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September 2006
Volume VI, Issue 7

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Thorsten "The Hitman" Hohmann made pool history when he won \$350,000 for first place at the IPT's North American Open 8-Ball Championship, scoring the sport's biggest prize to date.

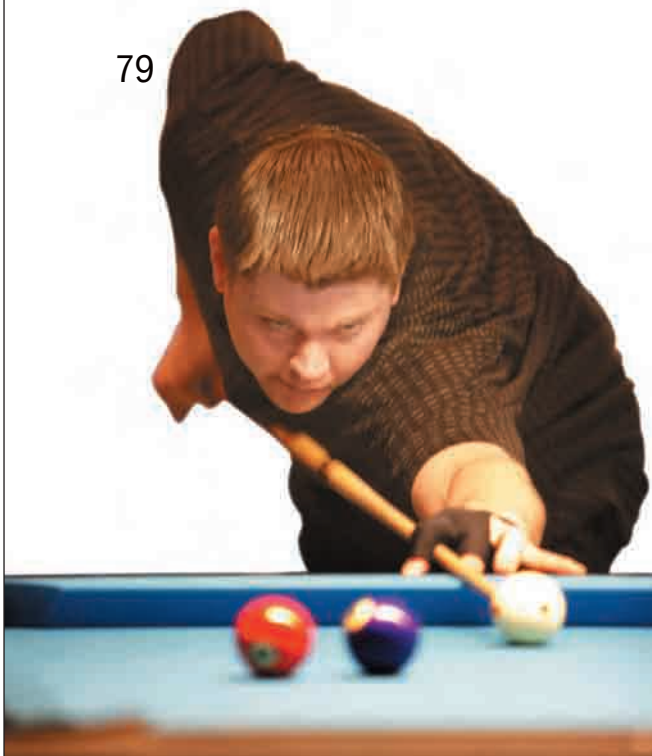


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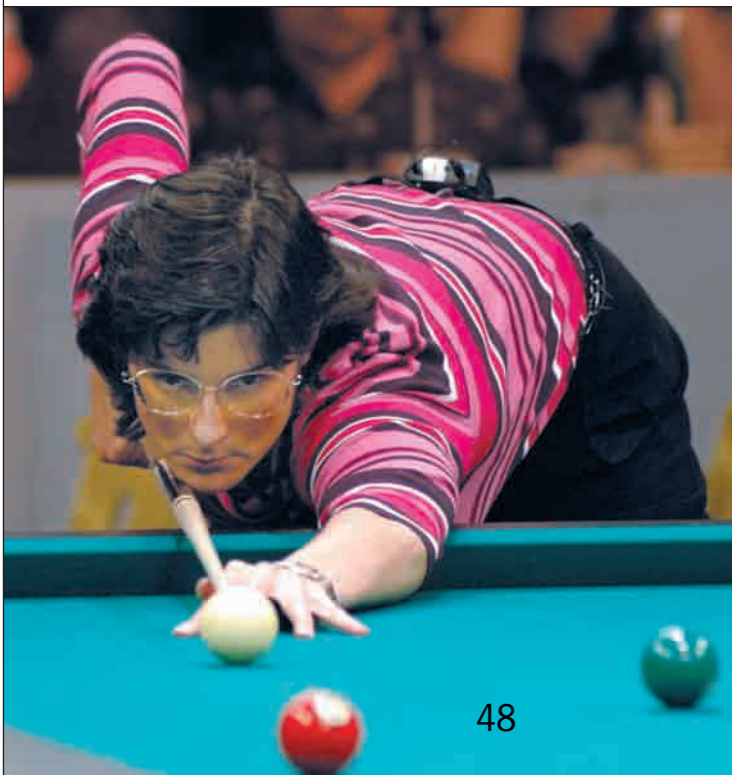
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Pool on TV (continued on pg. 14)

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ESPN, ESPN2, ESPN Classic

2000 International Challenge of Champions Finals	01-Sept	11:00 am	ESPNC
2004 International Challenge of Champions Semifinal #1	02-Sept	11:00 am	ESPNC
2000 Tournament of Champions Semifinal #1	05-Sept	11:00 am	ESPNC
2005 Trick Shot Magic Championship	05-Sept	2:30 pm	ESPN2
2001 International Challenge of Champions Semifinal #1	07-Sept	11:00 am	ESPNC
2005 Trick Shot Challenge Championship	07-Sept	7:30 pm	ESPN2
2001 International Challenge of Champions Finals	08-Sept	11:00 am	ESPNC
1993 U.S. Open 9-Ball Championship	09-Sept	11:00 am	ESPNC
2006 EnjoyPool.com BCA Champions Semifinal #1	10-Sept	2:00 pm	ESPN
2006 WPBA Midwest Classic Semifinal #1	10-Sept	6:00 pm	ESPN
2002 International Challenge of Champions Semifinal #1	11-Sept	11:00 am	ESPNC
2006 EnjoyPool.com BCA Champions Semifinal #1	11-Sept	3:00 pm	ESPN2
2002 International Challenge of Champions Semifinal #2	12-Sept	11:00 am	ESPNC
2002 International Challenge of Champions Finals	13-Sept	11:00 am	ESPNC
2001 Sudden Death 7-Ball	14-Sept	11:00 am	ESPNC
2001 Sudden Death 7-Ball	15-Sept	11:00 am	ESPNC
1998 Challenge of Champions Semifinal #1	16-Sept	11:00 am	ESPNC
2006 EnjoyPool.com BCA Champions Semifinal #2	17-Sept	2:00 pm	ESPN
2006 WPBA Midwest Classic Semifinal #2	17-Sept	6:00 pm	ESPN
2001 Sudden Death 7-Ball	18-Sept	11:00 am	ESPNC
2001 Trick Shot Magic	19-Sept	11:00 am	ESPNC
2005 Trick Shot Magic Championship	19-Sept	3:30 pm	ESPN2
2001 Trick Shot Magic	20-Sept	11:00 am	ESPNC
2001 Trick Shot Magic	21-Sept	11:00 am	ESPNC
2002 Trick Shot Magic	22-Sept	11:00 am	ESPNC
1998 Tournament of Champions Finals	23-Sept	11:00 am	ESPNC
1998 Challenge of Champions Semifinal #2	24-Sept	11:00 am	ESPNC
2002 Trick Shot Magic	24-Sept	1:00 pm	ESPNC
2003 Trick Shot Magic	24-Sept	2:00 pm	ESPNC

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2006 EnjoyPool.com BCA Champions Championship	24-Sept	2:00 pm	ESPN
2003 Trick Shot Magic	24-Sept	3:00 pm	ESPNC
2003 Trick Shot Magic	24-Sept	4:00 pm	ESPNC
2004 Trick Shot Magic Semifinal #1	24-Sept	5:00 pm	ESPNC
2004 Trick Shot Magic Semifinal #2	24-Sept	6:00 pm	ESPNC
2006 WPBA Midwest Classic Championship	24-Sept	6:00 pm	ESPN
2004 Trick Shot Magic Championship	24-Sept	7:00 pm	ESPNC
2002 Trick Shot Magic	25-Sept	11:00 am	ESPNC
2002 Trick Shot Magic	26-Sept	11:00 am	ESPNC
2002 Sudden Death 7-Ball	27-Sept	11:00 am	ESPNC
2002 Sudden Death 7-Ball	28-Sept	11:00 am	ESPNC
2002 Sudden Death 7-Ball	29-Sept	11:00 am	ESPNC
1998 Challenge of Champions Finals	30-Sept	11:00 am	ESPNC
2003 Sudden Death 7-Ball	02-Oct	11:00 am	ESPNC
2003 Sudden Death 7-Ball	03-Oct	11:00 am	ESPNC
2003 Sudden Death 7-Ball	04-Oct	11:00 am	ESPNC
2003 Trick Shot Magic	05-Oct	11:00 am	ESPNC
2006 International Challenge of Champions Semifinal #1	05-Oct	8:00 pm	ESPN2
2006 International Challenge of Champions Semifinal #2	05-Oct	9:00 pm	ESPN2
2006 International Challenge of Champions Championship	05-Oct	10:00 pm	ESPN2
2003 Trick Shot Magic	06-Oct	11:00 am	ESPNC
2006 International Challenge of Champions Semifinal #1	06-Oct	2:00 pm	ESPN2
2006 International Challenge of Champions Semifinal #2	06-Oct	3:00 pm	ESPN2
2006 International Challenge of Champions Championship	06-Oct	4:00 pm	ESPN2
2003 Trick Shot Magic	07-Oct	11:00 am	ESPNC
2003 Tournament of Champions Semifinal #1	08-Oct	11:00 am	ESPNC
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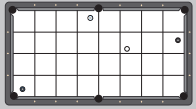
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INSTRUCTION

THAT'S WHAT I'M TALKING ABOUT

BY KEITH MCCREADY



Operation Hollywood

I often get asked: "How can I take my game to the next level?" It is a burning question for many a player, but one that does not have an easy answer. There is no shortcut, other than learning the basic fundamentals and how to apply them correctly. Game strategies and ball patterns will develop later. Then you will be able to move forward, acquiring an arsenal of shots and mastering each one to perfection.

Growing up in California in the late '60s, I was an avid fan of the TV show "Mission: Impossible." Often I'd find myself humming the familiar theme song en route to the poolroom: "Dun-dun, Dun-dah, Dun-dun, Dah-dah," wondering what action might await me. One afternoon, I decided to venture over to North Hollywood. Quite a few premier players gathered nightly at the Billiard Den to perform before a packed house of spectators.

Inside the poolroom, it was commonplace to see many TV actors of the day. Peter Falk of "Columbo," Telly Savalas and Kevin Dobson of "Kojak," Greg Morris of "Mission: Impossible," and The Monkees' drummer Mickey Dolenz were some of the regulars. They enjoyed playing pool and would occasionally stake the local players just to keep the action going.

With anonymity on my side as I entered the front door, I surveyed the battlefield, but it was slim pickings ... with one exception: Cannonball. He was an older gent whom I had studied many hours as I developed my game, watching him dissect his opponents one by one. He used to carry a bottle of whiskey in his back pocket, and any time he missed a shot, he'd take a swig. Sometimes it seemed like the more he drank, the better he got. Cannonball was one of the best bank players that ever lived, a handsome stroke and pure magic on the table. When he was in motion, there was never an empty seat in the house, and this night was no different.

I screwed my stick together and made some noise, hoping to get his attention by sounding the pockets and hitting dead center

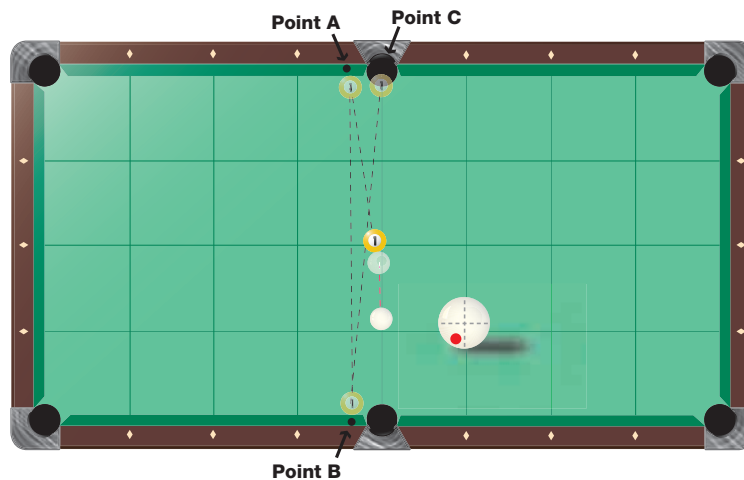
with every shot. Cannonball was checking me out, and he soon approached with a proposition: a game of "bumps," as he used to refer to it, also known as banks. Each shot has to be banked in the pocket for it to be good.

The stakes were high, and I had only one barrel in my pocket to shoot him down. We ended up four points apiece, racing to five, each needing one more bank for the win. The case game was tight. Cannonball got a little funny on the leave and came up empty, leaving me a chance at the money ball. There was only one way out of this predicament, and so I came with the ol' two-rail bank shot.

second rail. The harder you hit it, the shorter the angle. English responds more from the rail than the object ball. Experiment with the two-rail bank shot by hitting the ball harder and then softer until you are able to recognize the correct complement of velocity and spin.

Out of the corner of my eye, I saw Cannonball tip his flask and take a big swallow, steadying himself for his next move. I paused as I stood at the table, knowing that if I didn't execute this two-rail bank shot that my demise was imminent. My mind wandered as I peered into the crowd, but then everything came to a halt. I locked eyeballs with Greg Morris. He smiled broadly and winked at me. Rather than self-destruct, I warped the two-rail bank shot in for the win. Operation Hollywood came to a close. Mission accomplished.

Your lesson, should you decide to accept it, is to read this article about the two-rail bank shot and explore the mixture of science and "feel." As always, should you or any reader discover the right balance, your opponents will suffer defeat, resulting from the knowledge in your actions. ♦



As shown in the diagram, the 1 ball needs to make contact with two rails and then end up in the side pocket. Using low, left-hand english, strike the cue ball at about 7 o'clock. You want to make contact with the 1 ball on the right-hand side, precisely at the 5 o'clock point. The more you can choke the ball with left-hand english, the better the english will take on the object ball. The 1 ball will strike the first rail two inches from the side pocket. Because of the english and ball speed in tandem, the 1 ball will reverse its course on its way to contacting the second rail, and then it will float in the side pocket.

When practicing, keep in mind that it is necessary to compensate for the rubber cushions, as equipment may differ. It is important that the object ball hit the rail with enough velocity, so that the angle will lessen when returning to the

Undeniably one of the most colorful characters in the game of pool, Keith McCready never fails to entertain a crowd with his gutsy and gritty style of play. He is known as "The Earthquake," "Keither With the Ether," and "The California Kid" and has been playing pool ever since he was old enough to hold a cue. Originally from Southern California, Keith has traveled all over the world and has won numerous titles. He is probably best remembered for his role as Grady Seasons in "The Color of Money" with Paul Newman and Tom Cruise. To this day, his fans quote his infamous line, "It's like a nightmare, isn't it?" He currently resides in Washington, D.C. and continues to play in every event he can.



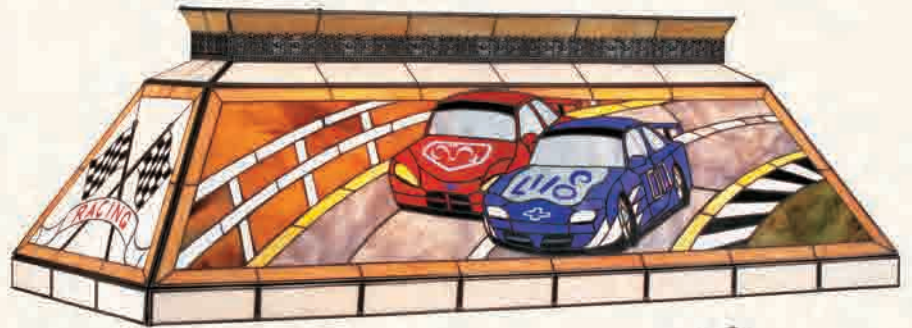
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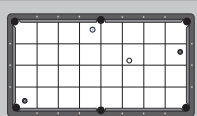
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INSTRUCTION

GRADY'S GRAD SCHOOL

BY GRADY MATHEWS



Creative End-Game Play

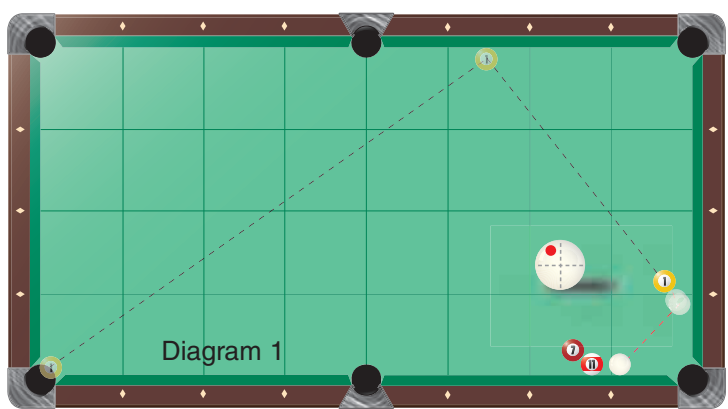
This month's column features three modern, aggressive shots in the end game. You will need this type of mindset to defeat opponents who can really "move" in one-pocket. Sometimes even a better opponent will get so discouraged at constantly having to remove balls from our pocket that he will become tentative and afraid. That player is easy to defeat.

In Diagram 1, we need two balls each. The shot here is to use high, left-hand english, a level cue, and medium speed to kick-bank the 1 ball toward our pocket. With a nice thick hit on the 1 ball, the cue ball will die on the end rail because of the high english.

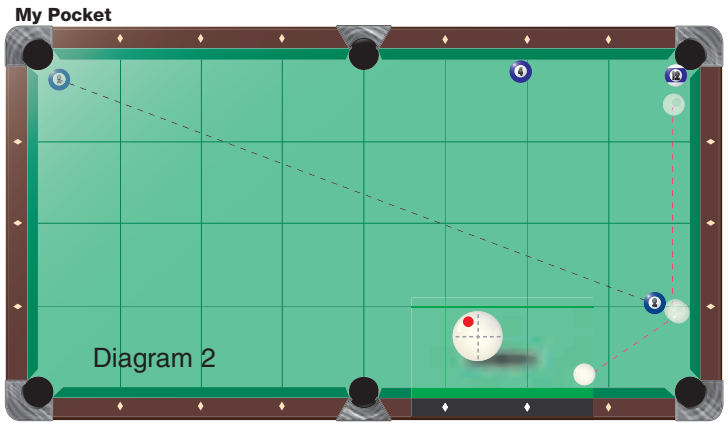
If the object ball is closer to the rail than 3 inches or farther away than about 4 1/2 inches, this is not a good shot.

We each need two balls in Diagram 2. I could just bank the 2 ball one rail toward my pocket, but I prefer a nice kick shot here. The object ball is just the right distance off the rail (4 1/2 to 6 inches). I'll use one tip of left-hand english and medium speed. I want the cue ball to go toward the 12 ball after it contacts the 2.

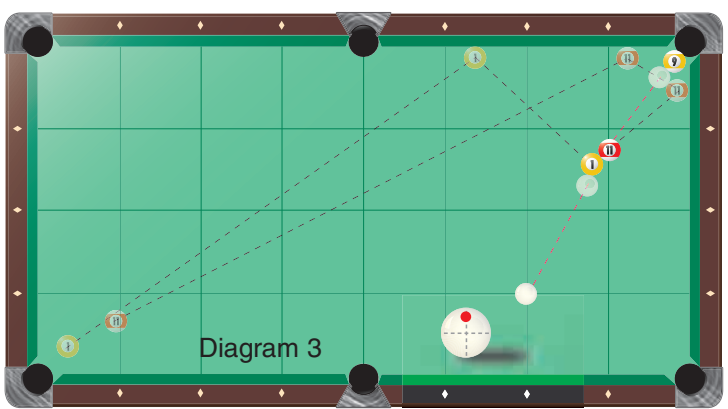
Please note that if I took the one-rail bank, I would use high, left-hand english and try to end up behind the 4 ball with the cue ball.



My Pocket



My Pocket



My Pocket

In Diagram 3, I need all three balls, and I may as well try to win the game pretty much in one shot. The 1 and 11 balls lie perfectly to move both of them toward my pocket and, at the same time, attempt to pocket the 9 ball.

This needs to be hit with a firm stroke and high english. Also, the 1 ball needs to be cut slightly to the left. The cue ball will travel forward with the high english and hopefully pocket the 9 ball. Even if the 9 ball isn't quite pocketed, the cue ball will be close to it and the other two balls in the vicinity of my pocket.

Let these shots help you by getting you to take a little extra time with most end-game situations. Don't just play safe automatically. There may be an intelligent, "free" offensive shot available. ♦

Grady "The Professor" Mathews is one of pool's most recognized figures. His success at the table has opened doors for him as technical advisor to movie producers, commentator on Accu-Stats video productions, producer of billiard instructional video tapes, and as an author. Grady has won several one-pocket world titles.

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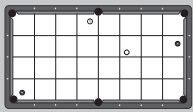


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INSTRUCTION

MENTAL MAXIMIZATION

BY MAX EBERLE



Automatic Stroke Power Addition

There are many beginning to intermediate players out there who learn to play good pool, yet when they really need a little power in their game, they just cannot deliver what is required for the shot. This problem could cause shots that only require a medium or medium-hard shot to be out of reach. I know a quick fix that may just be the boost they are looking for. It will seem so basic, yet without a keen eye; a player may never detect this during their entire pool-playing life. Let's see if this could be you, and if it is, let me know if you break through an old ceiling on your power game.

The problem I'm talking about here is that many players fail to pull back their cue as far as possible on their backswing when they need power. They ask why they cannot draw the ball very far or get much action on the cue ball, and when I watch them, I see that they are only pulling their cue back halfway before beginning their stroke. This is like trying to throw a baseball for distance but only starting by holding the ball up by your forehead and then trying to launch it 50 yards.

If this applies to you, try pulling your cue all the way back so that the ferrule is in the closed part of your

ball without jabbing at it with a sudden punchy motion. Your stroke will look a lot smoother, and it will be easier for you to get a nice, long follow-through, which is also extremely important.

At the back of your backswing, be careful not to drop your grip hand too low. This will cause your tip to have a real downward arcing motion into the cue ball without much follow-through and may cause many miscues on draw shots unless your timing is impeccable. It is much easier to have your hand up a little higher on the end of your backswing so the tip is low on its way into the cue ball and is also on a good plane for a nice follow-through.

Be sure not to negate your nice backswing by stopping your stroke at the cue ball. Allow the tip to follow through several inches beyond the cue ball. This stroke will pretty much be the same on most shots, with varying intensity. Let this entire action, from backswing to follow-through, be one long, smooth motion. ♦

Max began playing pool on his grandfather's table, and by the age of 12, he knew he wanted to play professionally. He always knew that he was good enough, but when he won the Junior Nationals at 18, his game kicked into high gear. Max is the house pro at Hollywood Billiards in Hollywood, CA, where he currently resides.

This is like trying to throw a baseball for distance but **Only** starting by holding the ball up by your forehead and then trying to launch it **50 yards.**

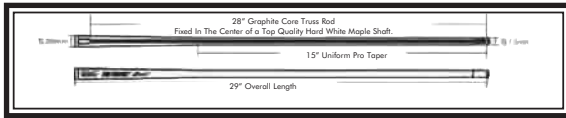
When you throw a baseball for distance, how do you begin? You wind up, right? You pull your hand and arm as far back as you can, and then you begin the accelerating throwing motion that eventually launches the ball. In pool, you begin your stroke with the backswing.

bridge or on top of your thumb with a open-hand bridge. When you pull back all the way like this, it gives you the ability to have more power with less effort. It gives you the ability to accelerate smoothly and more time to accelerate so your timing into the cue ball is just right. It will allow you to hit the

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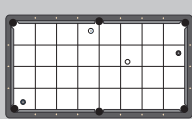


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INSTRUCTION

BEAT PEOPLE WITH A STICK

BY TOM SIMPSON



English Language

As an instructor, I meet and work with a lot of pretty good players. I am surprised at how often I see confusion over our basic terminology regarding english. Let's clear this up. If you're not certain about your pool vocabulary, read on.

