$1,300/\$2,350
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Richie Richeson \$900/\$1,750
- 3<sup>rd</sup>-4<sup>th</sup> Ernesto Bayaua, Alex Calderone \$440/\$870 ea.
- 5<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> Chris Robinson, Sylvester Ochoa, John Morra, Evan Lunda \$120 ea.

**9-Ball Banks – 32 players  
(Total \$7,640)**

- 1<sup>st</sup> Evan Lunda \$1,300/\$1,680
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Josh Roberts \$900/\$1,200
- 3<sup>rd</sup>-4<sup>th</sup> Shane McMinn, Richie Richeson \$440/\$600
- 5<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> James Davis, Jr., Jose

Barbosa, John Morra, Justin Hall \$120 ea.

**Ladies 9-Ball – 32 players  
(Total \$4,420)**

- 1<sup>st</sup> Ming Ng \$570/\$1,120
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Gail Eaton \$400/\$840
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Ricki Casper \$250/\$560
- 4<sup>th</sup> Kim Pierce \$160/\$280
- 5<sup>th</sup>-6<sup>th</sup> Yvonne Asher, Robyn Petrosino \$80 ea.
- 7<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> Teresa Garland, Jillian Nickerson \$40 ea.

**Juniors 9-Ball – 9 players  
(Total \$225)**

- 1<sup>st</sup> Lazaro Martinez, III \$110
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Gabriel Martinez \$70
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Kyle Yi \$45

**All-Around Champion (\$1,500)**

Josh Roberts

# 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.

**NOVEMBER 29 - DECEMBER 20**

## Sunshine State Pro Am Tour 2019

**01/05 - 01/06**

Stroker's Billiards  
Palm Harbor, FL  
Website: <http://www.sunshinestate-proamtour.com/>

## Turning Stone Classic XXXI 9-Ball Open

**01/10 - 01/13**

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

## Florida State Amateur 9-Ball Championship

**01/12 - 01/13**

Zingales Billiards  
Tallahassee, Florida  
Website: <http://uspoisontour.com/>

## Predator Grand Finale

**01/17 - 01/20**

Steinway Billiards  
Astoria, NY

## Action Pool Tour 2019 Stop 1 Open Division

**01/19 - 01/20**

Q-Master Billiards

Virginia Beach, VA  
Website: <http://www.actionpooltour.com>

## Derby City Classic 2019

**01/25 - 02/02**

Horseshoe Southern Indiana  
Elizabeth, IN  
Website: <http://www.dctickets.com/>

## Derby City Classic 2019 Bigfoot 10-Ball Challenge

**01/25 - 02/02**

Horseshoe Southern Indiana  
Elizabeth, IN  
Website: <http://www.dctickets.com/>

## Joss Tour Junior 9 Ball Championship 2019

**01/26 - 01/27**

Sharpshooters Billiards & Sports Pub  
Amsterdam, NY  
Website: <http://www.joss9balltour.com/>

## Sunshine State Pro Am Tour 2019

**02/02 - 02/03**

Brewlands Bar & Billiards  
Tampa, Florida  
Website: <http://www.sunshinestate-proamtour.com/>

## 2018 Florida State Open 10-Ball Championship

**02/09 - 02/10**

Zingales Billiards  
Tallahassee, Florida  
Website: <http://uspoisontour.com/>

## 5th Texas 10-Ball Championship

**02/13 - 02/18**

Skinny Bob's Billiards  
Round Rock, Texas

## Northeast 9-Ball Open XXXI

**02/16 - 02/17**

Sharpshooters Billiards & Sports Pub  
Amsterdam, NY  
Website: <http://www.joss9balltour.com/>

## NAPT Division II Championship

**02/21 - 02/24**

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

## Joss Tour 2018-2019 Stop 9

**02/23 - 02/24**

East Ridge Billiards  
Rochester, NY  
Website: <http://www.joss9balltour.com/>



Mike Zuglan's 2019  
Joss Northeast 9-Ball Tour

# TURNING STONE CLASSIC XXXI JANUARY 10-13, 2019

# 9

\$25,000 ADDED  
**9-BALL OPEN  
TOURNAMENT**

Featuring 128 of some of the world's  
best players competing for over  
\$41,000 in prize money.

