

Billiards Buzz

an 

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BIADO

Bags US Open Title

Volume 6, Issue #60

5115 N Dysart Rd #202-123
Litchfield Park, Az 85392
Ph: 678-919-7665
info@azbilliards.com

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CONTRIBUTORS:

Skip Maloney
Chris Stankovich
Anthony Beeler
Michelle Hughes
Mary Kenniston
Steve Lillis
Michael Day
Erwin Dionisio
Matt Porinsky
Alison Fischer
Chris Reinhold
Roy Pastor

American Poolplayer Association

COVER PHOTO:

Erwin Dionisio

GRAPHICS AND LAYOUT:

Natasha Dolovacki
Nebojsa Dolovacki

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FROM THE Head Rail

MIKE HOWERTON

There are a lot of congratulations to be handed out this month. Big congrats to Carlo Biado for win at the US Open Pool Championship. Of the big winners this month, Carlo represents the "old guard" pretty well and won the biggest title of the month. Eklent Kaci's win at the World 10-Ball Championship was a great win for that field of "new guard", players who have dominated the past few years. Aloysius Yapp and Wu Kuo-Lin both breaking through for their wins at the Michigan Open and Las Vegas Open were wins for two newcomers to the winners circle. Hopefully these are just the first major titles for both of these players.

One great thing about all of the big winners this month was that they were all different. Aloysius Yapp, with his Michigan Win and World 10-Ball Runner Up finish was probably the most consistent of the winners this month, but we had four different winners in four different major events. And none of the titles were won by defending champions. Have we ever had this much talent at the top of the pool scene? Even with all of that talent, I'm sure there are a couple of brothers in Asia right now that would like to remind us all of how well they play.

We also want to offer big congratulations to Matchroom Pool, Predator and Cue Sports International for putting on a months worth of great events with very few hiccups of any kind, even if he didn't call for an extension.

Until next time,
Mike



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- CSI Media Rep
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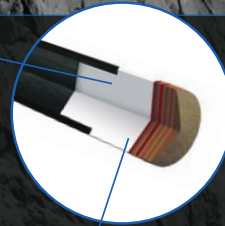
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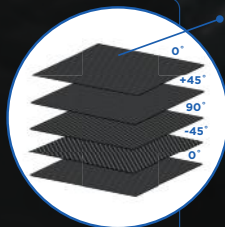
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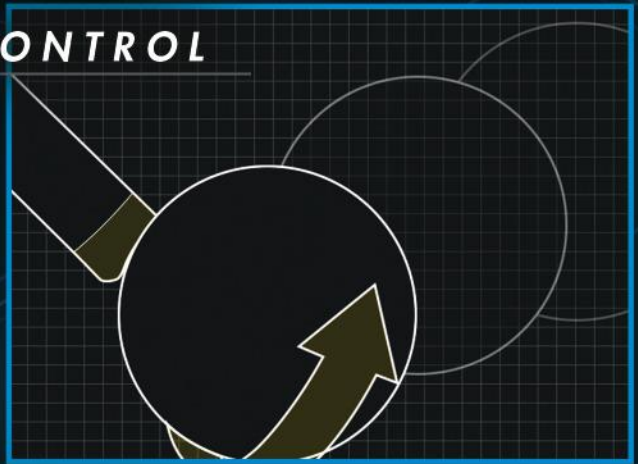
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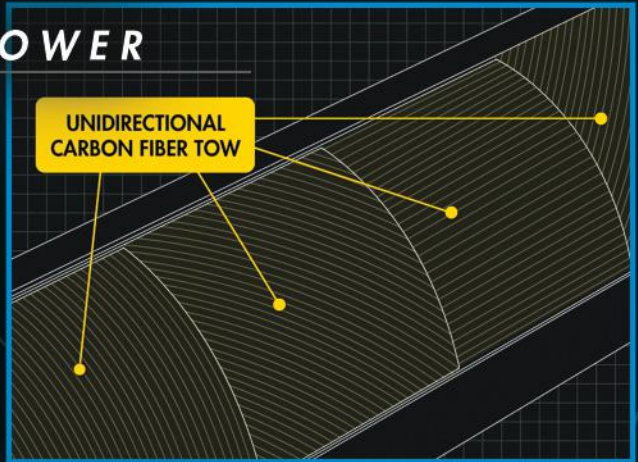
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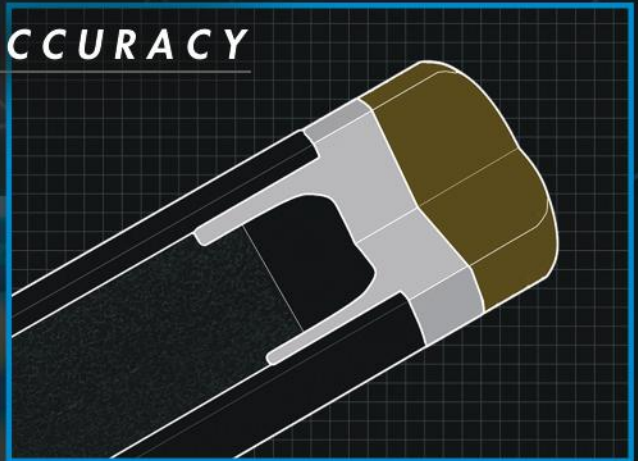
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OVERCOMING *the Fear of Failure*

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

Believe it or not, one of the biggest fears humans have is the fear of failure. This is especially true for athletes, as unlike other careers where performance can go unnoticed, in sports the game ends with an observable winner and loser.

Many people who experience failure feel inadequate, lacking in talent, and even embarrassed. In fact, it is exactly these kinds of worries that can prevent a person from playing his or her best – even before a game has started! What’s fascinating about this discussion, however, is the fact that *we don’t have to be afraid of failing, and in fact can actually use failure for future growth and success.*

Measure your success within yourself

While it is true that we regularly compare ourselves to others to see how we stack up, you might be surprised how much better you can improve by setting your own goals that measure your own growth. For example, when playing pool against an opponent you have a lot less control over the outcome than you might think (there’s not much you can do when someone runs a table on you). On the other hand, by setting goals around practicing your own ball runs, drilling spot shots, or keeping track of how many successful safes you can play, you can actually monitor goals that you have much more control over. This type of playing within yourself approach helps with self-improvement, increases motivation, and even tamps down worries of failure.

4 things you cannot avoid in life

Regardless of what you do for a living or how good or bad your pool game is, there are four life hurdles you cannot avoid:

- Stress
- Adversity
- Frustration
- Failure

Notice that failure in life is unavoidable – for all of us – so why let the fear of failure (something everyone experiences in life) prevent you from playing your best?! Furthermore, make sure to tell yourself if someone is going to beat you, it’s going to be because of their superior play, and not because you beat yourself. Since everyone deals with stress, adversity, frustration, and failure, why not learn how to cope with these things rather than trying to avoid them?



Dr. Christopher Stankovich is a nationally acclaimed expert in Sport & Performance Psychology and the Founder of Advanced Human Performance Systems. For more information on performance-enhancement products, including the popular “Mind of Steel for Pool Success” conveniently streamed to your phone/pad please visit www.drstankovich.com

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THE TRUTH ABOUT PRACTICE TIME

ANTHONY BEELER

If you don't manage your pool playing expectations, then you most likely will not enjoy playing very much. Worse, you probably won't see any improvement in overall performance.

For about 3-4 years I really didn't enjoy playing pool, and it largely had to do with unrealistic expectations. The combination of not practicing enough, thinking I could win more tournaments than I should, and not even playing that much made my time on the table unenjoyable.

This article will be centered on time. Why? Because time is one of the most precious resources that continually holds players back. If you want to get to a certain level of play, time

is going to be a determining factor. This will greatly influence what your expectations should be.

Situation #1: You have very little to almost no time to practice or play very much.

I would say that most of you reading this article fall into this category.

You work a full-time job. You might be married with kids. As much as you would like for pool to be a focal point of your life, it's just not. It probably won't be until you retire.



If this is you, I am going to advise you to set few expectations for your overall performance.

If you can't play or practice much, you won't have many previous experiences to build on. Playing a tournament in February, and then your next one in late September without picking up a cue in between means that literally anything is possible when you go out to play (usually bad).

In fact, unless you were a major player at one point in your life, it's almost impossible to improve at pool with very infrequent practice or play. Your only goal should be to have fun, don't worry about making huge gains because it's just not realistic.

Situation #2: You play on average once a week, and can devote a few hours of practice.

This is another category most pool players fall into. If you are in this group, I would say that there can be a reasonable expectation of improvement if you spend your time wisely. Playing once a week is enough to see progress over time.

Progress in pool occurs in small steps. You make small breakthroughs, and



then maybe you have a setback or two. But if you can keep practicing and playing a decent amount you will see small incremental progress that will build over time.

Situation #3: I have the time; I want to see how great I can become! The last scenario is probably what most of you would love to be doing. If you are in this final category, you have time to practice almost every day, and can play as much as 2-4 times a week. This is the amount of time that is going to be necessary to make huge strides in your overall game.

At this point, you know that pool is a very difficult game. If you want to get to the top, it's going to take a lot of time and effort. There is simply no shortcut around this.

If you really want to get better and run 100 balls.... you are going to have to become much better at

stroking the cue ball. There's just no way around it. That's not to say you should abandon everything else. You still need to be very good at patterns, strategy, and defensive play.

If you are serious about improving your pool stroke, I would suggest enrolling at Virtual Billiard Academy. We have a long track record of accelerating student progress by properly evaluating your overall game.

Making huge strides with your pool game requires a total effort. It's a combination of mechanics, mental game, strategy, practice, and playing. The reality is all aspects require a great deal of time to master. If you have that time, go for it. Just don't fool yourself into thinking you can do it playing infrequently, and not practicing much.

Take a careful look at these three categories. See which one you fall

into in terms of the amount of time you can dedicate to the game. There may be some exceptions, but I would advise adjusting your expectations based on how much time you can practice and play. At the end of the day, the more you practice the better you are going to get.

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

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JOHN SHOWMAN

By MICHELLE HUGHES
Social Media Specialist
Biggelbachs.com

There's a reason you don't often see Showman Cues on the secondary market. It's because once you have one, you hang on to it. In this month's "Meet the Cue Maker" we are putting the spotlight on John Showman of Showman Cues.

John, 54 resides in Safety Harbor, Florida with his daughter Beliza and sons Christopher and Jonathan. Originally from Pennsylvania, John always had artistic abilities. From a young age, he enjoyed painting and sculpting, but as a teenager he made his way into the world of pool and got hooked on the game. Always interested in building and creating, he quickly realized he was fascinated by pool cues more than anything else. In the mid 80's he was in high school and began learning to put



on tips and then progressed to cue repair. By 1989, John moved to Florida and met cue maker Rocky Tillis. They quickly became friends and he gained Rocky as a mentor. At that time due to his health, Rocky was no longer building cues but allowed John to pick his brain on the world of cue making. It wasn't long until he learned enough to make his first cue 3 years later at the age of 25. While he was honing his cue building skills, he maintained employment at a pharmaceutical plant making prescription drugs. It was in 2003 when he decided to go full time as a cue maker and established Showman Cues. He now maintains his shop converted from a one-car garage that is connected to his home in Safety Harbor, Florida.

John starts the cue building process by allowing the wood to sit for at least 6 months before even beginning to make a cue. His primary concern is the weight of the shaft as it "determines the balance of the whole cue". In the beginning before doing everything himself, he started with blanks made by either Burton Spain or Brunswick Titlists. Now he creates most components by hand or by using manual machines such as a pantograph which is what he uses for inlays. Overall, the only parts of the cue he doesn't



make are the tips and bumper. Even the joint screws he makes himself from threaded rods. His builds tend to be more traditional styles using natural woods like Brazilian rosewood, ebony and maple. You'll often see them consisting of 4 points and 5 veneers with his favorite being a 4-point Hoppe style cue. He finishes his cues off with his signature located on the joint pin, butt bolt and brass insert. He can even personalize it further with his signature joint protectors. I was curious to know what Showman would look for in other custom cues. He said that he can appreciate fancy and artistic designs. However, he personally finds more value in taking it back to the basics and focusing on the quality and execution of the craft. He naturally gravitates toward and

admires the works of Rocky Tillis, Gus [Szamboti], George [Balabushka], Ernie [Gutierrez] and also Jerry Franklin of Southwest Cues because: "He was one of the most amazing people I've ever met, and his wife Laurie who is still carrying on the business".

After nearly 3 decades in the business, John states his career highlight was watching Billiard Hall of Famer Rodney Morris use his custom built original to win the 2006 Seminole Florida Pro Tour Stop. To this day Morris confirms Showman is, "a great guy...lovely human...cues are super solid hitting and just happen to be gorgeous! It's a cue you can trust." The typical price range to get your hands on a Showman cue starts at about \$3,000 and goes up from there depending on the build. Although that price tag may seem steep and tempt some to keep theirs locked away, John gave me this analogy: "Cues are like ladies'

shoes; they may be expensive, but they are made to be used and aren't bought as an investment". Point taken. Some cue makers may take pride that customers don't want to devalue one of their highly coveted cues, however, John likes it best when his cues are used for their intended purpose: runnin' racks! After making customs for a few big names such as Rodney Morris, George "Ginky" SanCouci and even Joe Rogan, you can imagine what high demand Showman cues are in. With a yearly production of 25 or less he hasn't taken new orders in over 15 years. While he does have one broker in Japan, the best way to get your hands on a Showman cue is the rare instance of stumbling upon a collector willing to part with his (or hers respectively). That takes us full circle. If you are fortunate enough to have a Showman cue in your possession, you are definitely going to want to hang on to that one.



Michelle Hughes is a long-time pool enthusiast from the Pacific Northwest. During Covid, on a furlough from her full-time career as a flight attendant, Michelle opted to hang out with the Biggelbachs helping with social media, streaming, and cues. She quickly fell in love with the craftsmanship and artisanship of custom cues. Join her in this monthly column on her quest to learn more about cue makers and their respective craft.

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Gospel Trick Shot #20

Tragic Loss!

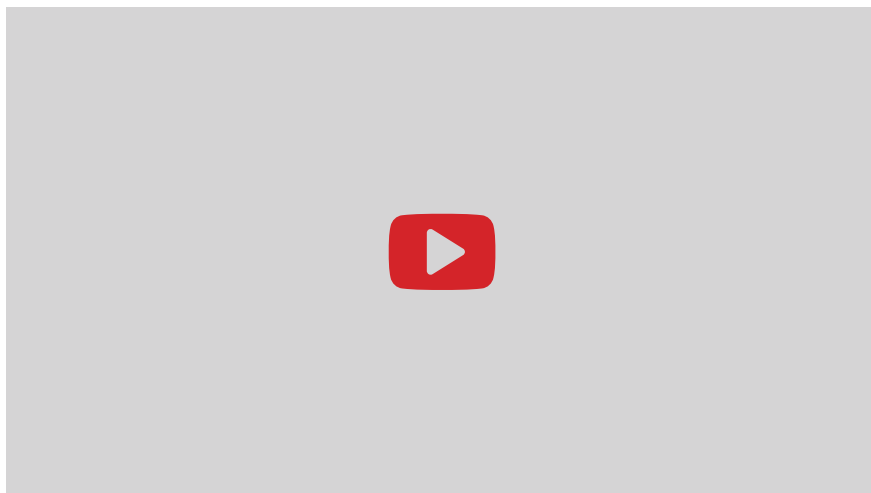
History of the Trick Shot: This shot also is an ongoing continuation of converting Artistic Pool shots from the WPA sanctioned World Artistic Pool program into Gospel Trick Shots. In the 2018 Official Shot/Challenge Program this particular shot is found in Disciple 3 and it is Shot 3c. It is performed in the video by Larry Nickleson who is a PBIA instructor from Texas. Larry is also on our GTS RACK Team and in the video, he explains the Gospel Trick Shot message that goes with the shot. This Artistic Pool shot has a degree of difficulty rating of 6. The shots range from 6 to 10 so even though it is on the easy range of the spectrum this shot still requires practice, knowledge, and skill to make it consistently!

GTS Name and Why: Larry came up with this shot the week after his dad went home to be with the Lord. The legacy he left was to love pool and love God. In the video you will notice that Larry explains that he will make the three striped object balls and get position on the eight ball to pocket it last as in a game of 8-Ball. He then draws the cue ball too far and pockets the eight out of turn and holds his head down because he has lost the game. This in turn illustrates Larry's loss of his dad. In the Artistic Pool program to score the points you intentionally pocket the eight on the shot. You can always modify any Artistic Pool shot to give a visual of your GTS message.

Scripture References in NIV Translation: These are the Scriptures that spoke to Larry this past month on the passing of his dad: Psalm 30:5; 2 Cor 12:9-10, 1:3-5; John 14:1-4; Isaiah 54:10; Prov 14:32; Rev 21:4; and Psalms 23.

Cue Ball Placement: In hand comfortably as shown in the diagram.

Object Ball(s) Placement: Stripped Object Balls (11,9,10) frozen as shown in diagram aiming to the inside of corner pockets A and C to allow for throw on object balls 11 and 10 from 9. The 8-Ball is a chalk's width away from side pocket (E).

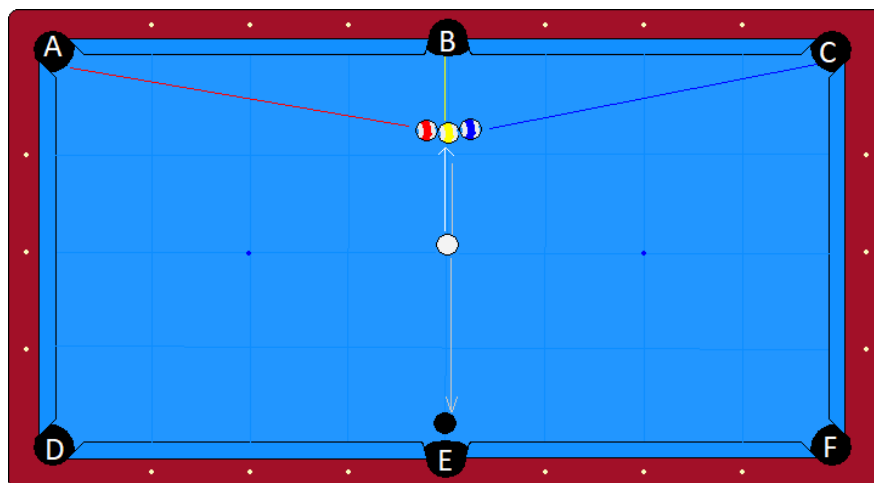


Objective: Shoot cue ball with extreme draw striking the center of the 9-Ball which is in the center of the three frozen balls. 9-Ball pockets in (B), 10-Ball pockets in (C), 11-Ball pockets in (A). Cue ball draws back pocketing 8-Ball in pocket (E).