What is english? Some writers and instructors describe *english* as the spin phenomena the cue ball exhibits when we strike it anywhere other than dead center. Some of us prefer to use the term "english" only for sidespin. I'm one of those. Sidespin behaves differently. With sidespin, the cue ball does not go where the stick is pointing. Along with sidespin comes the need to adjust for squirt, swerve, and spin-induced throw. In addition, sidespin persists in the cue ball—that is, it mostly stays in the cue ball, even after it hits another ball. Top and bottom spin dissipate.

the get-go. This happens only when you strike the CB at maximum high (the bottom of your tip touches the ball close to three-quarters of the way up from the bottom of the ball). The higher you hit, the sooner you stop skidding and start rolling.

So, while draw and follow become natural roll as the ball travels, sidespin stays in the cue ball and is still there when the CB hits a ball or rail. Big difference.

Okay, let's talk about sidespin terminology. Essentially, we have two sets of terms: one describes how the cue ball is spinning when it hits an object ball, while another set of terms describes cue ball spin relative to a cushion contact.

When a CB with sidespin cuts an object ball, we talk about inside english and outside english. Inside english refers to those times when the cue ball hits the object ball with spin that is on the "short" side of the cut shot.

the spin into a change in the departure angle and speed for that ball. For sidespin, running english occurs when the spin is on the side of the ball opposite the rail. For instance, if the ball bounces off a rail that is to its right, left-side english would "roll off" the cushion more naturally than right-side english. In this case, left english would be running english. It may speed up ("run" faster) off the rail. Running english also spins open the departure angle more toward the rail than the no-sidespin path.

Reverse (or holdup) english is the opposite of running english. When a ball hits a cushion with spin on the same side as the cushion contact, friction with the rail cloth "holds up" or shortens the departure angle for the ball. Since the spin in this case is toward the cushion, it rubs against the rail cloth, slowing the ball and causing it to bounce away from the rail more sharply than the natural (no sidespin) angle. Players sometimes use this action to kill the cue ball, reducing its speed and travel distance.

If you're going to spin your rock, as I know you cowboys love to do, it's vital to understand these fundamental concepts and terminology. In the USA, our English language has evolved to graphically describe what we need to understand about spin. Note that English words for english vary. If we were in England, we'd be screwed. ♦

Tom Simpson is a BCA Master Instructor. A full-time instructor with a BCA Accredited National Billiard Academy in Columbus, Ohio, he has worked with thousands of players. As founder of Elephant Balls, Ltd., inventor of Practice Balls®, developer of the Ghostball Aim Trainer®, and Secret Aiming Systems™ Coach, Tom's innovations in training have helped players dramatically improve their skills and deepen their knowledge. Read 35 instructional articles at the academy website: www.PoolClinics.com. Contact: Tom@PoolClinics.com, 614-975-8337.

Note that English words for english vary. If we were in England, we'd be screwed.

Draw, which of course is backspin on the cue ball, caused by hitting it below center, gradually wears off as the cue ball skids across the cloth. As draw wears off, it turns briefly to skid (also known as stun), and then becomes natural roll.

A cue ball with follow is simply a rolling ball. Any time we hit at center ball or above, the CB starts off sliding and assumes natural roll as the skid wears off. One of our common myths is we tend to believe that when we hit the cue ball above center, it "overspins," like "peeling out" with your muscle car. Nope. The best you can do is to make the cue ball begin moving with no skid—that is, rolling from

If you drew the shortest line from the CB to the target pocket, that line passes the OB on the inside side of the shot. Conversely, outside english occurs when you hit the CB on the side representing the "long way" to the pocket. Outside english is also known as helping english, since it tends to help overcome friction effects that would make you undercut the ball.

Since we're clearing things up, undercutting means not slicing the OB thinly enough to make it. Overcutting refers to cutting too thin and missing past the pocket on the other side.

When a spinning ball hits a cushion, friction with the rail cloth converts some of

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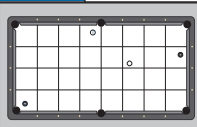
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INSTRUCTION

THIS IS YOUR CAPTAIN SPEAKING

BY JOHN W. LOFTUS



Cue Ball Control is Essential

I see a lot of players out there who can make balls. Sometimes the shots they make are as good as anything I can make—and better. I call these players “ball-makers,” because they do just that.

The really great players, though, have great cue ball control. The better we get at controlling where the cue ball lands after we make a ball, then the better we’ll be at this game. Any below-average player can make

a soft-to-medium stroke while striking the cue ball at about the very top of it while cheating the corner pocket to the left side. If you need good shape on the 5 ball, hit the cue ball on the top-right with a medium-hard stroke while cheating the corner pocket to the right side. This is not as tough as it looks.

These pathways aren’t the only way to get shape on your next ball either, and they

ball wherever you can and other places to strike the cue ball.

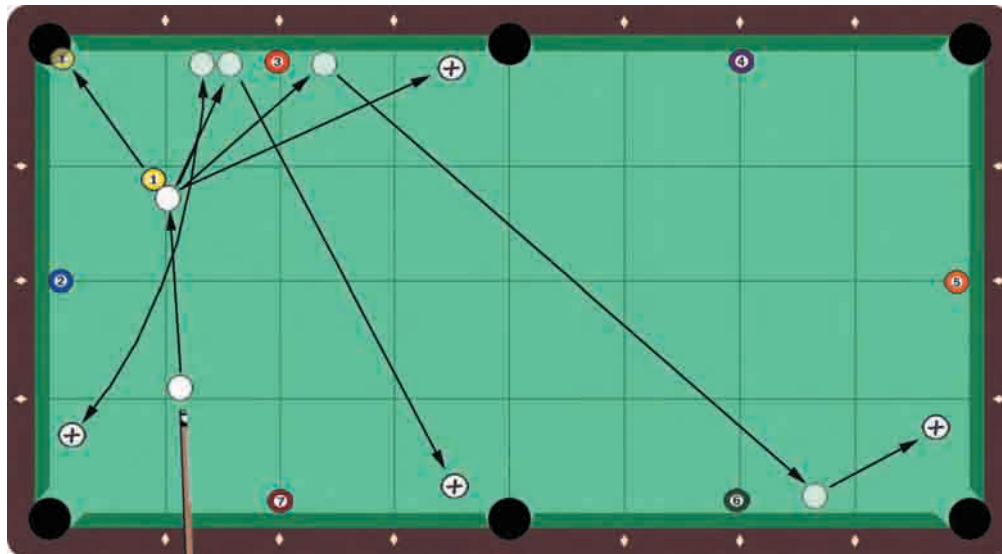
Now let’s finally look at the shape you need to get on the 2 ball. You can actually send the cue ball around the table three to four rails back near the corner pocket that the 1 ball went in for the 2 ball in the opposite corner. Can you figure out how, and can you do it?

But look at the angle you have for getting shape on the 2 ball. This is not good at all. This is called being on the wrong side of an object ball where the cue ball is sent away from your next shot after contact. While we need an angle on most every shot to help us get shape on our next object ball, we really want the correct angle that allows whitey to move toward our next ball, not away from it.

You can still get good shape on the 2 ball by striking the cue ball at the extreme top-left without miscuing, with a medium-hard stroke, while cheating the pocket to the right side (since the straighter the shot is the easier it can rebound back where you want it, although it can also be made by cheating to the left or not at all). Try it. It can be tough,

but with practice you should be able to do it. It’ll amaze some of your friends and they’ll ask how you did it. But it’s a shot you should be able to do when needed if you want to play good pool rather than merely being a ball-maker. ♦

“Captain” John Loftus, of Angola, Indiana, has been the captain of a number of first-place pool teams and is presently a skill level 7 in the APA 8-ball and a skill level 9 in the APA 9-ball leagues. He has played on as many as seven different pool teams a session. John is the author of How to be the Captain of a Winning APA 8-Ball Team, and he is the captain for a Master’s Division APA team. Contact him at johnwloftus@verizon.net.



balls. What separates them from the really great players is cue ball control.

Look at the diagram. If you have good cue ball control, you’ll be able to make the 1 ball and get good shape on every single object ball on the table—every one of them, even with the other balls on the table that are obstacles. Look at the shape you need on the 3 ball or the 4 ball in opposite corner pockets. You execute this shape with a medium stroke by hitting the bottom right of the cue ball. If you want to cheat the pocket to the right side, simple bottom or draw will do. By cheating the pocket, I mean sending the 1 ball to one side or another of the pocket—in this case, the right side.

If you want good shape on either the 6 ball or 7 ball for opposite corner pockets, use

may not be the best pathways to your next object ball. They represent just one particular way for each object ball. The more pathways you know to get to the next object ball, the better you’ll be as a player, because sometimes obstacle balls hinder some of the pathways.

This is all called knowledge. You must learn through practice where to correctly strike the cue ball in order for it to go in the right direction after striking it. But knowledge isn’t enough. You must also have the correct fundamentals in order to strike the cue ball exactly where it needs to be hit with the right speed or force. This takes hours and hours and hours of practice. Place these balls on the table as diagrammed and practice them over and over until you can get good shape 70%-80% of the time. Try to find other pathways to each object

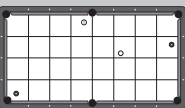
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INSTRUCTION

PRO POOL WORKOUT

BY BOB HENNING



Stroke Training 303

This column is the third in a series devoted to looking at the stroke and how to make it more effective. So far we have looked at the importance of keeping the stroke as level as possible and at some of the flaws that can make that difficult. In this issue let's look at the "finish."

The finish is where you get feedback on the success of your stroke. It's at the end of the stroke where you pause momentarily to see how the see this, do this, get this magic of the shot routine turned out. For most players, the focus at this point goes to the object ball first and cue ball

There are three crucial elements in the finish that reveal the quality of the stroke. The position of the tip of the cue stick tells you whether the stroke went straight forward or veered to the left or the right. It also tells you whether it went down to the cloth, stayed relatively level, or went upward into the air. Generally speaking, a good draw stroke should end with the tip on the cloth, a center ball stroke should end there or close to the cloth, and a follow stroke should end up at least level with the bed of the table. The one place you don't want the tip to finish is up in the air, higher off of the cloth

butt of the cue in a death grip? For most players, a flawless stroke will end with the last couple of fingers of the hand off of the butt of the cue. There's a release of tension in the hand where the back of the hand opens a little to allow the stroke to finish straight and smooth.

In training, a good way to incorporate these elements into your technique is to add them to your finish checklist. Instead of getting up on the shot after you confirm the cue ball, move your attention to these three points. In other words, after you take the stroke, shift your attention to the object ball until you are satisfied that you know the outcome. Then shift it to the cue ball until you know that too. Then, while still down on the shot, shift your attention to the cue tip, then your hand and chest relationship, and then the back of your gripping hand.

Sheri Cole, a very good BCA instructor now residing in South Carolina, showed me an interesting way to perceive and check these three elements. It's a technique called tip, tap, tea—with the tip being the cue on the cloth, the tap being the contact of the hand on the chest, and the tea relating to the back of the grip hand being open. Think of how you might hold a dainty little tea cup. Put them all together and you'll have a fabulous stroke!

Good luck & good shootin'! ♦

If you executed the shot correctly but did it with a flawed stroke, then you have to reproduce the exact same flaw in the future to get the same result.

second. This tells the truth about how the shot turned out, but it's insufficient to inform you of the quality of the stroke.

This is important because the quality of your stroke has more to do with your future ability than whether you pocketed a particular ball and got the cue ball to the position zone. One is long term and the other is short term. If you executed the shot correctly but did it with a flawed stroke, then you have to reproduce the exact same flaw in the future to get the same result. This is senseless, especially in training where your focus is on elevating your skill level, not just on delivering the best you have in the moment.

then it was at the final address of the cue ball.

The second key component is the relationship between your gripping hand and body, especially your chest. If you gave the shot a full stroke, your hand should end up close to your chest. In most cases, it should actually contact your chest. If you have a very sideways stance, this might be the shoulder of your stroking arm instead of the chest, but that's somewhat unusual. If you "poked the ball" or didn't give the shot a full stroke, your hand will finish short of your body.

The third essential aspect to check is the gripping hand itself. Is it clinging to the

Bob Henning is the author of The Pro Book, widely considered to be the most advanced training resource for competitive pool players. It brings the latest techniques of the top coaches and trainers of all sports into pool. It is intended for those who wish to prepare physically, mentally, and psychologically for pool competition. Bob is also the author of "The Pro Book Video Series," a complete, on-the-table training system, and he recently released The Advanced Pro Book. In addition, he has authored Cornbread Red, a biography of the colorful Billy "Cornbread Red" Burge.

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Souquet Makes it Five Scoops World Pool Masters Title Again

by InsidePOOL Staff

Following a three-year hiatus from the event, Germany's globe-trotting Ralf Souquet clinched his fifth PartyCasino.com World Pool Masters title after three days of intense competition in Egmond aan Zee, Holland June 16-18.

With an ultra-tough field of 16 in-form players from around the world, "The Surgeon" claimed some mighty impressive scalps en route to the \$20,000 top prize. Efen Reyes, Imran Majid, Wu Chia-ching and, ultimately, Alex Pagulayan were all victims of a rejuvenated Souquet's merciless precision.

Despite losing the lag in the alternate-break format, the German still had too much for Pagulayan in the championship match, winning 8-4 to add to previous successes in 2002, 2000, 1996, and 1994.

For the 37-year-old Souquet, it was a triumphant return to a tournament he has made his own down the years. "It means a lot to win after not competing in the last two years. I last won it in 2002, and in 2003 I came here feeling ill and lost in the first round to Mika Immonen," he said post-match.

"In the following two years, I wasn't invited or didn't perform well enough on the Euro Tour. But I'm just happy I could win the Masters again, and to win it five times isn't a bad record," Souquet added.

To make the success even more satisfying for Souquet, he was cheered on throughout the tournament by his parents Wolfgang and Sibille and his girlfriend Illy. "That meant a lot to me," said Souquet. "It's the first time I have won a tournament with my girlfriend by my side. We have been together six months, so she has only been to three or four competitions.

"My parents have seen me win a lot of events, but it's great when they are around and see me winning a big one. The World Pool Masters is one of the big ones, and I'm really proud I could win it and they could be part of it."



Defending champion Raj "The Hitman" Hundal was prevented from a repeat this year by Pagulayan.



Souquet's victory completed a fantastic three days of pool from a strong 16-man field that also included four other previous winners, world champions, and former snooker world number one Ronnie O'Sullivan.

The first match of the tournament saw defending champion Raj Hundal from England take on Japan's Hiroshi Takenaka, making his Masters debut. It was a scrappy affair and one of the poorest encounters of the weekend, with both players missing several chances they would normally take with ease. With the Masters using the brand new "Tournament Edition" Brunswick Metro with pockets less than 4 1/2 inches, potting under pressure became just that little bit harder, which may have told in this match. Hundal, though, still managed to do enough to win 8-5, although he was furious at his performance and threatened to quit if he performed so badly again.

American "Rocket" Rodney Morris was involved in one of the best Masters finals of all time in 2005 when he was 7-2 ahead against Hundal before eventually going down 8-7.

Morris's first match in 2006 saw him up against home favorite Niels Feijen, but the Dutchman proved too strong as he booked a place in the last eight with a convincing 8-3 triumph.

Wu Chia-ching in the quarterfinals after the Taiwanese player bested former snooker world number one Ronnie O'Sullivan 8-5. Despite his huge ability with a cue stick, O'Sullivan's preparations had not been ideal, as he had to borrow Imran Majid's cue after he inadvertently left his own in England. In front of a sell-out crowd of more than 500 people, O'Sullivan showed his potential for the sport but scratched off the break twice, which proved costly, as he was defeated in his first Masters match since 1998.

The first of the quarterfinals, between Hundal and Feijen, proved to be the tie of the tournament. Feijen raced into a 6-2 lead, but Hundal, who was vying to become the first man to successfully defend his title, fought back to set up a deciding rack. The match ended in dramatic style, as Hundal broke and the 9 ball was nudged up table by the 8, 4, and 6 balls and rolled into the far corner pocket for a golden break.

Pagulayan became the second player through to the last four when he defeated Foldes 8-5 before Souquet marched past a lackluster Imran Majid, never looking in trouble as he won 8-2. Wu completed the semifinal line-up, as he played well to defeat the entertaining Drago by a score of 8-5.

Hungary's Vilmos Foldes suffered a defeat by Pagulayan, ending up in a fifth-place tie.



Next up was the encounter between Hungarian Vilmos Foldes and Holland's Nick Van den Berg; however, Van den Berg could not give the Egmond crowd much to cheer about as he eventually suffered an 8-7 defeat as Foldes kept his nerve when breaking with the score tied up at 7-7.

First round play continued on Saturday afternoon, and the first match saw reigning U.S. Open champion Alex Pagulayan, who won the World Trickshot Masters the previous evening, cruise into the last eight with a comfortable 8-4 victory against England veteran Steve Davis. The snooker legend reached the Masters semifinal in 1997 but has not won a match in the competition since, and this defeat was his ninth successive loss.

Countryman Imran Majid had a tricky one on paper, but he took advantage of a below-par performance from Holland's Alex Lely to skate past the Dutchman 8-3 and book a spot in the last eight.

Souquet's first round match was an enticing prospect against Filipino legend Efen Reyes, but "The Surgeon" made a fine start as he moved 6-2 ahead. Reyes fought back to take the next four racks, but Souquet regained his form to scrape into the last eight with a hard-fought 8-7 victory.

The most impressive performance of the first phase came from Maltese speedster Tony Drago, who destroyed Germany's Thomas Engert with an emphatic 8-3 victory. Drago would face current 9-ball World Champion

Former world champion Alex Pagulayan grins as he lines up for his next shot.





Hundal's luck ran out against Pagulayan in the first semi, as a number of mistakes from the Englishman saw Pagulayan stroll to an 8-1 victory, the biggest of the tournament. Souquet reached his sixth Masters final as he finally hit top form in his semifinal tie against competition favorite Wu.

Despite losing the lag and the first two racks, Souquet gained an advantage in a number of lengthy safety exchanges to claw his way back into the match before eventually clinching a well-deserved 8-4 success.

That set the scene for the Masters' final, and the standing-room-only crowd welcomed the two gladiators into the arena. Souquet again fell behind, losing the first rack but taking the lead when Pagulayan scratched off the break in the third. The Filipino player stayed in contention, but the turning point came in the seventh rack, when Pagulayan failed to pot the pink 4 with an attempted kick shot, enabling Souquet to move in front before he soon extended his lead to three.

That proved crucial, as there was now no way back for Pagulayan as Souquet wrapped up the title with an 8-4 victory before he was presented with the trophy—for a record-breaking fifth time. ♦

Results:

1 st Ralf Souquet	\$20,000
2 nd Alex Pagulayan	\$10,000
3 rd Raj Hundal	\$5,000
Wu Chia-ching	
5 th Niels Feijen	\$2,500
Vilmos Foldes	
Tony Drago	
Imran Majid	
8 th Rodney Morris	\$1,500
Hiroshi Takenaka	
Nick Van den Berg	
Steve Davis	
Alex Lely	
Thomas Engert	
Ronnie O'Sullivan	
Efren Reyes	

Reigning world champion Wu Chia-ching tied with Hundal for third place.







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IP's Annual Pool Cue Issue



1. Scorpion Cues

Scorpion cues have built a reputation as one of the finest playing cues in the world. Using a patented manufacturing process, Scorpion delivers a warp-resistant cue with professional-level performance at prices everyone can afford. Manufactured and distributed exclusively by CueStix International, the proud sponsor of four-time World Champion Johnny Archer. To order, call 800-645-9803, or visit www.cuestix.com.



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\$200**

2. Outlaw Cues

The new Outlaw cues hark back to a time when cowboys and rustlers were the true characters of the poolroom. These cues capture the essence of the Wild West and deliver something completely unique in today's market. Original designs were inspired by tattoos, carved by master craftsman, and then "branded" by hand using a blowtorch. Manufactured and distributed exclusively by CueStix International. Call 800-645-9803, or log onto www.cuestix.com to order.



3. Griffin Cues

With tournament-level quality and phenomenal value, Griffin cues represent a breakthrough for the player who doesn't want to sacrifice performance for a good price. Griffin cues have incorporated classic designs with a contemporary flair to create a look all its own based on the time-honored appeal of forearm points. Manufactured and distributed exclusively by CueStix International. For ordering information, call 800-645-9803, or visit www.cuestix.com.





4

4. Players Cues

New from Players is a line of biker-inspired cues with vibrant graphics. These colorful cues are constructed with a hard-rock maple shaft, wood stabilizers, high-impact ferrules, and “Super UV” finish to protect against fading and chipping. Players cues have a variety of different wraps, including leather and double-pressed Irish linen, with retail prices starting at \$39.95. To order, contact Cue & Case Sales, Inc. at 800-835-7665.



6

6. Stealth Dooley Handle

Stealth’s patented Dooley Handle is inspired by the steering wheels of luxury automobiles, and its ergonomic technology allows players to shoot a more relaxed game, preventing the typical locking of the wrist and tightening of the body. The Dooley Handle line begins at under \$200. For ordering information, contact Stealth Cues at 623-215-0425, or visit their website at www.stealthcues.com.



7



5

5. J&J Decal Cues

J&J’s Decal cues feature selective hard-rock maple wood or other high-quality exotic wood, pro taper maple shafts, and Water Buffalo leather tips. Priced from \$60 to \$200, these cues are available from J&J America’s authorized dealers. Call J&J America at 562-229-9688, or visit www.jjcue.com for more details.

7. Cuetec Cues Natural Series

The 15 1/2-inch taper “Power-Bonded” maple shaft for the Natural Series cues from Cuetec Cues is treated with Tru-Glide finish, making a glove unnecessary. Stainless steel joints and matching stainless steel butt caps add flair to this line of cues. The cues are topped with a high-quality leather tip, have both Veltex and linen wraps, and accept the new Cuetec Smart Extension. In addition, this will be the first series of Cuetec cues to be outfitted with adjustable weight bolts so a player can customize the weight from 18 to 21 ounces in half-ounce increments. The suggested retail price for these cues is under \$180. For more information, call J-S Sales Co., Inc. at 800-JSSALES(577-2537), or visit their website at www.cuetec.com.



1. Aramith Acuerate Low-Deflection Cues

With its Phenoflex™ core and Acuerate™ technology, the Aramith Acuerate cue deflects on impact rather than the cue ball, keeping the cue ball on its intended track. It features an Aramith multi-layered 10- or 11-millimeter pigskin tip, a stainless steel joint, a double-fiber ferrule, and a Canadian hard-rock maple shaft. The butt is constructed of high-quality maple with mother-of-pearl or abalone inlays. The suggested retail price is \$385. For ordering information, log onto www.aramith.com.