**Turning Stone Resort Casino Event Center**  
**Free Spectator Admission**



## Loree Jon Hasson

"Queen Of The Hill"

- 8 Time Womens World Champion
- 5 Time Player Of The Year
- BCA & WPBA Hall Of Famer



## Jayson Shaw

"Eagle Eye"

- Current US Open 9-Ball Champion
- 2016 Kuwait World 9-Ball Champion
- 5 Time Turning Stone Classic Champion



## Johnny Archer

"The Scorpion"

- BCA Hall Of Famer
- 6 Time Turning Stone Classic Champion
- Former Player Of The Decade



## Shane Van Boening

"The South Dakota Kid"

- 5 Time US Open 9-Ball Champion
- 4 Time US Open 10-Ball Champion
- 4 Time Turning Stone Classic Champion



## Alex Kazakis

"Alexander The Great"

- 2018 Eurotour Champion
- 2016 Kremlin Cup Champion
- 2015 European 10-Ball Champion

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# Tourney Results

## 12/01 - 12/01

### Sunshine State Pro Am Tour 2018 Season Finale Open-Pro

#### Park Avenue Billiards

Orange Park, FL

- 1 Nick Applebee \$700
- 2 Mike Griffin \$400
- 3 Tommy Kennedy \$300
- 4 Anthony Meglino \$200
- 5 David Grossman \$130
- 5 Bobby Garza \$130
- 7 Shannon Fitch \$70
- 7 Cody Booth \$70

## 12/01 - 12/02

### JPNEWT Tour 2018 Stop #8

#### Triple 9 Bar & Billiards

Elkridge, MD

- 1 Cheryl Sporleder \$700
- 2 Linda Haywood Shea \$400
- 3 Judie Wilson \$300
- 4 Sharon O'Hanlon \$125
- 5 Bethany Sykes \$80
- 5 Kim Whitman \$80
- 7 Elaine Wilson \$50
- 7 Nicole King \$50

## 12/01 - 12/02

### New England 9-Ball Tour Stop #8

#### Rack City

Bangor, Maine

- 1 Jane Imm \$1,850
- 2 Greg Murray \$1,300
- 3 Claude Poitras \$950
- 4 Mike Verducci \$650
- 5 Jason Richards \$375
- 5 Ben Harvey \$375
- 7 Jeff Furness \$275
- 7 Jenn Brown \$275
- 9 Fred Gillis \$150
- 9 Elliot Coates \$150
- 9 Samoth Sam \$150

- 9 Steve Smith \$150
- 13 Stan Rupard \$100
- 13 Kyle Pepin \$100
- 13 Amanda Soucy \$100
- 13 Josh Ireland \$100

## 12/02 - 12/02

### Tri State Tour 2018-2019 Stop

#### CueBar Billiards

Bayside, NY

- 1 Amy Yu \$650
- 2 Matt Klein \$400
- 3 Jaydev Zaveri \$250
- 4 Nathaniel Raimondo \$150
- 5 Josh Friedberg \$100
- 5 Michelle Brotons \$100
- 7 Tri Chau \$70
- 7 Carlos Serrano \$70

## 12/02 - 12/02

### Sunshine State Pro Am Tour 2018 Season Finale Amateur

#### Park Avenue Billiards

Orange Park, FL

- 1 Thomas White \$350
- 2 David Grossman \$240
- 3 Bobby Garza \$160
- 4 Scott Rohleder \$120
- 5 Nick Applebee \$70
- 5 Aaron Sikes \$70

## 12/03 - 12/09

### 2018 Women's World 9-Ball Championship

#### China

- 1 Han Yu \$44,000
- 2 Xiao Tong Wang \$22,000
- 3 Rubilen Amit \$11,000
- 3 Xiao-Fang Fu \$11,000
- 5 Ho-Yun Chen \$6,000
- 5 Kelly Fisher \$6,000