Special Notes: Remember that the explanation of this shot in the video has been modified to accommodate Larry's special message in honor of his dad.

Crowd Reactions Through the Years: Since we are remembering the 20th Anniversary of September 11th this month, I

would like to share a story that fits Larry's theme. Yours truly Steve Lillis was living in Paterson, New Jersey at the time and people from my home town witnessed the collapse of the Twin Towers first hand with two people from my home church perishing in the tragedy. In my next few GTS shows I came up with a 911 shot and shared it as various events. I will never forget the reaction at the Hopkins Expo in 2002 when people were so visibly shaken by my shot and the memory that I never used that shot again in my Gospel Trick Shot shows.



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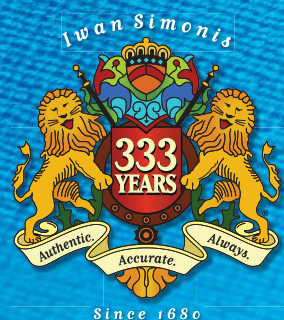
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Carlo Biado Wins

THE US OPEN POOL CHAMPIONSHIP

Carlo Biado has won The US Open Pool Championship beating Aloysius Yapp at Harrah's Resort, Atlantic City in partnership with Caesars Entertainment and the Atlantic City Sports Commission.

RESULT – Carlo Biado 13-8 Aloysius Yapp

Biado started the final the strongest of the pair going into a quick 2-0 lead with back-to-back break and runs. The Filipino got the crowd going in the third after jumping the four to cut the one in, but it was Yapp who took it to trail 2-1 early on.

Yapp broke in the fourth but struggled for any position off it leaving a simple

1 2 combo to allow Biado the chance to run the rack and have the break in the fifth. It was Biado's turn to find himself stuck off the break and Yapp was soon back at the table where he executed the perfect table length bank on the 2 as he cut Biado's lead to one rack.

As ever in the tournament so far, Yapp never looked fazed by his opponent's pedigree racing into a 5-3 lead to put some breathing space between the

pair for the first time in the contest. In the ninth rack it was all about safety as they did battle early on before eventually, Biado drew a foul from Yapp.

Yapp began to put daylight between the pair putting Biado in all sorts of trouble in the 10th rack where the two were tied up by the seven and with that Yapp lead 7-3. Yapp soon missed the nine which could've made it 9-3 and that's when the contest turned entirely in Biado's favour.



Carlo Biado

“ BIADO WAS ELATED WITH HIS WIN AND STRUGGLED TO HOLD BACK THE TEARS: “I AM VERY HAPPY BECAUSE THIS EVENT IS ONE OF MY DREAMS. ”

Biado ran the following two racks after the nine to only trail by two at 8-6. A pivotal moment coming in the following rack where Biado jumped the six effortlessly to pocket the one and soon pull it to 8-7. It was Biado's fifth successive rack to make it eight all and soon Yapp was staring down the barrel of defeat.

Perhaps left cold after being sat at his corner for a while, Yapp had his chance when tied but he drew the cue ball the length of the table on the two scratching and allowing Biado to the table to take the lead for the first time since being 3-2 up.

At 10-8 up, Biado once again broke out the jump cue to pocket the one

Carlo Biado



expertly and the bags of experience showed as he closed out the contest.

Everything was relatively plain sailing for Biado from there on getting onto the hill before missing what could've been a costly 19 combo in what was ultimately the last rack as Biado became the first Filipino to win the US Open Pool Championship since Efren Reyes.

Yapp said: “I am lost for words. I feel grateful to be in the final and all the

fans have been awesome so thank you. I know I can do it; I am coming back stronger next year.”

Biado was elated with his win and struggled to hold back the tears: “I am very happy because this event is one of my dreams. I dedicate this to my family and to my baby. Thank you to all of you even during the pandemic you're still here watching around the world. Thank you to Matchroom, my sponsors, and all of the Filipinos who support me always everywhere.”



Aloysius Yapp

The 2021 US Open Pool Championship will be partnered by Diamond, who supply the Official Table; the Official Cloth is supplied by Iwan Simonis and the Official Balls are ARAMITH Tournament BLACK pool ball set with Duramith™ Technology by Saluc. Predator is the Official Cue of the event and Kamui are the Official Chalk and Tip. The US Open Pool Championship is sanctioned by the WPA.

KACI

Lights Up

World 10-Ball Championship

The only thing that could stop Albania's Eklent Kaci on the final day of the World 10-Ball Championships was to turn off the lights.

Playing in the second semi-final match of the day, Kaci had built an early 3-1 advantage against Singapore's Aloysius Yapp when a thunderstorm knocked out power to the Rio All-Suites Hotel and Casino for a little over two hours. When play resumed, the 22-year-old Albanian gutted out a 10-8 victory against Yapp to earn a trip to the finals, then pulled away from Japan's Naoyuki Oi late in the championship match to earn a 10-6 victory and win the second-annual Predator 10-Ball Championship. Kaci, who has won a handful of EuroTour events and was a runner-up at the 2017 U.S. Open 9-Ball Championship, used a combination of tight safety play and dazzling shot-making to earn the biggest prize of his career.



WORLD 10-BALL
CHAMPIONSHIP

World10Ball.com



Eklent Kaci

“ KACI CLEARED THE TABLE TO TAKE A 9-8 LEAD, THEN USED A ONE-RAIL, TABLE-LENGTH KICK TO POCKET THE 2 BALL, RUN OUT THE 18TH GAME AND SECURE THE A SPOT IN THE CHAMPIONSHIP MATCH. ”

Playing in the weather-delayed championship match, Kaci used two breaks and runs along with a dry break from Oi to build an early 4-1 advantage. Oi returned fire, just as he had done so many times throughout the tournament, taking advantage of a Kaci missed shot and dry break to tie the score 4-4, only to suffer a dry break of his own in the very next game. Kaci cleared the table to regain the lead and tacked on another rack to build a 6-4 advantage.

The charismatic competitor from Japan continued to nip at Kaci's lead, using a break-and-run to pull to within 6-5. He had an opportunity to close to within 7-6 but missed a makeable 4 ball. His opponent gave him additional oxygen when he misplayed position on the 8 ball and was forced to play a safety. Oi used a perfectly executed one-rail kick to pocket the ball, but missed an equally tough cut on the 9 ball. Kaci cleared the rack, then used a table-length bank on the 1 ball to break and runout the 14th game. Oi broke-and-ran one last time to pull to within 9-6, but Kaci gutted out one last rack after a victorious safety exchange on the 1 ball, pumping his fist a couple of times in jubilation as he prepared to pocket the tournament-winning 10-ball.

Oi, who improved on his fifth-through-eighth finish at the 2019 event, earned a trip to the finals with one of the gutsiest and most persistent matches of the tournament, battling back from a 5-1 deficit against Filipino Johann Chua to pull out a 10-9 victory. The ability to pocket balls on the break eluded him, as his first four attempts

came up completely dry. Oi was able to claw out a pair of victories to cut the lead to 6-3 thanks in large part to Chua breaking dry in the seventh rack and missing a 2 ball in the following rack. He cut the lead again with a victorious safety exchange in the 10th game, a Chua foul in the subsequent rack and tied the score with – of all things – a break-and-run.

The two competitors played even down the stretch, with Oi taking the lead in the 13th game only to allow his opponent back to the table in the next game with a missed 8 ball. By now, both competitors were struggling to break racks effectively, with Chua breaking dry in the 15th and 17th games while Oi failed to pocket a ball

with his opening shot in the 16h game. Standing at the table with breaking honors in the 19th and deciding game, Chua once again failed to pocket a ball on the break. With the 1 ball nestled close to the corner pocket and the cue ball blocked by the 7 ball, Oi reached for his jump cue and popped the object ball into its destination after a push out. And with that he was off and running, clearing the table and capping off his comeback.

A few minutes later, Kaci was at the same table attempting to build on his lead when the power was knocked out at the casino. Once electricity was restored and the match resumed approximately two-and-a-half hours later, Yapp quickly tied the score with a safety victory and a dry break from his opponent. The Albanian snagged two more racks to regain the lead, 5-3, and had a chance to increase his lead further but missed an 8 ball in the ninth game. Yapp cleared the table then tacked on another game to once again tie the match.

Aloysius Yapp





Johann Chua

CueSports International Expo is also home to the BCA Pool League World Championships, USA Pool League National Championships and numerous industry exhibitors. The 11-day billiard extravaganza attracts more than 6,000 pool players from around the world, consumes 150,000 square feet, and uses over 300 Diamond pool tables with the goal of always providing the greatest pool experience in the world.

This competition is played on Diamond Pro-Am pool tables covered with Predator Arcadia Performance Cloth, with Predator Arcos II balls, and under the Predator Arena billiard lights. Kamui and Omega Billiard Supplies are also partners of the event.

For the latest information on the Predator Pro Billiard Series action, follow @ProBilliardSeries on Facebook and Instagram. For Live broadcasting watch Billiard TV or follow WorldBilliardTV on YouTube for replays.

Kaci took another two-game lead thanks to a dry break from his opponent and a missed kick shot. Once more, he had a chance to push the lead to three racks but missed a 7 ball in the 13th game. Yapp retaliated, tying the score once more and running through the balls in the 15th rack with a chance to take his first lead until he misplayed position on the 6 ball and missed. The Albanian cleared the table to take an 8-7 lead, then scratched on the break in the following game to allow Yapp to tie the score for the fourth time.

Once again shooting with a chance to take the lead, Yapp missed a shot at the 1 ball in the 17th rack but left his opponent hooked behind the 8 ball. After a lengthy safety exchange, Yapp forfeited the table when he pocketed the ball in the wrong pocket. This time, Kaci made sure there weren't any more comebacks left in Yapp's tank. He cleared the table to take a 9-8 lead, then used a one-rail, table-length kick to pocket the 2 ball, run out the 18th game and secure the a spot in the championship match.

The World 10-Ball Championship is a proud part of the CueSports International Expo in Las Vegas. The



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WU SAILS Through To Claim *Diamond Las Vegas Open*

For the last half decade, Wu Kun-Lin has been hanging around the top of the leaderboard at professional pool events.

He placed third at the 2017 World 9-Ball Championship and followed that performance by finishing fifth at the same event a year later. He has a handful of top-five finishes in the Japan Open and, five

years ago, Wu finished in third at the China Open. Despite the top finishes, the 25-year-old from Taiwan hasn't been able to break through and secure a victory. That is, at least, until this weekend.

Using a smooth break and some pinpoint safety play, Wu cruised to the championship in the third annual Diamond Las Vegas Open, defeating Omar Al Shaheen in straight sets, 4-3 and 4-1, in Saturday night's finals at the Rio All-Suites hotel and casino.



Wu Kun-Lin

Wu, who posted an undefeated record during the four-day, 128-player event, managed to survive early charges not only from Al Shaheen in the finals, but also Estonia's Denis Grabe in the semifinals to earn the trophy and the \$15,000 check.

Wu jumped out to an early 3-0 advantage in race-to-four, two set finals thanks to two victorious safety exchanges and a break-and-run. Al Shaheen, who earned runner-up honors at this year's World Pool Championship, climbed onto the scoreboard in the fourth game when he executed a table-length kick in of the 6 ball and ran out the rack. The young upstart from Kuwait then used a powerful break shot to break-and-run back-to-back racks and tie the score. Faced with a tricky 4 and 10 ball combination shot in the decisive game, Al Shaheen attempted to pocket the object ball but instead left a makeable 4 ball along the long rail, which his opponent pocketed and cleared the table to secure the set, 4-3.

Al Shaheen was plagued with mistakes throughout the second set, committing fouls in the first and second games as Wu again secured an early 2-0 lead. Al Shaheen was able to narrow the deficit in the next game when Wu overran position on the 6 ball and committed a foul of his own, but forfeited the table in the next rack when Al Shaheen committed another unforced error. After winning a safety exchange on the 2 ball in the fifth rack, it appeared the Kuwaiti was about to



Omar Al Shaheen

cut his deficit to 3-2 but left a routine 8 ball in the corner pocket's jaws. Wu cleared the table, then tacked on another rack to seal the match and the championship.

Things didn't look nearly as promising for Wu in the semifinals, as opponent Grabe used back-to-back pocketed 10 balls on the break in the first set to shut out his opponent, 4-0. Wu made the most of opening the second set with breaking honors, using a break-and-run and a tricky combination shot on

the 5 and 9 balls to build an early 2-0 advantage. Grabe was able to return to the table after Wu scratched in the third game and tacked on two wins of his own to tie the score, but a missed jump shot on the fifth game gave control of the table back to his opponent, who ran out the rack to regain the lead then won a safety battle to claim the set. He was perfect in the deciding sudden death shootout, sinking four consecutive spot shots to advance to the finals.

Despite the error-infested final match, Al Shaheen turned in another impressive performance in a full-field, double-elimination event, defeating James Aranas, Ralf Souquet and Wiktor Zielinski during the single-elimination knockout phase to advance to the semifinals where he faced Shane Van Boening, who was still in stroke from his Texas Open championship a week earlier.

“ THINGS DIDN'T LOOK NEARLY AS PROMISING FOR WU IN THE SEMIFINALS, AS OPPONENT GRABE USED BACK-TO-BACK POCKETED 10 BALLS ON THE BREAK IN THE FIRST SET TO SHUT OUT HIS OPPONENT, 4-0. ”

2021 Diamond Las Vegas Open

The Kuwaiti climbed into an early hole before he even screwed his cues together, being assessed a one-game penalty in the first set for arriving late for the match. Al Shaheen would quickly wipe out the deficit, using a Van Boening scratch to tie the match, then using two victorious safety battles and a break-and-run to claim the set, 4-1. The second set was the photo negative of the first, with the two competitors splitting the first two games before Van Boening used two safety victories and a break-and-run of his own to run away with the set, 4-1, and force a deciding shootout.

The two players continued to play even during the spot shot contest, with each competitor landing four straight shots before Van Boening missed in the fifth inning. Al Shaheen then stepped to the table, pocketed

his fifth consecutive ball and breathed a sigh of relief.

The Diamond Las Vegas Open is a proud part of the CueSports International Expo in Las Vegas. The CueSports International Expo is also home to the BCA Pool League World Championships, USA Pool League National Championships and numerous industry exhibitors. The 11-day billiard extravaganza attracts more than 6,000 pool players from around the world, consumes 150,000 square feet, and uses over 300 Diamond pool tables with the goal of always providing the greatest pool experience in the world.

This event also is the second stop of the U.S. Pro Billiard Series, which features five open professional events between July and the end of the year. Created by Predator Group and ama-

teur league operator CueSports International, these tournaments will run in tandem alongside of CSI league amateur events being held throughout the country. The winner of each competition receives a guaranteed spot in the \$100,000-added 2022 Predator World 10-Ball Championship, which will be held March 28 through April 1 in Las Vegas at the Rio.

This competition is played on Diamond Pro-Am pool tables covered with Predator Arcadia Performance Cloth, with Predator Arcos II balls, and under the Predator Arena billiard lights. Kamui and Omega Billiard Supplies are also partners of the event.

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Yapp Traps

CSI Michigan Open 10-Ball Title

This month, Singapore's Aloysius Yapp has had himself a pretty good year. The 25-year-old began his September with a top 10 finish in the Diamond Las Vegas Open, then reached the semifinals of the Predator World 10-Ball Championships six days later.

Following those performances, he traveled cross-country to Atlantic City where he reached the finals of the U.S. Open Pool Champi-

onships, jumping out to an 8-3 lead against Carlo Biado before the Filipino mounted a second-half comeback and secured the title, 13-8.

Saturday night at the Kellogg Arena in Battle Creek, Mich., Yapp broke through and won his first major championship, taking advantage of a hand-



Aloysius Yapp

ful errors by opponent Roberto Gomez Jr. to win the CSI Michigan Open in straight sets, 4-0, 4-2. With the victory, Yapp earned a \$12,000 payday and automatic entry in the 2022 World 10-Ball Championships at the Rio Hotel and Casino in Las Vegas next March.

Yapp struggled with his break throughout the final day of the event, failing to pocket a ball on his opening shot six times during the championship match. Instead, he used a misplayed safety by Gomez coupled with his lone-break-and-run to build a 2-0 advantage, then took advantage of a missed shot by his opponent in the next rack to increase the lead and climb onto the hill. After Yapp again broke dry in the fourth game, the Filipino appeared to be in position to win his first rack of the match but missed the 7 ball in the corner pocket, allowing Yapp back to the table where he closed out the set, 4-0.

The script was more of the same in the second set, with Yapp taking advantage of a missed 2 ball in the first game and two misplayed safeties by Gomez in the next two racks to grab another 3-0 lead. Gomez returned to the table in the fourth game after his opponent again failed to pocket a ball on the break and appeared positioned to run out the rack but missed the 3 ball. Yapp then seemed to have a clear path to close out the match but scratched in the side pocket while attempting to secure position on the 8 ball. Gomez cleared the table then took advantage of a misplayed safety from Yapp to cut the lead to 3-2.

Now at the table with a chance to tie the match at three games each, it was Gomez this time who broke and didn't make a ball. Yapp slowly and methodically worked his way through the rack, sending the cue ball three rails after pocketing the 8 ball to secure position on the 9 ball, then slyly cracking a smile when he landed straight in position on the 10 ball for the win. After



Roberto Gomez

pocketing the game-winning ball, the young man from Singapore raised his cue in triumph with a large smile on his face.

The smile may have been out of relief as much as happiness, with Yapp surviving the final day as much as earned the win.

After gutting out straight set victories against Greece's Alex Kazakis and Poland's Konrad Juszczyszyn, Yapp faced Hungary's Oliver Szolnoki in the semifinals. He took advantage of a pair of dry breaks and a safety exchange to build a 3-1 lead but left back-to-back opportunities in the next two games when he left an open shot after a safety and scratched in the corner pocket. With the score now tied 3-3, Yapp was able to clear the table and take the set

after his opponent failed to pocket a ball on the break.