2. Lucasi Cues

Built with features that include Uni-Loc® Quick-Release and Radial® Pin joints, an interchangeable weight bolt system, and a 15-inch pro taper, Lucasi cues encompass quality and attention to craftsmanship. Most Lucasi cues are made with at least three different exotic woods, including cocobola, ebony, bacote, snakewood, and lengas; with hand-crafted and precisely cut inlays. The suggested retail price for Lucasi cues starts at \$200. For ordering information, contact Cue & Case Sales, Inc. at 800-835-7665.

2



3

\$200 - \$500

3. Viking F3I Cue

Viking cues are 100% American made from the finest woods and components. This unique design features an ebony butt sleeve and forearm with pearl inlays, butt cap, and joint rings. The suggested retail price is \$470. For ordering information, contact Viking Cue Mfg., Inc. at 800-397-0122, or visit their website at vikingcue.com.



4

4. Samsara Barcues.com

World-class cue-maker Samsara Cues now produces an affordable line of cues handmade to the same exacting standards as their cues costing thousands of dollars. Barcues.com cues are constructed using the highest-quality exotic hardwoods. They are cored for balance, playability, and straightness and are available with Uni-Loc® or radial joint pins. The suggested retail price for these cues begins at \$399. Dealer inquiries are welcome at 701-776-7240.

5. Predator Sneaky Petes

This year Predator renewed its line of Sneaky Petes and added an eight-point model. Made with a traditional full splice of South American rosewood and white maple, these cues are accented by either the red eight-point or classic four-point trim. The suggested retail prices range from \$364 to \$644. For more information, visit www.predatorcues.com.

6. Adam Classic Line

Putting a new twist on the 1970s, the Adam Cue Company has produced their Adam Classic Line, consisting of six models all priced around \$400. They will be available in mid-September. For more information, call Adam Cue Company direct at 877-232-6283.

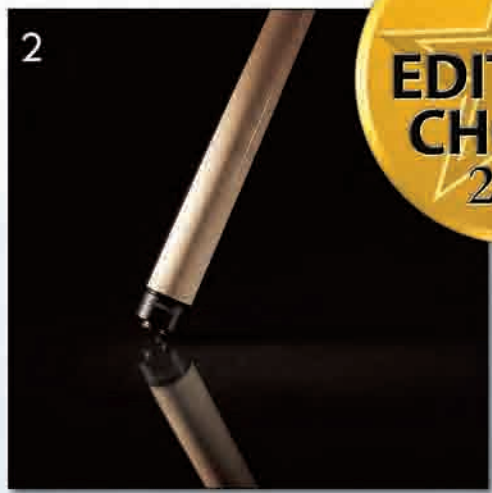


6



1. McDermott's The Serpent

The Serpent features exotic East Indian rosewood forearms and sleeves and four floating points featuring natural, red, and green box elder burl points in an intricate serpent design. Thirty inlays of box elder burl, red and green high-impact ceramic, and recon ebony adorn the sleeve. The M67A model has two German brass rings; forty-two total inlays; and a top-grain, lizard-embossed black leather wrap. The Serpent is limited to 500 cues and is priced at \$789. Visit www.mcdermottcue.com or call 800-666-2283 to find out more or to locate the nearest dealer.



2. Universal Cues

Universal's technology has introduced piezoelectric fabric into the shaft (created by M.I.T.), which allows Universal to dampen and dissipate 45% more vibration compared to other leading technology brands—the next "Big Bertha" for billiards. Only six different models with a variety of exotic wood and specialty inlays are available in limited quantities, ranging in retail price points from \$549. For ordering information, contact Cue & Case Sales, Inc. at 800-835-7665.



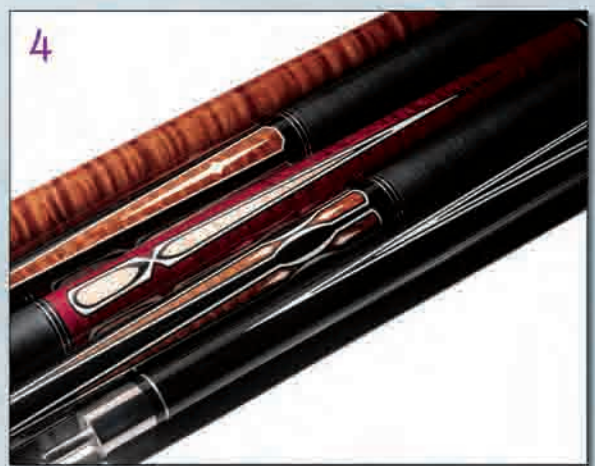
**\$501-
\$1000**

3. Schuler SLC Series

Crafted with pride since 1975, Schuler offers linen-wrapped cues for pocket billiards, as well as wood-wrapped cues for billiards with a starting retail price of \$450. Featuring high-quality birdseye maple, Schuler cues are given painstaking attention to detail. For ordering information, contact Schuler Cue at 888-843-1283, or visit www.schulercue.com.

4. Predator 5K Series

With Predator's new C4™ four-piece core technology, the new 5K Series provides a pure, positive feedback and a more accurate shot. The new coring construction allows the use of highly figured woods, and the inlays are much sharper than previous models. The new 5K Series will be on the market in the beginning of October, and eight different designs will be available with your choice of 314² or Z² high-performance shaft. Suggested retail prices range from \$554 to \$1,244





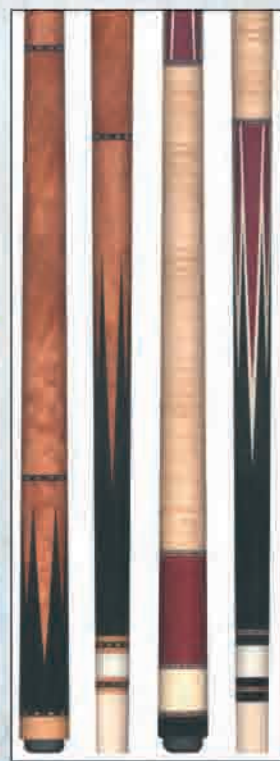
1. Hightower Custom Cues

This Hightower custom cue was custom built for the late Lamar Redd in 2005. It is an ebony cue with six fancy ivory points with seven abalone inlays and six genuine rubies accented with white gold in each point. It has shorter matching points in the butt sleeve and is wrapped with a beautiful ringtail lizard skin. It has Hightower's trademark sterling silver accents, and the joint and butt plate are both ivory. A cue similar to this would cost approximately \$5,500 to build. To order, log onto www.hightowercues.com.

2. Mark Smith's Redheart

Made by Arkansas cue maker Mark Smith, this cue is composed of red heart with ebony-bordered burl inlays and a leather wrap. To make your dream cue a reality, contact Mark through e-mail at mark@marksmithcues.com, or call him 479-970-0056.

Custom Cues



3. Schön Cues

Continuing to build on the tradition of excellence, Schön custom cues are designed by Evan Clarke. These cues are manufactured and distributed exclusively by CueStix International. To order, call 800-645-9803, or log onto their website at www.cuestix.com.

4. QP Cue

This cue has 2,477 hours in the scrimshaw work alone. Constructed of purpleheart wood, it is 64 inches long, weighs 21.8 ounces, has a 3/8-radial pin, and features old-growth shafts. This cue retails at \$40,000. To order, contact QP Cues at queperfect@queperfect.biz, or visit their website at www.queperfect.biz.



6. Mystic Buffalo

This Triple Cross Cue depicts an ancient southwestern American Indian legend using traditional symbols. "The Great Hunt" unfolds in rustic pyrography beneath a glossy finish. The Navajo war chief blanket color patterns are echoed in its joint and buttplate accent rings. Heartwood hickory (redheart) was chosen for its rich color and superb playing characteristics. It also comes with a buckhorn ivory ferrule. Sterling silver Kokopelli figures and buffalo complete the tale. The suggested retail price for this cue is \$1,200. For ordering information, e-mail Triple Cross Cues at triplecrosscues@yahoo.com or call 850-562-0037.

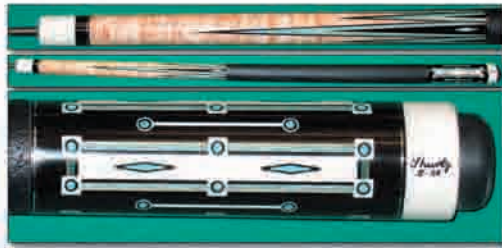
5. Prather Custom Cues

Handmade by their artisans, every aspect of Prather cues is executed with sincere dedication. These two cues have a four-high, four-low, eight-point design. It features burlwood points, five matching deco rings, a burlwood handle on one cue and purpleheart re-cut points, six matching deco rings, with an AAAA curly maple handle on the other. Both come with two each Prather Pro Taper shafts with matching decorative rings and are priced at \$1,450. Contact Prather Cues at 800-364-6913, (fax) 580-994-2700, e-mail sales@prathercue.com, or visit their website at www.prathercue.com.



7. CB Custom Cues

Chris Byrne of CB Custom Cues has been building cues in Colorado since 1994 and generally builds 20 to 40 cues per year. Attention to detail and the pursuit of perfection is what Chris strives for in every cue he builds. The cue in the picture is made of ebony with ivory, malachite and sterling silver inlays. The joint, butt cap, and ferrules are all ivory. The cue has a solid core of purpleheart and weighs in at 19.5 ounces. CB cue prices begin at around \$300. If you have a dream cue you would like to have built, visit www.CBCUES.com, or call Chris at 720-206-4034.



8. Jacoby Cues

Jacoby Custom Cues, Inc. specializes in turning customers' design ideas into reality. This cue was custom designed by a customer and made by Jacoby Custom Cues, Inc. in Nekoosa, WI. The cue has an ebony forearm and buttsleeve with four high and four low maple-veneered purpleheart points mirrored above and below the wrap. The cue has turquoise inlays and features a radial pin phenolic joint. This cue sold for \$1,250. If you have a design idea that you would like to see come to life, contact Jacoby Custom Cues, Inc. at 715-886-2900, or visit them on the Internet at www.jacobycue.com.

9. Shurtz Custom Cues

Bob Owen has combined old school with new with this eight-point, half-slice cue with black, blue, and white veneers. This cue has been cored its length with laminated maple and features a leather wrap, ivory joint, ivory butt cap, 12 ivory inlays, 44 turquoise inlays, and 40 ebony inlays. The colored veneers are repeated in the butt surrounding four large ivory inlays. This cue is available for \$2,500. Contact Shurtz Custom Cues at 316-269-3844, or log onto www.ShurtzCue.com.

10



10. Searing Precision Custom Cues

This is an example of the traditional style cue that Dennis Searing enjoys making. The overall design of this cue was made to honor a popular design by George Balabushka. The forearm is a beautiful birdseye maple with ebony points and white, blue, orange, and black veneers. The cue was built with an ivory-piloted joint and ivory butt cap. The cue also features decorative rings with ivory dashes into ebony accented with sterling silver rings on each side. The inlays are custom-made ivory-notched diamonds surrounded by ivory dots. For more information on Searing cues, e-mail Dennis at searing@aol.com.

12



11. Dayton Custom Cues

This group of hand-made cues by Paul Dayton, priced from \$1,600 to \$2,100, features clear resin-impregnated amboyna burl, snakewood, ebony, birdseye maple, and custom-dyed veneers. The long, razor-sharp points are highlighted with ivory inlays and ivory blockwork and Szaboti-style rings. More examples of Paul's work may be seen at www.daytoncues.com, or contact Paul at 772-489-0577.

12. Star City Cues

Founded in 1992 by A.W. Beckelhimer, Star City Cues are available by special order and take 6-12 months for delivery. All work is done by A.W. in his Roanoke, VA, shop. Pictured here are three examples of his work. The first cue features ebony, pink ivory, and ivory. Ebony, amboyna burl, and ivory grace the second cue, and the third comprises birdseye maple, ebony, snakewood, and ivory. To order, contact A.W. at 540-776-3559, or e-mail him at awbeck@msn.com.



1. Billiard Warehouse Jump/Break Cue

The Billiards Warehouse Jump/Break Cue features two shafts: one designed for breaking with a 14-millimeter phenolic ferrule and tip, and one designed for jumping with a short melamine ferrule and 14-millimeter extra-hard leather tip. Shafts are quickly and easily changed with the quick-release joint. Made of palisander and ebony, this cue features a quick release jump/break conversion joint. The shafts are made of hard-rock maple. These cues are available exclusively at www.billiardwarehouse.com for \$149.



2. Scorpion Break Cues

Shatter every rack with the Scorpion Break Cue. Balanced to maximize stroke and velocity, the midnight-black breaker features an extra-hard tip, stainless steel ferrule, and the play-tested Power Rings® to give you enhanced grip and control. Used by four-time World Champion Johnny Archer. These cues are manufactured and distributed exclusively by CueStix International. To order, contact them at 800-645-9803, or visit www.cuestix.com.

3. Youth Cues

New for 2007, Cue & Case Sales, Inc. introduces a new line of Players youth cues. From glitz and glamour to tough and rugged, kids will love these new looks. All youth cues are made with the same high quality as the Players adult line, only tailored for smaller hands. Each youth cue design comes in both 48- and 52-inch to fit children from ages 5-12. Youth cues come packaged with a free case in a complementing design for added value. For ordering information, contact Cue & Case Sales, Inc. at 800-835-7665.



Specialty Cues



4. Kaiser Cue

J&J America's new Kaiser cue offers a matching wooden extension for competitive pool players and professionals. These cues feature selected hard-rock rosewood or cocobolo wood, a speed joint for quick connection, and a 3/8 x 8 joint. It also has a layered leather tip or Water Buffalo tip, fiber linen ferrule, Irish linen wrap, and a pro taper. The suggested retail price \$120. Contact J&J America at 562-229-9688, or visit www.jjcue.com for more details.



5. Bunjee X-Pro

The Bunjee® X-Pro is a high-end, custom jump-break cue targeting players ready to advance their skills using a solid, perfectly balanced cueing tool that delivers a devastating break and adds to your jump-shot accuracy. Built in the USA by Bunjee Cue Sports Group partner Steve Lomax, this cue features a laminated core butt construction to provide just the right balance and prevent warping over years of heavy use. The Bunjee X-Pro cues are priced starting at a suggested retail price of \$450. For more information, call Steve Lomax at 706-776-1252 or 706-499-0803, or visit www.bunjeecuesports.com.

7. Vortex

The Vortex™ Jump/Break Cues by Cuetec Cues feature a 15 1/2-inch taper laminated maple shaft, which is reinforced by a high modulus graphite crossbeam that extends its entire length. The wood for the shaft is hand-selected from the finest North American maple available and then cut with a CNC computer to ensure an exact fit for the graphite crossbeam. The cues are topped with a Water Buffalo tip, have leather wraps, and accept the new Cuetec Smart Extension. The Cuetec Vortex™ shaft has been designed to fit all other Cuetec Cues as well. The suggested retail price for these cues is \$300 and are available from J-S Sales Co., Inc. To order, phone 800-577-2537, or visit their website at www.cuetec.com.



6. All-in-One Stinger™ Cue

The new All-in-One model Stinger does everything you'll ever need. It offers five functions: playing cue, break cue, jump cue, full-cue jump, and short cue. Perfect for league players, the All-in-One jumps and breaks nearly as well as the Pro model (which is still available) and better than other leather-tipped cues. It is ideal if you'd like to have one stick that does it all, and does it all very well. This cue comes with one shaft, one butt, and two quick-release joints. To order, log onto www.StingerCues.com, call 614-975-8337, or e-mail info@JumpBreak.com.



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A close-up photograph of Thorsten Hohmann, a professional pool player, leaning over a pool table. He is wearing a dark blue long-sleeved shirt and is focused on his shot. His right hand is holding a cue stick, which is positioned to strike a white cue ball. The background is dark, and the pool table's surface is visible. The image is framed by a white, torn-paper-like border at the top and bottom.

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POOL ASPO

Thorsten Hohmann Earns \$350,000 at the IPT's North American Open



is now RTT

BY SALLY P. TIMKO

There just aren't the words to describe the International Pool Tour's North American Open 8-Ball Championship. How glamorous it was. What a beautiful venue they chose. How fluidly the event was run. The amount of work that was put into it. The amount of money that was given out. The way Thorsten Hohmann's face looked when he won that \$350,000.

The IPT is redefining pocket billiards as a true sport and forming the way things should be done. From their ultra-glam King of the Hill event in August 2005 to the North American Open, they have really thrown down the gauntlet to others hoping to follow in their footsteps. Anyone who came to their multi-million-dollar July 23-30 event at The Venetian would recognize that pool as it has previously been conceived of has stepped over the threshold into a new world entirely.

DON'T BE STUPID

Crowding one of the hallways of Las Vegas's beautiful Venetian while waiting for the doors to open to the players' meeting, almost all of the entrants were decked out in ties, dress shoes, and suits (the ladies were dressed to the nines as well). Anticipation was high, and almost everyone wore a smile.

"I'm excited to be here," Corey Deuel said softly before the players' meeting July 22. "The setup is great, and I have been wanting to play more eight-ball events, and Kevin is the first person to do it."

Tony Crosby, winner of a qualifier, explained, "I'm here through a qualifier, and even though I'm not actually on the tour, it's going to be great, and I am looking forward to it."

The doors opened, and the meeting began with a taped message from tour director Deno Andrews, who was at home with his wife awaiting the birth of their second child. In his absence, Lindsay Erazo stepped up to the plate and took over as tournament director, with Charlie Ursitti assisting.

Then tour founder Kevin Trudeau made his appearance, striding to the stage to a standing ovation to deliver a speech that covered myriad topics. Noticing that a few players were not attired to IPT specs, he commented, "Don't be stupid. Don't do something that can cost you tens of thousands of dollars out of sheer stupidity. Know the rules."

This comment could apply to many of the IPT's rules, including the option-to-break rule, in which the winner of the previous game can break or not break, as is his choice. Or the leather-only tip rule, where a player can be penalized a game or more if discovered to be using a cue with something other than a leather tip. Also, the IPT is big on punctuality, warning that if a player is not in place by the time his match is meant to begin, he is undeniably late and will earn a forfeit.

Trudeau explained that the IPT is already operating in the black, and what he needs the players to do to support their tour—and, in essence, themselves—would be to tell people to watch the IPT on television; promote the IPT's products, which include Gorina cloth, Diamond tables, the Sardo Tight Rack M-5000, and IPT balls by Aramith; and encourage people to visit and join the IPT's website.

The players were allowed to visit and practice on the tables in the tournament room afterward, which most of them took advantage of until it closed. Sunday, one-half of the 200-entrant field would play in groups of 5, while the other 100 would play on Monday, each losing 40 players on the first day. On Tuesday the remaining 120 players combined, sorting into groups of 6. The IPT uses a round-robin format, winner breaks, race to 8, and the game is, of course, 8-ball.

Sportsmanship Becomes an Issue

The tournament room held 60 tables at the onset on Sunday, including two televised tables where Eurosport and ESPNStar were providing live broadcasts to Europe and Asia, respectively. With five players in each group, each sat out one of the five rounds, making a convenient break for a meal or rest when the format allowed.

Curtailed off from the rest of the event, the players' break room boasted black leather recliners, a masseuse, bottled spring water, soda, and food around the clock.



This was a quiet place for the players to wind down after matches, talk over strategies with their friends, and grab a bite before heading to their next match.

With 100 players each on the first two days, it was generally a madhouse, but at least everyone got one break. On the second day of play for everyone, though, there were 120 players divided into groups of 6, so no one was afforded a single break. Everyone played, with the first round beginning at 10 a.m. and the last at 8:00 p.m.

Two people who didn't make it through the grind were George “Ginky” SanSouci and Greg Hogue. SanSouci reportedly was very ill on Tuesday and only managed to drag himself to four matches before forfeiting his last to Gandy Valle, while Hogue, a qualifier winner for this event, didn't win a match in the first three rounds and did not deign to appear for his last two.



“I’m the best three-hundred-pound athlete you will ever see.” Danny Basavich

With the IPT using a games-won percentage to keep track of players' records throughout the season, forfeiting a match is quite detrimental. Not to mention that it shows lack of sportsmanship and, as Deno Andrews said, can be a catalyst in the loss of a player's membership in the tour.

Other issues that presented themselves were slow play, non-timely arrival for matches, and, naturally, sharking. In Round Two, Keith “Earthquake” McCreedy met up with Dennis Hatch, and both issued complaints after their match, which Hatch won 8-2.

“The ref walked in front of me twice, and I missed both times,” Hatch recalled. “I wasn't rude about it; I just asked him if he could move out of the way, please. Then he called another ref over, and I was shooting the seven in the corner, and the ref's sitting right in front of the pocket. So I stood up and said, ‘Can you just move over?’ and he gave me a dirty look like I did something wrong ... I wasn't trying to be rude, I was just trying to tell him he was bothering me.”

From McCreedy's camp, it was a whole other story. “Well, the score was two-two, and every time I'm shootin' a ball, he's sharkin' me, waving his stick, goin' through the routine that he always does when he plays,” McCreedy exclaimed, waving his hands to emphasize his point. “And then once he got loose in the game, it was over. It was real bad—you know, you don't have to try to beat a guy like that and go through all them preliminaries like the way he does. But he did it, and that's the way he does it. If he's win-

nin', everything's all right, but if the score's tied, he's goin' to do everything in the world to shark you.”

Cloth and Corners Cause Consternation

You can please some of the people some of the time, but you can't please all of the people all of the time, as Abraham Lincoln so astutely pointed out. With 200 players and \$3,000,000 to be divided between them, tempers could be short and the equipment unforgiving.

Most often, the complaints were about not being able to pocket a ball off the break. Shawn “Big Bubba” Putnam explained, “It's tough to make a ball on the break. You have to hit them as hard as you can with control. You have to get the cue ball straight back and stopping or getting past the side, because it doesn't matter what happens once it's past the side. A lot of times the cue ball gets to the side, loops, and scratches.”

“The only problem that I'm having right now,” Ralf Souquet stated, “is that I can't make a ball on the break for whatever reason ... I believe on the TV table it was once out of eight breaks, and now here I only made three times a ball on the break. But if I can keep it all together, make balls on the break, and don't play any stupid ways, then I'm definitely one of the favorites to win this event.”

“My idea of pool would have been more seclusion than this,” recent Hall of Fame inductee Earl Strickland announced. “It reminds me of tennis in the eighteen hundreds, but it's what they have to do right now. I just find it distracting

Clockwise from the top:
Fans flocked to watch the double-hill match between Danny Basavich and 13-year-old Austin Murphy.
Shawn “Big Bubba” Putnam is well known for his jumping abilities.
Darren Appleton was one of several U.K. contenders at this event.
Former 9-ball banks champion David Matlock lines up his next shot.
Gabe Owen promised to cut his hair like Alex Pagulayan if he won this event.

“The guy came out strong like a bat out of hell.” Corey Deuel

being close to the next table, but that’s just me—everyone else may love it ... I’m a longwinded player—if you give me four hours on the table, you’re never going to win, but with an hour and a half I am more vulnerable, and I don’t agree with that. They are denying me the right to dominate, in a sense.”