- 5 Jiang Teng \$6,000
- 5 Siming Chen \$6,000
- 9 Chieh-Yu Chou \$3,000
- 9 Qing Ning Huang \$3,000
- 9 Allison Fisher \$3,000
- 9 Jasmin Ouschan \$3,000
- 9 Pan Zhang \$3,000
- 9 Sha Sha Liu \$3,000
- 9 Ruo Lin Chen \$3,000
- 9 Szu Ting Kuo \$3,000
- 17 Lan Tian Pan \$1,500
- 17 Eunji Park \$1,500
- 17 Yu-Hsuan Fan \$1,500
- 17 Veronika Ivanovskaia \$1,500
- 17 Doudou Zhou \$1,500
- 17 Mu Yan Zhang \$1,500
- 17 Ye Sisi \$1,500
- 17 Ana Gradisnik \$1,500
- 17 Tzu-Chien Wei \$1,500
- 17 Miyuki Kuribayashi \$1,500
- 17 Hye Ju Jin \$1,500
- 17 Kristina Tkach \$1,500
- 17 Yuki Hiraguchi \$1,500
- 17 Angeline Ticoalu \$1,500
- 17 Han Fang \$1,500
- 17 Tian Qi Shi \$1,500
- 33 Yu-Ying Xia \$800
- 33 Pia Filler \$800
- 33 Ga-Young Kim \$800
- 33 Seo Seo \$800
- 33 Yu-Wen Hsieh \$800
- 33 Marharyta Fefilava \$800
- 33 Nataliya Seroshtan \$800
- 33 Gao Meng \$800
- 33 Fan Yang \$800
- 33 Veronika Hubrtova \$800
- 33 Soledad Ayala \$800
- 33 Tina Vogelmann \$800
- 33 Ewa Bak \$800
- 33 Xiao-Ting Pan \$800
- 33 Chia Hua Chen \$800
- 33 Xia Zhi Liu \$800

**12/04 - 12/07**

## **Mosconi Cup XXV**

### **Alexandra Palace**

London,

- 1 MC Team USA \$100,000
- 2 MC Team EUROPE \$50,000
- 1 Billy Thorpe \$20,000
- 1 Skyler Woodward \$20,000
- 1 Tyler Styer \$20,000
- 1 Corey Deuel \$20,000
- 1 Shane Van Boening \$20,000
- 2 Alexandros Kazakis \$10,000
- 2 Jayson Shaw \$10,000
- 2 Niels Feijen \$10,000
- 2 Eklent Kaci \$10,000
- 2 Albin Ouschan \$10,000

**12/06 - 12/09**

## **Space City Open VII Open Division**

### **Big Tyme Billiards**

Spring, Texas

- 1 James Davis Jr. \$3,300
- 2 Justin Espinoza \$2,000
- 3 Can Salim \$1,300
- 4 Ernesto Bayaua \$900
- 5 Alejandro Calderon \$500
- 5 Jamie Baraks \$500
- 7 Richie Richeson \$300
- 7 John Morra \$300
- 9 Manny Perez \$170
- 9 Sylver Ochoa \$170
- 9 Andy Jethwa \$170
- 9 Danny Smith \$170
- 13 Kenny Price \$110
- 13 Rick Moreno \$110
- 13 Jesus Atencio \$110
- 13 Billy Sharp \$110
- 17 Jonathan Poon \$70
- 17 Shelby Green \$70
- 17 Mike Alonzo \$70
- 17 Mark Galicia \$70
- 17 Charlie Bryant \$70
- 17 Corey Flud \$70
- 17 Victor Rojas \$70
- 17 Shane McMinn \$70
- 25 Angel Mentzel \$50
- 25 Chris Robinson \$50
- 25 Eric Aicinena \$50
- 25 Curt Sheldon \$50
- 25 Derek Fontenot \$50
- 25 Jimmy Krone \$50
- 25 Aaron Springs \$50
- 25 Reginald Samples \$50

**12/06 - 12/09**

## **Space City Open VII One Pocket**

### **Big Tyme Billiards**

Spring, Texas

- 1 Josh Roberts \$1,300
- 2 Richie Richeson \$900
- 3 Ernesto Bayaua \$440
- 3 Alejandro Calderon \$440
- 5 Chris Robinson \$120
- 5 Sylver Ochoa \$120
- 5 John Morra \$120
- 5 Evan Lunda \$120

**12/06 - 12/09**

## **Space City Open VII 9-Ball Banks**

### **Big Tyme Billiards**

Spring, Texas

- 1 Evan Lunda \$1,300
- 2 Josh Roberts \$900
- 3 Shane McMinn \$440
- 3 Richie Richeson \$440
- 5 James Davis Jr. \$120
- 5 Jose Barbosa \$120
- 5 John Morra \$120
- 5 Justin Hall \$120