The Hungarian was able to jump out to an early 3-1 advantage in the second set thanks to Yapp scratching in the first and third games. Yapp took advantage of another Szolnoki dry break to cut the deficit to 3-2, then used a victorious safety exchange to tie the score. After Yapp broke dry in the deciding game, Szolnoki appeared to be closing out the set and sending the match to a sudden death shootout but missed the 2 ball, allowing Yapp to close out the rack and the match.

Meanwhile Gomez had a bit more of a struggle to reach the finals, needing the sudden death frame to take down Mario He of Austria.

“ **THE SCRIPT WAS MORE OF THE SAME IN THE SECOND SET, WITH YAPP TAKING ADVANTAGE OF A MISSED 2 BALL IN THE FIRST GAME AND TWO MISPLAYED SAFETIES BY GOMEZ IN THE NEXT TWO RACKS TO GRAB ANOTHER 3-0 LEAD.** ”

CSI Michigan Open

Mario He pitched a shutout in the opening set, using a Gomez missed 6 ball and some stout safety play to win four consecutive games. Gomez responded by winning the first two games of the second set with a run out after a safety followed by a break-and-run. He cleared the table and climbed onto the scoreboard in the third rack after his opponent missed the 3 ball, then took advantage of another Gomez miss in the next game to cut the deficit to 3-2. He's chance at tying the match fizzled when he failed to pocket a ball on the break in the sixth game, allowing Gomez to run the table and send the match to penalty shots.

Gomez was perfect in the sudden death shootout, pocketing all four spot shots while He could only manage to complete three of the four overtime shots.

The U.S. Pro Billiard Series is scheduled to return to action next month at the FargoRate Ohio Open, a 64-player, \$25,000-added event which will take place at Roberts Centre in Wilmington, Ohio October 13-16.

The CSI Michigan Open was the third stop of the U.S. Pro Billiard Series, which features four open professional events between July and the end of the year. Created by Predator Group and amateur league operator CueSports International, these tournaments will run in tandem alongside of CSI league amateur events being held throughout the country. The winner of each competition receives a guaranteed spot in the \$125,000-added 2022 Predator World 10-Ball Championship, which will be held March 28 through April 1 in Las Vegas at the Rio Hotel and Casino.

This competition was played on Predator Pro pool tables covered with Predator Arcadia performance cloth, with Predator Arcos II precision balls, and under the Predator Arena billiard lights.

“ **THE WINNER OF EACH COMPETITION RECEIVES A GUARANTEED SPOT IN THE \$125,000-ADDED 2022 PREDATOR WORLD 10-BALL CHAMPIONSHIP, WHICH WILL BE HELD MARCH 28 THROUGH APRIL 1 IN LAS VEGAS AT THE RIO HOTEL AND CASINO.** ”

For more information on the U.S. Pro Billiard Series or amateur leagues, visit www.playcsipool.com.

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Kelly Fisher

Downs Defending Champ Tkach In Finals Of WPBA Sondheim Kiwanis Invitational

It almost didn't matter who won.

Almost.

It was just encouraging, not to mention great fun to watch 48 of the world's

best women pool players compete again under the banner of their signature organization, the Women's Professional Billiards Association (WPBA), for the first time in nearly two years,

when many of the same competitors met for the 2020 Ashton Twins Classic in Alberta, Canada (won by Allison Fisher). The 2021 site for this 2nd Sondheim Kiwanis Invitational (Sept.



Kelly Fisher

10-12) was once again, the Fairfield Convention Center in Fairfield, Iowa, where, two years ago, Taipei's Tzu-Chien Wei and Russia's Kristina Tkach met twice, with Wei winning their winners' side semifinal matchup. Three loss-side matches later, Tkach came back to down Wei in the finals.

This year, in the absence of Tzu-Chien Wei, Tkach went undefeated to the hot seat, having, in an epic battle, sent soon-to-be Hall of Famer Kelly Fisher to the semifinals. Fisher came back from those semifinals and wasted no time establishing a rhythm that had eluded her in the hot seat match and dethroned the event's defending champion. The \$10,000-added event drew 48 invited entrants to the Fairfield Convention Center.

Fisher left Iowa almost immediately for a flight to Philadelphia and subsequent trip to Atlantic City, where today (Tuesday), she took the opportunity to talk about the win. She did so just minutes before facing Tkach again in the second round of Matchroom Sports' US Open.

"(Though) I'd been playing in Open events," she said of her WPBA win, "it was the first all-women's event since Covid and it was fantastic."

"It felt quite surreal," she added, "but within a day, it was like we'd never left."

Fisher and Tkach were among 16 of the 48 entrants who received automatic entry into the second round. Tkach had to battle right from the start. She opened up against Michelle Monk and then, in order, downed Teruko Cuculelli and Jessica Barnes (for an aggregate score of 24-16) to arrive at her winners' side semifinal match against Jennifer Baretta. Fisher got by Angela Janic (doing double duty by working the live stream of selected matches), Ashley Burrows, and Monica Webb with a much better aggregate

score of 24-6 to arrive at her winners' side semifinal matchup against Canadian Brittany Bryant, who'd faced Tkach in the quarterfinals of the 2019 event.

There were a number of notable, 'under card' matchups on both sides of the bracket in this event. April Larson, for example, the five-time BEF Junior Champion, downed Caroline Pao and Loree Jon Hasson before she was sent to the loss-side by long-time, frequent opponent Brittany Bryant in the winners' side quarterfinals. Long-time rivals Jeannie Seaver and Stephanie Mitchell met up in the second round. On the loss side, Loree Jon and Line Kjorsvik met up (Kjorsvik advancing), as did Kjorsvik and Bryant (Kjorsvik advancing again). It was April Larson, who ended up stopping Kjorsvik's loss-side run in a not-so-under-card setting.

Tkach downed Baretta 8-3 to earn her spot in the hot seat match. Fisher joined her after defeating Bryant 8-4. Fisher's somewhat expected advance through the field hit a 'speed bump'

in the hot seat match. Tkach chalked up more racks against her than all of her first three opponents combined (8-6) and claimed the hot seat by that score.

Her 24-6 start notwithstanding, Fisher was, as she put it, "off-footed at the start" of her hot seat match versus Tkach and made a couple of mistakes, to include scratching on a couple of occasions.

"It's frustrating when you're 'off' and can't put your finger on why," she said, "and then, when you scratch on top of it . . ."

On the loss side, Baretta picked up April Larson, who'd followed her defeat at the hands of Bryant with victories over two JPNEWT veterans, Kia Sidbury 8-3 and a second win over Caroline Pao 8-4. Bryant ran right into Line Kjorsvik, who had lost her opening round match and was on a six-match, loss-side run that had recently included wins over Loree Jon Hasson 8-4, Gail Eaton 8-5 and Dawn Hopkins 8-1.



Kristina Tkach

Larson moved into the quarterfinals with an 8-5 win over Baretta and was joined by Kjorsvik, who'd survived a double hill battle over Bryant. Larson ended Kjorsvik's loss-side run 8-6 and turned to face Fisher in the semifinals. Former junior champion and soon-to-be house pro at Stixx and Stones Billiards in Lewisville, TX versus established world champion and soon-to-be-inducted Hall of Famer Kelly Fisher, just itching for a second shot at Tkach in the hot seat.

Larson, known as "The Grinder," was already looking at one of her top finishes on the 'pro circuit' since her final year as a junior competitor in 2016. She'd won the 2nd Annual Ashton Twins Classic a year later, finished in 3rd place at the WPBA's Ho-Hunk Classic in Minnesota a year after that, and earlier this year, was runner-up to Tkach at the 7th Annual Junior Morris Memorial Shootout in Texas, where she'll be heading in a couple of weeks to take up that position as house pro at Stixx & Stones. Like Fisher, "The Grinder" was itching for a shot at the young woman against whom she has been competing for some time.

It didn't happen. Fisher stopped Larson's four-match, loss-side run with an 8-4 win to earn her shot at Tkach. She gave Larson credit for "coming back at her" in that semifinal and noted that the hot seat loss might have done her a favor.

"It was a good comeback for her," Kelly said of April's work in the semifinal. "I did get going in that (semifinal) and it put me in good stead for the final."

“ (THOUGH) I'D BEEN PLAYING IN OPEN EVENTS, IT WAS THE FIRST ALL-WOMEN'S EVENT SINCE COVID AND IT WAS FANTASTIC. IT FELT QUITE SURREAL, BUT WITHIN A DAY, IT WAS LIKE WE'D NEVER LEFT.

Kelly Fisher ”

April Larson



As one might have expected from a world champion, she took full advantage of the opportunity she was provided and wasted no time establishing her credentials in the final matchup. She found the rhythm she needed and gave up only a single match to Tkach in the race-to-10 finals, claiming the event title.

Though wide, final score margins can often mask struggles in the back and forth of individual games, Fisher noted that she got off to a good start and basically, just never looked back.

"I wanted to play well against (Tkach)," she said. "I didn't care about win or lose . . . I mean, I care, but for me, it's more about playing a good match; me, playing well. I started off, broke, ran out and got sharp pretty

quickly. I was up 9-0, without an error that I can remember."

"(Tkach)," she added, "got unfortunate with her break, missed a couple of shots. Things certainly went my way.

Waiting for her next match versus Tkach, which both knew was likely to occur, based on the bracket draws, she reflected on how their soon-to-be lag for the break might take on added significance.

"More than anything, though," she said. "I just want to play well."

Representatives of the WPBA thanked the Fairfield Convention Center and its staff for their hospitality, as well as sponsors Diamond Tables, Aramith Balls, Simonis Cloth, Ottumwa Radio, Mad Hatter Billiards, 2nd Avenue Corner Pocket in Cedar Rapids, Seven Roses Inn and Premier Car Rental. They also thanked Daryn J. Hamilton, a member of the WPBA Board of Directors, for acting as a sponsor, promoter and added money to the prize fund. They also extended thanks to Angela Janic, who "figured out how to do the live stream and then did a phenomenal job doing it."



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VAN BOENING & FISHER Take Texas Open 9 Ball Titles

On the last weekend of August, the grand finale of the 48th Annual Texas Open 9 Ball Championships took place. Hosted by owners Kim and Tracy Sanders, the newly remodeled Skinny Bob's Billiards in Round Rock, TX was the place to be!

The \$20,000 added 9 Ball Open had an entry fee of \$125. The double elimination event was races to nine and winner breaks. Using a template rack, the nine was racked on the spot with three point rule in effect. After a record-breaking players auction, the brackets were posted and play began.

Using eighteen brand new Diamond tables, the 160 player field was whittled down by Saturday night to the final 32. A second players auction was held and when it was finished, play resumed.

Two players battled their way through the very tough field to the hot seat match – Shane Van Boening and Roland Garcia. The match was all Shane as he defeated Roland 9-3. Over on the one loss side, Dennis Orcollo was in dead punch as he handily dispatched Sky Woodward and Roland with identical scores of 9-4 to face Shane in the finals. Two-time Texas Open champ Woodward would have to settle for fourth place this time and Garcia finished in third place. Good tournament, guys!

As this event was true double elimination, Dennis would have to defeat Shane twice for the title. Dennis was looking to sweep both events as he had already claimed the One Pocket title in this event a few days earlier. Shane was looking to claim his second Texas Open 9 Ball title as he had previously won in 2008.

Seems that Dennis wasn't the only one in dead stroke as Shane blew through his opponent 9-2!

The Women's Division had a full field of 32 players and races to seven.

After several matches, Allison Fisher and Sakura Muramatsu battled for the hot seat. This was Allison's first appearance at the Texas Open and she didn't disappoint defeating Sakura 7-3 to claim her spot in the finals.



Shane Van Boening and Allison Fisher

Sakura was sent to the west side to await the victor of the Chris Fields-Courtney Peters match. On a mission, Courtney battled her way through Chris Fields 7-5 and then defeated Sakura 7-5 to lock up her spot in the finals. Sakura finished in third place.

Again, Courtney would have to defeat Allison twice to win the tournament. Starting out neck and neck, Allison finally pulled away at the end of the well-played match to close it out 7-4.

Congratulations to both Shane Van Boening and Allison for becoming the 2021 Texas Open 9 Ball Champions! Great tournament, Dennis and Courtney!

And, thanks again to everyone at Skinny Bob's for, as usual, a first class event! Local sponsors for this event included Hanshew Custom Cues, Austin Pro, Mints Amusements, Sanders

“ THANKS TO TOURNAMENT DIRECTOR JASON HILL FOR AN EXEMPLARY JOB JUGGLING MULTIPLE EVENTS. ”

Roofing & Exteriors, GAF and ABC Supply Company.

Thanks to Tournament Director Jason Hill for an exemplary job juggling multiple events. We'd also like to thank Larry Schwartz, Jeremy Jones, Tom Wirth, Del Sim, Michael Yednak, Mary Kenniston, Alex Pagulayan, Scott Frost, Tony Chohan & our own Ray Hansen for their excellent commentary.

And, as always, PoolActionTV would like to thank our fans and sponsors! They include JB Cases, Diamond Billiard Products, Enviroassessments,

Castillo Leather Goods, Durbin Custom Cues, Simonis, Lomax Custom Cues, IPKT, Hanshew Jump Cues, IPKT, TeamStraightPoolEye, the Action Palace of Dayton, OH and Fort Worth Billiards Superstore of Fort Worth, TX.

Our next event is the \$150,000 Champions One Pocket Challenge featuring Alex Pagulayan and Tony Chohan! Held at the Rack & Grill III in Aiken, SC, this is going to be great! Dates are September 23rd-26th! Hope to see you there!!!

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APA CHAMPIONSHIPS Return To Vegas

Record Attendance at APA Poolplayer Championships in August

After a two-year absence forced by the Covid-19 pandemic, APA made a big return to Las Vegas in August with the APA Poolplayer Championships.

Traditionally held in the spring, the rescheduled 2020-2021 Poolplayer Championships featured both the 8-Ball Classic and 9-Ball Shootout, in addition to several events typically

held during the APA World Pool Championships each August, including the Masters, Ladies 8-Ball, Team Captains, Wheelchair and Doubles Championships.

The revamped event lineup was necessary to ensure that all events could accommodate two years worth of qualifier participants, while also allowing for an expected surge in par-

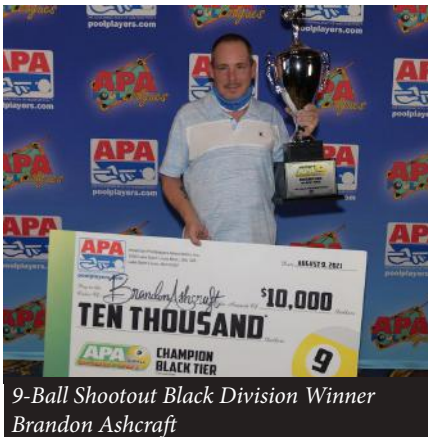




9-Ball Shootout Green Division Winner Joe Koltcz



Jack and Jill Scotch Doubles Winners "Love at First Break"



9-Ball Shootout Black Division Winner Brandon Ashcraft



9-Ball Shootout Gray Division Winner Kevin Grimes

In the Green Tier, Joe Koltcz of Indianapolis, Ind., defeated Jerry Jones of Memphis, Tenn. In the White Tier, Matthew Smith of Bardstown, Ky., defeated Darlene Bartlett of Oak Lawn, Ill. In the Gray Tier, Kevin Grimes of Yorba Linda, Calif., defeated Jacob Fields of Swainsboro, Ga. In the Black Tier, Brandon Ashcraft of Adrian, Mich., defeated Lucas Taylor of Colorado Springs, Colo.

Each of the four Champions received a cash and prize package worth \$10,000. Runners-Up in each tier took home a prize package worth \$5,000.

In the finals of the 8-Ball Classic, five champions each took home a cash and prize package worth \$15,000 for their performances.

In the Blue Tier, Veronica Spero of Palm Harbor, Fla., defeated Trihona Givens of Minneapolis, Minn. In the Yellow Tier, Jonathan Pavelsky of

participation later in the year at the APA World Pool Championships, also scheduled in Las Vegas in October.

APA's highly anticipated return to Vegas was well received by members excited to once again compete in one of APA's signature events. This year's tournament featured a record number of participants as well as a record payout for this event.

After ten days of nearly non-stop action, 16 new champions had cemented their poolplaying legacy and laid claim to a portion of more than \$1.2 Million in prize money.

The final round of the 9-Ball Shootout featured four championship matches, one for each Skill Level Tier, with two shooters in each tier competing for \$10,000 in cash and prizes.



9-Ball Shootout White Division Winner Matthew Smith



8-Ball Classic Blue Division Winner Veronica Spero



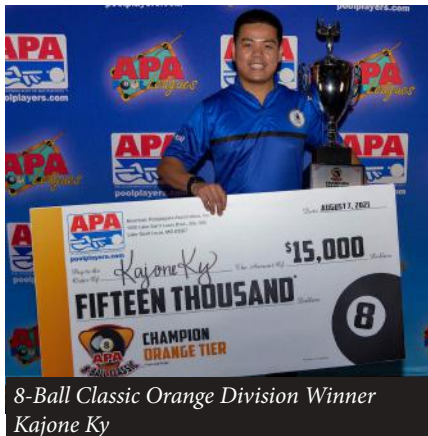
Anchorage, Ak., defeated Krish Brahmadesam of Clarksbury, Md. In the Red Tier, Allen Guerry of Corsicana, Texas, defeated Gregory Straube of Gassboro, N.J. In the Orange Tier, Kajone Ky of Woodbridge, Conn., defeated Fabian Briceno of Lubbock, Texas. In the Purple Tier, Ernesto Bayaua of Tomball, Texas, defeated Matthew Walling of Walterboro, S.C.

First Place winners received cash and prizes worth \$15,000. Each Runner-Up received cash and prizes worth \$9,000.

Joliet, Ill. The victory earned them a \$11,000 payday. As Runners-Up, Main Shots took home \$5,000.

In the Masters Championship, White Out – Brian White, Billy Ussery, Jeff Abernathy and Joseph Fox – of Charlotte, N.C., defeated Main Shots – Jeff Sergeant, Dan Hayes, Jason Gongol and Leonardo Lopez-Hernandez – of

In the Ladies 8-Ball Championship, BB Cues – Yuvia Roman, Christine De-grange, Adina Fried, Alison Lewis and Teresa Jimmerson – of Chicago, Ill., defeated We're Feelin Lucky – Annie Steen, Katie Ottaway, Barbara Teal, Chrystal Privett and Patty Krekelberg – of Huntsville, Ala. The victory earned them \$11,000 in prize money while We're Feeling Lucky took home \$5,000.