Regarding the specially manufactured Gorina cloth, Gabe Owen explained, “The cloth limits you so much what you can do with the cue ball because it’s so slick and you can’t use enough english to get back. They will slow down and start to grab as they get more worn though.”

Newlywed Troy Frank stated, “The cloth just needs to break in, and the pockets could be a little tighter.” The pockets were cut to 4 7/8 inches.

Jones, and Efrén Reyes. Sigel and Jones were ousted after the second round, though Reyes made it all the way to Saturday’s play without missing a beat.

As far as the ladies went, of the original fourteen in Round One, only four advanced to Round 2—Loree Jon Jones, Allison Fisher, Sarah Ellerby, and Gerda Hofstatter—and of those, it was only Ellerby who made it as far as Round Three before being eliminated.

However, the snooker players seemed to do smashingly, including the legendary Ronnie “The Rocket” O’Sullivan and Quinten Hann of Australia. O’Sullivan, who hails from Essex, England, was one star of the stars that Eurosport focused on, generating huge interest because of



“I always feel like I’m King Kong, but that doesn’t mean you’re going to get to the top of the building.” George Breedlove

But Richard Broumpton philosophically pointed out, “The equipment’s fine. It’s just keeping your head straight, because obviously you don’t want to try too hard, because if you start trying too hard, you don’t think clearly, and that’s the key to playing pool.”

Two Factions Suffer as Others Advance

Throughout the first couple of days, the questions on everyone’s mind revolved around the Hall of Famers and the ladies. With the toughest pool players in the world at hand, how long would they last?

Not long, it seemed. Of the thirteen Hall of Famers, five made it to Round Two: Earl Strickland, Nick Varner, Mike Sigel, Loree Jon

his name in snooker. He scored his first century break at the age of 10 and became the British Under 16 champion three years later. Currently he holds over 30 titles, including the 2001 and 2004 Embassy World Championships. He made a pretty good showing at the event, going home after Wednesday’s rounds with a 37th-place tie and \$10,000.

“I’m going to have my table put in my house,” the charismatic O’Sullivan planned out. “I’ll be calling in the good eight-ball players in my area, I’ll be traveling to play in eight-ball events, I will even go to the Philippines and play Efrén [Reyes] for money in his own backyard. I’ll play them all, I don’t care.”

Clockwise from the top:

Russian world-beater Evgeny Stalev also made it into the final six.

Marcus “Napoleon” Chamat roots in a ball as his friends watch. Larry Nevel qualified for this event and earned a sporty seventh-place tie.

The Filipino contingency fared well at the North American Open, with three of the six finalists being Marlon Manalo, Efrén “Bata” Reyes, and Dennis Orcollo.



Quinten Hann, who is not only a snooker champion but an 8-ball title-holder as well, making it all the way to Round Five as one of the remaining 18 players. After being eliminated, Hann commented, “I am pretty happy with what I have done. I didn’t really prepare for the tournament or anything, so I was lucky to get out of the first group. This is the best event I have ever seen. It’s not just the venue and format—it’s what was promised as well. People can actually make a decent living out of pool.”

Dark Horse Candidates Thrive

A couple of dark horses did well at this event—namely, Jason Kirkwood and Steve Moore. Both won qualification events to reach the North American Open and progressed far enough into the event to pocket some serious cash. Kirkwood lasted all the way through Thursday’s rounds, when he finally gave up the





IPT interviewer Rebecca posed with Shannon Elizabeth of "American Pie" fame. A focused Steve Moore breaks the balls in his match against Rafael Martinez. The Eurosport television production room. Having won two major events already this year, Ralf Souquet was a favorite to win this as well. "The Mothership" was where the two televised matches took place each round. Niels "The Terminator" Feijen is one of the feared European players on the IPT.

ghost when matched up against world-beaters such as Ralf Souquet, Evgeny Stalev, Marcus Chamat, Raj Hundal, and Rodney Morris. Halfway through a day that only included one win, Kirkwood stated, "I don't know—for some reason I'm just not seeing the balls today ... I'm really struggling. I'm plenty rested, I feel good—I don't know what it is."

Moore had an emotional roller coaster of a day Wednesday—going into his last match, he had only notched one win. To make matters worse, he was going up against Rafael Martinez, who had not suffered a loss throughout the entire event as yet. Hailing from Duluth, GA, Moore

was the 1995 World Bar Table champion, and though he took a hiatus from the game, he is still a deadly force in the South. He evinced no sign of pressure as he calmly picked through the racks and built up a lead that proved insurmountable, smoothly winning 8-2 and handing Martinez his first loss of the event.

Unfortunately for Moore, the trick with the round-robin format is such that a player does not always make his own fate. In Moore's case, it all came down to who won the match between Niels Feijen and Carl Morris that would determine if he would advance or not. "I was just concentrating on my game," said Moore, keeping one eye on the Feijen/Morris match. "He made a few mistakes at the beginning, and I just took control at the end. He really didn't have much of an opportunity. Yeah, I knew he was undefeated, but that didn't really matter to me, because these matches ... it's all about who breaks the balls the best and stays focused."

Feijen bested Morris, who hadn't won a single match all day, 8-4, and Moore ended up coming slightly more than 1% shy of the games-won percentage to advance.

In Charge of His Own Destiny

One player who did have the good fortune to seem to control his own advancement was Hohmann. Especially toward the end, when it really mattered. Many times throughout the event, a player wouldn't really know where he stood until going into the fifth round—if he needed to win, if he was skating by, if he was out of luck completely. If he needed someone else to win, though, this was probably one of the most helpless feelings of all, as it was not something he had any influence over. Therefore, it was ideal to be in charge of one's own destiny.

Several times in Hohmann's event, it came down to him needing to win his fifth-round match

to advance, independent of any other considerations. In Friday's last round, he found himself playing Marcus Chamat, who had three wins. Hohmann also had three wins, but also in their group, Marlon Manalo had three wins and the high games-won percentage of 60.41%. To advance, Hohmann had to defeat Chamat; otherwise, Manalo and Chamat would be going into Saturday's rounds.

Obviously, Hohmann did win to advance to the penultimate day, in which only five other players remained: Reyes, Manalo, Stalev, Souquet, and Dennis Orcollo. And the same thing occurred then: Hohmann matched up with Manalo in the final round of the day with only three wins. Orcollo also had three, and Manalo had won every match so far. If Hohmann hadn't won, it would have come down to a percentage war between himself and Orcollo.

With six of the best players in the world drawing them in, there was quite a large crowd on Saturday. After such a long, long elimination process that can only be described as grueling, arduous, back-breaking, and taxing, the players who remained were truly the Iron Men of pool. After Friday's matches, Hohmann commented, "It's hard but I love it—we could play for ten days more. Which other sport can say the athletes compete on a high level ten hours a day? Maybe only the Tour de France. Now you see the separation between the athletes and the non-well-trained players."

The lowest payout for those who were eliminated on Saturday was \$40,000 for sixth place, while the highest was \$80,000 for third, which meant that though the day was long, the players had to be at their top form. Reyes, Souquet, and Stalev brought up the rear in their group, with Reyes winning his fifth-round match over Souquet to notch two games, while the other two only had one win each.

Poker Joins Pool

PartyGaming Plc, best known for its online poker room PartyPoker.com and PartyPoker.net, signed on with the International Pool Tour to become the official online gaming sponsor of the IPT's North American 8-Ball Open Championship. VIPs were present throughout the event and wore flashing smiles during the final match between Hohmann and Manalo.

"We're proud to be working with PartyGaming and PartyPoker.Net on the richest and most dramatic pool event ever," said Jon Denny, IPT Executive Director. "They have a great product and the highest of level of integrity. It's also obvious that there's a strong connection between poker and pool. We're excited that the two leaders in poker and pool can collaborate here in Las Vegas and beyond."

"The day was horrible ... a nightmare," Souquet recounted. "At the beginning I missed a couple shots, and that ruined the whole day after I lost to Orcollo. I didn't play as well as I did before. I fell apart. I had skids ... balls that didn't roll the way they are supposed to roll. Most were not my mistake—I played them not soft but solid; they just didn't go."

Finishing up next was Orcollo, who was the highest-finishing qualification event winner in this tournament. He won three of five matches Saturday, but even that wasn't enough to advance to the finals. "So far so good," Orcollo recounted after winning his first two matches, "but I am still trying hard, because everyone is a good player, and you never know what will happen." He suffered a defeat by both Hohmann and Manalo, though had Hohmann not bested Manalo, Orcollo could have been the one to go on to vie for the massive first-place prize.

But destiny again put Hohmann in charge, and he met the as-yet undefeated Manalo in the final round. With three wins already, Hohmann still couldn't be sure that his record for the day would get him by—he had to win.

And there was little doubt that he would. Breaking and running the first two racks, he put together a 4-0 lead before allowing Manalo to the table. To give Manalo his due, he long-rail kicked in his last stripe and back-cut the 8, which thrilled the audience, but for the rest of the match, it was Hohmann all the way.

"I don't know how many times I've played Marlon in the past," reported Hohmann calmly, as though qualifying to play for \$350,000 was an everyday occurrence for him, "but with the exception of the King of the Hill tournament in Orlando, I always played ninety percent against him. I didn't miss a shot, and I played him yesterday, I think, and it was the same thing, so hopefully I can do it one more time. He might start with five racks—he's capable of running that, so we'll see. I played good—hopefully I can continue how I finished today ... it's fifty-fifty."

And Now, What You've All Been Waiting For ...

The doors opened to the public about a half-hour before the match began, and the crowd ended up being standing-room only. The audience was impressed with the classy setup. "All of the lights and show remind me of the wrestling shows on television," one exclaimed. Another said excitedly, "This is great! All of this stuff will draw new people and players in the game, and anything that does that is good in my book."

Infamous sports personality Michael Buffer announced the players and then rolled out with his famous phrase, modified slightly to suit the occasion: "*Llllllllladies and gentlemen, lllllllllllet's get ready to rack 'em!*" A quick call from Deno Andrews reminded everyone to turn off their cell phones, and then the players lagged.

Hohmann won the lag but came up empty on the break, and Manalo cleared the table for the win. The Filipino then broke and ran out the following rack for a 2-0 lead, but when he came up dry on his break, he opened the door for Hohmann. Winning the next three games in a row

We're Not Amateurs Here



John Salley of "The Best Damn Sports Show, Period" visited the North American Open 8-Ball Championship to try his luck at a rack of 8-ball against Shawn Putnam. Upon seeing his opponent, Salley wisecracked, "Wow—that's a lot of polyester on one big man," to which Putnam replied, "And I'm still eating—there could be more."

After two quick shots Putnam's remaining balls were all in the open, and he joked that the game was over. Salley responded, "I bet ten thousand you can't make them all." Putnam replied, "I could make them all one-handed." Salley answered, "Twenty thousand one-handed." Putnam pulled out a wad of bills from his pocket and slammed it on the table. Salley jibed, "I said twenty thousand—not twenty ones." After all the joking, Putnam did run out.

While watching Putnam clear the table handily, Salley inquired, "Did you mean to put the cue ball exactly there?" Putnam retorted smartly, "Of course—we're not amateurs here. Do you plan to put the ball in the hoop when you play?"

to take the lead for the first time in the match, Hohmann was stopped short by an empty break. Weighing his options, Manalo strolled around the table and chose stripes. Attempting a combo on the 11, he hung it in the corner pocket, and Hohmann cleared for a 4-2 lead.

A rattled 11 ball down the rail put Manalo back in the game, though, and he won two in a row to tie again. Yet another empty break by Manalo gave Hohmann one game, but another rattled ball let Manalo in to get two racks, making it 6-5 in his favor.

Manalo came up dry again, and Hohmann dished up but popped the cue ball into the side pocket on his next break. Not knowing whether or not he would even see the table again, he watched Manalo run out to reach the hill. But his last break came up dry. Hohmann chose stripes and cleared to make it a double-hill match. He strode determinedly to the table for the very last game and broke, making the 9 ball. He chose solids and exhibited no hesitation at all as he cleared the table for the 8-7 victory.

After a speech in which he (wisely) thanked tour founder Kevin Trudeau first and foremost, followed by his friends, fans, sponsors, and the audience, Hohmann was presented with \$350,000 in cash and an enormous silver trophy. He smiled, looking happy and relaxed, and conversed with reporters easily.

Manalo's corner man, Jose "Amang" Parica, commented, "He [Manalo] played good in the whole tournament—he hardly missed any balls. I think the format affected him ... for many players, they can't play in this format. They can't win this kind of event. You have to be well-prepared and eat good foods, drink fluids, and stay in the game. That's what he did to get this far."

Certainly Manalo's empty breaks did him no favors, as he stated simply after the match, "It's on the break. It's really on the break."

Having earned \$99,000 for second place, he didn't seem *too* unhappy about the outcome.

After snapping myriad photos with the briefcase holding his \$350,000 first-place winnings and the gigantic silver trophy, Hohmann averred, "I wasn't nervous at all, the entire match. I felt really confident, I had a good night's sleep, slept eight hours, and woke up still full of confidence because of yesterday. I just enjoyed the match. I could've won even higher—I wasn't nervous, I just took my eyes off the ball. Charlie [Williams] was there for me and said just do it, you've done it so many times this week, you can do it again. I had my chance, on that last run-out, my mom could've run out that last rack, it was so easy. So I'm thankful, and maybe it was my destiny."

RESULTS:

1 st	Thorsten Hohmann	\$350,000
2 nd	Marlon Manalo	\$99,000
3 rd	Dennis Orcollo	\$80,000
4 th	Efren Reyes	\$65,000
5 th	Ralf Souquet	\$50,000
6 th	Evygen Stalev	\$40,000
7 th	Quinten Hann	\$30,000
	Larry Nevel	
	Darren Appleton	
	Rodolfo Luat	
	Francisco Bustamante	
	David Matlock	
	Daryl Peach	
	Ronato Alcano	
	Alex Pagulayan	
	Marcus Chamat	
	Gabe Owen	
	Rico Diks	

Corr Captures the Cuetec Cues Classic



photo by Tom Craig

Defends Her Title in Florida

by Rick Davis

Karen Corr emerged atop a barrage of contestants at the WPBA Cuetec Cues Florida Classic title at the Seminole Hard Rock Hotel and Casino in Hollywood, FL. Gliding through the winners' bracket without a scratch, "The Irish Invader" met arch-rival Allison Fisher in the final match to successfully defend her title against the number-one-ranked player.

The WPBA's fifth event took place June 28-July 2 and included a full field of 64 players, which contained all of the top 25-ranked women's touring pros. This was the second year that Corr won the event, and considering all the action and the new format, it was quite a feat.

This year's format on the tour has changed, beginning as double elimination until the field is whittled to 16, at which point single-elimination play takes over. Jay White, one of the tour directors and organizers, commented, "Most sports are single elimination. This meets them halfway, which satisfies the players while giving a true quarterfinal round." White added, "The more people on TV, the better it is for everyone."

The Early Action Draws in the Top Players

Early rounds had few major surprises, as many of the top players' continued to advance. Jeanette Lee, Vivian Villarreal, and Allison Fisher, all crowd favorites, stormed their way through to play on Saturday along with Corr. When asked how she felt after her commanding wins in the early rounds, Corr replied, "Every match is a big match. Getting into the top sixteen, you want to stay on that side of the chart."

As spots dwindled, the match-ups became fierce as all available skills were put to use. "9-Ball" star Jennifer Barretta defeated Allison Fisher 9-7, sending Barretta to the top 16 and leaving Fisher to play one more round. The same story unfolded for Lee, who bested Villarreal by the same margin and in the same round. For those who remained, the only thing on their mind was rest after two grueling days of play. Lee summed the players' collective thoughts up when she said, "I don't have any thoughts on tomorrow—I just need food and rest."

The Gauntlet of the One-loss Side

Action on the one-loss side offered more carnage to the spectators. One of Ellerby's early matches was among the first to be put on the clock. She attributed this to difficult shots that were a result of "scrappy breaks for both players." After that match she added, "I'm a fast player, but since coming to his country, I've been like a slug," and she was not the only one to see these problems as breaking, racking, and time concerns plagued the entire event.

Ewa Laurance was also fighting in the west side, winning several more matches on until she came up against Fisher, who defeated her 9-5. Anna Kostanian, the youngest player in the event at 18, won three matches after her first-round loss but could not reach the next plateau and was eliminated one round shy of the top 16 by Xiao-Ting Pan, who bested her 9-1.

Matches in the quarterfinal round were fast and furious, with many a near shut-out and a lot of close calls. Pan made quick work of Kelly Fisher 9-4, while Gerda Hofstatter fought hard against Melissa Herndon. With Herndon up 5-1, "The G-Force" took six racks straight then, after just missing the next, managed to close the set with a quick pair for the 9-6 win. After her comeback, Hofstatter said, "I made silly mistakes, like missing the nine. I decided she won the first set to five—my goal was to win the next one." Lee nearly shut out Kim Shaw, while Corr did the same to Ellerby, with each match going 9-2. Allison Fisher got a rare chance at a rematch as the blind draw set Barretta against her for the second time. Another close match unfolded, but this time Fisher took control to win 9-7.

With eight players remaining, Fisher reached an early 5-1 lead against Tiffany Nelson, who took a few more racks but was unable to prevent her 9-4 loss. Corr played the same tune for Hofstatter, reaching a 7-2 lead at one point and ultimately winning by a 9-4 margin. Webb and women's world champion Ga-Young Kim had the closest battle in this round, tying the set at 6-all before Webb made her move to win 9-6. The remaining match saw Lee destroy Pan, who looked all but lost at the table as Lee strolled by 9-1.

As the event reached its climax, Webb faced off against Fisher in the first semifinal match. Poor position after breaking troubled both players, and Webb, currently ranked third on the tour, could only manage three racks before Fisher swept by. Afterwards Fisher commented, "We both struggled, and I missed four cut shots, so that's something I will have to work on." Looking forward to the final match, she said, "I feel good going into the finals, since I have struggled all week."

Instant Replay to the Rescue

Lee faced off against Corr in the other semifinal match. Lee took the first rack but was taken aback in the second. After an apparent clear shot by Corr, Tipton announced ball in hand for Lee, explaining to the confused crowd that Corr had moved another ball on the table that would have contacted the cue ball and changed its path, which is a foul. With the television crew gathered around, Lee took ball in hand and cleared the table. After nearly 20 minutes of review, it was found that offending ball was moved by bumping the table and was, in fact, not a foul. Some deliberation led to the decision of replaying the rack, since no one was at fault. This was one of the first times an "instant replay" has been used in a pool match.

With new momentum, Corr broke and ran a rack then, after a scratch on the break by Lee, ran out again. A perfect safety left Corr to run out yet another rack with ball in hand for a 4-1 lead. After misses by both players in the next few racks, Corr found herself on the hill 6-5. She took control of an unfolding safety battle and cleared the final rack for a 7-5 victory.



Tiffany Nelson played hard to reach the final eight, only to be ousted by Allison Fisher.

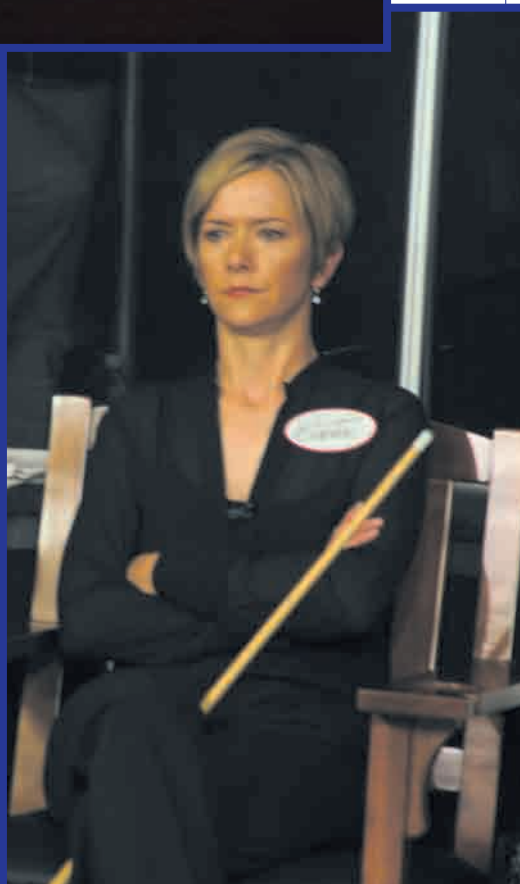
Newcomer Xiao-Ting Pan made it to the final eight before being eliminated by Jeanette Lee.



Fisher started off the final match with a break and run and cleared the following rack after receiving ball in hand to take an early 2-0 lead, but Corr quickly swung the pendulum the other way, fighting for the next three racks. Two more games went to Fisher through a superior display of defense, making it 4-3 in her favor. Answering back with a break and run, Corr received a gift in the form of a missed 8 ball by Fisher in the following rack, which she capitalized on. Now lofty on the hill, Corr missed an early carom attempt into the 9, but after returning to the table and facing a safety, she eyed up another carom and fired it off into the 9 ball, leaving the unsuspecting crowd to cheer after her 7-4 victory had sunk in.

"I played the hardest position, even though I knew it was wrong," Corr mused after the finals. "Sometimes the nervous energy makes you do the wrong things." Whatever the case, it seems like destiny for Corr and Fisher to continue to face each other for first place, and by the roar of the crowd and throng of fans seeking autographs, it's clear that they're not going to go out of style any time soon.

In the final match, Allison Fisher played tough position and couldn't manage to wrest the title from Karen Corr.



Results

1st	Karen Corr	\$13,000
2nd	Allison Fisher	\$8,000
3rd	Monica Webb	\$5,300
	Jeanette Lee	
5th	Tiffany Nelson	\$3,000
	Ga-Young Kim	
	Xiao-Ting Pan	
	Gerda Hofstatter	
9th	Jennifer Barretta	\$2,100
	Tracie Hines	
	Melissa Morris	
	Vivian Villarreal	
	Kelly Fisher	
	Kim Shaw	
	Melissa Herndon	
	Sarah Ellerby	

The ACS SHINES IN VEGAS

League Nationals a Success

by InsidePOOL Staff

photos courtesy of the ACS

The American CueSports Alliance (ACS) offered a bit of everything in debuting its Nationals in Las Vegas, NV, at the Riviera Hotel and Casino. The June 10-17 competition comprised 32 divisions, unveiling juniors and super-seniors divisions, inaugurating the Can-Am Snooker Challenge, showcasing the talents of 2002 Artistic Billiard World Champion Roberto Rojas and Tom “Dr. Cue” Rossman, and introducing the world-standardized PAT Testing System for coaches on US soil. Members had more opportunities to play and to cash than ever before in a national amateur championship, and any free time away from a match was gobbled up with plenty of side events.

Gary Benson and his staff at High Country Promotions seamlessly ran the entire affair on 104 Valley tables, and the ACS Board of Directors listened to its membership and spread the added money throughout most divisions in 2006, with total prize monies exceeding \$150,000. In addition, those entries placing out of the money in any primary event could re-enter at no cost to vie for prize monies in the many and varied “Sports” divisions. Entries in most divisions met or exceeded numbers in the inaugural 2005 Championships in Reno.