**12/06 - 12/09**

## **Space City Open VII Ladies 9-Ball**

### **Big Tyme Billiards**

Spring, Texas

- 1 Ming Ng \$570
- 2 Gail Eaton \$400
- 3 Ricki Lee Casper \$250
- 4 Kim Pierce \$160
- 5 Yvonne Asher \$80
- 5 Robyn Petrosino \$80
- 7 Theresa Garland \$40
- 7 Jillian Nickerson \$40

**12/06 - 12/09**

## **Space City Open VII Junior 9-Ball**

### **Big Tyme Billiards**

Spring, Texas

- 1 Lazaro Martinez III \$110
- 2 Gabriel Martinez \$70
- 3 Kyle Yi \$45

**12/08 - 12/08**

## **AllOutPool Tour 2018 Stop 8**

### **K & K Billiards**

Miami, Florida

- 1 Francisco Diaz \$600
- 2 Jimmy Gestwicki \$475
- 3 Anthony Meglino \$360
- 4 Cary Cass \$240
- 5 Carl Khan \$170
- 5 Tommy Kennedy \$170
- 7 Randy Epperson \$100
- 7 Jeremy Fournier \$100

**12/08 - 12/09**

## **Predator Pro-Am Tour 2018 Stop Open/Pro Division Tour Championships**

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

West Hempstead, NY

- 1 Jorge Rodriguez \$1,000
- 2 Tony Robles \$750
- 3 Zion Zvi \$500
- 4 Mike Badstuebner \$200

**12/08 - 12/09**

## **Predator Pro-Am Tour 2018 Stop Amateur Division Tour Championships**

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

West Hempstead, NY

- 1 Abel Rosario \$6,000
- 2 Ron Bernardo \$3,500
- 3 Annie Flores \$2,000
- 4 Mac Jankov \$1,000
- 5 Gary Bozigian \$500
- 5 Corey Avallone \$500
- 7 Esteban Morrell Jr. \$350
- 7 Bryan Toolsee \$350
- 9 Juan Guzman \$250
- 9 Chickie Romero \$250
- 9 Keith Jawahir \$250
- 9 Naoko Saiki \$250
- 13 Jason Goberdhan \$200
- 13 Lidio Ramirez \$200
- 13 Dave Callaghan \$200
- 13 Pascal Dufresne \$200
- 17 Katie Baker \$150
- 17 Ada Lio \$150
- 17 Paul Lyons \$150
- 17 Rene Villalobos \$150
- 17 Shawn Sookhai \$150
- 17 Chris Ganley \$150
- 17 Elvis Rodriguez \$150
- 17 Brooke Meyer \$150

## 12/08 - 12/09

### Predator Pro-Am Tour 2018 Stop Amateur Division Tour Championships

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

West Hempstead, NY  
1 Abel Rosario \$6,000  
2 Ron Bernardo \$3,500  
3 Annie Flores \$2,000  
4 Mac Jankov \$1,000  
5 Corey Avallone \$500  
5 Gary Bozigian \$500  
7 Esteban Morrell Jr. \$350  
7 Bryan Toolsee \$350  
9 Naoko Saiki \$250  
9 Keith Jawahir \$250  
9 Chickie Romero \$250  
9 Juan Guzman \$250  
13 Lidio Ramirez \$200  
13 Dave Callaghan \$200  
13 Jason Goberdhan \$200  
13 Pascal Dufresne \$200  
17 Ada Lio \$150  
17 Paul Lyons \$150  
17 Rene Villalobos \$150  
17 Shawn Sookhai \$150  
17 Brooke Meyer \$150  
17 Chris Ganley \$150  
17 Elvis Rodriguez \$150  
17 Katie Baker \$150

## 12/08 - 12/08

### Q City 9-Ball Tour Stop

#### The Clubhouse

Lynchburg, Virginia  
1 Cameron Lawhorne \$400  
2 Wes Enoch \$220  
3 Zac Leonard \$100

## 12/09 - 12/09

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

#### Crow's Nest

Plaistow, New Hampshire  
1 TJ Perrino \$425  
1 Brian Chase \$425  
2 Charlie Matarazzo \$275  
2 Rick Gatta \$275  
3 John Ferreira \$225  
3 Kevin Rodriguez \$225