8-Ball Classic Orange Division Winner
Kajone Ky

8-Ball Classic Purple Division Winner
Ernesto Bayaua

In the Team Captains Championship, Double Nickels – Justin Tyree, John Lyon, Angela Carr, Christopher Barnes and Robert Ust – of Azle, Texas, defeated Whose Idea Was This – Allen Davis, Jonathan Emerson and Michael Buchanan – of Richmond, Va. The victory earned them \$11,000, while



Ladies Division Winners "BB Cues"



Masters Division Winners "White Out"

Whose Idea Was This received \$5,000 as Runner-up.

In the finals of the Wheelchair Championship, Charlie Hans of Harrison, Ohio, defeated Travis Eubanks of McDonough, Ga., to take home \$2,000 in prize money. Eubanks received \$1,200 as the Runner-Up.

In the 8-Ball Doubles Championship, The A Team – Migdoel Diaz and Michael Gomba– of Lancaster, Pa., defeated Sharpshooters – Dillon Forrestier and Dylan Fontenet– of Carencro, La. The victory earned them a \$8,000 payday. As Runners-Up, Sharpshooters took home \$4,000.

In the 9-Ball Doubles Championship, Around the World – Ernestas Stanulis and Nabil Gana – of Downers Grove, Ill., defeated Limping to Victory – Hanna Limp and Jacob Shane – of Indianapolis, Ind. The victory earned them

a \$6,000 payday. As Runners-Up, Limping to Victory took home \$3,000.

In the Jack & Jill Doubles Championship, Love At First Break – Rebecca Westfall and Jordan Conqeni – of Cleveland, Ohio, defeated You Can See It – Chaz Mullinax and Stephanie Mullinax – of Panama City, Fla. The victory earned them \$4,000, while You Can See It received \$2,000 as Runners-up.

The final of each championship round was live-streamed (courtesy of PoolDawg) and can be viewed online at <http://www.youtube.com/apaleagues>.

The APA, based in Lake Saint Louis, Mo., sanctions the world’s largest amateur pool league, known as the APA Pool League throughout the United States, and as the Canadian Pool League in Canada. Nearly 250,000 members compete in weekly 8-Ball

and 9-Ball League play. The APA is generally recognized as the Governing Body of Amateur Pool, having established the official rules, championships, formats and handicap systems for the sport of amateur billiards.

The APA produces four major tournaments—the APA World Pool Championships, the APA Poolplayer Championships, the APA Junior Championships and the U.S. Amateur Championship—that, together, pay out nearly \$2 Million in cash and prizes annually!

The APA and its championships are sponsored by Aramith, Action Cues, PoolDawg and Valley-Dynamo.

For more information on the APA Poolplayer Championships, visit <https://poolplayers.com/poolplayer-championships/>.



Team Captains Division Winners "Double Nickels"



Wheelchair Division Winner Charlie Hans



8-Ball Doubles Winners "The A Team"



9-Ball Doubles Winners "Around The World"

Junior Player of the Month

Landon Hollingsworth

Over the past four years, the country has watched Greenville, SC's Landon Hollingsworth grow up. Administrators and staff of junior events from coast to coast, spectators *at* those events and through the magic of modern media, countless others engaging on Facebook and Twitter have seen him transform from a 12-year-old kid to become a 16-year-old young adult and a Billiards Education Foundation's (BEF) Junior National Champion, twice, in the same year. They will watch him, in about a week, (October), represent the USA at the World Junior Championships in Austria.



When his Dad (Randy) first introduced him to pool, getting him in to establishments in Greenville, SC that were appropriate and would allow it, Landon, like any youngster, had to be juggling a gazillion things that would normally be running through the head of a 12-year-old. Now he had to figure out which end of a cue stick to hold and how *not* to tear the cloth on a table by hitting (and missing) a ball so hard, that hit perfectly, was on its way to a different time zone.

“In the beginning,” Landon said, “I wanted to hit them hard all the time, until I figured out that I couldn’t be doing that all the time.”

His father, watching him shoot back then, liked what he saw.

“He picked up the form so quickly,” Randy recalled. “Straight arm, head. In no time, he started making balls.”

There was a lot of work ahead for the youngster, but most of the more important components of that work were about avoiding bad habits. So Landon got through the basics. Learned how to hold the cue and soon enough, learned how to hit the ball cleanly and put one of the colored balls into a pocket by hitting the white ball into that colored ball with a cue stick. Then, he began to figure out how to pocket two balls in a row, and then, three. And that really caught Landon’s attention.

“Making more than one ball in a row was fun to me; different,” said Landon. “I wanted to make them all.”

“So, then,” he explained, “My Dad told me that he’d let me play in tournaments once I’d learned how to clear a rack.”

Well, *that* didn’t take long.

It should be noted that Landon has not been the only youngster growing up in front of our eyes these last four years. There were other junior nation-

al champions in those four years and some of the juniors found themselves competing outside the arena of competition designed for their participation. Landon’s been playing on the Viking Cues’ Q City 9-Ball Tour since he was 13, when he took home his first cash payout (\$75) for finishing 9th at a stop in Spartansburg, SC. Watching all these juniors compete via live streams on the Internet, people could see what was happening to them, watch virtually every drama of their maturation as it played out in and around the sport of pool.



Landon’s growth, as it was happening, had a way of playing out visually. Many of the juniors who’ve been a part of this past year’s surge in junior event activities, especially the ones aware that their match was about to be streamed live all over the country, possibly the world, tended to be a bit shy about displaying anything but the most common and acceptable emotions. A laugh here, a little frown there, but awareness that others, possibly hundreds, are watching had a way of making them self-conscious, a little shy about letting their emotions get the best of them in front of a camera.

Landon, though, did not have this problem. In fact, he had quite the opposite problem.

Like growing up in general and success in any professional sport, competitive pool demands that players learn to control their emotions. Not to sublimate them to the point of eradication, but to make informed decisions about when (and what kind of) emotional outbursts are appropriate, along with when (and what kind) are not. In the developmental stages of life, temper tantrums or evidence of frustration will bring the bullies out in the playground. In pool, they have a way of attracting the sharks.

Landon and lessons from LoreeJon

In his first year at the tables, Landon had the good fortune to be taught by World Champion and WPBA legend, LoreeJon Hasson (now, Ogonoski). Her instructions initially focused on the basics and she asked him, bluntly, whether he wanted to be the best pool player in Greenville, SC or whether he wanted to be the best in the world.

“If you want to be the best in the world,” she told him, “you have to hone in on these mechanics I’m teaching you, because when you look at the greatest players out there, they all look proximally the same. They all have unique strokes, and style and speeds - the things that are all theirs, but (while) Shane (Van Boening), as an example, is like a robot out there, his mechanics are all correct.”

“That was kind of what I taught him,” she added, “and then, I watched him play in a junior event.

“Landon!” she told him, afterwards, “you wear your whole entire match on your sleeve! When you throw your arms up in the air or slump in your chair, you’re telling everybody, ‘I’m upset! See me!’”

She used Elm City, NC's Joey Tate, a developing rival in a lot of junior competition, as an example to drive the point home.

"Whether Joey Tate plays good, bad or in between," she told him, "it doesn't matter. His emotions are always in check."

"Because," she went on to explain, "when you miss a shot or scratch or do something that you should absolutely give yourself a break for, and throw your arms up or slump in your chair, people like Joey Tate are like sharks. They will pounce and eat you."

Early on, part of Landon's penchant for an excess of emotional responses stemmed from his being intimidated by some of his fellow junior competitors, like Tate and Lazaro Martinez.

"I used to be fearful of the top players, like Joey and Lazaro," he said recently. "You can't let names intimidate you."

It was more than just an anecdote about sharks that characterized LoreeJon's contributions to Landon's development. It was also about staying within yourself and not allowing anything you may or may not know about your opponent to influence your game.

"She helped my mind set," said Landon. "She always said that it didn't matter who I was playing, it was about how I played against the table."

The passage of time and the growth of a boy

LoreeJon was with him steadily throughout 2017 and this past February, she had an occasion to watch him play in the Billiard Sports Network's Dynaspheres Cup Junior 9-Ball Championships. Evidence of his improvement got her "all choked up." Hollingsworth competed in the 15-18 year old division of the junior event and made it to the hot seat, downing his regular nemesis, Joey Tate. Tate, though,



came back to defeat him in the finals and claim the event title.

"I had watched this child go from having little control over his emotions, (to being) so together," she said about watching him compete four years after she'd schooled him in the basics and the necessity of controlling his own emotions. "He was polite and kind when he lost. After he lost that last match to Joey, he told him 'You played great!'"

"If he continues to grow, stay with the right people and play in tournaments regularly," she added, "I believe he's another Skyler Woodward. He has all the makings of a champion."

Like LoreeJon, other in-person and online spectators have noticed. They've witnessed the growth, emerging visually, and like Landon's Dad, they've liked what they've seen. Herman Parker, tour director of the Viking Cues' Q City 9-Ball Tour, on which Landon scored his first cash payout, was initially not impressed.

"To be honest, when I first met him, he didn't impress me at all," said Parker. "Just another junior player. I didn't

see him as being a good player down the road. I did see that in Joey Tate, but not right away in Landon."

"Over the last year," he added, "he has really matured (and) definitely grown up in front of my eyes. His mental attitude has been able to improve and get better. The attitude and mental toughness have helped his game to improve."

Since his first cash payout on the tour, Landon has gone on to bring cash home from 20 events on the tour, claiming an event title four times. He went undefeated on the tour last month to chalk up the fourth one. This year, already his best recorded earnings year, to date, his geographic reach stretched to (among other places) Maryland in the Dynaspheres Cup's Junior Championships and its 10-Ball Championship, as well, where he finished in the tie for 9th place with NYC's Matt Klein, Texas' Clint Palaci, and Mid-Atlantic veteran, Shaun Wilkie. He also traveled to the West Coast where he was runner-up to Gabriel Martinez in a Junior 9-Ball Open (19 & Under) at Hard Times Billiards in Sacramento.



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But the performance that really sticks out for Herman Parker with the Viking Cues' Q City 9-Ball Tour, was Landon's work in the 1st Annual Ronny Park Memorial held in Gastonia, NC this past May. He finished in 3rd place, but getting to that point was what impressed Parker, then and to this day.

"That, to me, has been his biggest accomplishment, because of the size of the field (90 entrants)," said Parker, "and the overall quality of the opponents he faced."



In that event, Landon won two matches on the winners' side of the bracket before being forced to embark on an eight-match, loss-side winning streak that would take him all the way to the semifinals. He got by two of the tour's top-ranked players, Josh Heeter and Dave Anderson during the run, and moving into his fifth loss-side match, drew former US Open 9-Ball Champion, Tommy Kennedy. In that match, Landon, ahead by two at 4-2, put himself in a position to run out and finish with what Parker described as a "ridiculous jump shot on the 8-ball," which caromed off of an opposite rail and came back to knock the 8-ball into a pocket.

But the youngster wasn't done. He next faced former junior competitor Hunter White in a battle for advancement to the quarterfinals. He shut White out and turned to face his second former US Open 9-Ball Champion, Johnny Archer. He defeated Archer by the same score with which he'd dispatched Kennedy, 5-2. The semifinal score was 5-2, as well, although Daniel Heidrich spoiled Landon's hopes for a spot in the finals, eliminating him by that score.

Landon and dozens of fellow junior competitors benefit from increased opportunities

Landon and dozens of his fellow junior competitors became the beneficiaries of a veritable flood of junior events this year, which commenced in January when Ra Hanna and his On the Wire Creative Media organization picked up the junior-event ball and ran with it. Under the banner of the Junior International Championships, Hanna launched a series of eight tournaments, featuring five different divisions; 18 & Under Boys and Girls, 13 & Under Boys and Girls and a ProAm division, designed originally to give competitors who had aged out of their age-specific divisions an opportunity to continue competing. What he did not anticipate was that the younger players in the 13 & Under Divisions wanted to compete against their older counterparts, as did the 18 & Under division players wish to compete in the ProAm events.

Many of them did just that. Landon, who initially did not perform in these JIC events as well as he was doing on the regional tour circuit, never did win any of the eight events in the 18 & Under Boys division. Although his appearance in all eight events, combined with respectable, if not stellar finishes in each of them, including a third place finish in the last one, allowed

him to join 15 other competitors, who will compete in the JIC's 18 & Under Boys division Championships on the last days of the International Open later this month (Oct. 28-30) in Norfolk, VA. He also didn't perform as well over the eight events in the ProAm division, although he did come from the loss side to down two of the rivals that had intimidated him in the early years of competing. He lost the hot seat match to Tate, downed Lazaro Martinez in the semifinals and claimed the last ProAm title by defeating Tate in the finals. Initially slated to advance the top two players in the ProAm rankings, awarding them an entry fee to compete in the International 9-Ball Open, a decision was made to advance three, when Landon's finish in the final three events (2nd, 3rd, and the win) led to a tie for second place in the Pro Am ranking points.

And, of course, in the middle of the JIC series, Landon competed in his third BEF Junior Nationals and came away with the win in two age divisions; the first time this was allowed at the Junior Nationals. He defeated Joey Tate in the finals of the 16 & Under division on Friday, July 30 and within the next hour or so, defeated Ohio's Riley Adkins in the finals of the 18 & Under Division. He, Tate and Adkins will be among the 17 male and female junior competitors representing the United States in the World Junior Championships, originally scheduled to have happened already this past July, but due to travel restrictions, are now scheduled for this month (October 6-10) in Austria.

"It was unreal," said Landon of those improbable and previously impossible two wins at his third appearance at the Junior Nationals. "It didn't hit me, that first day. I mean, I knew I'd won twice, but it didn't really hit me, what I'd accomplished, until the next day."

He identifies which of the two upcoming events (the International Open and the World Nationals) is more significant to him as a toss-up.

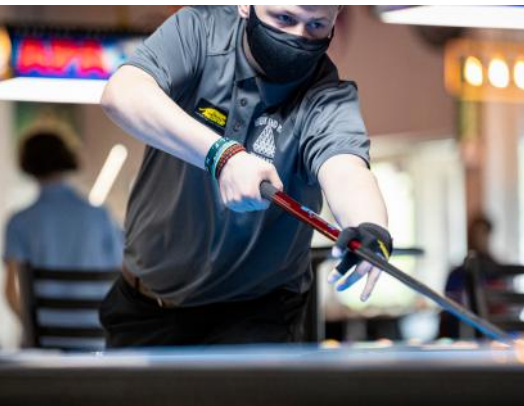
“Both,” he said. “I’ve never played in a Pro event and the World Nationals will be my first trip overseas.”

The now-young-adult looks to the future

While most of the people who have watched Landon develop have had limited opportunities to watch his development by being either at the actual events or seeing his matches play out on the live streams, Ra Hanna watched that development, up close and personal, through all eight JIC events. What resonated with him, stronger than Landon’s skills or what he may have learned about controlling his emotions, was his growth as a human being; his desire to give back.

“He was commentating with me at one of the events,” Hanna recalled, “and because he’d had somebody do it for *him*, he put himself out there for others. Told anybody watching that if they were ever feeling bad and needed to talk to someone, to call him.”

“He’s a bit of a slow starter,” said Hanna of his skills and presence at the tables. “He errs on the side of defense, but he plays the percentages pretty well. He makes good decisions, Pro decisions at an amateur level.”



“The first time he won (on the JIC series) was the ProAm championship,” he added, “but he was always out there, knocking at the door.”

Hanna noted, too, that while Landon is understandably wrapped up in what will more than likely be remembered as one of the most eventful years of his life, he doesn’t forget where he’s come from. Noting that at one point during Landon’s visit to commentate in the broadcast booth of an event, he mentioned that when he was through, he was going to go sit with his Mom.

“He talks about them all the time,” said Hanna, “which is pretty commendable.”

“He’s grateful,” Hanna added. “Just grateful.”

Landon credits Hanna and everyone involved with the JIC series for any number of things in terms of his developing career, up to and including his eventual comfort, playing in front of a camera for eyes everywhere to see.

“At the start, that made me really nervous,” he said, “but now, it gives me more grit when I know I’m on camera. The JIC series was a big part of that.”

His Dad gets a lot of credit from him for introducing him to the sport, in what is already beginning to feel like a long time ago. He also notes that it was his Dad who encouraged him on a plane ride back from one of the junior events, to think seriously about deciding on a supplemental career. He credits his Mom (Tasha Butler) for all of the effort she has put into supporting him; win, lose or draw.

“My Mom has been there for me all the time,” he said, “to keep me striving to win. In fact, that (discovery that) I can’t hit the ball hard all the time. . . that actually came from her.”

“She’s been a very strong influence on my life,” he added. “She has helped me out through wins or losses with consistent encouragement.”

Landon’s growth and development has not gone unnoticed by the wider pool community and Cuetec has reached out to sponsor him. According to Kyle Nolan, their Branding and Communications Manager, the company is thrilled to have the young man on their team.

“We believe that he has the work ethic and personality to excel in whatever he does,” he said. “We look forward to helping Landon achieve his goals, in the game and out.”

“Their support means a lot to me,” said Landon. “It’s reassuring to me and my parents that they are just as concerned about my education and character, as they are about my play schedule.”

“I’ve got the best equipment now,” he added. “Now I’ve got to put in the work.”

Landon is also supported by Break & Run Billiards and Runout Renegades.

The pool community is going to lose Landon Hollingsworth for a little while in about two years. Though basically, his aim is “to get to that pro level” with pool, he has taken Dad’s advice to heart. He has already committed to join the Air Force when he turns 18, looking to become a pilot. It’s a decision that was prompted, in part, by his awareness that the “Air Force is the only branch of the military that’ll let you jump out of an airplane by yourself, with no support person.”

“And,” he added, “I can retire earlier. That set my mind to it.”

For now, he is preparing for his trip to Austria and later this month, heading for Norfolk, VA to compete in his first Pro event at the International Open. He is not working on any particular regimen in preparing for these two events. It’s just business, as usual.

“Playing every day,” he said. “Like normal.”

Tate, Childress and Hollingsworth Earn Entry To International Open At Their Last JIC Event

Childress and Cutting win 18 & Under divisions in prelude to Championships

Unlike the young men and women in the 13 & Under divisions of the Junior International Championships, who competed in their final events this past weekend (Sept. 17-19), the young men and women of the JIC's 18 & Under and ProAm divisions began the weekend knowing that there was more to come.