“I’ve been involved in producing fourteen national championships in Las Vegas, and this was the most fun I’ve had at any Nationals,” exclaimed ACS Executive Director John Lewis. “When people weren’t playing to their heart’s content on a daily basis or observing other sets of skills in the three-ring circus of various cue disciplines we had set up on the side, they seemed to be smiling or laughing non-stop. The tournament room was packed, but you didn’t feel like a sar-

dine, and there was a true sense of family or a desire to make a new friend’s acquaintance at almost every table. Great vibes all week long!”

There were hundreds of storylines in this event, but a few that stood out included Steven Lenz, a winner of the Sportsman’s division in 2005, going all the way to lay claim to the Men’s 9-Ball Singles crown; Bonnie Plowman taking off another national championship—both in the Women’s Master 8-Ball Singles and in anchoring the Women’s Master Team Champions, “Greenfield’s Slightly Competitive.” Nova Scotia’s Pat Briand knocked off perennial national champion Jesse Bowman in both the 9-Ball Singles and the Masters 8-Ball Singles, yet failed to cash himself in either.

Locals representing the Las Vegas Cue Club garnered a first (Katy Moore), three seconds (Trick Sixty, Julie Nogiec/Trick Sixty in scotch doubles and the team “Jerry’s”), and two thirds (Nogiec again and the team “Las Vegas Cue Club”); while the Southern Amusement League from Virginia laid claimed to a first in Men’s Open 8-Ball Singles (Jack Davis), Men’s Senior 8-Ball Singles (Bill Mason) and a second in Women’s Open 8-Ball Singles (Toni Barnes). The “Can’t Win” team from Illinois had to delete some Master players from its roster to qualify for the Open Team division but reloaded with some strong Open players from its same league to capture the Men’s/Mixed Open Team crown.

Canada, represented by the many leagues that sanction with the Canadian Cue Sport Association (CCS), took its usual quota of titles. Lesser-known players on the national level from both ends of the age spectrum—Minnesota’s Chad



Women’s 9-Ball Singles: June Maiers, Katy Moore, and Vickie Martin

Open 9-Ball Singles: Steven Lenz, Ricardo Pena



Artistic Pool champions: William Holmes, Jeanne Dunham

Speed Pool champions: Dee McGrath, Danny Roach



RESULTS

Men's 9-Ball Singles

- 1st Steven Lenz
- 2nd Ricardo Pena
- 3rd Danny Allen
- 4th Scott Kitto
- 5th Bill Duggan
- Martin Hook
- 7th Tim Robertson
- Nick Tafoya
- 9th Kurt Weiss
- Dustin Gunia
- Dale Fitzgerald
- Mitchell Ellerman
- 13th Eric Moore
- Henry Girardi
- Tony Zierman
- James Hanne

Women's 9-Ball Singles

- 1st Katy Moore
- 2nd Vickie Martin
- 3rd June Maiers
- 4th Janet Ritcey
- 5th Lindsay Velasco
- Julie Nogiec
- 7th Marcia Schomburg
- Olivia Jackson
- 9th Ann Bellamy
- Toni Barnes
- Cheryle Teats
- Tracey Elliott
- 13th Carla Rossetti
- Connie Gallego
- Jessica Frideres
- Bonnie Plowman

Men's Master 8-Ball Singles

- 1st Josh Johnson
- 2nd Trick Sixty
- 3rd Larry Wilson
- 4th Jeremy Smith
- 5th Dwayne Bjornstad
- Scott Kitto

Men's Master 8-Ball Singles Sports Division

- 1st Ron Allen
- 2nd Charlie Robertson

Women's Master 8-Ball Singles

- 1st Bonnie Plowman
- 2nd Andrea Wilson
- 3rd Julie Nogiec
- 4th Jessica Frideres
- 5th Tina Larsen
- Jill Nagel

Women's Master 8-Ball Singles Sports Division

- 1st Dee McGrath
- 2nd Samantha Diepp

Men's Open 8-Ball Singles

- 1st Jack Davis
- 2nd Dustin Gunia
- 3rd Rodney Fleno
- 4th Shane Johnson
- 5th Chris Machuga
- Steven Lenz
- 7th James Kimmerly
- Kenn Bogart
- 9th Frank Hannibal
- Vern Steinke
- Eric Moore
- Matt VanKampen

Men's Open 8-Ball Singles Sports Division

- 1st Michael Leigh
- 2nd Gale Gladden
- 3rd Bill McPherson
- Frank Baker

Women's Open 8-Ball Singles

- 1st Janet Ritcey
- 2nd Toni Barnes
- 3rd Wendy Ady
- 4th Cheryl Morrell
- 5th Tina Conn
- Shawn Modelo
- 7th Teresa Frederick
- Samantha Patton
- 9th Olivia Jackson
- Rose Malkovich
- Stacy Rogers
- Mary Costello
- 13th Simone Huskey
- Mary Davis
- Katy Moore
- Vickie Martin

Women's Open 8-Ball Singles Sports Division

- 1st Lorraine Green
- 2nd Amy Taguchi
- 3rd Patricia Hajny
- Tammie Cox

Men's Standard 8-Ball Singles

- 1st Mike Calla
- 2nd Mark Downey
- 3rd Marty Jones
- 4th Juan Parra Jr.
- 5th Richard Closs
- Zack Willis
- 7th David Danylchuk
- Tim Jimmo
- 9th Jimmy Peacock
- Michael Rowden
- Robert Reid
- Paul Pritchett
- 13th Robert Vannatta
- Mark Jessop
- Shawn Lesnick
- Chris Martin

Men's Standard 8-Ball Singles Sports Division

- 1st T.J. Humber
- 2nd Bill Linton
- 3rd Alan Barnes
- Michael Bartolacci

Men's Senior 8-Ball Singles

- 1st Bill Mason
- 2nd Clay Gergick
- 3rd Paul Johnson
- 4th Brad Smith
- 5th Jose Cruz
- Roy Skenandore
- 7th Ken Sherry
- Brian Trudel
- 9th David Darnell
- Stewart Hunter
- Jim Roller
- Victor Tynynismaa
- Bob Miklos
- 13th Tom Fankhauser
- Eddie Jackson
- Bill Powell

Women's Standard 8-Ball Singles

- 1st Maria Rodriguez
- 2nd Kay Reimer
- 3rd Lisa Kitchen
- 4th Mary Breitenbach
- 5th Joey Roberts
- Cathy Koepke
- 7th Faith Thompson
- Linda McCoy
- 9th Tammy O'Meara
- Susie Losh
- Tina Miles
- Susan Leonard

Women's Standard 8-Ball Singles Sports Division

- 1st Virginia Luchi
- 2nd Elisabeth Grote
- 3rd Marian Ferry
- Sandra Rodermund

Men's Super Senior 8-Ball Singles

- 1st Jonathan Hahn
- 2nd Vincent Modelo
- 3rd Henry Girardi
- 4th Rex Swett

Men's Super Senior 8-Ball Singles Sports Division

- 1st Madison Adkins
- 2nd Al Sibley

Men's Senior 8-Ball Singles Sports Division

- 1st Carl Sampson
- 2nd Dick Arensdorf
- 3rd Jerry Watts
- Phil Castro

Women's Senior 8-Ball Singles

- 1st Betty Wilkerson
- 2nd Sherry Griffin
- 3rd Jean Bartholomew
- 4th Kathy Hestand
- 5th Connie Lackey
- Gisele Maurice
- 7th Sandy Chamberlain
- Deborah Maness

Women's Senior 8-Ball Singles Sports Division

- 1st Lynn Green
- 2nd Frances Jensen
- 3rd Wanda Thompson
- Phyllis Powell

Women's Master Teams

- 1st Greenfield's
- Slightly Competitive
- 2nd Watcha Gonna Do
- 3rd Las Vegas Cue Club
- 4th Hawk Chicks

Women's Standard Teams

- 1st LTB BLT's
- 2nd Wandering Outlaws
- 3rd Twinz
- 4th Hard To Handle

Women's Standard Teams Sports Division

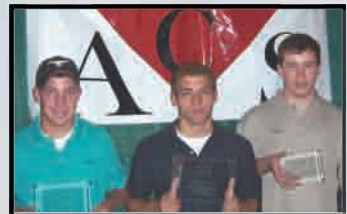
- 1st Do Do's Here
- For Beer
- 2nd Southern Explosion

Plumley in the 18 & Under Junior Boys and Nevada's Jonathan Hahn in the Super Seniors—made their marks for the first time, while Nick Tafoya's dominance in the 14 & Under Boys division further brightened his star on the national horizon.

The ACS Referee program continued to expand, as a full class of new ACS national referees graduated during the week. The Can-Am Snooker Challenge featured a talented Team Canada (John White, Jeff Kennedy, Odie Willet, and Terry Davidson) recovering from a large deficit to best Team USA's finest snooker players (current national champion George Lai, Romil Azamat, Orwin Ham, and Truman Wu) 11-10 in a one-frame tie-break. Team Canada's number-one White opened up with a 50 break to eclipse Team USA's number-one Lai in the decider. On adjoining tables could be found ACS Level 4 instructor/coaches Joseph Mejia and Roy Yamane analyzing the pool mechanics of many a player, while Mexico's Roberto Rojas wowed the crowds with cue ball actions that defied belief on the carom table.



Junior 8-Ball Singles 14 & Under: Kevin Sun, Nick Tafoya, Michael Perron



Junior 8-Ball Singles 18 & Under: Colby Williams, Chad Plumley and Cody Brooks

Men's 8-Ball Master Singles: Trick Sixty, Josh Johnson, Larry Wilson



8-Ball Master Singles: Andrea Wilson, Bonnie Plowman, Julie Nogiec



Men's 8-Ball Open Singles: Rodney Fleno, Jack Davis, Dustin Gunia



Women's 8-Ball Standard Singles: Kay Reimer, Maria Rodriguez, Lisa Kitchen

Men's/Mixed 8-Ball Open Team champions: "Can't Win"—Rodney Fleno, Shane Johnson, Jesse Bowman, Rick Pena and Anthony Garcia



Women's 8-Ball Open Singles: Toni Barnes, Janet Ritcey, Wendy Ady



ACS NATIONALS WINNERS

Appreciation is due to the Embassy Club in San Gabriel, California, Strachan Snooker cloth, Stan James Online Bookmakers, and Elite Professional tables for sponsorship in making these amazing events possible all under one roof. Also special thanks to the United States Snooker Association, the Canadian Billiard & Snooker Association—two affiliate members to the ACS—and the ACS for providing the players, volunteers, and referees for these events.



8-Ball Scotch Doubles: Trick Sixty/Julie Nogiec, Dan Taylor/Tina Larsen, David Alley/Amy Foster



8-Ball Standard Team: "Whatever"—Marylynn Breitenbach, Michelle Nicholson, Jacinda Sanders, Teresa Wentz, Susan Leonard, Marion Ferry



Men's/Mixed 8-Ball Standard Team: "Whatever"—Brian Bedford, David Fralick, Robert Reid, David Faulkner, Michael Leigh



John Lewis congratulates Team Canada Captain Odie Willett with Jeff Kennedy, Terry Davidson, John White – winners of the Inaugural Can-Am Snooker Challenge



8-Ball Women's Master Team: "Greenfield's Slightly Competitive"—Katrina Ganes, Chris Honeman, Bonnie Plowman, Julie Schultz, Samm Diep



Women's 8-Ball Open Team champions: "Ya Ya's"—Wendy Ady, Karen Dong, Rose Malkovich, Robin Wellman, Darcy Behl



8-Ball Super Seniors Singles: Vincent Modelo, Jonathan Hahn



Men's 8-Ball Senior Singles: Bill Mason, Clay Gergick



Women's 8-Ball Senior Singles: Jean Bartholomew, Betty Wilkerson, Sherry Griffin



Men's 8-Ball Standard Singles: Mark Downey, Mike Calla, Marty Jones

ACS NATIONALS WINNERS

Women's Open Team

- 1st Ya's Ya's
- 2nd Leave It To Beaver
- 3rd Main Street Billiards
- 4th Shooters
- 5th Avenue Tap Mee-Ow!

Men's/Mixed Standard Teams

- 1st Whatever
- 2nd MN Chippis
- 3rd Q-Zone
- 4th Balls of Steel
- 5th The Rollers Cereal Killers

Men's/Mixed Standard Teams Sports Division

- 1st Ocean's 8
- 2nd Steel Curtain
- 3rd Bar None Flying Sticks

Men's/Mixed Open Team Sports Division

- 1st Greenfield's
- 2nd Main Street Billiards II
- 3rd Corner Pocket II LTB Under the 8-Ball

Women's Open Team Sports Division

- 1st Recovery Room Flatliners
- 2nd Come Get Some "Bubble Gum"
- 3rd Untouchables Enoch's Reloaded

Boy's 14 & Under 8-Ball Singles

- 1st Nick Tafoya
- 2nd Michael Perron
- 3rd Kevin Sun
- 4th Mark Tafoya
- 5th Ronald Kidd III Brandon Carter
- 7th Trevor Howell Richard Gonzales
- 9th Cody Rosetti Steven King Chase Plumley David Tujillo

Men's/Mixed Open Team

- 1st Can't Win
- 2nd Jerry's
- 3rd Bounty Hunters
- 4th Green Eggs & Ham
- 5th Over "8" Ed Virginians

Scotch Doubles

- 1st Tina Larsen/Dan Taylor
- 2nd Julie Nogiec/Trick Sixty
- 3rd Amy Foster/David Alley
- 4th Wendy Ady/Doug Fahey
- 5th Rachel Klein/Robert Johnson Katy Moore/Greg Kuhl

Boy's 18 & Under 8-Ball Singles

- 1st Chad Plumley
- 2nd Colby Williams
- 3rd Cody Brooks
- 4th Phillip Barnes
- 5th Michael Ferguson Jordan Richard
- 7th Christopher Weller Bryan Hougham
- 9th Kyle Riley Brett Contreras Ruis Romero



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PLAY SHUFFLEBOARD. IT'S FUN!



Champion Shuffleboard Reveals the Secrets to its Success

by InsidePOOL Staff

For more than 500 years people have played shuffleboard. In the beginning, the game was played with coins and a wooden plank throwing coins to get points. But the game has evolved, and Champion Shuffleboards has played a huge role in the growth of the game. In the mid 1990s, 80% of Champion Shuffleboards were going into bars and 20% went into homes. That has changed, and today more than 90% go into homes. If you play shuffleboard, there's a good chance you're playing on a Champion Shuffleboard table, made right here in the U.S.A.

Champion revolutionized the shuffleboard table playfield with their special polymer coating, which ensures a lifetime of durability for each of their tables. The coating was unique when first introduced—no other shuffleboard company had developed a method for preventing wear and tear, time and expense for shuffleboard table owners. This attention to improving the product and focusing on the details is why the people at Championship consider building shuffleboard tables a craft. A commitment to innovation and a focus on quality makes Champion the leader in shuffleboard manufacturing, holding over 90% of the market share.

The Craft

To make sure the jobs done right every time, Champion Shuffleboard tables are handmade and assembled in Richland Hills, TX. To craft the best table possible, Champion starts with raw Canadian maple. This type of wood is used to create fine furniture and is perfect for shuffleboard tables because of its durability and hard, close grain. When finished, its luminous color brightens the playfield, making it easy to play on and to see the game in action.

While the playfield is being crafted, the other major components like the cradle, legs, and score units are milled and manufactured to precise standards. Then each cradle is hand-finished by skilled artisans.

The Champion Playfield:

The interlocking groove makes the table stronger and more durable. The boards are glued and fitted together, then dried. After the heating and curing process, the assembled planks are stored until they are scheduled to be shuffleboard playfields.



The Cradle:

Is handcrafted and can be customized with a variety of stain and sizes. You have several table designs to choose from.



Champion also manufactures and assembles the entire selection of shuffleboard scoring units. After hard work and attention to detail, the tables are ready to go. Champion ships thousands of tables each year, all hand-crafted and ready for tournament play and ultimate fun anywhere in the world.

Playing the Game

You don't need a lot of stuff to play shuffleboard, but you do need pucks and shuffleboard powder. Sun Glo, a Champion company, manufactures seven different kinds of powder. Speed 1 is the fastest and Speed 7 the slowest. Just remember, the faster the powder, the tougher the game. So pick the speed you want ... try them all and see what speed of game makes you the winner.

When you're ready to play, get ready to win. To win you must score more points than your opponent by either knocking off their pucks or sliding your pucks past theirs. The game can be played by singles or partners, and typically is played to 15 points. Only one color can score per frame. After all eight pucks have been shot, the player with the puck closest to the end of the table scores points.

A Table Right for You

There are many table choices for every kind of player, home, or space. Use these factors to determine the best table for you:

- * Skill level. Determine your interest in the game, whether you intend to be a casual player or intend to practice and achieve a certain level of skill. Most advanced players use a technique called a "side shot," where the puck is run along side the playfield edge. Players who prefer this method would do better with a thicker playfield as it keeps the fingers from getting chafed along the carpet inside the table.
- * Available space. Determine how much room you have in your gameroom. Champion makes shuffleboard tables in a broad range of shapes and sizes. Make sure you have at least two feet between the table and any another stationary object.
- * Desired appearance. You may want a table to have a certain finish so it will blend in with the rest of your home furnishings. You may want special decals and seals inserted into the table and playfield. Remember, the table is not the same as the playfield. The table, which holds the heavy, wooden playfield, can be tailored to the your liking. But the playfield, while varying in length and thickness, will always have the same look and feel.
- * Budget. How much are you willing to spend? You may want a basic table or one with custom modifications. Naturally, the more custom features you want, the more the cost rises. But where there is interest, there's always a way to get you the table you want.



Why a Champion Table?

We are players first.

Champion Shuffleboard tables are built by players for players. We know this game, and because we're players, our tables are preferred by players. We are committed to building only quality products. We know we have set the standards high and plan to keep raising the bar.

Champion Tables are built with a higher standard in mind. Using 3/4-inch wood planks to craft each playfield allows better flexibility. It takes more time and more materials, but it's our commitment to quality that makes the playfield the best in the industry. The polymer finish is unique, creating a surface that

will play like new regardless of the age of the playfield. It ensures a lifetime of durability and needs no resurfacing.

When you are ready to invest in your leisure time, be sure to visit Champion Shuffleboards first. Made for players by players, their tables will be sure to add a lifetime of entertainment to your gameroom. ♦

The Team:

Chance Pack - Sales & Operations Manager

Kelye Stites - Owner & Player;

Tony Blassingame - Production Manager

David Humphreys - Sun-Glo Products Sales



INDUSTRY NEWS

ARCHER JOINS WITH POKER POOL COMPANY

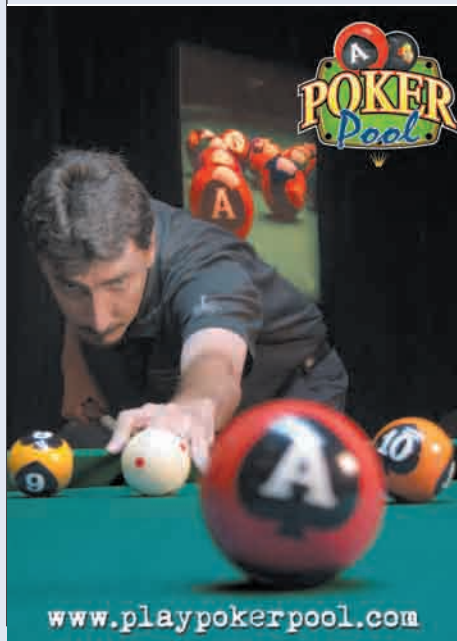
The Poker Company has announced that Johnny "The Scorpion" Archer will act as a company spokesman to promote and endorse the game of Poker Pool.

The Poker Pool Company made this announcement at their kick-off gala reception for the 1st Poker Pool Tournament, which featured \$15,000 in cash and prizes and was held at the Radisson Ft. McDowell Resort & Casino and sponsored by Olhausen Billiards. Archer and Jennifer Barretta were in attendance to perform a Poker Pool demonstration and play against members from the audience who registered for the tournament.

"We're extremely pleased to have Johnny onboard as our spokesman. We couldn't have picked a better representative. His credentials speak for themselves, and we look forward to working

with Johnny for many years to come," stated Johnny Dust, president.

Poker Pool is an exciting new game that combines the skill of pocket billiards with the popularity of poker. It is played on a pool table and uses 15



balls decorated with emblems of cards. The object of the game is to shoot a higher hand than your opponent.

To find out more information about Poker Pool, please visit their website at www.playpokerpool.com.

ACS ELECTS BOARD OF DIRECTORS

At its recent annual general meeting in Las Vegas, NV, during the 2006 ACS Nationals, the ACS Board of Directors was renewed to include three new directors: Bob Calderone (representing the National Wheelchair Poolplayers Association), Bob Jewett (representing the United States Billiard Association), and Jay Wegener (newly appointed by the Minnesota ACS). Mike Wilson (Southern Amusement Pool League, VA) was elected to a two-year term as a sanctioned league member director, and Dwaine Bowman (Leisure Time Billiards, IL) was elected to a two-year term as a room operator director.

Dwaine Bowman was elected by the board to the office of secretary. The other officers were re-elected to their positions for another year.

The ACS continues to build its membership base while expanding its alliance with other non-profit associations to guide United States cue sports towards a unified image and promotion of the sport.

2006-2007 ACS

Board of Directors:

- Cecil Messer** – President (Certified Referee Director)
- W.C. Dixon** – Vice President (State Association Director - ACS Texas)
- Dwaine Bowman** – Secretary (Room Operator Director – Leisure Time Billiards)
- James Ruder** – Treasurer (Sanctioned League Member Director – New England Billiard League)
- Bob Calderone** – Affiliated Association Director (National Wheelchair Poolplayers Association)
- Sandra Chamberlain** - State Association Director (Oklahoma ACS)
- Steve Cooper** - Affiliated Association Director (Canadian Billiard and Snooker Association)
- Ted Harms** - Affiliated Association Director (Canadian Cue Sport Association)
- David Howell** - State Association Director (ACS Rocky Mountain Pool Association)
- Robert Jewett** - Affiliated Association Director (United States Billiard Association)
- Ray Lambotte** - State Association Director (ACS Illinois State Association)
- Edsel Martin** - State Association Director (Georgia ACS League Association)
- Joseph Mejia** - Affiliated Association Director (United States Snooker Association)
- Bill Mildenerger** - State Association Director (Pacific American CueSports)
- Julie Ann Mitchell** - State Association Director (ACS Indiana Association)

- Robbie Morito** – State Association Director (Sunshine State ACS Pocket Billiards Association)
- Jay Wegener** – State Association Director (MN ACS)
- Lee White** – State Association Director (ACS AZ)
- Mike Wilson** - Sanctioned League Member Director (Southern Amusement Pool League)

DIAMOND PRO-AM
NAMED OFFICIAL
TABLE OF THE
INTERNATIONAL
POOL TOUR



Diamond Billiard Products, Inc., is proud to announce that the IPT has chosen the Pro-Am model to be the official table of the tour. All events will be played on the Diamond Pro-Am tables with challenging specifications set by the IPT.