4 Ruben Soto \$125  
4 John Collier \$125  
5 Al McGuane \$100  
5 Michael Mathieu \$100  
5 Jason Parker \$100  
5 Jose Concepcion \$100  
7 Matt Lopes \$75  
7 Justin Fournier \$75  
7 Andy Burns \$75  
7 Jeff Provencher \$75  
9 Ben Come \$50  
9 Bill Phillips \$50  
9 Eli Davenport \$50  
9 Adam Blair \$50  
9 Kerry McAuliffe \$50  
9 Mike Abbot \$50  
9 Sal Midolo \$50  
9 Nelson Perron \$50

## 12/10 - 12/20

### WPA World 9-Ball Championship 2018

#### Doha

Doha,  
1 Joshua Filler \$40,000  
2 Carlo Biado \$20,000  
3 Alexandros Kazakis \$8,000  
3 Shane Van Boening \$8,000  
5 Jung-Lin Chang \$5,000  
5 Kun Lin Wu \$5,000  
5 Corey Deuel \$5,000  
5 Albin Ouschan \$5,000  
9 Ta Li Lin \$3,000  
9 Chris Melling \$3,000  
9 Petri Makkonen \$3,000  
9 Jia-Qing Wu \$3,000  
9 Pin-Yi Ko \$3,000  
9 Niels Feijen \$3,000  
9 Wiktor Zielinski \$3,000  
9 Robbie James Joaquin Capito \$3,000  
17 Toru Kuribayashi \$2,000  
17 Fedor Gorst \$2,000  
17 Haitao Liu \$2,000  
17 Yukio Akagariyama \$2,000  
17 Jalal Al Saresi \$2,000  
17 Sharik Sayed \$2,000  
17 Ralf Souquet \$2,000  
17 Konrad Juszczyszyn \$2,000  
17 Seung Woo Ryu \$2,000  
17 Eklent Kaci \$2,000  
17 Toan Nguyen An \$2,000

17 Roland Garcia \$2,000  
17 Johann Chua \$2,000  
17 Mateusz Sniegocki \$2,000  
17 Casper Matikainen \$2,000  
17 Francisco Diaz-Pizarro \$2,000  
33 Alex Pagulayan \$1,000  
33 Wojciech Sroczynski \$1,000  
33 Jeffrey Ignacio \$1,000  
33 Francisco Sanchez-Ruiz \$1,000  
33 Tomoya Ima \$1,000  
33 Li Wen Lo \$1,000  
33 Maximilian Lechner \$1,000  
33 Ping-Chung Ko \$1,000  
33 Jui An Hsu \$1,000  
33 Jin-Hu Dang \$1,000  
33 Jeffrey De Luna \$1,000  
33 Aloysius Yapp \$1,000  
33 Ruslan Chinakhov \$1,000  
33 Omar Al Shaheen \$1,000  
33 Yu-Hsuan Cheng \$1,000  
33 Vitaliy Patsura \$1,000  
33 Ri Teng Liu \$1,000  
33 Mazen Berjaoui \$1,000  
33 Can Wang \$1,000  
33 Nick Malai \$1,000  
33 Waleed Majid \$1,000  
33 Chia-Chen Hsieh \$1,000  
33 Tomasz Kaplan \$1,000  
33 Myint-Kyaw Phone \$1,000  
33 Bader Al Awadi \$1,000  
33 Ping Han Ko \$1,000  
33 Tomoo Takano \$1,000  
33 Radoslaw Babica \$1,000  
33 Naoyuki Oi \$1,000  
33 John Morra \$1,000  
33 Konstantin Stepanov \$1,000  
33 Chen Gao Bing \$1,000

## 12/15 - 12/16

### Action Pool Tour 2018 Season Finale

#### Q-Master Billiards

Virginia Beach, VA  
1 JT Ringgold \$1,900  
2 Eric Moore \$1,300  
3 Shaun Wilkie \$875  
4 R.J. Carmona \$575  
5 Mike Davis \$385  
5 Scott Haas \$385  
7 Larry Kressel \$250  
7 Chris Bruner \$250  
9 Jason Trigo \$175

9 Steve Fleming \$175  
 9 James Blackburn \$175  
 9 Mac Harrell \$175  
 13 Nil Lim \$120  
 13 Tuan Chau \$120  
 13 Kenny Miller \$120  
 13 Reymart Lim \$120

## 12/15 - 12/16

### Q City 9-Ball Tour Stop Tour Championships

#### The Steakhorse Restaurant and Billiards

Spartanburg, SC  
 1 Raed Shabib \$1,350  
 2 Lee O'Neal \$850  
 3 Brian James \$500  
 4 Jason Potts \$330  
 5 Tyler Mayfield \$200  
 5 Brandon Stiltner \$200  
 7 Steve Thomas \$125  
 7 Mike Clevinger \$125  
 9 Stevie McClinton \$80