The 18 & Under divisions would be competing in their Championship events on the weekend of Oct. 28-30 at the International Open in Norfolk, VA, while two of the ProAm

competitors could look forward to actually competing in the International 9-Ball Open. As it turned out, three ProAm competitors earned entry into the event because Nathan Childress

and Landon Hollingsworth tied for second place in the ProAm's final rankings.

Won by Nathan Childress for the fifth time, the 18 & Under Boys division

Casey Cork, Tatum Cutting and Skylar Hess



drew the largest group of competitors (39) to the seven events that were hosted by Wolf's Den in Roanoke, VA over the long weekend. The ProAm division, won by Landon Hollingsworth (his first, which propelled him into the tie for second place in the rankings) was next in the attendance department with 32 competitors. The 18 & Under girls event drew 14 and saw Tatum Cutting win her third.

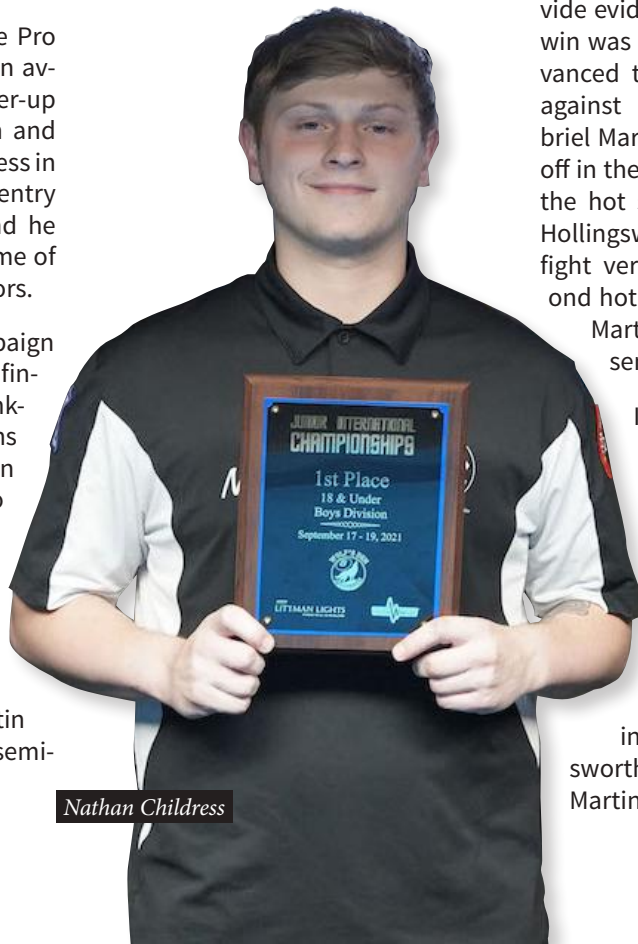
The eight events held in the ProAm division since January were designed to accommodate players who had grown out of the two age-specific divisions. The eight events were won by seven different competitors, all of whom, with the exception of Lukas Fracasso-Verner, had not grown out of their age groups. Joey Tate was the only player to win the event twice; in April and August. Fracasso-Verner took the January opener, followed by, in order, Gabriel Martinez, Tate's first win, Nathan Childress, Ivo Linkin, Cash Keeton, Tate's second win, and Hollingsworth.

Hollingsworth, who, through the Pro Am's first five events, finished, on average, in eighth place, was runner-up in the 6th stop, third in the 7th and won this one to tie Nathan Childress in the division's rankings and earn entry into the International Open. And he had to work his way through some of the division's toughest competitors.

Hollingsworth opened his campaign against the competitor who'd finished third in the 18 & Under rankings, Riley Adkins. He sent Adkins to the loss side 7-4, and then downed Jayce Little 7-2 and Ivo Linkin 7-4, to arrive at a winners' side semifinal against Gabriel Martinez. Joey Tate, in the meantime, had gotten by Payne McBride and Ben Kleinfelder, both 7-3 and sent Trenton White over 7-4 to draw Quintin Scott in the other winners' side semifinal.

Hollingsworth and Tate locked up in a double hill fight that did eventually send Hollingsworth to the hot seat match. He was joined by Tate, who'd defeated Scott 7-4. Tate claimed the hot seat 7-3 and waited for Hollingsworth to come back from the semifinals, which he did.

In those semifinals, Hollingsworth faced Lazaro Martinez, who'd won three on the loss side, including a double hill win over his brother, Gabriel and a 7-3 win over Riley Adkins in the quarterfinals. Hollingsworth ended Lazaro's loss-side streak 7-3 and then, downed Tate in the finals 9-5 to claim the ProAm's 8th title (Editor's note: The Hollingsworth/Tate rivalry has been going on for a long time and has played a significant role in Hollingsworth's development and growth as a player. The rivalry will figure prominently in a profile of Hollingsworth to appear in the October issue of our monthly magazine, *Billiards Buzz*).



Nathan Childress

Childress cements his 18 & Under rankings with 5th win, while Cutting wins her third to tie Mast

The eight 18 & Under Boys division events have been won by four competitors; one each by Joey Tate, Lazaro Martinez and in his only appearance on the series, Cameron Lawhorne, who won the opener. Nathan Childress has won the other five, and though he opened the series by finishing in fifth place, he's either won or been the runner-up in every one of the seven events that have followed, which, as you'd expect, has left him way ahead of the pack in the division's rankings.

As something of an unintended dramatic gesture, Childress had to start out on the loss side by losing his opening match to Trenton White 7-5. He, then embarked on an eight-match, loss-side winning streak just to face hot seat occupant, Gabriel Martinez.

White at least had the courtesy to provide evidence that his opening round win was not just an accident and advanced to a winners' side semifinal against Landon Hollingsworth. Gabriel Martinez and Ivo Linkin squared off in the other one. Martinez got into the hot seat match 7-1 over Linkin. Hollingsworth survived a double hill fight versus White to enter his second hot seat match of the weekend.

Martinez, though, sent him to the semifinals 7-5.

In those semifinals, Hollingsworth had the misfortune of running into Childress, who was only one step away from a spot in the finals and in his eight loss-side matches had been giving up an average of a little over two racks per match. Childress gave up two more in his battle with Hollingsworth and then let up a little on Martinez in the finals, allowing him

Junior International 9-Ball Stop 8

three racks in their race to 9 to claim the 18 & Under title.

Casey Cork, Tatum Cutting and Skylar Hess

Tatum Cutting came into the 18 & Under Girls division event, one win behind the division's rankings leader, Sofia Mast, who was ahead in division victories 3-2. Cutting came into the final event, behind in the division's rankings by 4,500 points, so unless Mast had failed to show up, she was uncatchable in the division's rankings. Mast did show up and finished in the tie for 5th/6th. Cutting went on to win the event, coming from the loss side, and in the process, made something of a definitive statement in her single match against Mast.

Mast lost her opening match to Courtney Hairfield 7-5, who followed her over when Cutting downed her in the second round by the same score. Cutting advanced to a winners' side semifinal against Casey Cork, as Skylar Hess and Hayleigh Marion squared off in the other one.

Hess got into the hot seat match with a 7-4 win over Marion. Cork joined her with a 7-3 win over Cutting. Cork claimed the hot seat 7-3 and waited on what turned out to be Cutting's return.

On the loss side, Cutting ran right into Mast, who was in the midst of a brief, three-match loss-side winning streak. Marion drew Taylor Perkins, who'd won two in a row on the loss side to reach her. Perkins and Marion locked into a double hill that did, eventually, send Perkins to the quarterfinals. Cutting made her 'statement' by shutting Mast out, advancing to meet Perkins.

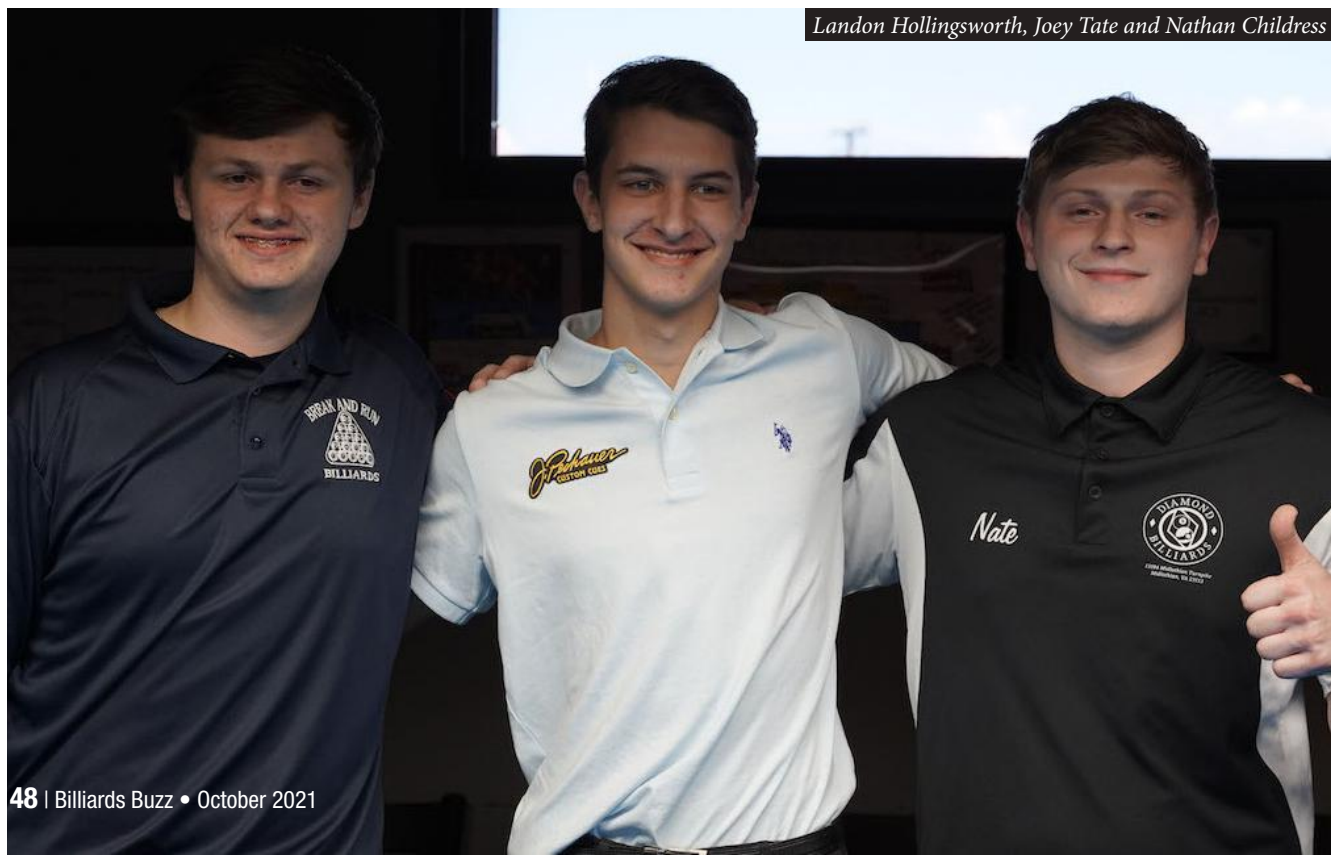
Cutting chalked up a second straight shutout, over Perkins in the quarterfinals and then downed Hess in the semifinals 7-4.

There was not really a lot at stake for Casey Cork in the finals of the 18 & Under Girls division. The event would determine which eight would advance to the 18 & Under Girls Championship next month in Norfolk. Sitting in the hot seat, it was already Cork's best fin-

ish among the six events she was able to attend, but she came into the event below the 8-player threshold for the Championship and though it's unlikely she'd have been calculating this prior to the finals, she had zero chance of catching any of the opponents ahead of her and the best she could do would be runner-up, in which case she'd finish 9th in the rankings.

That's exactly what happened, but not before Cork had first, downed Cutting in a winners' side semifinal and then, in their finals rematch, put up a double hill fight versus one of the top two players in the division to record her best showing of the entire series. Cutting completed her third division victory of the series with the 9-8 win.

JIC Tour Director Ra Hanna thanked all of his sponsors for their help in making this event possible, Mike Littman with Littman Lights, Matt Suite at American Billiard Covering, Dynaspheres, Chris Wilson at The League Room, Kory & Trena Wolford from Wolfs Den Billiards and Mike from Michael's Billiards.



Landon Hollingsworth, Joey Tate and Nathan Childress

US And Canadian Teams Announced For World Junior Pool Championship

While the recent changes in requirements for travel to Europe, have the event in a sort of limbo, the Billiard Congress of America is still proud to announce the participants who are slated to travel to Austria on October 6th – 10th for the Predator 2021 WPA World Junior 9-Ball Championships.

The members of Team USA are:

Riley Adkins, Daniel Martin, Landon Hollingsworth, Joey Tate, Payne McBride, Kyle Yi, Jayden Liu, Niko Konkel, Harry Leinen, Aryana Lynch, Sofia

Mast, Tiana Jiang, Savanna Wolford, Skylar Hess, Alice Adams, Hayleigh Marion and Kennedy Meyman.

In addition to the seventeen players representing the USA, the BCA also announced that Arnaud Rakovich, Isaac Yee and Haydar Ali Cappo are representing Team Canada at this event.

As announced in a previous release from the BEF, “Allocations for the prestigious 2021 WPA Predator World Junior Pool Championship, (...) will be provided to the highest placed finishers in the boys open 16 & Under

and 18 & Under divisions, and in the girls open 18 & Under division”. With some candidates unable to travel to Austria, the BCA opened up invitations to the champions from the 14 & Under Girls, 16 & Under Girls and 14 & Under Boys Divisions. All three of these division winners are confirmed for Team USA.

Some of these warriors are asking for help on social media to fund their trips to Austria, so if you see one of your favorite players on the list of players, check out their social media pages and help any way that you can.



Three members of Team USA, Sofia Mast, Aryana Lynch and Tiana Jiang (Photo courtesy Roy Pastor)

Martinez & Mast

Win 13 & Under Stop #8 On JIC And Championships At Wolf's Den In Roanoke

It was made abundantly clear on the final weekend of competition for the Junior International Championships' two 13 & Under divisions (boys and girls) that the competitors were reluctant to finish competing.

The weekend, which began on Friday, Sept. 17 at Wolf's Den in Roanoke, VA was to have been a Championship event for the 13 & Under divisions, for which its players had already qualified. The competitors decided that not only did they want to hold the scheduled Championship event, they also wanted, while they were there anyway, to compete in an 8th regular event. So they did both. On Friday and Sunday, the two divisions competed in the 8th event of the JIC series, and on Saturday, they held their Championship event.

Stop # 8 of the JIC series drew 14 boys and 10 girls to their respective 13 & Under divisions. The 13 & Under Championships drew 10 boys and 9 girls. And just to keep everybody busy, the weekend also included Stop # 8 for the 18 & Under Boys (39 entrants) and Girls (14 entrants) and the ProAm Division (32 entrants). The 18 & Under Boys and Girls will play their Championship event at the tail end of the 2021 International Open next month (October 28-30 at the Sheraton Norfolk Waterside Hotel in Norfolk, VA), while the top three competitors from the final rankings of the ProAm division, who were awarded entry fees, will be competing in the 9-ball Open. There were to have been only two ProAm competitors who qualified for entry to the International Open, but a

tie for second place led to three who qualified – Joey Tate, Landon Hollingsworth and Nathan Childress. A report on the final stop for the two 18 & Under and ProAm divisions will appear separately.

Stop # 8 of the 13 & Under divisions were won by undefeated performances from Gabriel Martinez and Sofia Mast. It was Martinez' third win of the

series, having won in March and June. Before he finished the 8th stop, he would compete and go undefeated in the 13 & Under Boys Championship, as well (more on this later). It was Mast's 5th win in the division, having finished as runner-up in Stops #2, #4 and #5.

Martinez went through Julian Scruggs and Eddie Vondereau to arrive at a



Gabriel Martinez

winner's side semifinal versus Jayce Little. Adrian Prasad squared off against Hank Leinen in the other one. Prasad and Martinez advanced to the hot seat; Prasad, 7-5 over Leinen and Martinez 7-2 over Little. Martinez sent Prasad to the semifinals and claimed the hot seat 7-2.

In those semifinals, Prasad drew Leinen, who'd defeated Vondereau and Jayce Alton, both 7-1, to reach him. Leinen earned a shot at Martinez in the hot seat with a 7-5 victory over Prasad. Martinez completed his undefeated run with a 9-5 win over Leinen in the finals.

Mast's four-match path to the winner's circle in the 13 & Under Girls division went through Carley Tomaszewski to arrive at a winner's side semifinal matchup against Noelle Tate. Long-time JIC rival to Mast, Skylar Hess, faced Arianna Houston in the other one. Mast got into the hot seat match 7-4 over Tate. Hess joined her after downing Houston 7-1. Mast claimed the hot seat 7-4 over Hess.

On the loss side, Noelle Tate followed her winner's side loss against Mast with a double hill victory over her sister, Bethany before downing Houston 7-4 in the quarterfinals and then, Hess 7-3 in the semifinals. She fell to Mast a second time in the finals 9-2.

Martinez wins his second undefeated event on Saturday; Mast, Hess and Tate are top 3 again

The Girls 13 & Under Championships, sandwiched between the two days of the 8th stop on the series finished in almost the same way as the 8th stop. Mast, Noelle Tate and Hess finished 1, 2 & 3 on Stop #8, while Mast, Hess and Tate finished 1, 2, & 3 in the Championships.

Mast's path in the Championships ran through Skylynn Elliot and Franki Spain to arrive at what (time-wise) was her first of two hot seat matches



against Hess, who'd defeated Taylor Perkins and Noelle Tate. It was Hess claiming the hot seat 7-5 over Mast in the Championships.

On the loss side, in the semifinals, Mast drew Noelle Tate, who, following her winner's side loss to Hess, had defeated Elliott 7-3 and Spain 7-2 in the quarterfinals. Mast and Tate battled to double hill in the semifinals, before Mast prevailed for a second shot against Hess. Mast downed Hess 9-4 in the finals to claim the 13 & Under Girls' championship title.

Facing a couple of the same opponents, Gabriel Martinez went undefeated (time-wise, first) in the 18 & Under Boys Championship. He'd faced Hank Leinen in the finals of Stop #8 of the 18 & Under division and squared off against Leinen in a winner's side semifinal in the Championships. Martinez won that match 7-2 and advanced to his first of two hot seat matches against Adrian Prasad.