“This is an exciting time for Diamond, being affiliated with the most prestigious pro tour in the history of billiards, and to be chosen as the official table is a testament to the quality and playability of our tables,” said Greg Sullivan, president of Diamond.

For information and pricing on the new IPT Diamond Pro-Am, contact Diamond at 812-288-7665, or log onto www.diamondbilliardproducts.com.

ALLISON FISHER
LAUNCHES NEW
BILLIARD AIM
TRAINER

One of the most recognized faces in billiards, world champion Allison Fisher has teamed up with the Billiards Training Company, LLC, to release a new innovative Billiard Aim Trainer (BAT). The lightweight aim trainer uses geometric principles to establish the absolute percentage and the degree

of the cut required to send any object ball on the correct path to a pocket. It is the only one of its kind on the market.

“The problem for most amateur pool players,” explains Fisher, “is that they have no visual guide as to how much of



the object ball is being cut, nor knowledge of the fundamental principles of geometry that govern pool ball behavior. The BAT will give this advantage by allowing them to see right through the cue ball. Without this knowledge, amateurs are literally shooting in the dark—chasing imaginary ghost balls!”

Product designer Paul Rodney Turner says, “The BAT utilizes the time-proven one-quarter, one-half, one-third cut system used by the world’s best billiards players that until now has been very difficult to teach. The BAT aims to revolutionize amateur pool with this far superior and easy-to-learn aiming system.”

Within minutes of using the BAT, players will be recognizing cut angles at a glance and knowing exactly how to pocket a ball. To order, log onto www.BilliardAimTrainer.com.

INTERNATIONAL
POOL TOUR &
PLAYER ANNOUNCE
BROADCAST DEAL

PLAYER, the hot new competition-based channel in the United Kingdom, has announced plans to broadcast International Pool Tour events and programming. The channel, which is available on the UK’s popular Sky Digital satellite service and Telewest cable, is

able on the UK's popular Sky Digital satellite service and Telewest cable, is seen in over 14 million UK households. The channel is owned by Flextech, a major broadcasting group in Europe.

PLAYER was launched as a companion channel to Flextech's popular Bravo channel. It has attracted significant viewing audiences and media attention for its unique mix of top-flight international soccer to premier poker championships to the adrenaline-soaked worlds of boxing and high-class motor-sports. The channel will launch high-octane IPT programming this fall with the "North American Open 8-Ball Championship" highlight series, featuring UK cue sport stars such as Ronnie O'Sullivan and Jimmy White. The IPT's "King of the Hill 8-Ball Shootout" series will also premiere on PLAYER.

"We are excited to be bringing the International Pool Tour shows to the UK," said David Clarke, channel editor for Bravo and PLAYER. "The players, the millions in prize money, and the high-stakes, high-impact competition give the IPT's style of eight-ball real edge and excitement. The IPT is unlike any other cue sport, including snooker. We believe UK viewers will love it and believe it will create huge interest around the sport of pool."

INTERNATIONAL POOL TOUR TO AIR LIVE ACROSS EUROPE

The International Pool Tour has announced the most comprehensive live broadcast rights package in the history of the sport with its deal with Eurosport, the leading TV sports network and multimedia platform throughout Europe. Eurosport and British Eurosport will show live, prime-time coverage of every round of all major IPT events in 2006. The Pan-European network will also air a number of produced IPT highlights programs, including the recent "King of the Hill 8-Ball Shootout." Plans call for



approximately two hours nightly of live coverage.

The announcement was made by IPT founder Kevin Trudeau at a major press conference held May 31 at the Hard Rock Café in London. The press event was attended by most of the major UK media, as well as a number of IPT players, such as snooker legend Ronnie O'Sullivan, Gerda Hofstatter, Nick Van den Berg, Vincent Facquet, and a number of other players from the UK. The Hard Rock Café cleared out their main dining room to make room for the pool table, reporters, and television cameras. For pictures of the press conference, please visit www.internationalpooltour.com.

Eurosport, the first pan-European sports channel created in 1989, is now available in 19 different languages and reaches over 107 million homes and over 240 million viewers across 54 countries. British Eurosport, which will also provide live coverage of the IPT, is the most widely available sports channel in the UK, reaching over 10 million homes.

"Eurosport is proud and excited to welcome the International Pool Tour to our line-up of prestigious, world-class sports and sporting events," said Arnaud Simon, Eurosport's head of programs. "The IPT clearly is the leader in worldwide pool, and we believe our commitment to air its major events live will generate a huge amount of interest in both the sport and its players all across Europe."

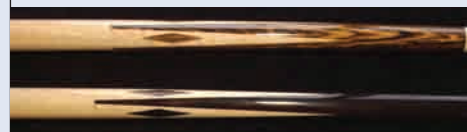
The International Pool Tour joins other major sports franchises on

Eurosport, including the Winter & Summer Olympics, soccer's World Cup, Grand Slam Tennis, the Tour De France cycling championship, and other top sports organizations like the PGA Tour. The comprehensive live coverage of the IPT will introduce 8-ball and pool to millions of sports fans in Germany, France, the Netherlands, Italy, the UK, and across Europe.

"This broadcast deal truly signals the emergence of 8-ball as a major, world-class sport," said IPT founder Trudeau. "Eurosport has the most prestigious events and the best TV coverage, and now sports fans throughout Europe can experience the live drama, pressure, and excitement of the International Pool Tour."

The first live IPT event to be aired on Eurosport will be the North American 8-Ball Open Championship, held at The Venetian in Las Vegas July 22-July 30. Players will be competing for \$2 million, the largest prize money in the sport's history. IPT Executive Director Jon Denny promised unprecedented and exciting production value on the live broadcasts. "Simply put," said Denny, "No other cue sport will match it."

ALL-IN-ONE STINGER™ CUE - A BREAKTHROUGH



Stinger Cues, a division of the National Billiard Academy, is now shipping its new breakthrough Stinger model, the "All-in-One."

The new All-in-One Stinger is the world's first truly excellent all-purpose cue. One cue that does everything you'll ever need. Five terrific functions: playing cue, break cue, jump cue, full-cue jump, short cue. The All-in-One is an equipment breakthrough you'll have to hit to believe.

The new All-in-One is a solid, confidence-inspiring playing cue. Perfect for league players, the All-in-One jumps and breaks nearly as well as the Pro model (still available) and better than any other leather-tipped cue. Ideal if you'd like to have one stick that does it all and does it all very well. One shaft, one butt, two quick-release joints. Carry one cue. Less weight, less money, more performance.

The All-in-One comes with a 30-day test drive with a money-back performance and happiness guarantee. With patented Stinger technology in the tip/ferrule system, this cue is 100% made in the USA.

The original Stinger JumpBreak Cue is now called the Pro Stinger. The Pro model and the All-in-One are the same in price and appearance, but they use different tip technologies and shaft tapers. Players can choose the model that best suits their needs. Top pros use both Stinger models. To meet IPT requirements, many pros choose the leather-tipped All-in-One Stinger for power breaking and full-cue jumping.

Dealer inquiries welcome. Log onto www.StingerCues.com, call 614-975-8337, or e-mail info@JumpBreak.com.

SIMONIS CLOTH CONTINUES COVERAGE

Keep on eye out for Simonis Cloth at the next tournament you attend. Iwan Simonis is one of the most active cloth sponsors in the sport, sponsoring 8-ball, 9-ball, straight pool, carom billiards, and snooker events. Check who's sponsoring the next tournament or event you attend and chances are you'll see Simonis Cloth.

Iwan Simonis actively supports the industry through its many sponsorships. The company proudly sponsored the EnjoyPool.com 9-Ball Championships, BCA Pool League Championships, WPBA 2006 Florida Classic, BCA Junior Nationals, WPBA



Midwest Classic, Sang Lee International 3-Cushion Tournament, UPA, Canadian Billiard and Snooker Association and Billiards International events. "It was a tremendous opportunity to sponsor with the [BCA Junior Nationals] this year," commented Iwan Lee, president of North American distribution for Simonis, "the players were grateful and appreciate the opportunity to compete on the most accurate billiard cloth."

Iwan Simonis is looking forward to being the cloth sponsor of Barry Berman's U.S. Open 9-Ball Championship this September. Additionally, in September Simonis Cloth will be featured on the Travel Channel's program "The World's Best," in which the executive producers seek out and feature the best products and services in the world. "The producers of the show sought us out," stated Lee, "several retailers and dealers referred them to Iwan Simonis. It is nice to know that Simonis cloth enjoys such a reputation in the marketplace."

Iwan Simonis is the worldwide leader in superior worsted cloth for pool, billiards, and snooker with over 325 years in business, Simonis cloth has been component of the sports beginnings, becoming the choice by professionals and enthusiasts alike. As billiard sports continue to grow in popularity each year, Simonis cloth remains committed to providing the world's best billiard cloth.

IN MEMORY OF DAVID FORMAN



David Forman, founder of The Adam Cue Company, passed away May 30, 2006. David was born in New York August 22, 1917. He was an icon and legend in both the billiard and coin industry. Always a visionary and opportunist, he forged new frontiers and led the way for others to follow. In the 1960s he took his talents overseas to Japan, where he started to manufacture and import coin bumper-pool tables. He then expanded in to the billiard industry with cue sticks and billiard supplies, establishing Sutra Import Corp., which he built into the largest billiard distributor from the late '60s through the '70s.

Merging with a Chicago-based company, Armac Enterprises, Inc., David then went public and became the largest manufacturer of home pool tables, marketed under the legendary name of Minnesota Fats. Through his efforts and assistance, many who are in the billiard industry today are there because of his unselfish help and friendship. He also established Adam Custom Cues, which started to manufacture custom cues in its own factory in Japan in the late '60s with great cue-maker, Richard Helmstetter. Today, almost 40 years later, Adam Cues is still run by the Forman family and is still manufacturing the world-famous Adam, Helmstetter, and Balabushka cues. David continued his life's passion of being involved in the industries throughout the years, touching many people's lives along the way.

BAD NEWS,

by Tom Simpson

Good News

A Review of the Third Eye Stroke Trainer™



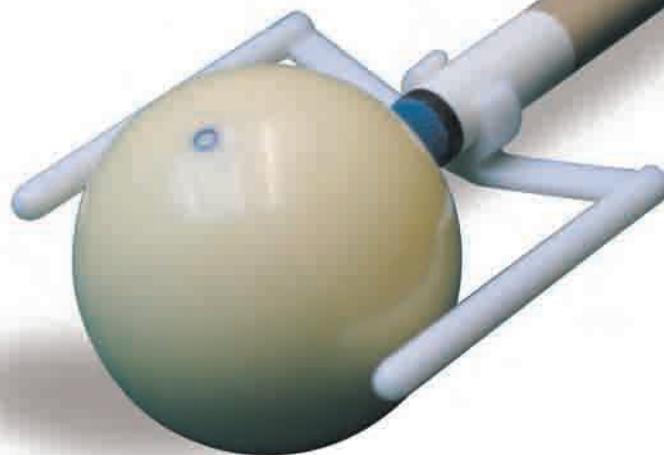
I'm a full-time pool instructor, running the National Billiard Academy in Columbus, OH. I'm always looking for better ways to identify, illuminate, and correct the problems pool players tend to have. I see stroke flaws, alignment problems, and aiming and sighting errors on a regular basis. When a new gizmo appears on the market, if it looks like it might really help, I usually get one and try it out.

Often, it's the simplest training aids that cut to the heart of the matter, clearly revealing problems. And some products not only clarify the problem, they provide a means of working on it.

The Third Eye Stroke Trainer, from pro player and instructor Joe Tucker, is one of those winners. Its so simple in appearance, it might be hard at first to understand how powerful a tool this really is. Now that Joe has developed this product, it seems obvious that the problem it addresses is real and that this is a good way to see it and work on it. Its only obvious because Joe did a great job. Simple is not easy.

The problem the Third Eye addresses is shockingly common. At least one in four of the players who show up at my school have it! The problem is that players incorrectly see the vertical center of the cue ball. Lots of players. Pretty good players. Some have been playing for decades and always line up wrong with respect to that vertical axis. They've never noticed because it appears to them that they are exactly on the centerline. We trust our perception.

The Third Eye Stroke Trainer™



A great many players are habitually off that axis, always on the same side, always the same amount. It might be one-sixteenth of an inch to the left; it might be an eighth of an inch to the right. They really can't see that they're off—they find it hard to believe, and it seriously hurts their game. If you are inadvertently applying english, the cue ball is not going where you expect.

If you have this perception error, you most likely are not aware of it, since you believe you are seeing the truth out there. You're likely to be frustrated because you can't figure out why you miss what you miss. Most students really can't believe it until I show them on video. They're astonished.

That's when I put a Third Eye on their stick. It's a plastic thingie that slips over the ferrule and looks a bit like a pitchfork (see photo). Prongs project out to either side of the cue ball as you're stroking and make it dead obvious if you have this perception error. The gap between the prongs is one-quarter inch larger the cue ball. When your stick is truly aligned to the vertical axis of the cue

ball, the gaps are the same size on both sides of the ball. You can readily see whether you're misaligned—and when you are properly aligned. Your brain may be screaming at you in disagreement, but “the Third Eye does not lie.”

The bad news could be that you have this terribly common sighting error. The good news is we now have a way to see it clearly and begin to correct it—the Third Eye Stroke Trainer. I had a pro player with a touch of the problem. I put the Trainer on her cue, and it forced her to line up to the vertical axis perfectly. Her comment: “If I could play with this on my stick all the time, I'd never miss again.”

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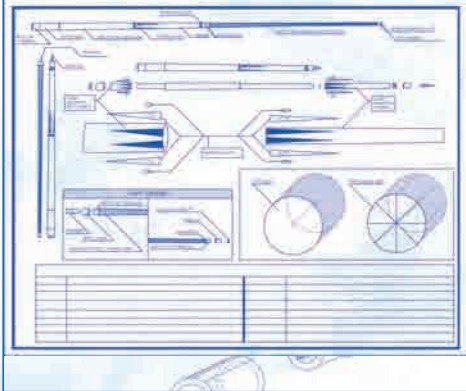
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FROM THE WORKSHOP

BY JOE BARRINGER



Before You Get Started

Cue-building or repairs is not a small investment when you're starting out and want to do it properly. Some cue builders say that if you want to make a small fortune in building cues or doing repairs, you'll need to start out with a large fortune. And in many cases this is true, as many newbies have come and gone in the past 10 years.

You may have tinkered or are thinking about doing repairs or perhaps even building cues. A cue consists of many different parts, and repairs require a certain investment in those parts if you plan on building a viable business.

To start off with, there are tips, tenons, ferrules, and linen wraps if you just want to do basic repairs. An initial investment in essential repair parts and glues could run up to about \$300. You'll also need a desktop repair lathe, which can cost from \$1,000 to about \$2,000. Before purchasing a lathe, talk to other cue builders and try to gain as much information as possible before making any purchase. There have been many who jumped right in and spent \$10,000—only to find out that this business is not for them. Don't be another casualty. Do your homework, follow

instructions, and have patience. There is a world of information out there, and we'll be guiding you on a monthly basis.

Of course, if you want to build cues, you'll need various domestic and exotic woods, including shaft wood, as well as phenolics, joint pins, connecting pins, tips, tenons, ferrules, linen wrap, and perhaps leather wrap. You'll need assorted tooling, some of which will include taps, boring bars, calipers, drills, etc. A lathe to actually build a cue can cost as little as \$2,700 and run up to about \$5,000 for desktop models. Of course, you can also find used desktop



lathes on the marketplace, but one should exercise caution because many have seen heavy use and are not as "tight" or accurate as their new counterparts. You can also start out with a 1,200-pound floor lathe, but you'll need much more room and a more permanent location for your equipment. These are all considerations that you'll have to think about.

Some say that the equipment is the smallest part of your investment. That can surely be the case where the tools and parts can run up the bill when first starting out. You should read as much as

you can and search the Internet for all the various woods that can be used to build cues. Today there are numerous DVDs that can cut out a good portion of the learning curve. No instruction aide will teach you everything, but some are better than others. It's all up to you and your mechanical ability. If you have two left hands, perhaps you'd be better off trying some other field, as cue repairs and cue-building require a great deal of precision and patience. Patience is the key to success. You cannot, under any circumstances, rush through any portion of repairs or building and expect it to come out correctly.

Visit the InsidePool website (<http://www.OutsidePoolMag.com>) and click on the forums link on the left-hand side of the page to find a great resource and discussion forum for talking pool, cue sticks, tournaments, classifieds, and a cue-building discussion forum where I'll be hanging my hat. I'd like to invite both veteran and newbie cue builders to participate. ♦

Joe Barringer owns and operates www.BarringerCues.com, as well as www.CueComponents.com. Since 1976, Joe has tinkered with cues, starting with tip and ferrule repairs and building two-piece house cues. He continued to tinker through the 1980s, and not until the 1990s did Joe begin to take his hobby seriously. In late 1999, after successfully selling his Internet company, he decided to build cues full time and sell components and wood to other cue builders. Today he resides and works in New Smyrna Beach, FL, with his wife Joanne. Joe can be reached at CueBuilder@InsidePoolMag.com.



01

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02

Winning Stroke Polo

The Winning Stroke's polo line is made of 100% cotton and is embroidered on the left chest with the Winning Stroke logo. The back of the polo sports the website address of the Winning Stroke. Visit them online to get a new Winning Stroke polo (at www.thewinningstroke.com) for \$24.95. Available sizes: medium, large, extra-large.

What's *NEW*



04

Predator Second-Generation Shafts

Once again, Predator is changing the game with the second generation of its notorious 314 and Z shafts. With re-engineered front ends for even greater accuracy than the first generation, there's no question the 3142 and Z2 will take your game to the next level. View the new interactive demo explaining the shafts technology and what it will do for your game at www.predatorcues.com. Suggested retail prices range from \$239 to \$284.

03

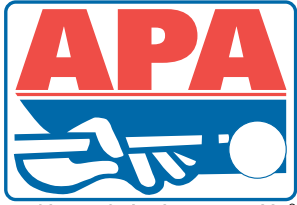
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J&J America's new three-piece jump/break cue is for both competitive pool players and professionals. This cue features selected hardrock rosewood or cocobolo wood, a speed joint for quick interchanging between a break cue and jump cue, and a big wooden joint to make it more powerful. This cue is installed with a phenolic ferrule tip to add power and has a suggested retail price of \$120. Contact J&J America at 562-229-9688, or visit www.jjcue.com for more details.

LEAGUE REPORT LEAGUE PLAYER OF THE MONTH



LEAGUE PLAYER OF THE MONTH



JR Throgmorton has been playing in the APA League of South Pinellas County, FL, for nearly seven years with over 250 lifetime matches. He plays in the 9-ball open division on Monday nights and is currently ranked a skill level 6. JR always participates in the many APA events and tournaments that are held locally each year. He approached his league operators Mike and Carol Konak during the spring of last year about starting an in-house APA 9-ball league on Sundays, and he organized and launched the

in-house league the following session, in which he is the division rep for Corner Pockets in South Pinellas County.

“He is always willing to help out the newer players with fundamentals of the game and provide them with an encouraging word,” said JR’s APA league operator Mike Konak. JR is also an active member of the local Board of Governors. He competes in the singles program and looks forward to one day earning his way to Las Vegas in both the singles and team events.



JR Throgmorton



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NORTHEAST REGIONAL ROUNDUP

WORLD STRAIGHT POOL CHAMPIONSHIPS GOES TO HOHMANN

WORLD STRAIGHT POOL CHAMPIONSHIPS / EAST BRUNSWICK, NJ.

by *InsidePOOL Staff*

The World Straight Pool Championships, which began May 31 and ended June 4, closed with Thorsten Hohmann in the winners' circle. Hohmann came upon the international scene when he won the World Pool 9-Ball Championships in 2003, and since then he has made a strong impression on both European and American pool.

This event attracted some of the biggest names in the game, from Jimmy Mataya and Mike Sigel to Johnny Archer and Nick Varner. Germans Ralf Souquet, Thorsten Hohmann, and Thomas Engert were also present. To make things interesting, Jeanette Lee, Megan Minerich, and recent EnjoyPool.com Championship winner Jasmin Ouschan of Austria also came to play.

Gabriels Tables was the official table sponsor, while Iwan Simonis, Inc., provided the cloth and Aramith the balls. The event was hosted by the Hilton in East Brunswick, NJ. Beginning with a round robin 64-player roster, the event wound its way down to a single-elimination, 16-player format after players such as Tony Robles, Archer, Sigel, and Varner dropped out.

Ouschan had the best showing of the ladies, as she reached the final eight before falling to Hohmann 200-117. Former bank pool champion Danny Harriman met Max Eberle in the same bracket and put up a bit of a fight before falling to the wayside 200-63.

Allen Hopkins also made it to the final eight, succumbing 200-32 to Germany's fierce competitor Thomas "The Lean Machine" Engert 200-32. Engert won the Predator Florida Open last weekend and is still riding high. After a close match with Mike Davis, Mika "Iceman" Immonen advanced 200-170.

Immonen went on to meet Engert in the next round and went home disappointed after a 200-20 drubbing, while Hohmann and Eberle met in the other game. The match saw the players trade innings frequently, with Hohmann retaining the lead throughout to win 200-177.



Thorsten Hohmann

The fellow Germans met in the final match. The last time the two played in the finals against one another might have been the 2004 International Challenge of Champions, where Engert came out ahead and won the \$50,000 winner-takes-all prize. Maybe in the back of his mind, Hohmann recalled this, for he was up to a 92-ball run as an opener before missing an easy 7 ball. He was soon back at the table, though, after Engert missed a break-out shot. Commentator Bobby Hunter mentioned that the two players had very different styles, with Hohmann choosing to break the balls firmly, while Engert was more "old school" and only liked to break out a couple of balls.

Back at the table, Hohmann put together another running, reaching 160 before scratching off the side of the rack. Engert returned to the table and reached a total score of 80 before missing the 15 in the side. After a quick break, Hohmann came back to the table and, with a couple of nervy shots, ran out flawlessly to win the match 200-80.

The high run for the event was Thorsten Hohmann's run of 174. Following him were Immonen with 132, Eberle with 127, Sigel with 125, and Hopkins with 123.

KRAH KEEPS THE BLAZE ALIVE

BLAZE 9-BALL TOUR / MAPLE SHADE, NJ

by *Rick Davis*

The Blaze 9-Ball Tour heated up Green Room Billiards in Maple Shade, NJ, June 3-4. Like other events in the Northeast, the entries were modest because of the World 14.1 Straight Pool Championships in the area, although all those in attendance offered their full attention.

Even with the shy turnout, play was slow and fierce, with many matches going double-hill or very close to it. The top six players battled for a solid six hours until a winner was found just shy of midnight.

Fighting to stay alive on the one-loss side, John Grassia defeated Danny Basavich 6-5, while Lou Guynnee defeated Al Lapena by the same margin. Grassia keeping his game rolling, knocking out Guynnee, but then fell to Matt Krah. Krah then moved on to face Mike Davis, where he won double-hill, taking first place and his share of the \$1,000-added prize pool.