9 Boyd Best \$80  
 9 Ricky Bingham \$80  
 9 Matt Shaw \$80  
 13 Chuck Cuneo \$50  
 13 Daniel Adams \$50  
 13 Justin Duncan \$50  
 13 Keith Young \$50

## 12/16 - 12/16

### Tri State Tour 2018-2019 Stop

#### Steinway Billiards

Astoria, NY  
 1 Jimmy Acosta \$820  
 3 Rick Motilal \$350  
 4 Dejan Kocev \$230  
 5 Nathaniel Raimondo \$140  
 5 Mark Joseph \$140  
 7 John Stiles \$100  
 7 David Leggat \$100  
 9 Ray Lee \$80  
 9 Shawn Sookhai \$80  
 9 Ray Feliciano \$80  
 9 Joshua Joseph \$80

## 12/22 - 12/22

### Western New York Pool Tour 2018 Jingle Grind Christmas Classic

#### Diamond Billiards Bar & Grill

Rochester, NY  
 1 Qais Kolee \$1,150  
 2 Kyle Bova \$550  
 3 Spencer Augbelle \$375  
 4 Nick Brucato \$225  
 5 Jeremiah Imburgia \$125  
 5 Brad Wesley \$125

## 12/29 - 12/29

### Q City 9-Ball Tour Stop

#### Randolph's Billiards

Hickory, NC  
 1 Dalton Messer \$650  
 2 Matt Harrell \$400  
 3 Brian Francis \$225  
 4 David Lear \$125  
 5 Josh Newman \$75  
 5 Brandon Canipe \$75

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**JANUARY 16-20TH 2019**

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NINEBALL CHAMPIONSHIPS

## \$6,000 GUARANTEED ADDED

### WEDNESDAY - JANUARY 16TH

6:30 PM OPEN MINI TOURNAMENT \$35 ENTRY (\$25 ENTRY/\$10 GREEN FEE)  
LIMITED TO 64 PLAYERS - SINGLE ELIMINATION - RACE TO 7

### THURSDAY - JANUARY 17TH

6:30 PM MUSIC CITY OPEN - REGISTRATION CLOSES - LIMITED TO 128 PLAYERS  
MUSIC CITY OPEN AUCTION \$6,000 GUARANTEED ADDED - PAYS 25% OF FIELD  
ENTRY FEE \$100 (\$75 ENTRY/\$25 GREEN FEE) DOUBLE ELIMINATION  
RACE TO 7 - WINNER BREAKS

### FRIDAY - JANUARY 18TH

12:00 PM MUSIC CITY OPEN CONTINUES  
5:00 PM MUSIC CITY LADIES DIVISION - REGISTRATION CLOSES - LIMITED TO 48 PLAYERS  
\$1,000 GUARANTEED ADDED - PAYS 25% OF FIELD, LADIES AUCTION FOLLOWED BY 1ST ROUND  
ENTRY FEE \$75 (\$60 ENTRY/\$15 GREEN FEE) DOUBLE ELIMINATION  
RACE TO 7 - WINNER BREAKS

### SATURDAY - JANUARY 19TH

12:00 PM MUSIC CITY OPEN /LADIES CONTINUES  
10:00 PM WINNER TAKE ALL 9-BALL - \$500 ENTRY (MUST REGISTER ONSITE W/SPONSOR)  
LIMITED TO 8 PLAYERS - SINGLE ELIMINATION - RACE TO 11 - WINNER BREAKS

### SUNDAY - JANUARY 20TH

12:00 PM MUSIC CITY OPEN /LADIES CONTINUES  
WORLD/BCAPL 9-BALL RULES  
3 1/2' X 7' DIAMOND "SMART" TABLES - SIMONIS 860 CLOTH

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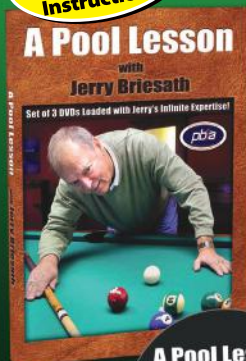
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- Jeanette “The Black Widow” Lee

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Matches will be played on approx. (60) 9' DIAMOND SMART TABLES  
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with the Cyclop TV Cue Balls

Players must enter all three divisions to be eligible for the **ALL-AROUND CHAMPIONSHIP AWARDS** to see who is truly the 2019 *Master of the Table*.