He shut Prasad out in the Championships' hot seat match (and gave up only two racks in the hot seat match they played against each other the next day).

On the loss side, Prasad drew a rematch against Eddie Vondereau, who, after losing their first matchup 7-1, went on to defeat Timmy Cossey, Konnor McFayden in the quarterfinals and then, in the rematch, shut Prasad out in the semifinals. Martinez completed his undefeated run with a 9-4 victory in the finals to claim the 13 & Under Championship title.

JIC Tour Director Ra Hanna thanked all of his sponsors for their help in making this event possible, Mike Littman with Littman Lights, Matt Suite at American Billiard Covering, Dynaspheres, Chris Wilson at The League Room, Kory & Trena Wolford from Wolfs Den Billiards and Mike from Michael's Billiards.

ULTIMATE POOL MASTERS ROUND-UP

THOMPSON'S TITLE TRIUMPHS

Shane Thompson enjoyed the time of his life on a pool table and created history as he claimed back-to-back Ultimate Pool Professional Series event titles within the space of one memorable long-weekend.

Events 3 and 4 took place during the second stop on this year's inaugural £144,000 Professional Series at the Players Pool and Snooker Lounge in front of the live television cameras. Across the three days in Newcastle-under-Lyme, Thompson won ten consecutive matches against some of the world's best 8-ball pool players on the 7 ft by 4 table, banking himself a cool £14,000 in prize money.

One of the sport's busiest and most consistent players in recent years, former World Masters finalist Thomp-

son has been knocking on the door of scooping a major crown. Indeed, he reached the final of Pro Event 2 in August but lost to inspired Australian Jake McCartney.

His Pro Series Event 3 victory on the Saturday night represented the biggest accolade of his career to date, so to win another professional title with Event 4 less than 24 hours later means this is one of 8-ball pool's most remarkable feats of all-time.

His campaign began with a 7-0 demolition of former two-time world junior champion Jordan Church in round one before showing different qualities as he negotiated Jimmy Croxton and Josh Kane both 7-5 in the last 16 and quarter-finals respectively.

The closest Thompson came to defeat was his epic semi-final meeting with Shaun Chipperfield.

Former world champion Chipperfield raced into a commanding 4-0 lead which he later progressed to 6-4. With



Shane Thompson

ULTIMATE
POOL
PRO SERIES

ULTIMATE
POOL
PRO SERIES

in former world and recent Ultimate Pool Masters champion Phil Harrison.

Testament to the strength in depth of the 34-player Ultimate Pool professional scene, Harrison had lost in the opening round of the first three pro events. However, he managed to get going this time around, seeing off Dylan Leary, Dejan Grech, Davies and Brennan to make the final.

Like Melling the night before, though, despite being favourite, Harrison would feel the force of the player of the moment as Thompson ran out a 6-2 champion.

His heroics mean that Thompson moves to the top of the Ultimate Pool Professional Series rankings list ahead of Brennan and Melling.

Elsewhere during the weekend, four-time world champion Gareth Potts – who in recent times has carved out a successful and lucrative career in the Far East playing Chinese 8-ball – made his big-time return to the smaller table after a seven-year absence.

'The Golden Boy' dispatched reigning world blackball champion Scott Gillespie 7-4 in round one before losing to McCartney in the last 16.



Shane Thompson and Chris Melling

the balls at his mercy in frame 11 to complete the win, he unexpectedly missed what was effectively match ball. This reprieve was taken full advantage of as Thompson somehow squeezed through a 7-6 victor.

In the final he faced the legendary two-time world champion Chris Melling who was appearing in his third Ultimate Pool tournament final in just five attempts. The recent Champions League winner had defeated former world champion Carl Morris, Event 1 winner Declan Brennan (in a rerun of their final the previous month), Aaron Davies and then French ace Christophe Lambert who was on debut for the organisation.

With all his experience, Melling was a firm favourite for the final, but he was rooted to his seat for long spells and made to watch as Thompson produced a world-class clinic of 8-ball pool that saw him rack up six successive frames at the end for a 7-1 glory.

THE DOUBLE UP

Thompson was still involved in Event 4 having won his opening round match against Greg Batten 6-5 on the Saturday afternoon.

He could have been forgiven for being unable to focus on resuming this event the morning after his maiden

televised major, but 'The Safecracker' dialed in and managed to stay on the crest of a wave.

He eliminated former European champion Oly Bale 6-1 before once again denying Chipperfield – this time 6-3 in the last eight.

That victory meant another 'finals session' awaited Thompson, and yet another title match appearance was booked in for him later on as he got the better of Craig Lakin 6-3 in the semi-finals.

Thompson's opponent in the final was again one of the sport's all-time greats



Christophe Lambert and Chris Melling

SELBY & POTTS

SURVIVE 6-REDS THRILLER IN PAIRS CUP

Reigning four-time world professional snooker champion Mark Selby teamed up with four-time world 8-ball pool champion Gareth Potts to compete in Group 4 of the live televised Eative Ultimate Pool Pairs Cup.

World snooker number one Selby – who claimed his fourth world crown at the iconic Crucible Theatre in Sheffield, England earlier this year – is no stranger to the pool table having won the

2006 WEPF World 8-Ball Pool Championship.

Selby and Potts have known each other for a long time and are family members, but this was the first time they

had paired up together in a competitive environment.

Labelled as ‘The Dream Team’ they lived up to expectations early on as they defeated the Isle of Man’s Tommy Miller & David Addinall and former world doubles championship finalists Jez Graham & Darren McVicar both 4-0 to top the table.

However, going into the final match of the night and needing just a point to qualify, they were upset by dangerous duo Zak Shepherd & Andy Cragg, 3-1. This meant for the first time in Ultimate Pool history that a three-way 6-reds shootout was required to determine a winner.

Graham & McVicar posted a solid time of 26.02 seconds up first, and when Shepherd & Cragg narrowly missed out on bettering it, only Selby & Potts could deny them.

In front of a raucous live crowd and likely to have been the biggest live television audience that small table pool has ever received, the popular duo recorded a time of just over 24 seconds to secure a breathtaking victory.

Selby & Potts will return later in the unique £32,800 competition for the last 16 phase when they join previous group winners Shaun Chipperfield & Karl Sutton, Josh Kane & Jon McAllister and Brian Halcrow & John Sullivan.



Gareth Potts and Mark Selby

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ALCAIDE & WOODWARD Confirmed For Mosconi Cup

David Alcaide and Skyler Woodward will represent Team Europe and the USA respectively at the upcoming Mosconi Cup, Alexandra Palace, London, December 7-10 as the second players to be taken off the Matchroom Pool Rankings as automatic picks.

Albin Ouschan is already on Europe's side and Shane Van Boening for the USA after both became the first picks with Ouschan becoming World Champion in June and Van Boening being named Jeremy Jones' vice-captain.

The Matchroom Pool Rankings have been the main focus during the US

Open Pool Championship at Harrah's Resort, Atlantic City, and with Alcaide and Woodward's performances of reaching the quarter-finals and last 32 respectively, they both secure their places.

Alcaide will make his third Mosconi Cup appearance having played in the

winning 2017 side and in the only ever tie in 2006. Woodward meanwhile will represent the USA for the seventh consecutive year after being MVP in 2018 and 19.

Over the coming weeks, Europe's captain Alex Lely and Jones of America will announce their three wild card



David Alcaide

picks ahead of battle in December. Keep an eye on Matchroom Pool's Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter for the latest.

Tickets are on sale now for the 2021 Mosconi Cup at Alexandra Palace, London!

Ticket prices start from £30.00 per session with a whole host of ticket options available including VIP and new for 2021, Platinum VIP+ where fans can get up close table side at Alexandra Palace and experience a backstage tour hosted by a Mosconi Cup legend. There will be a limited amount of restricted view tickets available from £20 on a day ticket basis.

A range of ticket packages are available including a Season Ticket giving you access to all the action from only £105. We are also offering the full Mosconi experience with our VIP and Platinum VIP+ tickets which includes a meet and greet with one player from

each team per day as well a whole host of other benefits including premium padded seating for extra com-

fort on the front row tables, a two-course buffet dinner, and unlimited drinks*.


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- Welcome glass of prosecco
- Mid-session hot food bowl
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PLATINUM VIP+

- Enhance your experience with our new, platinum VIP+ ticket, the most exclusive Mosconi Cup ticket ever
- Enjoy all the benefits of our VIP package plus:
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- Access all areas with our exclusive backstage tour hosted by a Mosconi Cup legend, including a look inside the team practice rooms




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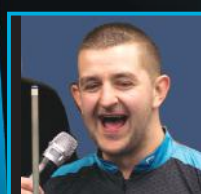


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Matchroom Pool Launches

UK OPEN



With Biggest Prize Fund And Field In British Pool

Matchroom Pool is delighted to announce the launch of The UK Open, a new open tournament and the latest addition to the Matchroom Pool Series set to take place for the first time in May 2022 London, with a total prize fund of \$200,000.

The UK Open will feature alongside the most illustrious tournaments in 9-ball pool including The World Pool Championship, US Open Pool Championship, Mosconi Cup, World Pool Masters, World Cup of Pool, and Championship League Pool which all form a key part of the Matchroom Pool World Rankings and the race to be a part of the Mosconi Cup teams for European and American players. The tournament marks a key milestone in Matchroom Multi Sport's commitment to Pool and will see 256 players compete from May 17 to May 22 at the Copper Box Arena, London with a buy-in of only \$200, live on Sky Sports in the UK, and DAZN in the USA, Canada, Germany, Austria, Switzerland, Spain, and Italy.

Matchroom Multi Sport Managing Director Emily Frazer underlined her vision for the tournament: "We've been talking a lot about expanding the Matchroom Pool Series and it's now we stop talking and actually turn it into actions. We've acquired the US Open and the World Championship and now we're going to launch a new event. It's the biggest prize fund in British pool and the biggest field size, it's just so exciting.

"I think it's very clear in the Matchroom Pool team we're just so passionate about this game. We've been speaking to the likes of Jayson Shaw, Kelly Fisher, Darren Appleton, and Shane Van Boening is going to fly over. 2022 is just going to be fantastic for pool, we're super excited about it. We're going to sell that field out; we're going to get 256 players and that will be a full international field."

"We're looking at the open events now, three years ago we only had three events in our calendar. Lets create a calendar where the top players can actually trav-

el and have a full calendar of events and ranking system. But lets also give British players an opportunity to step into pool and lets grow 9-ball, it's the future of the sport and lets take pool to the next level."

Shaw, the UK's No.1 is excited to see a new 9-ball tournament on British shores: "It's fantastic seeing another event added to the UK calendar for the UK fans and everybody in Europe will be excited to have a big tournament there. I am really looking forward to it and I cannot wait to see what the setup is. Matchroom are doing good things for pool, and this is massive for UK pool."

Fisher, Women's World Champion said: "It's fantastic news it's really exciting. Matchroom are doing great, it's fantastic for our sport, players, and fans. It's the first time it's ever been done in pool, we're getting it in the UK, and I think we will see a lot more players coming through over the next few years with the opportunity to knuckle down."

Appleton, former World Champion added: "It's great for the UK and besides the Matchroom events, we do not have any tournaments in the UK where people think they can play the game and make a living. Stuff like this will bring people out from the woodwork because there's plenty of talent and they're all interested in playing. It will be a tough field; it will fill up very quickly. It's great for the game in the UK."

Further information will follow including how players can enter and how fans can buy their tickets to see the action unfold in a first for 9-ball pool in the UK. Subscribe to Matchroom Pool Club to be the first to receive ticket updates and more.

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Sour Mouse

Brings a Fresh Take on Pool in NYC

ALISON FISCHER



In New York City, and Manhattan in particular, the number of pool rooms have been steadily declining over the last few decades. With ever-rising rent prices and increasingly-competitive markets, it could be said that opening a venue for pool in present-day NYC would be a bold move. When factoring in the added challenges of operating a small business amidst a global pandemic, bold might be considered an understatement.

Despite these seemingly daunting conditions, lifelong pool enthusiast and NYC native Aaron Ho opened the doors of a new space for pool called Sour Mouse NYC, in October of 2020. With its location in the Lower East Side of Manhattan, one of New York's top neighborhoods for nightlife and entertainment, the concept Ho created for Sour Mouse combines pool and other social games with a space for live music, stand-up comedy, and art.

"We are not just strictly a billiard hall," Aaron Ho explains, "We also have live music, and like a lot of other places, we also have ping pong tables and foosball. Our focal point is

really the combination of everything. It's the live music that creates the ambience... so it's more of a lounge than a traditional pool hall."

However, pool has always been a passion for Aaron, and he has had a longstanding interest in the game. "I grew up playing a lot of pool and going to Steinway, my cousins brought me there at a very young age. When I was in high school, we played hooky and went to Amsterdam. I was living in Staten Island and my friends would drag me out there... it was like a three-hour commute, but it was always worth it. We always had fun playing pool," said Aaron.

To bolster the quality of their in-house leagues and tournaments, Aaron enlisted former Brooklyn pool room owner and longtime player Gerard Kammerer to take the reigns as director. Bringing his decades of experience in the industry to the table, Gerard has become an asset to the business through his knowledge of both pool equipment and players' interests.

Although he has an old-school background in the NYC pool scene and experienced the era of the likes of Cicero Murphy, Gerard Kammerer recognized the need to modernize pool spaces and bring in a variety of offerings for patrons, in order to make a viable business model. "What attracted me was the mixed entertainment environment, that's what you need," Gerard stated.

While discussing the types of leagues and events that would be hosted there, Gerard pointed out some aspects that would set Sour Mouse apart from other options in NYC. "What Aaron is doing, which is tremendously generous, is that there will only be a \$10 weekly fee for the league, and he covers all the green fees, so it's a 100% payout. I don't take any money, he doesn't take any money. I want to attract players to his room and get players to be comfortable in the environment and on the equipment, to make them regular customers," he explained. Additionally, their goal is to make the leagues and tournaments accessible to players of all levels, from



beginner to advanced, and foster an environment for learning and advancement.

With the recognition that pool halls and other spaces for both competition and social interaction have been dwindling in NYC, Aaron is seeking to create a fresh platform for pool that would also engage a larger audience through a range of other activities and opportunities to socialize.

"My idea was really to help revive the sport a bit. But we know that it needs to be more than just pool. There needs to be another element, otherwise we would suffer the same fate as a lot of these traditional places," Aaron said.



Aaron Ho

Aaron Ho's vision for Sour Mouse began years ago, when he owned a cafe in the Lower East Side. "We did a lot of community events, we did paint nights, comedy nights, and live music. They were always free, and really brought people together. I always thought, if there was a way to stretch the walls, I would have put a pool table in there."

Eventually, Aaron and his team decided to embrace the idea. In 2019, he sold the cafe and began working toward opening Sour Mouse, getting approval for a liquor license and signing a lease for a space the following month. Six months later, renovations



had been completed and they were ready to open in March of 2020—when disaster struck NYC with the city-wide COVID-19 shutdown, putting a hold on their plans for opening.

"It was definitely tough, because Cuomo (the governor at the time), with good reason, shut the city down from March until October. So we weren't able to open. And finally, in October, they said let's allow indoor establishments to open, but then they closed us down again after six weeks. So, we really didn't open until March of this year," Aaron said.

Through the strength of community support of the new space, Aaron and his team were able to hold out and move forward with their vision for Sour Mouse NYC, in spite of the challenges of the pandemic. "We have been able to persevere through all these obstacles because I think we are doing something that's beneficial to the community. Whether it's the pool community or the local community, we get a lot of support and people spread the word and promote events at our space. We've hosted professional meetups, we have music collectives, art shows... and with Gerard, we have our pool tournaments and we're trying to create a buzz for our pool leagues. So, its events like these that have helped us to stay afloat."

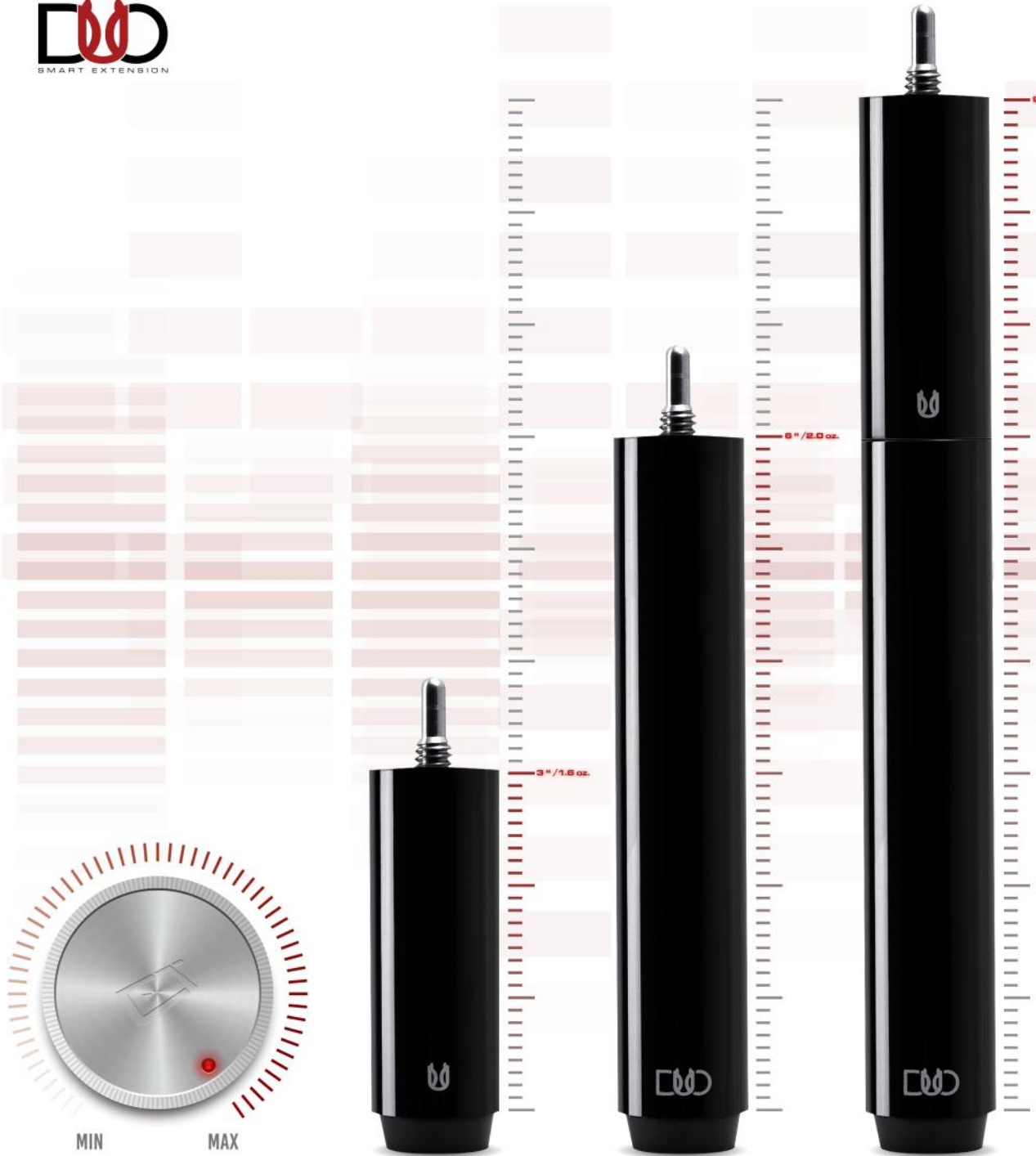
As in communities everywhere, the COVID-19 pandemic has resulted in the

shuttering of many small businesses and venues in NYC, and part of Aaron's hope is to help revitalize these groups who have been negatively impacted. Sour Mouse will be providing a new space for them to practice their crafts as well as offer new employment opportunities for people in the neighborhood. The space will also offer something unique for the area, in that Sour Mouse is taking an "all-ages" approach and will be accessible to families, making it a safe place to bring kids.