Matt Krah

RESULTS

- 1st Matt Krah
- 2nd Mike Davis
- 3rd John Grassia
- 4th Lou Guynnee
- 5th Al Lapena
Danny Basavich

CT. DE. MA. MD. ME. NH. NJ. NY. OH. PA. RI. VT.

DOUBLE EVENTS ON THE TRI-STATE TOUR

TRI-STATE TOUR / SUNNYSIDE, NY

by Rick Davis

The Tri-State 9-Ball Tour drew 48 players for their double event, with 16 on the A/B side and 32 in the C/D division. Geoffrey Bauer took the lion's share of the purse on the A/B side, while Jorge Rodriquez mirrored his efforts on the other. Master Billiards in Sunnyside, NY, played host to this June 3-4 event.

Michael Tosado moved over to the one-loss side of the A/B division long enough to face and defeat Mark Bantovick 7-5 in the semifinals before he advanced to the final match against

Bauer. The momentum Tosado had built up was not enough to sustain him, as he fell 7-3.

Meanwhile, the larger field of C/D players was closing in on the finals. On the one-loss side, Nicholas Chan breezed past Sean Bowland 7-2, while Gene Ko defeated Joe Varvaro with only slightly more play at 7-4. Chan and Ko faced off next, where Chan gave out only two racks again for a 5-2 win. The hot seat match saw Rodriquez best Caroline Pao, but she squeaked past Chan double-hill to face

Rodriquez one more time. The outcome was the same, though, as Rodriquez came on top of the double-hill match.

RESULTS A/B

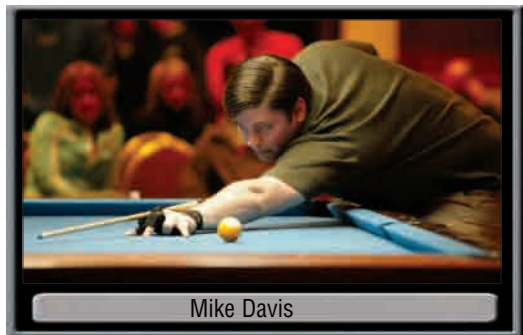
- | | |
|--------------------|---------------------|
| 1st Geoffrey Bauer | 4th Jonny Ortiz |
| 2nd Michael Tosado | 5th Hiram Maldonado |
| 3rd Mark Bantovick | |

RESULTS C/D

- | | |
|---------------------|------------------|
| 1st Jorge Rodriquez | 4th Gene Ko |
| 2nd Caroline Pao | 5th Sean Bowland |
| 3rd Nicholas Chan | Joe Varvaro |

DAVIS DOES IT AGAIN

BLAZE 9-BALL TOUR / ATLANTIC CITY, NJ



Mike Davis

by Jose Burgos

Dominating the Blaze 9-Ball Tour yet again, Mike Davis won their June 11 stop at Atlantic City Billiards Club. A strong field of 35 players came out to this popular location, including Jerry Slivka, Allen Hopkins, Eddie Abraham, and Shaun Wilkie.

Davis led the top half of the bracket, claiming victories over Paul Libios, Shawn Toni, Lou Guynee, and Hopkins. Working his way through the bottom bracket, Slivka notched wins over Joseph Testa, Gary Barnish, and Abraham. When the two met in the hot seat match, they played tug-of-war with the lead until Davis pulled off a 7-5 win.

Once in the one-loss side, Slivka was confronted by Abraham again, and he took control of the match for the second time and send his opponent home with third place with a 7-5 win. Facing Davis for a rematch in the finals, Slivka made it double-hill before Davis tipped the scales and won 9-8.

RESULTS

- | | |
|---------------------|-------------------|
| 1st Mike Davis | 7th Lou Guynee |
| 2nd Jerry Slivka | VJ McGlone |
| 3rd Eddie Abraham | 9th David Abraham |
| 4th Allen Hopkins | Bill Smith Jr. |
| 5th Billy Kirschner | Jay Jones |
| Shaun Toni | Gary Barnish |

TOSADO IS TOPS ON THE TRI-STATE TOUR

TRI-STATE TOUR / NEW YORK, NY

by Rick Davis

Mike Tosado cleaned up on the Tri-State Tour, winning their June 24-25 event undefeated. Hosted by Amsterdam Billiards & Bar in New York, NY, the tournament drew in a field of 29 players for the handicapped A-D 9-ball event.

As the players crept towards the finish, action was fierce with everyone eyeing the payout. Tomasz Bak defeated Geoffrey Bauer 7-4, while Michael Yedmak defeated Ben Lee 10-6, giving them a fifth-place finish. Following that, Yedmak defeated Bak 7-6 with a break and run from the hill. On the winners' side, Tosado blew by Mhet Vergara 7-1, putting himself in the hot seat. Vergara moved to the one-loss side and was defeated by Yedmak in his fifth straight win.

The final match was all Tosado with his 7-2 win, which included four break and runs, along with one 9 on the break. Yedmak just could not get things moving his way and had some bad rolls and an untimely scratch.

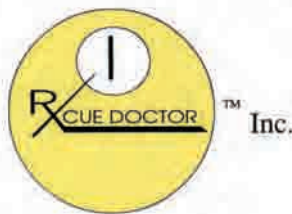
RESULTS

- | | |
|--------------------|--------------------|
| 1st Mike Tosado | 4th Tomasz Bak |
| 2nd Michael Yedmak | 5th Geoffrey Bauer |
| 3rd Mhet Vergara | Ben Lee |

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DAVIS STAYS ALIVE TO WIN THE BLAZE 9-BALL TOUR

BLAZE 9-BALL TOUR / DREXEL HILL, PA

by Rick Davis

Stop 15 of the Blaze 9-Ball Tour came to Drexeline Billiards in Drexel Hill, PA, July 9, hosting a field of 41 top Northeastern players. IPT pro Mike Davis and frequent winner on the tour returned from the one-loss side to nearly shut out his opponent in the finals.

Another tour frequenter, Matt Krah beat a path through the winners' side, besting Jerry Slivka 7-3 in the hot seat match. On the one-loss side, Billy Kirshner breezed past Brent Shreiner 7-0, while Davis defeated Shawn Wilkie 7-4. Davis

met Kirshner in the next round and took another match 7-4 in order to face Slivka for the right to see the finals. Davis took control again, defeating Slivka 7-3 in his best win of the evening up to that point. Reaching the finals after three straight wins, Davis was ready for the waiting Slivka and only gave up one rack to finish 9-1.

RESULTS

1st Mike Davis	4th Billy Kirshner
2nd Matt Krah	5th Shaun Wilkie
3rd Jerry Slivka	Brent Shreiner



Mike Davis

ADAMS AND MERAGLIO WIN ON THE TIGER TOUR

TIGER PLANET POOL 9-BALL TOUR / ARNOLD, MD

by Rick Davis

Jeff Adams fought back from the one-loss side to win the final match in the open division of the Tiger Planet 9-Ball Tour, while Tina Meraglio went undefeated to claim the title in the women's event. The tour swung into Bill & Billies Cuesports in Arnold, MD, July 8-9, for these double-elimination 8-ball events.

On the open board, Adams came from an early loss to defeat Thuan Dui 4-1 and then proceeded to eliminate Trevor

Dentz 4-2 after Nick Prinsloo sent Dentz to the one-loss side with a 5-3 victory in the hot seat match. In the finals, Adams faced off against the waiting Prinsloo and steadily took rack after until he captured the match 7-3.

In the women's division, Marcie Hanisee was sent to the west side after being defeated in the hot seat match 4-3 by Tina Meraglio. Hanisee then faced off against Kathleen Lawless and sprinted by 3-0, returning to face Meraglio. A

see-saw match unfolded, going double-hill, until Meraglio pulled ahead to win the match 5-4.

RESULTS

1st Jeff Adams	4th Thuan Dui
2nd Nick Prinsloo	5th Pat Carosi
3rd Trevor Dentz	Emory Kerin

WOMEN'S RESULTS

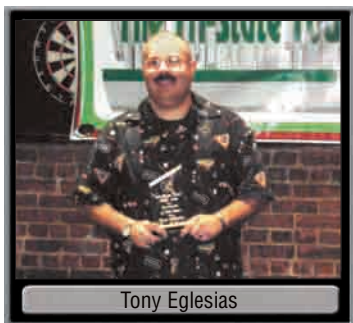
1st Tina Meraglio
2nd Marcie Hanisee
3rd Kathleen Lawless

ANNUAL TRI-STATE TOUR INVITATIONAL GOES TO JEHLE

TRI-STATE TOUR / MANHATTAN, NY

by John Leyman

The ninth annual Tri-State Tour Invitational brought together skilled amateurs at Amsterdam Billiards & Bar in Manhattan, NY, all hoping to sharpen their game en route to the pro circuit and looking to advance in class. The July 8-9 weekend was a huge success with 12 A and A+ players, 32 B and B+ players, 32 C and C+ players, and 24 D and D+ players showing up to play in their respective classes.



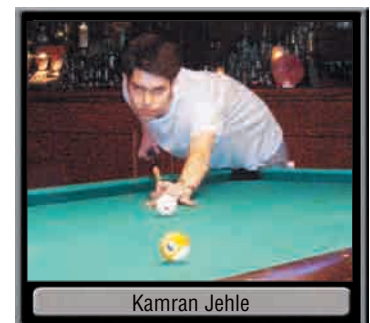
Tony Eglesias

Amsterdam Billiards & Bar owners Greg and Ethan Hunt, along with the staff, were gracious hosts and provided a professional and engaging atmosphere for the event. They donated two \$400 Espiritu cues and two Silver Fox cue cases to the event, as well as their room and the table time.

The C- and D-class players kicked off the event, with Caroline Pao playing strong in the C+ class, her only real challenge coming in the finals against Beito Perez. Perez had only lost to Pao earlier in the day and was determined not to lose twice to her. In the finals, he went out in front and won the match 8-6. The C class was won by Kamran Jehle, who bested Dave Shlemperis on the hill to win. Shlemperis' only other loss was in the match to get in to the hot against Kamran. In the D+ class, Scott Abramowitz dominated all and won

the event by besting Mike Poisler in the finals 5-3, who had only lost to Abramowitz in the event. The D class saw Maya DelVillar defeating all comers, including Jim Ireland in the finals 5-3.

The upper classes came to play Sunday, with Jesse Rice cruising through the one-loss side of the A+/A chart after losing his first match of the day to Mhet Vergara. Rice again met Vergara in the last match of the one-



Kamran Jehle

CT. DE. MA. MD. ME. NH. NJ. NY. OH. PA. RI. VT.

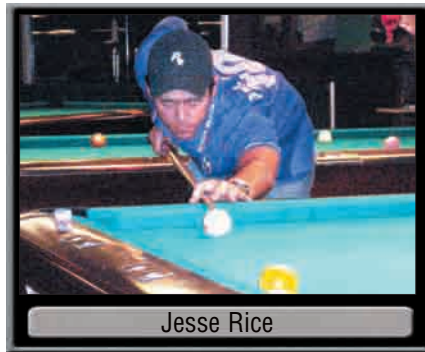
TRI-STATE INVITATIONAL CONTINUED

loss side and defeated him 7-4 to get into the finals against the unscathed Wali Muhammad, winning 9-4. Nelson Marte played better as the day progressed until he met Liz Ford in the hot seat match in the B+ class, where Ford played almost perfect pool and bested him 7-4. Nelson went on to oust Tim Edmonds 7-4 on the one-loss side to get to the finals, where he played well enough to defeat Ford 9-6. In the B class, Matt Daspin played extremely well and finished the tournament undefeated and almost unchallenged. Michael Tosado made it to the finals and put up the best fight, but Daspin was unimpressed and just kept rolling to win the match 7-4.

This left the top players in each class to meet in the playoffs. Nelson Marte met Matt Daspin in the B+/B-class finals, and with both players at their best, it was a great match, with

Marte winning on the hill. Marte continued his dominance and once again crushed his next opponent, Rice, in the A-B playoff 7-1, earning the honor of competing for the overall champion. Maya Delvillar, who was enjoying her wins, went on to best Abramowitz on the hill in the D+/D-class finals. Kamran Jehle, a 16-year-old who has only been playing the game about a year, continued to impress with wins over Beito Perez 6-2 and Maya DelVillar 7-4 to get to the final match of the evening and play for the overall champion title.

Kamran moved ahead early in the final match against Marte, with play much higher than his ranking, along with some luck and some combos. He pulled ahead of Marte, who just did not get a chance to get started, and won the match 8-3, earning the 2005-2006 Tri-State Tour Invitational Champion title.



Jesse Rice



Michael Yednak

OPEN RESULTS

- 1st Jonathon Smith
- 2nd Danny Barouty
- 3rd Frankie Hernandez

RESULTS A+/-

- 1st Jesse Rice
- 2nd Mhet Vergara
- 3rd Stewart Warnock

RESULTS B+

- 1st Carl Yusuf Khan
- 2nd Mario Sahatjian
- 3rd Ariel Rivera

RESULTS B-

- 1st Michael Tosado
- 2nd Matt Daspin
- 3rd James Dorsey

RESULTS D-

- 1st Mike Amaya
- 2nd Jim Ireland
- 3rd Ada Lio

RESULTS C+

- 1st Tony Eglesias
- 2nd Jorge Rodriguez
- 3rd Sean Boland

RESULTS C-

- 1st John MacArthur
- 2nd Greg Hecht
- 3rd Steve Falconer

RESULTS D+

- 1st Mike Davie
- 2nd Dave Fitzpatrick
- 3rd Tom Tomasovic

MOST IMPROVED PLAYER

Michael Yednak

SPORTSMAN OF THE YEAR

Tony Eglesias

WOMEN'S RESULTS

- 1st Liz Ford
- 2nd Caroline Pao
- 3rd Michele Li

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MCNAMARA NABS TOUR'S FIRST TITLE

BAYSTATE INVITATIONAL / CHELMSFORD, MA

by *InsidePOOL Staff*

The inaugural event of the BayState Invitational event kicked off July 16 in Chelmsford, MA, crowning Ray McNamara the tour's first winner. This event attracted some of the best players in the New England region, all clashing like Titans at Country Club Billiards.

The format of the tour is a race to 7 in 9-ball, with the winner having the option of racking his own. Local grinder Randy LaBonte suffered a loss to the favored Joe Tucker but rolled through the one-loss side until he met up with Jon James, who defeated him hill-hill. James went on to challenge McNamara in the finals, where McNamara played steadily in order to best James 7-2 to earn the tour's first title.

RESULTS

- 1st Ray McNamara
- 2nd Jon James
- 3rd Randy LaBonte
- 4th Mike Nicoloro

DAVIS CONTINUES TO BLAZE

BLAZE 9-BALL TOUR / EAST RUTHERFORD, NJ

by *Rick Davis*

The heat was on in Castle Billiards in East Rutherford, NJ, for the Blaze 9-Ball Tour's July 15-16 stop. Mike Davis kept control to win the top spot in the sixteenth of the thirty-stop mega-tour that always draws in the Northeast's top players.

With the event on track for a long night, the remaining few battled to advance. Scott Freeman blasted past a consistent top finisher on tour, Shaun Wilkie, 7-1, while Matt Krah, number two on the points list, was nearly as efficient against Mike Fingers, defeating him 7-3. Freeman met with Krah but was no match for the tour patron, who served up a shut-out 7-0. While that match took place, the hot seat showcased Davis and Paul Robinson, with Davis keeping a firm grip on the match until he defeated Robinson 7-4, sending him to face Krah.

Many expected to see Krah and Davis in yet another final match, but

this time Robinson would have something to say about that as he sought a rematch against Davis. Robinson eliminated Krah by a 7-3 margin, moving back to see Davis in the finals. IPT pro and current Blaze tour points leader, Davis was ready to claim another title and did so by defeating Robinson 9-2 in a final match that played until 1:30 in the morning.



Mike Davis

RESULTS

- 1st Mike Davis
- 2nd Paul Robinson
- 3rd Matt Krah
- 4th Scott Freeman
- 5th Shaun Wilkie
- Mike Fingers

UPCOMING TOURNAMENTS NORTHEAST

Date	Tournament	Venue	City, ST	Contact	\$ Added	Eligibility
9/2-3	Rhode Island State 9-Ball Champs	Corner Pocket Billiards	Johnston, RI	401-383-9889	\$1,000 + qual.	Ladies
9/9-10	Tiger Canadian Women's Pool Tour	Dooly's	Waterloo, ONT	519-885-1436	\$1,000 + qual.	Ladies
9/9-10	New England 9-Ball Series	Country Club USA	Chelmsford, MA	978-934-9700	\$2,000	Open
9/10	Blaze 9-Ball Tour	Green Room Billiards	Maple Shade, NJ	856-482-2227	\$1,000	Open
9/13-16	World Summit of Pool	Slates	Manhattan, NY	937-475-5748	\$30,000	Pros
9/16-17	Pete Sinklers's Straight Pool Tournament	D&D Family Billiards	Downingtown, PA	610-269-6080	\$1,000	Open
9/16-17	New Jersey State 9-Ball Champs	Prime Time Billiards	Sayreville, NJ	732-721-6555	TBD + qual.	Ladies
9/16-17	1st Annual NYC 9-Ball Invitational	Skyline Billiards	Brooklyn, NY	718-627-3407	\$3,000	Invitational
9/17	Blaze 9-Ball Tour	Primetime Billiards	South Amboy, NJ	732-721-6555	\$1,000	Open
9/17	New England 9-Ball Series	Spot Shot Billiards	Portland, ME	207-773-3466	\$500	Open
9/23-24	Tiger Planet Pool 9-Ball Tour	Great Slates	Cambridge, MD	410-901-2720	\$4,000	Open
9/24	Blaze 9-Ball Tour	Alexandra's Billiards	Pottsville, PA	570-621-7665	\$1,000	Open
9/24	New England 9-Ball Series	Billiards Café	Ayer, MA	978-772-7665	\$500	Open
10/1	Blaze 9-Ball Tour	Rockaway Billiards	Rockaway, NJ	973-625-5777	\$1,000	Open
10/7-8	New York State 9-Ball Champs	Michelle's Billiard Café	Baldwinsville, NY	315-635-1307	\$2,000 + 2 quals.	Ladies
10/7-8	East Coast Junior 9-Ball Champs	Great Slates	Cambridge, MD	410-901-2720	\$2,500 + qual.	Juniors
10/7-8	NE 9-Ball Tournament of Champions	Rhode Island Billiard Bar & Bistro	North Providence, RI	401-232-1330	\$5,000	Open
10/8	Blaze 9-Ball Tour	Raxx Billiards Room	West Hempstead, NY	516-538-9896	\$1,000	Open
10/14-15	Tiger Canadian Women's Pool Tour	Dunlop Billiards	Barrie, ONT	706-721-0125	\$500	Ladies
10/15	Blaze 9-Ball Tour	Comet Billiards	Parsippany, NJ	973-334-7429	\$1,000	Open
10/15	New England 9-Ball Series	Country Cue Billiards	Peabody, MA	978-535-7400	\$500	Open
10/22	New England 9-Ball Series	TJ's Classic Billiards	Waterville, ME	207-877-7665	\$500	Open
10/29	Blaze 9-Ball Tour	Ivory Billiards	York, PA	714-843-1992	\$1,500	Open
10/29	New England 9-Ball Series	Buster's Billiards	Somerworth, NH	603-692-7926	\$500	Open
11/1	International Tournament of Champions	Mohegan Sun	Uncasville, CT	888-226-7711	\$25,000	Invitational
11/2	World Cup of Trick Shots	Mohegan Sun	Uncasville, CT	888-226-7711	\$50,000	Invitational
11/5	New England 9-Ball Series	Country Club USA	Chelmsford, MA	978-934-9700	\$1,000	Open
11/4-5	J. Pechauer NorthEast Women's Tour Rack M Up		Frazer, PA	610-647-8805	\$1,000 + qual.	Ladies



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REGIONAL ROUNDUP

SOUTHEAST

FOSTER BOUNCES BEYOND

J. PECHAUER SOUTHEAST OPEN 9-BALL TOUR / DAVIE, FL

by *InsidePOOL Staff*

John Foster survived a loss in the hot seat match to bounce back and gain revenge, winning the June 3-4 stop of the J. Pechauer Southeast Open 9-Ball Tour. Hosted by Beyond Billiards in Davie, FL, this stop featured a \$1,000-added purse with field of 38 players.

With England's Richard Broumpton and Tony Crosby in attendance, as well as John DiToro and Tom Karlis, the event was sure to be a tough one. Broumpton met with John Rouse in the quarterfinal match, ejecting him 9-7 and moving on to meet Foster in the semis. Foster

suffered his first loss to tour director Tommy Kennedy in the hot seat match 9-6 and was looking for revenge. He battled it out with Broumpton and surpassed him 9-7 and then dealt Kennedy a blow with his decisive 11-4 victory in the final match.

RESULTS

- 1st John Foster
- 2nd Tommy Kennedy
- 3rd Richard Broumpton
- 4th John Rouse
- 5th Rich Sanchez
- Tony Crosby
- 7th Mike Destefano
- Randy Epperson

ROUSE OUSTS THE COMPETITIONS

J. PECHAUER SOUTHEAST OPEN 9-BALL TOUR / PALM BEACH, FL

by *InsidePOOL Staff*

It was 85 degrees in Palm Beach, FL, but inside Victory Billiards it was even hotter, as John Rouse burned up the pool tables. He scorched the 32-player field of the J. Pechauer Southeast Open 9-Ball Tour the weekend of June 11, besting Randy Epperson in the final match.

Surviving an early loss, Epperson worked his way through the west side of the bracket, meeting Rick Sanchez in the quarterfinals. He squeaked by with a double-hill victory and advanced to the semifinals. Rouse had just finished winning his own

hill-hill match against previous tour winner Hunter Lombardo 9-8, so Lombardo and Epperson clashed in the semis. It was another close match, but Epperson again prevailed, this time with a 9-7 score. The final match was a lopsided one, with Rouse defeating Epperson soundly 11-2.

RESULTS

- 1st John Rouse
- 2nd Randy Epperson
- 3rd Hunter Lombardo
- 4th Rick Sanchez
- 5th John DiToro
- Nathan Rose

BARRETT TAKES DOWN THE YOUNG GUN

KBP ADRENALINE NORTH FLORIDA AMATEUR 9-BALL TOUR / JACKSONVILLE, FL

by *Kay Higgins*

Ramsey Barrett went whizzing past the competition at the eighth stop on the KBP Adrenaline North Florida Amateur 9-Ball Tour June 11. Held at Bankshots Billiards in Jacksonville, FL, the event attracted a strong field, with many expecting young gun Josh Lewis to take another win, but Barrett not only took first place but also King of the Hill.

Lewis and Barrett were matched up twice, with Barrett working the top half of the bracket while Lewis worked the bottom. The duo met up the first time for the hot seat match, sending Lewis to the one-loss side with a 7-4 win.

Johnny Reeves was working on the west side and put Steve Foster in fourth place to advance to face Lewis for the chance at the

finals. The play was tight—Reeves was down 3-1 when he made a come back to make the score 3-3. They traded the next two racks, and a bobbled ball gave Lewis his chance to finish out the match with a 5-4 win, leaving Reeves in third place.