**BUY-IN OPTION:** One (1) Buy-In Option is allowed per player, per division. The Buy-In option is \$50 9-Ball Bank, \$75 1-pocket, \$100 9-Ball. Buy-In Option must be exercised before the drawing of the next round. Buy-In Option monies go toward All-Around Championship Award and promotion of the Derby City Classic. From 5th round on, you are automatically rebuying!

### PUMP-UP MINIS - See Schedule

Mini-tournaments will be held during the 9-day Extravaganza in 9-ball, One-Pocket and 9-Ball Bank. See schedule. Using added money from outside sponsors and small entry fees, players will have an added opportunity to win prize money and the enjoyment of practicing an old skill or a new one.

### INTERNET REGISTRATION AVAILABLE AT DERBYCITYCLASSIC.COM

Remit check or money order no later than January 12, 2019.

Late entry fees will be accepted at The Derby City Classic Tournament Office Thursday, January 24, 4-10 p.m. VIP and VIP TV seats are non-refundable and non-transferable.

Go to [www.derbycityclassic.com](http://www.derbycityclassic.com) for updates!



*Special Thanks to our Sponsors:*



DIAMOND BILLIARD PRODUCTS, Inc., 4700 New Middle Rd., Jeffersonville, IN 47130

Diamond reserves the right to change any/all prize money payouts based on, but not limited to: inclement weather, acts of God, terrorism. Subject to change without notice.

### STRAIGHT POOL CHALLENGE - JANUARY 27, 2019

- \$100 Entry
  - \$1000 High Run
  - Guaranteed Added **\$15,000** (event played on 4 tables)
  - Daily prizes for 1st, 2nd and 3rd
- Dennis Walsh [denniswalshaw@gmail.com](mailto:denniswalshaw@gmail.com)

### 9-BALL BANK - JANUARY 25, 2019

- Players Meeting, Noon; Draw immediately following
- Match Play begins 1:00 pm
- Total Purse, \$50,000\* approximate
- Guaranteed Added **\$10,000**
- Entry Fee \$110\*\* • Buy-In Option - \$50
- Single Elimination w/ 1 Buyback • Race to 3
- Foul results in loss of ball

\*Total Purse based on field of 400 players (max 475)  
\*\* Entry fee includes a \$10 registration fee.

### ONE-POCKET - JANUARY 27, 2019

- Players Meeting, Noon; Draw immediately following
- Match Play begins 1:00 pm
- Total Purse, \$52,500\* approximate
- Guaranteed Added **\$15,000**
- Entry Fee \$135\*\* • Buy-In Option - \$75
- Single Elimination w/ 1 Buyback • Race to 3
- Standard Rules

\*Total Purse based on field of 300 players (max 425)  
\*\* Entry fee includes a \$10 registration fee.

### 9-BALL - JANUARY 30, 2019

- Players Meeting, Noon; Draw immediately following
- Match Play begins 1:00 pm
- Total Purse, \$77,500\* approximate
- Guaranteed Added **\$25,000**
- Entry Fee \$160\*\* • Buy-In Option - \$100
- Single Elimination w/ 1 Buyback • Race to 9
- Pro-Express Rules • BCA Points Event

\*Total Purse based on field of 350 players (max 425)  
\*\* Entry fee includes a \$10 registration fee.

The Derby City Classic presented by Horseshoe Southern Indiana is an OPEN Tournament for all players, Male or Female, Amateur or Professional. If under 18 years of age, you must be accompanied by an adult.

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FOR MORE INFORMATION: CALL DIAMOND BILLIARD PRODUCTS INC. @ 812-288-7665 OR [www.DerbyCityClassic.com](http://www.DerbyCityClassic.com)

Entries received the day of draw will incur an additional \$25 charge.

Due to the Buy-In Option Format Prize Money pay out will be a minimum of 64 players or a maximum of 1/3 of the field.

Refund requests must be in writing and received at Diamond Billiard Products, 4700 New Middle Rd., Jeffersonville, IN 47130 by Jan. 13, 2019. All refunds will be charged a \$25 cancellation fee plus the registration fee. All refunds will be processed after Feb. 26, 2019. **NO EXCEPTIONS!**