At its core, the vision for Sour Mouse NYC looks to focus on community-building and being a platform for people to connect with one another, which Aaron Ho sees as a much-needed thing in today's world. For him, pool is a great vehicle to provide an opportunity to connect.

"I love fact that pool is really a social sport. You're not just staring at a screen and zoning out, you're actually engaging another person. Whether you're going to the space with them or meeting someone in competition, I love that social element. That's what Sour Mouse is all about. We don't have any TV screens, we want people to enjoy that opportunity to interact with one another. I think that in New York City, that's so hard to find."

To learn more, you can visit them online at www.sourmousenyc.com



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Arizona Billiards Hall Of Fame Welcomes **Pete Lhotka & George Teyechea**

The Arizona Billiards Hall of Fame is proud to announce Pete Lhotka and George Teyechea as its two latest inductees.

Pete Lhotka's career in Arizona pool began in the 70's, when he won the Intercollegiate 14.1 National Championship. That was just one of many 14.1 titles that Lhotka won over the years, including nine Air Force 14.1 titles and two Arizona State 14.1 titles. A couple of Lhotka's favorite moments in pool were focused on 14.1, as he competed in an exhibition match against Willie Mosconi in Tempe back in 1973 and also when he ran 85 balls on the great Steve Mizerak during the 1980 World 14.1 tournament.

In addition to his accomplishments in competition, Lhotka has a long history as a billiards instructor, having taught billiards at both Arizona Western College and Yavapai College. Lhotka also wrote a series of columns for Pool & Billiard Magazine and created an instructional channel on YouTube with recorded pool classes from Yuma and Prescott.

Appropriately, Lhotka was informed of his induction while playing pool with a friend in Prescott. "I feel real emotional right now" he said. Lhotka was also surprised when he was informed that he was the top vote getter on the ballot this year. "I didn't know if I would get in" said Lhotka. "There are so many deserving people on that list".

Peter Lhotka



Lhotka was especially excited about joining such legends as his good friend Babe Thompson in the Hall of Fame. “Babe was the guy who inspired me to become a pool player. Watching him run 100 balls was incredible” he said.

Joining Lhotka in the Hall of Fame this year is another multi-talented player. Tucson’s George Teyechea can trace his love for the game back to the 1960’s and can trace his championship winning resume back to the early 90’s. A player of all games, Teyechea excels in a variety of games, winning Arizona titles in 8-Ball, 9-Ball and One Pocket.

Teyechea has competed at the top levels of Arizona pool for well over 25 years and now shares his cue sport knowledge in a number of different ways. Teyechea was a big part of the Az Junior 9-Ball Tour and the Junior program at Pockets in Tucson. In addition to his work with the Juniors, Teyechea has also become one of the top streaming commentators in the business today. His work with the Desert Classic and Diamond Pool Tour’s drew the attention of Cue Sports International, where he is now a regular commentator at their various amateur and pro events.

Even with his history of talking about the game, Teyechea was at a loss for words when he was informed of his induction while he was getting ready to commentate a pro event in Las Vegas. “Oh my god, did I really get in?” he asked, after taking a moment to compose himself.

Like Lhotka, Teyechea indicated that he didn’t think he would get voted in this year. “I thought the majority of votes were in Phoenix. I didn’t think there were many votes coming from Tucson” he explained. Teyechea though, is well respected throughout the entire state of Arizona and both he and Lhotka will make very deserving



George Teyechea

additions to the Arizona Billiards Hall of Fame.

Lhotka and Teyechea will be honored at the Hall of Fame Banquet, scheduled for November 5th at Bullshooters in Phoenix. They will also be looking to play in the Hall of Fame’s Arizona State Championship, that will take place at Bullshooters on November 6th and

7th. With the Covid virus situation, the 2020 banquet was not held, meaning the 2020 inductees Chuck Evans, Terry Osborne, Bob Jackson and Doc Rice will also be honored at the November banquet. All six of these players will join 2019 inductees Scott Frost, Roger Griffis, Babe Thompson and Mike Howerton as members of the Arizona Billiards Hall of Fame.

Stixx and Stones Adds Another House Pro

April Larson

joins Stixx and Stones as female house pro

We are excited to announce a new member on our Stixx and Stones Team – April Larson, our new female house pro. We are looking forward to what April brings to Stixx and Stones and the Dallas-Fort Worth pool community.

April Larson from Bloomington, Minnesota and is making the move to the Dallas-Fort Worth Metroplex to join Stixx and Stones. She will be joining Chris Reinhold at Stixx and Stones as our house pro. April brings a lot of energy to the community, and we look forward to supporting and collaborating with her. Anytime she is not participating in pool tournaments, she will be practicing at Stixx and Stones and ready to interact and play with all our new and loyal customers.

We are excited to have her on board working alongside Chris with our youth program and growing our women's outreach here in Texas. We know she is just as excited as we are in beginning this new journey together.

April Larson is a two-time bronze medalist at the Junior World Championships, a five-time Atlantic Challenge Cup Team USA member (two-time MVP) and has been a women's professional pool player since the age of 15.

Anju Bergman, one of the management team, said in a statement today, "The Youth and Ladies programs are

near and dear to our heart. This is just the beginning of what we have planned to grow the sport in those two areas! We can't wait to have April share her experiences and ideas with the Youth and Ladies pool scene."

About Cue Sports and Entertainment Group Inc / Stixx and Stones is a Cue

Sports focused company based in the Dallas-Fort Worth Metroplex; Stixx and Stones is its first Pool Hall located in Lewisville, Texas that has become "DFWs Favorite Pool Hall where you meet old friends and make new ones". Together they are focused on innovative ideas and services to help grow all aspects of the pool community.

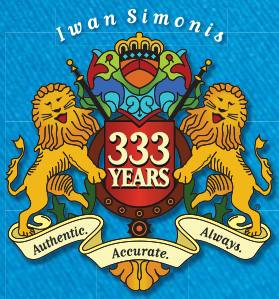


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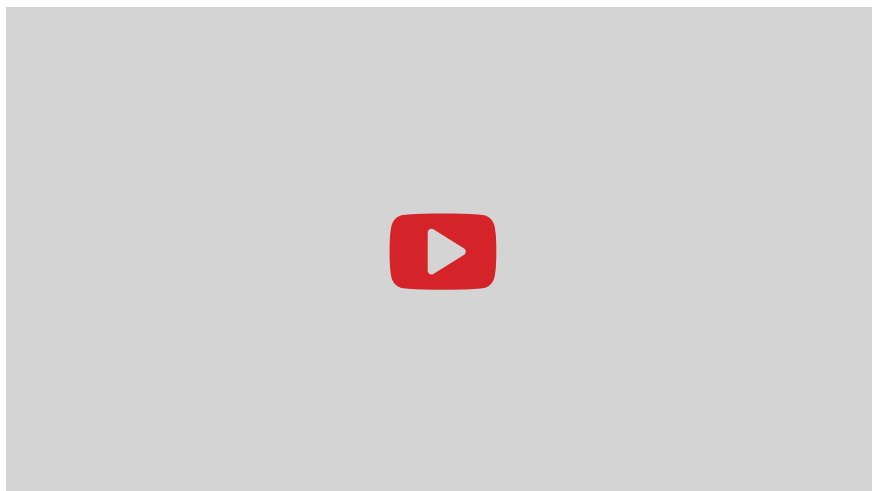
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DRILLROOM

The First AI-Powered Billiard Training App Launches A Major Update



OrangeLoops, a software development company, is launching a new update for DrillRoom, the first mobile application that uses artificial intelligence and augmented reality to track and record shots & misses in pocket billiard drills.

The iOS application provides a wide selection of drills in speed control, shotmaking, cue direction, and positional play. It generates AI-based game stats that players can review after each drill or in their profile's dashboard. During the experience, players

are assisted by a virtual coach that provides audio feedback in real-time.

The update includes, among other improvements:

- New coach voices from Jennifer Barretta, Ralph Eckert (in German), and David Muñoz (in Spanish).
- Improved table framing and lighting scoring.
- Improved engine precision for real-time analysis of shots.

- Drill instructions can be viewed once a drill has started through the help button.

There's a new subscription service, called DrillRoom Pro, that includes premium features such as:

- Game Analysis with detailed shot analysis diagram and shot stats available once a drill has finished.
- Shot video clips that can be viewed and shared after each drill.
- Challenges such as Golf Pool, Centerfield Infinite Drill, and the Billiard University Exam I.
- Plus, more than +30 new drills created with the assistance of pro players, such as Dr. Dave Billiards.

Access to DrillRoom Pro is available for USD 4.99/mo or USD 39.99/yr (33% off).

The developers are working on implementing more community-driven features, such as leaderboards and user-created drills.

The application can be downloaded for free on the App Store. It is available for both iPhone and iPad.

Some feedback from the users:

"As far as using augmented reality to train for pool, many solutions are dicey. DrillRoom has been the best I've seen so far. It's simple to use and works well overall."

"This is awesome for home training and pool rooms that can use the app on a designated table with a TV close by for casting."

SALOTTO AND CUESPORTS INTERNATIONAL Join Forces

The pool industry is hot with growth right now and CueSports International (CSI) is a primary driver of the great sport we all know and love.

Salotto, a mobile application, provides an avenue for people to find each other, play more pool and make any table competitive. Salotto is also the only utility for pool players to submit verified 1V1 match results to FargoRate (the industry gold standard for pool player ratings). Salotto is proud to welcome CSI Leagues as the official leagues of choice to help Salotto users play more pool with more great people.

Our industry is undergoing a remarkable transformation driven by technology, fresh ideas, the need for socialization and companies willing to take a risk. These industry leaders are pushing the envelope. Salotto and CSI, along with its other partners, are at the front of that push.

When progressive companies combine efforts, the result can be a force of good far greater than each could achieve on its own. In that spirit, Salotto is proud to announce CSI as the official league body of any Salotto user.

Salotto continuously strives to provide as much value to its members as possible and this partnership provides yet another membership benefit. CSI, BCA Pool League and USA Pool League members can now receive the Pro Salotto subscription at 50% off. Salotto Pro offers unlimited match creations and ad-free play at a discounted \$2.49/month. Use code "CSI2021" to claim your discount when upgrading.

If you haven't already, download the Salotto app from the Apple App Store

or Google Play Store, create your free account and take advantage of the Pro subscription for just half of the normal price.

CSI+Salotto=more pool. The math is simple.



SCOUT

Gaming Group

Leading Provider Of B2B Daily Fantasy Sports, Sportsbook and Fantasy Sports Betting Products Has Partnered With The Masters Cup Series

Scout Gaming, the leading provider of B2B daily fantasy sports, sportsbook and fantasy betting products, has made its debut in the US market after signing a deal with new sports league, the Masters Cup Series.

The five-year deal will see the Masters Cup Series leverage Scout Gaming's Social Sportsbook Platform, a new product that has been developed specifically for the US market and aimed at online and retail operators as well as sports venues and franchises.

Scout Gaming's Social Sportsbook Platform allows Master Cup Series to tap into the fast-growing sports wagering segment by offering a fun and low barrier of entry, next-generation 'sports betting-like' experience without the involvement of real money wagering. Through the combination of its proprietary Player Account Management system, award-winning B2B Daily Fantasy Sports solution and new Social Sportsbook, Scout Gaming offers US operators and franchises an end-to-end managed sports entertainment product.

The Masters Cup tour is a new sporting event spearheaded by industry legend and Hall of Fame pro billiard player, Rodney "Rocket" Morris. The event will comprise of eight professional players who will compete in weekly MCS Tour Stop events. Players will accumulate points each week, based on performance, to determine their playoff position, weekly winner, and overall Masters Cup Champion.

The event will be nationally televised and offer both on-screen real-time wagering like gameplay as well as next generation stats. In addition to Scouts standard games, fans will also be able to experience play on events directly tied to and developed in collaboration with the Masters Cup Series.

The partnership with Scout will allow the sports franchise to provide a way for fans and viewers to engage with sports game play action 24 hours a day, seven days a week, while also generating significant revenue for the series.

Andreas Ternström, Chief Executive Officer at Scout Gaming, said: "We are



thrilled to be officially entering the US market for the first time and to also unveil another addition to the Scout product line that will be launching with the Masters Cup Series.

"We've noticed a gap in the market that we can fill and we're hoping to unveil similar partnerships in the months and quarters to come."

Rodney "Rocket" Morris, Chief Executive Officer at Masters Cup Series, said "I'm excited to have joined forces with Scout Gaming and feel honoured to be the first partner for the company in the USA. Its Social Sportsbook is an incredible product that will bring tremendous value to the series.

As the US business development partner for Scout Gaming Group, Stephen Crystal, CEO and Founder of SCCG Management said of the event, "We are proud of the success this team has realized throughout this process. The biggest winners will be the fans who get to experience highly engaging and competitive interaction through the real-time gameplay powered by the Scout Gaming platform. SCCG has been driving strategies to bring social sports betting to restaurants, bars, and arenas, and this is the first execution on this plan."

ABOUT SCOUT GAMING

Scout Gaming Group is a multiple award-winning licensed and regulated premium provider of B2B Fantasy Sports & Sportsbetting. The company offers a flexible and customizable sports entertainment platform with the core pillar being the network-based Fantasy Sports solution (SGN) and a fully-managed Sportsbook capable of being tailored to market needs, whether real money Fantasy Sports, odds-based sports wagering or Free2Play. Technology and operations are 100% proprietary, having developed from the ground up and operated in-house, – allowing for virtually any sport, league, or game format to be offered. The company has achieved several industry-first’s such as the world’s largest globally pooled DFS network (SGN), Fantasy Matchups, Bet-on-my-team, Player Odds and the world’s first natively

integrated DFS and Sportsbook solution – all via one single integration. The Group has 100+ employees and is headquartered in Stockholm, Sweden with development and operations in Bergen, Norway, and Lviv, Ukraine and Malta. Scout Gaming is listed on the Nasdaq First North Growth Market and the Certified Adviser is Redeye AB. Contact details: Certifiedadviser@redeye.se, +46 (0)8 121 576 90.


ABOUT MASTERS CUP SERIES (MCS)

The Masters Cup Series (MCS) is a billiards tour with a revolutionary new scoring system, created by Hall-of-Famer Rodney “Rocket” Morris. The executive team, based in Oklahoma, has stellar reputations within and access to the entire billiard industry. Not only will the new scoring system inject excitement into the game, it will also open the game up to thousands

more players and solve decades long issues for the community. MCS will be televised and streamed and utilize AR/VR experiences as well as licensed gaming, gambling and fantasy sports to create a continuous engagement loop with its customers. MCS has partnered with 21 Lakes Productions and GhostDawg Consulting for ideation and execution within the broadcast and gaming areas, respectively.

ABOUT SCCG MANAGEMENT

SCCG Management is a consultancy that specializes in sports betting, iGaming, sports marketing, affiliate marketing, technology, intellectual property protection, product commercialization, esports, capital formation, M&A, joint ventures, casino management, and governmental and legal affairs for the casino and iGaming industry. Visit us at <https://sccg-management.com>.



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- Jeanette “The Black Widow” Lee

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Tourney Results

Sep 01 - Sep 04

2021 Diamond Las Vegas Open

Rio All-Suite Hotel & Casino

Las Vegas, NV

- 1 Kun Lin Wu \$15,000
- 2 Omar Al Shaheen \$9,000
- 3 Denis Grabe \$5,000
- 3 Shane Van Boening \$5,000
- 5 Jesus Atencio \$3,000
- 5 Joshua Filler \$3,000
- 5 Roland Garcia \$3,000
- 5 Wiktor Zielinski \$3,000
- 9 Aloysius Yapp \$1,500
- 9 Chris Reinhold \$1,500
- 9 Francisco Sanchez-Ruiz \$1,500
- 9 Jayson Shaw \$1,500
- 9 Joven Bustamante \$1,500
- 9 Jung-Lin Chang \$1,500
- 9 Naoyuki Oi \$1,500
- 9 Ralf Souquet \$1,500
- 17 Albin Ouschan \$750
- 17 Alexandros Kazakis \$750
- 17 Carlo Biado \$750
- 17 Carlos Ariel Castro \$750
- 17 Corey Deuel \$750
- 17 Daniel Schneider \$750
- 17 Dennis Orcollo \$750
- 17 Edgie Geronimo \$750
- 17 Fedor Gorst \$750
- 17 Chia-Chen Hsieh \$750
- 17 Hunter Lombardo \$750
- 17 James Aranas \$750
- 17 Kang Lee \$750
- 17 Marco Teutscher \$750
- 17 Thorsten Hohmann \$750
- 17 Tyler Styer \$750

Sep 03 - Sep 05

2nd Annual Carolina Cup Bar Table 9-Ball Open

Break and Run Billiards

Chesnee, South Carolina

- 1 Brian White \$1,100
- 2 Hunter White \$775
- 3 Bill Fowler \$575
- 4 Ryan Hollingsworth \$350
- 5 Jacob Brooks \$200

- 5 Rob Hart \$200
- 7 Clay Davis \$100
- 7 Landon Hollingsworth \$100

Sep 03 - Sep 05

Ladies Carolina Cup Bar Table 9-Ball Open

Break and Run Billiards

Chesnee, South Carolina

- 1 Nikki Mancuso \$520
- 2 Christy Norris \$300
- 3 Lisa Cossette \$200
- 4 Meagan McClain \$55

Sep 06 - Sep 10

WPA World 10-Ball Championship 2021

Rio All-Suite Hotel & Casino

Las Vegas, NV

- 1 Eklent Kaci \$35,000
- 2 Naoyuki Oi \$22,000
- 3 Aloysius Yapp \$12,000
- 3 Johann Chua \$12,000
- 5 Carlo Biado \$5,050
- 5 Jayson Shaw \$5,050
- 5 Konrad Juszczyszyn \$5,050
- 5 Shane Van Boening \$5,050
- 9 Alex Pagulayan \$3,000
- 9 Bader Al Awadi \$3,000
- 9 Billy Thorpe \$3,000
- 9 Christopher Tevez \$3,000
- 9 Martinez Gerson \$3,000
- 9 Marco Teutscher \$3,000
- 9 Omar Al Shaheen \$3,000
- 9 Oscar Dominguez \$3,000

Sep 09 - Sep 12

WPBA Sondheim Kiwanis Invitational

Fairfield Arts and Convention Center

Fairfield, Iowa

- 1 Kelly Fisher \$5,000
- 2 Kristina Tkach \$3,500
- 3 April Larson \$2,500
- 4 Line Kjorsvik \$2,000
- 5 Brittany Bryant \$1,500

- 5 Jennifer Barretta \$1,500
- 7 Caroline Pao \$1,100
- 7 Dawn Hopkins \$1,100
- 9 Gail Eaton \$800
- 9 Jessica Barnes \$800
- 9 Kia Burwell \$800
- 9 Monica Webb \$800
- 13 Jenna Bishoff \$600
- 13 Kaylee McIntosh \$600
- 13 Lonnie Fox-Raymond \$600
- 13 Loree Jon Hasson \$600
- 17 Amanda Mann \$400
- 17 Ashley Burrows \$400
- 17 Ashley Rice \$400
- 17 Billie Billing \$400
- 17 Laura Smith \$400
- 17 Michell Monk \$400
- 17 Sarah Rousey \$400
- 17 Teruko Cucculelli \$400

Sep 11 - Sep 11

Q City 9-Ball Tour Stop

Rock House Tavern

Gastonia, NC

- 1 Landon Hollingsworth \$1,000
- 2 Justin Duncan \$700
- 3 Hunter White \$420
- 4 Jason Blackwell \$250
- 5 Brent Newman \$100
- 5 Hank Powell \$100
- 7 Hunter Zayas \$50
- 7 Michael Robertson \$50

Sep 13 - Sep 18

2021 U.S. Open 9-Ball Championship

Harrah's Resort Atlantic City

Atlantic City, NJ

- 1 Carlo Biado \$50,000
- 2 Aloysius Yapp \$25,000
- 3 Dennis Orcollo \$12,000
- 3 Naoyuki Oi \$12,000
- 5 Fedor Gorst \$6,750
- 5 Johann Chua \$6,750
- 5 Maximilian Lechner \$6,750
- 5 Rodrigo Geronimo \$6,750
- 9 David Alcaide \$3,750

9 Denis Grabe \$3,750
9 Francisco Sanchez-Ruiz \$3,750
9 John Morra \$3,750
9 Marco Teutscher \$3,750
9 Mario He \$3,750
9 Mieszko Fortunski \$3,750
9 Shane Van Boening \$3,750
17 Albin Ouschan \$2,750
17 Darren Appleton \$2,750
17 Jayson Shaw \$2,750
17 Joshua Filler \$2,750
17 Marc Bijsterbosch \$2,750
17 Mickey Krause \$2,750
17 Niels Feijen \$2,750
17 Oliver Szolnoki \$2,750
25 Eklent Kaci \$2,250
25 Jason Theron \$2,250
25 Jeffrey De Luna \$2,250
25 Jung-Lin Chang \$2,250
25 Konrad Juszczyszyn \$2,250
25 Skyler Woodward \$2,250
25 Tomasz Kaplan \$2,250
25 Wojciech Szewczyk \$2,250
33 Alan Rolon \$1,750
33 Alexandros Kazakis \$1,750
33 Bahram Lotfy \$1,750
33 Billy Thorpe \$1,750
33 BJ Usery \$1,750
33 Chia-Chen Hsieh \$1,750
33 Daniel Schneider \$1,750
33 Lian-Han Toh \$1,750
33 Jose Alberto Delgado \$1,750
33 Judd Trump \$1,750
33 Omar Al Shaheen \$1,750
33 Pijus Labutis \$1,750
33 Ralf Souquet \$1,750
33 Roland Garcia \$1,750
33 Wiktor Zielinski \$1,750
33 Kun Lin Wu \$1,750
49 Abdullah Al Shammari \$1,250
49 Abrin Schaad \$1,250
49 Alex Pagulayan \$1,250
49 Blaine Barcus \$1,250
49 Chris Reinhold \$1,250
49 Earl Strickland \$1,250
49 Hussain Al Sayafi \$1,250
49 Ivica Putnik \$1,250
49 Jeffrey Ignacio \$1,250
49 Joseph Testa \$1,250
49 Jonas Souto Comino \$1,250
49 Kang Lee \$1,250
49 Mateusz Sniegocki \$1,250
49 Mika Immonen \$1,250
49 Sanjin Pehlivanovic \$1,250

49 Warren Kiamco \$1,250
65 Adam King \$1,000
65 April Larson \$1,000
65 Bader Al Awadi \$1,000
65 Brandon Shuff \$1,000
65 Chris Lawson \$1,000
65 Corey Deuel \$1,000
65 Dave Daya \$1,000
65 Demitrios Jelatis \$1,000
65 Francesco Candela \$1,000
65 Hunter Lombardo \$1,000
65 James Aranas \$1,000
65 Jesus Atencio \$1,000
65 Joe Korsiak \$1,000
65 Justin Espinosa \$1,000
65 Kelly Fisher \$1,000
65 Khalid Alghamdi \$1,000
65 Kurt Kobayashi \$1,000
65 Michael Schneider \$1,000
65 Michael Yednak \$1,000
65 Moritz Neuhausen \$1,000
65 Nathan Childress \$1,000
65 Radoslaw Babica \$1,000
65 Raymond Linares \$1,000
65 Roberto Gomez \$1,000
65 Shahram Changezi \$1,000
65 Shane Wolford \$1,000
65 Sharik Sayed \$1,000
65 Shaun Wilkie \$1,000
65 Suad Kantaravic \$1,000
65 Sullivan Clark \$1,000
65 Thorsten Hohmann \$1,000
65 Waleed Majid \$1,000
97 Al Lapena \$750
97 Tony Conn \$750
97 Anthony Meglino \$750
97 Austin Summers \$750
97 Brad Guthrie \$750
97 Carlin Sanderson \$750
97 Chad Bazinet \$750
97 Donny Mills \$750
97 Amil Andre Gangflot \$750
97 Greg Antonakos \$750
97 James Davee \$750
97 Jeremy Jones \$750
97 John Hennigan \$750
97 Kevin Zock \$750
97 Kristina Tkach \$750
97 Marc Vidal Claramunt \$750
97 Masato Yoshioka \$750
97 Mason Koch \$750
97 Max Watanabe \$750
97 Michael Delawder \$750
97 Mohammad Al Muhanna \$750

97 Nick Antonakis \$750
97 Raed Shabib \$750
97 Reinaldo Dendariarena Perez \$750
97 Reyes Gomez \$750
97 Rick Miller \$750
97 Robert Frost \$750
97 Scott Haas \$750
97 Stephen Holem \$750
97 Tom D'Alfonso \$750
97 Tony Robles \$750
97 Tyler Styer \$750

Sep 14 - Sep 18

2021 Kremlin Cup

Olympic Sports Complex

Moscow, Russia

1 Babken Melkonyan \$4,700
2 Konstantin Zolotilov \$2,400
3 Dimitris Loukatos \$1,740
3 Konstantin Stepanov \$1,740
5 Andrey Seroshtan \$1,070
5 Aresniy Kovalerchik \$1,070
5 Markus Juva \$1,070
5 Mikhael Kiladze \$1,070
9 Artem Lukin \$540
9 Dmitry Chuprov \$540
9 Egor Plishkin \$540
9 Evgeny Buslaev \$540
9 Iosif Abramov \$540
9 Ivan Kakovskii \$540
9 Sergey Lutsker \$540
9 Vladislav Shopik \$540
17 Alan Hestanov \$270
17 Aleksandr Muravev \$270
17 Anton Plisko \$270
17 Anthony Brabin \$270
17 Evgeniy Komeev \$270
17 Maksim Shalagin \$270
17 Mihail Novoselov \$270
17 Nikita Poluyan \$270
17 Islam Razibul \$270
17 Riku Romppainen \$270
17 Roman Grishin \$270
17 Sergey Mansurov \$270
17 Vitaliy Pavluhin \$270
17 Vladimir Matvienko \$270
17 Vladislav Cirikov \$270
17 Vyacheslav Derbilov \$270

Sep 18 - Sep 18

Q City 9-Ball Tour Stop

Breaktime Billiards

Wilmington, NC

- 1 Hank Powell \$800
- 2 Matt Harrell \$540
- 3 Brian Francis \$270
- 4 Orlando Marcus \$180
- 5 Jason Rogers \$75
- 5 Mike Hagood \$75

Sep 18 - Sep 19

2021 DFW 9-Ball Tour Stop 9

Jeffro's Billiards

Canton, Tx

- 1 Shane McMinn \$660
- 2 Joey Gray \$470
- 3 Michael Pickering \$340
- 4 Clint Freeman \$230
- 5 Crispian Ng \$180
- 5 Daniel Herring \$180
- 7 Alberto Nieto \$130
- 7 Harold Paine \$130
- 9 Chip Compton \$90
- 9 Ray Hinton \$90
- 9 TJ Davis \$90
- 9 William Lovos \$90
- 13 Corey Flud \$60
- 13 Joe Pelayo \$60
- 13 John Gabriel \$60
- 13 Miguel Hernandez \$60

Sep 22 - Sep 25

Predator US Pro Billiard Series Stop 3

Kellogg Arena

Battle Creek, Michigan

- 1 Aloysius Yapp \$12,000
- 2 Roberto Gomez \$8,200
- 3 Mario He \$4,200
- 3 Oliver Szolnoki \$4,200
- 5 Denis Grabe \$2,000
- 5 Eklent Kaci \$2,000
- 5 Konrad Juszczyszyn \$2,000
- 5 Toh Lian Han \$2,000
- 9 Alexandros Kazakis \$800
- 9 Fedor Gorst \$800
- 9 John Morra \$800
- 9 Kang Lee \$800
- 9 Mika Immonen \$800
- 9 Pijus Labutis \$800
- 9 Thorsten Hohmann \$800
- 9 Wiktor Zielinski \$800

Sep 23 - Sep 24

East European Billiard Council Men's 9-Ball Championship

Balkan Billiard Centre, Petrich

- 1 Babken Melkonyan \$2,344
- 2 Marius Skoneczny \$1,172
- 3 Konstantin Stepanov \$586
- 3 Sergey Lutsker \$586
- 5 David Zalman \$293
- 5 Georgi Georgiev \$293
- 5 Petr Urban \$2,093
- 5 Spasian Spasov \$293
- 9 Ciprian Gandac \$146
- 9 Daniel Maciol \$146
- 9 Daniel Todorov \$146
- 9 Karol Skowerski \$146
- 9 Kristian Spasov \$146
- 9 Sebastian Batkowski \$146
- 9 Szymon Kural \$146
- 9 Tomasz Kaplan \$146

Sep 23 - Sep 26

4th Annual Dennis Dieckman Memorial 3 Cushion

Amazin Billiards

Malden, Ma

- 1 Mazin Shooni \$2,000
- 2 Cleiton Rocha \$1,700
- 3 Joe DeAmato \$900
- 3 Vicke Pineda \$900
- 5 Ian McKelvey \$475
- 5 Kris Kwon \$475
- 5 Luis Aveiga \$475
- 5 Ricky Carranco \$475
- 9 George Couture \$150
- 9 John Guldali \$150
- 9 John Johnson \$150
- 9 Ray Glennon \$150

Sep 23 - Sep 26

4th Annual Dennis Dieckman Memorial 3 Cushion Scotch Doubles

Amazin Billiards

Malden, Ma

- 1 Luis Aveiga \$1,000
- 1 Mickey Campbell \$1,000
- 2 Mazin Shooni \$500
- 2 Richard Falanga \$500
- 3 Berkay Keskin \$300
- 3 Erick Valerio \$300
- 3 John Guldali \$300
- 3 Vicke Pineda \$300

Sep 25 - Sep 25

JPNEWT Tour 2021 Stop #8

First Break Cafe

Sterling, VA

- 1 Kia Burwell \$500
- 2 Linda Haywood Shea \$300
- 3 Terri Stovall \$200

Sep 25 - Sep 25

Predator Tri State Tour 2021 Stop

The Spot

Nanuet, New York

- 1 Abel Rosario \$1,400
- 2 Linda Cheung \$920
- 3 Matt Klein \$570
- 4 Connor Phares \$345
- 5 KC Clayton \$230
- 5 Mike Pruitt \$230
- 7 Jay Chiu \$160
- 7 Keith Adamik \$160

Sep 25 - Sep 26

2021 Maryland State Bar Table 8-Ball Championships

Brews & Cues on the Boulevard

Glen Burnie, Maryland

- 1 Dylan Spohr \$950
- 2 Jimmy Varias \$600
- 3 Brian Jones \$350
- 4 Max Schlothauer \$270
- 5 Brett Stottlemeyer \$225
- 5 Loye Bolyard \$225
- 7 Rick Miller \$180
- 7 Shaun Wilkie \$180
- 9 Christopher Wilburn \$100
- 9 Kyle Dilly \$100
- 9 Rick Fox \$100
- 9 Thomas Haas \$100
- 13 Joe Wright \$70
- 13 Rick Molineiro \$70
- 13 Rick Scarlato \$70
- 13 Steve Fleming \$70

Sep 28 - Sep 29

1st Annual Diamond Open 2021 10-Ball Division

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Aiken, SC

- 1 Roberto Gomez \$15,000
- 2 Fedor Gorst \$9,000
- 3 Joshua Filler \$5,900
- 4 Mario He \$4,100
- 5 Alex Pagulayan \$2,200
- 5 Dennis Orcollo \$2,200
- 7 Jayson Shaw \$1,000
- 7 Oliver Szolnoki \$1,000

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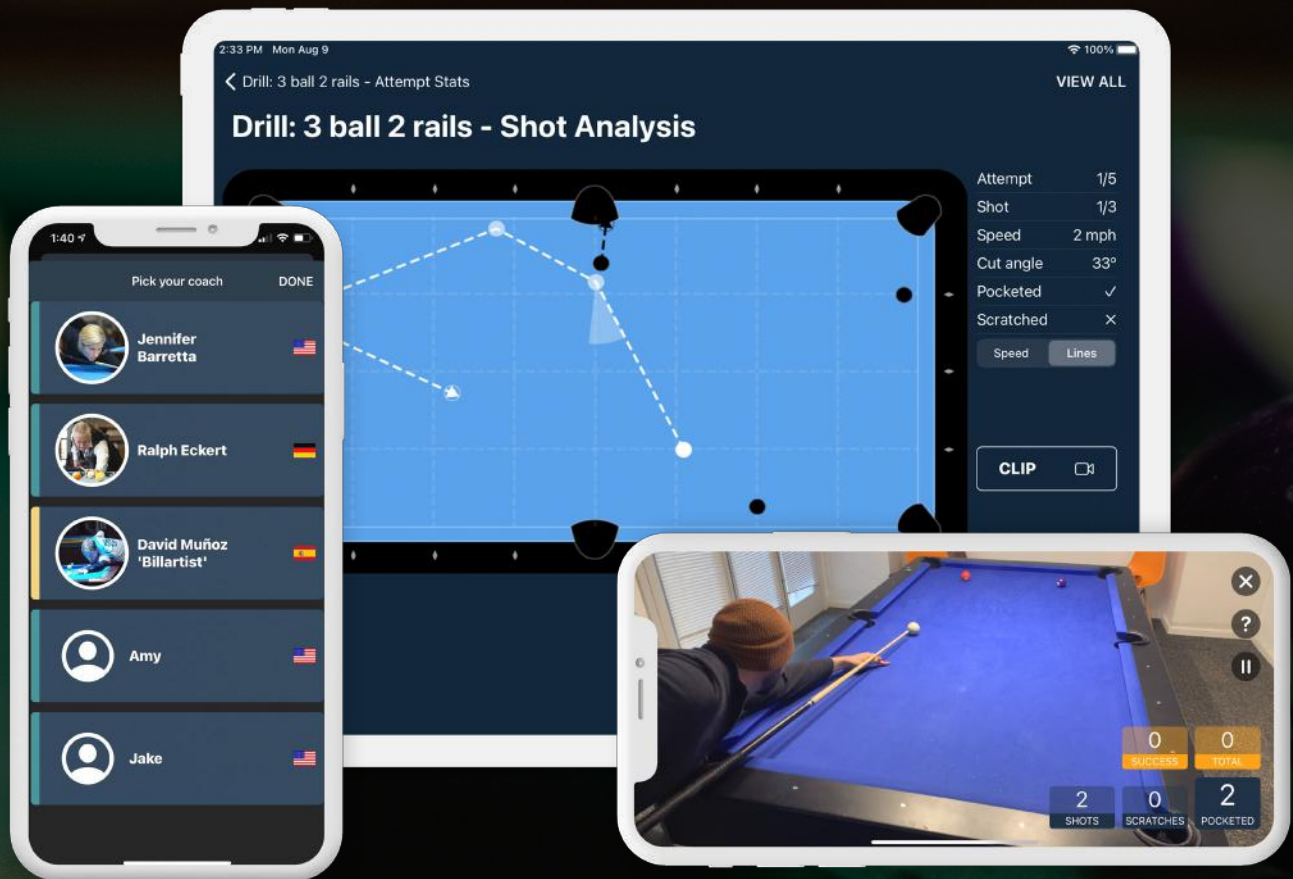


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