It seemed that the break that Barrett had while waiting on the matches gave him the needed breather to be refreshed for this match. He bolted ahead on the score and kept the lead as Lewis fought hard to try to make a comeback, but Barrett ended up with the win in a final score of 9-1.

RESULTS

- 1st Ramsey Barrett
- 2nd Josh Lewis
- 3rd Johnny Reeves
- 4th Steve Foster
- 5th April Wallen
- Trevor Moore

LEWIS WINS LATE-NIGHT BATTLE

KBP ADRENALINE NORTH FLORIDA TOUR / SOUTH DAYTONA, FL

by *Rick Davis*

The Kings Bay Promotions Adrenaline North Florida Tour stopped at Uncle Waldo's in South Daytona, FL, for their June 3-4 stop. The event drew a modest field, but that didn't stop anyone from bringing their game to capture the payout.

As play got near the end, Scott Stone defeated Ellen Van Buren 5-3, while Johnny Reeves defeated Julio Velpozo 5-4. Stone then faced off against Reeves in the quarterfinal match, where he won by a 5-2 margin to move on to face Mike Ceremero for the right to see the finals.

Previously, Josh Lewis defeated Ceremero in the hot seat and then had a chance to rest up, while Ceremero faced off against Stone. Stone could not keep control and was defeated by Ceremero 5-2, leaving him to face Lewis in the finals. After a long day of play, almost 11 hours, the finals finished up with Lewis defeating Ceremero 9-6.

RESULTS

- 1st Josh Lewis
- 2nd Mike Ceremero
- 3rd Scott Stone
- 4th Johnny Reeves
- 5th Ellen Van Buren
- Julio Velpozo



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LAVOIE FIRST IN FLORIDA

KBP ADRENALINE FLORIDA AMATEUR 8-BALL TOUR / PALM HARBOR, FL

by Rick Davis

Dan Lavoie triumphed at the fifth stop of the KBP Adrenaline Florida Amateur 8-Ball Tour, taking first place over the other 13 entrants. Held at Stroker's Billiards in Palm Harbor, FL, June 17, the competition was strong for this new division.

Lavoie met Ed Lorents in the hot seat match but couldn't hold on to the lead long enough. Lorents sent Lavoie to the one-loss side 5-4, where he deposited Hank Samuel into third place with a 4-3 win. Now in the finals, Lavoie jumped ahead of Lorents easily, and the layouts seemed to favor Lavoie, making him the 7-0 victor.

RESULTS

- 1st Dan Lavoie
- 2nd Ed Lorents
- 3rd Hank Samuel

BAURIES WINS IN PALM HARBOR

KBP CENTRAL FLORIDA AMATEUR 9-BALL TOUR / PALM HARBOR, FL

by Kay Higgins

Players from all over Florida showed up to participate in the ninth stop of the KBP Central Florida Amateur 9-Ball Tour July 9. Matt Bauries showed his skill as he emerged victorious over the 44-player field. Bauries has participated in several other events, but this is his first top finish of the season.

Richie Orem worked his way in the top half of the bracket to face Bauries, winning the King of the Hill spot with a 7-4 win. In the quarterfinal match, Brian Davalos and Julio DelPozo showed that they were even in playing ability until DelPozo pulled ahead and took the double-hill victory. DelPozo went on the semifinal match to face Bauries, and with skill and determination,

Bauries left DelPozo in third place 5-2.

The final race to 9 saw the score remain even for the first four racks. At that point, Bauries pulled ahead and kept the lead for the next two games, bringing the score 8-4. Orem then took the next game, looking for a comeback, but Bauries had the next break and finished off the match by making the 9 on the break to win 9-5.

RESULTS

- 1st Matt Bauries
- 2nd Richie Orem
- 3rd Julio DelPozo
- 4th Brian Davalos
- 5th Tim Daniels
- Tracy Hines
- 7th Dan Lavoie
- Dan Whitten

TOWNSEND TAKES FLORIDA AMIDST SURPRISES

KBP CENTRAL FLORIDA 9-BALL TOUR / LONGWOOD, FL

by Rick Davis

Coasting into the calm atmosphere of Florida, the J. Pechauer Southeast Open 9-Ball Tour strolled into Stix 'N' Stones in Palatka, where an excited crowd watched Scotty Townsend win undefeated.

A field of 23 players sparred during the July 15-16 weekend, and by the end of the first day only four players remained. After a vote by the players, the decision was made to resume play at 10 a.m. instead of the usual 1 p.m., causing havoc for tour director Tommy Kennedy, who was still on the winners' side.

Kennedy didn't make his early match against Townsend in the hot seat, and the forfeit had him face Richie Orem on the one-loss side. Orem played a strong match against multi-time Florida Pro Tour winner Dave Grossman, defeating him 9-5. Facing Kennedy in the next match, Orem won the coin toss and then proceeded to break and run nine racks for the shut-out against Kennedy.

Orem could not have been shooting better, but the waiting Townsend overcame him and took the match 11-7.



Scotty Townsend

RESULTS

- 1st Scotty Townsend
- 2nd Richie Orem
- 3rd Tommy Kennedy
- 4th Dave Grossman

MITCHELL COMES OUT ON TOP

TIGER KBP LADIES' AMATEUR 9-BALL TOUR / PALM HARBOR, FL

by Rick Davis

The sixth stop of the Kings Bay Promotions Tiger Ladies' Tour pulled into Stokers Billiards in Palm Harbor, FL, where Stephanie Mitchell was victorious. Players raced to 7 on the winners' side and 5 on the one-loss side in this double-elimination event, which took place throughout the day July 8th.

Both Jessica Barnes and Amanda Westerman came close but couldn't push past the fifth-place mark. Vanessa Seaver told a similar story with her fourth-place finish, a small disappointment after her third-place finish only two events ago. Tracy McCreary finished in a solid third place, her second for the

season, but could not crack the top players.

Mitchell bested Niki Rasmussen in the finals, as these players are starting to take a hold on the tour. The last event saw the same match-up, although the results were flipped, and the event before that saw Mitchell take another second-place finish.

RESULTS

- 1st Stephanie Mitchell
- 2nd Niki Rasmussen
- 3rd Tracy McCreary
- 4th Vanessa Seaver
- 5th Jessica Barnes
- Amanda Westerman

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TOP SHOTS FLOOD INTO SHOOTERS

SHOOTERS BILLIARDS / OLATHE, KS

by Rick Davis

Shooters Billiards in Olathe, KS, had an extravaganza of action July 6-9, and for Buddy Hall, Jessica Frieeres, and David Matlock, winners of each division, it was time well spent. "The Rifleman" won the one-pocket event after coming back from a loss in the hot seat match, while Matlock and Frieeres went undefeated through the open and ladies' 9-ball events.

A solid 40-entry field competed in the one-pocket action, and the 9-ball events were host to 103 entries in the open, along with another 16 in the ladies'. All the formats were double-elimination, and the one-pocket players raced to 3 and the 9-ball events racing to 9 in the open and 7 for the ladies'.



Buddy Hall

The Rifleman Picks Off the Competition

Hall started strong and was clearly the crowd favorite as he breezed through four matches to reach the hot seat match. In three of his first four matches, Hall only gave up one rack, while the last went double-hill against Jesse Bowman. Meanwhile, Brian Jones was fighting his way through from the other end of board to face Hall. Jones shut out two opponents and only gave up a couple racks between the other two. In the hot seat match, the score tipped back

and forth until Jones finally defeated Hall double-hill.

Taking a short trip to the one-loss side, Hall eliminated Danny Harriman double-hill to return for a rematch against Jones, this time in a best of three-sets format. The first set was all Hall as he took it 3-1; however, the second set saw both players trade racks until the score reached double-hill. Jones went into the stack early in the rack and scratched, leaving Hall to run out for the victory.

Ladies' Event a One-Woman Show

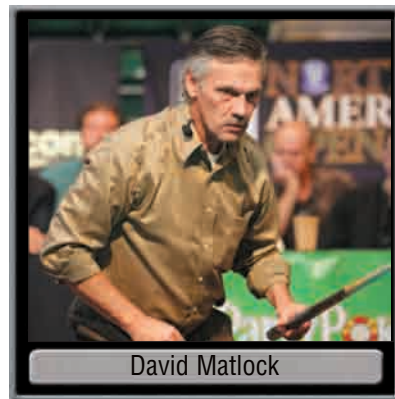
Frieeres made quick work of the winners' side of the ladies' division, taking matches 7-2, 7-3, and 7-2 before reaching the hot seat match and defeating Caroline Ortiz double-hill. Rhonda Pierce started strong, taking matches 7-4 and 7-2, until Ortiz sent her away 7-4. Taking another match, then a forfeit, she had her chance at a rematch, meeting Ortiz to determine who would see the finals. After their rough battle earlier, Ortiz was favored although Pierce had her eyes on the finals, and after only giving up a single rack, she bested Ortiz 7-1 to get her wish.

All of the players offered stiff competition, especially the top three, but it was clearly Frieeres's day as she took the final match 7-4 against Pierce to end her run undefeated.

Matlock Bests the Board

With over 100 entries, the open 9-ball division was the main event, and Matlock was there to steal the show. He took six matches in a row to reach the hot seat match, defeating Hall and Jones along the way, where he faced James Baraks. There Matlock inched by, taking the match 9-7. Waiting for his opponent, Baraks watched Josh Johnson and Mike Banks Jr. fight it

out as each had met after clearing half of the one-loss bracket. Managing to only give away a few games, Johnson advanced to face Baraks and eliminated him 7-4. Getting a nice rest while the one-loss side finished, Matlock served up a known score to Johnson, defeating him 7-4, the score that advanced him the previous two rounds.



David Matlock

RESULTS

9-BALL

- | | |
|--------------------|------------------|
| 1st David Matlock | 5th James Walden |
| 2nd Josh Johnson | Rusty Capes |
| 3rd James Baraks | 7th Lee Norton |
| 4th Mike Banks Jr. | Chad Vilmont |

ONE-POCKET

- | | |
|--------------------|------------------|
| 1st Buddy Hall | 5th Joe Salazar |
| 2nd Brian Jones | Jeremy Vulgamore |
| 3rd Danny Harriman | 7th Jesse Milner |
| 4th Jesse Bowman | James Walden |

LADIES' 9-BALL

- | | |
|----------------------|--------------------|
| 1st Jessica Frieeres | 3rd Caroline Ortiz |
| 2nd Rhonda Pierce | 4th Julia Gabriel |

BAURIES STRIKES AGAIN

KBP CENTRAL FLORIDA 9-BALL TOUR / LONGWOOD, FL

by Rick Davis

Matt Bauries took top honors at the KBP Central Florida 9-Ball Tour, held at Fast Break Billiards in Longwood, FL. The event, which took place July 23, was Bauries' second top finish on this year's tour, as he won the previous event July 9.

There were 46 entries for the local tour stop, most of whom fell beneath the weight of the top finishers. Bauries made quick work of the winners' side until he reached the hot seat match against Travis Moore. There he was kind enough to give away five

racks before taking the match 7-5 to take a much-needed rest in the hot seat.

On the one-loss side, Ton Vicari fought hard and shut out Robert Noon 5-0, while Brian Davalos battled against Josh Lewis, finally taking the match 5-4. Each knocking out a chunk of the field, Vicari and Davalos were destined to meet up, and a grueling double-hill match allowed Vicari to squeeze by 5-4. Some saw an upset here, as Lewis and Davalos had four first-place finishes between them, along with several other top finishes.

As the end loomed closer, Vicari defeated Moore 5-3 after he was sent to the one-loss side, allowing Vicari to reach the finals. The awaiting Bauries was ready for a fight, and Vicari was happy to offer one, although Bauries just could not be taken out, defeating Vicari 9-8 to take the title undefeated.

RESULTS

- | | |
|------------------|-------------------|
| 1st Matt Bauries | 4th Brian Davalos |
| 2nd Tony Vicari | 5th Robert Noon |
| 3rd Travis Moore | Josh Lewis |

AL. FL. GA. KY. MS. NC. SC. TN. VA. WV

LOAR RULES OVER VIRGINIA

VIRGINIA STATE CHAMPIONSHIPS / RICHMOND, VA

by Rick Davis

Chris Loar fought back from the one-loss side to win the Virginia State Championships, held at The Playing Field in Richmond, VA. The 64-player field clashed July 22-23 in the double-elimination 9-ball event, which served as a qualifier for the U.S. Open 9-Ball Championships.

Eric Moore quickly surged to the hot seat match, where he faced John Newton. One of the most consistent players in the event, Moore did not lose more than four racks in any match, and the hot seat match was his crown jewel as he shut out Newton 9-0.

The competitors grinded away on the one-loss side until only a few remained. Loar faced Chris Futrell in

the quarterfinals, which showcased the best comeback of the day. Futrell was ahead 6-0 then 7-2, but Loar mounted a comeback to take the lead 8-7. Futrell tied things up but could not overcome Loar once he was in stroke, and Loar took the match 9-8. Loar then faced John Newton in the semifinals and worked his way to a 9-6 win in the final grinder of the evening.

The waiting Moore took on Loar, but Loar's comeback from the one-loss side had him in good stroke, while Moore was getting cold. In the end, Loar defeated Moore 11-7 for the title in the third annual Virginia State Championships, earning free entry into the U.S. Open.



Chris Loar

RESULTS

1st	Chris Loar	5th	David Alley
2nd	Eric Moore		Brandon Shuff
3rd	John Newton	7th	Walter Koch
4th	Chris Futrell		Igmabio Medina

CASH CASHES IN GEORGIA

KBP GEORGIA 9-BALL TOUR / ATLANTA, GA

by Rick Davis

Danny Cash made a surprise return from the one-loss side to claim the title at the KBP Georgia 9-Ball Tour, held at Mr. Cues II in Atlanta, GA. The event, which was held July 29-30, drew a modest crowd though all the entries were fiercely fighting for the top honors.

Bryan Whaley drove the bus, taking all the players to school as he

reached the hot seat undefeated. In the hot seat match, Whaley sent away Bernardo Estevear to face Cash, who had fought his way to the top of the one-loss side. In a seesaw match, Cash reached the hill against Estevear with a 4-3 lead, then a 9 on the break claimed the match for him.

Cash and Whaley clashed in the finals, with Whaley taking an early 5-1 lead in the first set until Cash was

ready to play, taking back the set and winning 9-7. The second set was all Cash—after getting to an early lead, he finished up with a 9-6 score for the win and top finish.

RESULTS

1st	Danny Cash
2nd	Bryan Whaley
3rd	Bernardo Estevear

UPCOMING TOURNAMENTS SOUTHEAST

Date	Tournament	Venue	City, ST	Contact	\$ Added	Eligibility
9/9	KBP Tiger Florida Ladies' Tour	Stokers Billiards	Palm Harbor, FL	727-786-6683	\$300	Amateurs
9/10	KBP Central Florida Tour	Stokers Billiards	Palm Harbor, FL	727-786-6683	\$500	Amateurs
9/12-17	The Carolina's Open	Fast Eddie's Sports Bar & Grill	Goldsboro, NC	757-376-1076	\$10,000	Open
9/16-17	J. Pechauer SE Open 9-Ball	Southside Billiard Club	Savannah, GA	912-925-5398	\$2,000	Open
9/16-17	KBP Adrenaline 8-Ball Tour	Poolies Billiards	Palm Bay, FL	321-951-7560	\$500	Amateurs
9/17	KBP Central Florida Tour	Old Time Billiards	New Port Richey, FL	727-849-9225	\$500	Amateurs
9/25-10/1	U.S. Open 9-Ball Championships	Chesapeake Conference Center	Chesapeake, VA	757-499-8900	TBA	Open
10/7-8	Florida Pro Tour	Victory Billiards	West Palm Beach, FL	561-689-8540	\$8,000	Open
10/14-15	Florida Pro Tour	Bird Bowl Billiards	Miami, FL	305-221-1221	\$8,000	Open
11-4-5	J. Pechauer SE Open 9-Ball	Play-Boy Billiards	Lake Worth, FL	561-357-5522	\$1,000	Open
11/11-12	Florida Pro Tour	Hollywood Billiards	Hollywood, FL	954-981-4066	\$8,000	Open
11/14-19	Viking Cue 9-Ball Tour Champs	The Pool Room	Duluth, GA	770-418-9086	TBA	Open
12/9-10	Tiger Planet Pool 8-Ball Finale	First Break Café	Sterling, VA	703-444-2551	\$1,500	Open
1/6-7	J. Pechauer SE Open 9-Ball	Sharp Shooters	Miami, FL	305-596-0588	\$1,000	Open
1/20-21	J. Pechauer SE Open 9-Ball	Sunset Billiards	Miami, FL	305-380-1774	\$1,000	Open
2/10-11	J. Pechauer SE Open 9-Ball	Mr. Cues II	Atlanta, GA	770-454-7665	\$1,200	Open
2/24-25	J. Pechauer SE Open 9-Ball	Pockets Billiards	Dothan, AL	334-793-9644	\$1,000	Open
4/1-2	J. Pechauer SE Open 9-Ball	Sevierville Billiard Club	Sevierville, TN	865-300-7957	\$1,000	Open

AL. FL. GA. KY. MS. NC. SC. TN. VA. WV

REGIONAL ROUNDUP

CARDENAS CLAIMS THE HOUSTON BILLIARD OPEN
MCDERMOTT ALL-AMERICAN TOUR / HOUSTON, TXby *InsidePOOL Staff*

The Houston Billiard Open, which was the final stop of the 2005/2006 season of the McDermott All-American Tour, featured a \$500-added purse. Hosted by the Independent Billiard League of Houston, this event attracted 56 tough Texans, with Ramone Cardenas coming out ahead of the pack.

The weekend of June 3-4 saw some great 8-ball, with Cardenas taking an undefeated trip to the finals after he upended Ronnie Rhodes 3-0 in the winners'-bracket semifinals and Jim Traweek 3-1 in the hot seat match. Cardenas' opponent in the final match turned out to be Rhodes again, who recovered to eliminate Greg Barlow 3-1, Michael Liang 3-0, and Traweek 3-0. But the title match was all Cardenas, who again whitewashed Rhodes 3-0 for the championship.

RESULTS

1st Ramone Cardenas	7th Jack Williams
2nd Ronnie Rhodes	Leo Gonzalez
3rd Jim Traweek	9th Louis Murphy
4th Michael Liang	Eric Brockway
5th Greg Barlow	Perry Van Orden
Nicholas Ngo	Ben Araneori

CHEN BEATS SLOW ACTION AT FAST EDDIE'S
FAST EDDIES OLHAUSEN 9-BALL TOUR / AMARILLO, TXby *Rick Davis*

Through a long event of close and breeze-through matches, Jui-Lung Chen left victorious as the winner of the Fast Eddies 9-Ball Tour at Fast Eddie's in Amarillo, TX, June 25. The \$1,750 added for this open event was enough to draw in 52 entries for the weekend.

There was nearly 50 hours of play, and action was grueling towards the last day as many of the matches were plagued with breaking problems, according to the tournament director, who took over racking for at least one match.

As the action reached play on Sunday, the matches looked like they were all lopsided. Robert Newkirk defeated 19-year old Anna Kostanian 7-3, while Justin Cone knocked out Shane Harvey 7-4. Creeping along, Cone flew past Newkirk, only allowing him two racks before clenching the win. The top three players made things more interesting as their matches were much closer. James Davis Sr. then squeaked past Cone 9-7 in order to reach the finals where Chen was waiting. Chen had just knocked Davis to the one-loss side for a brief visit before he fought back for the right to face Chen again. Both players fought hard in the last match, but Davis could not hold on as Chen won 9-7.

RESULTS

1st Jui-Lung Chen
2nd James Davis Sr.
3rd Justin Cone
4th Robert Newkirk
5th Shane Harvey
Anna Kostanian

KOSTANIAN CONQUERS LAMPERT IN DALLAS

HUNTER CLASSICS AMATEUR WOMEN'S TOUR / DALLAS, TX

by *InsidePOOL Staff*

Young ace and aspiring pro Anna Kostanian from Albuquerque, NM, won her second Hunter Classics Amateur Women's Tour event of the year June 10-11. Hosted by Pugsley's Library in Dallas, TX, this event brought 44 women from Arkansas, Missouri, New Mexico, Canada, and Texas out to compete for the prize money and WPBA qualifier.

Traveling from Quebec, Veronique Menard impressed everyone in her quest for the qualifier but lost a close match to Belinda Lee 7-6 Saturday and then ran into a determined Lisa Brannen Sunday morning, who defeated Menard 7-0 and sent her home with fourth place.

Brannen had lopsided scores on Saturday—her opponents couldn't win four games against her. But Kostanian had other plans and defeated Brannen hill-hill Sunday morning to reach the hot seat match against Amanda Lampert, fresh off a win over Terry Petrosino. Both played well, but Kostanian came out on top, winning 7-3. Lampert then defeated Brannen 7-4 in the semifinals to earn her rematch.

Both ladies wanted the WPBA qualifier badly, which was evident

when Lampert bested Kostanian 7-5 the first set of the double-elimination finals. The second set was just as close, and, tied at 5-all, it was anyone's game. Taking advantage of a foul by her opponent, Lampert played safe on the 2 ball but accidentally left a window open for a 2-9 combo, which Kostanian made nicely. Lampert came up dry on her next break, and Kostanian ran the table to win the match 7-5.

Anna Kostanian,
Veronique Menard, Lisa
Brannen, Amanda Lampert

RESULTS

1st Anna Kostanian
2nd Amanda Lampert
3rd Lisa Brannen
4th Veronique Menard
5th Heather Lloyd
Terry Petrosino

IPT PROS CLEAN UP AT FAST EDDIE'S EVENT

FAST EDDIE'S OLHAUSEN 9-BALL TOUR / AUSTIN, TX

by *Rick Davis*

The hot summer months heated up the action at the Fast Eddie's Olhausen 9-Ball Tour, where Charlie Bryant stormed through the open division and Kyu Yi followed suit and cleaned house on the women's board. The July 8-9 stop sizzled at Fast Eddie's in Austin, TX, for the tour's seventh event of the 12-stop season.

Starting with a robust 96 entries, late play on Sunday narrowed the field to a handful remaining. Semifinal action had Marco Marquez defeat J.P. Lopez in the hot seat 7-4, sending him to the lion's den on the one-loss side. That lion would be Charlie Bryant and would eliminate Lopez from play. In the finals, the crowd gathered and cheered the mini-IPT match as Bryant and Marquez faced off, but after his return from the one-loss side Bryant was ready to win, defeating Marquez 9-4.

In the women's event, Kyu Yi gave Sophie Lopez the double-kill, first defeating her in the hot seat 7-6 then again in the finals 7-5. Lopez tried to stay alive, knocking out Amanda Lampert along the way to return to the final match, but it was clear Yi was in control of all 26 players in the event.



Charlie Bryant

OPEN RESULTS

1st Charlie Bryant
2nd Marco Marquez
3rd J.P. Lopez

WOMEN'S RESULTS

1st Kyu Yi
2nd Sophie Lopez
3rd Amanda Lampert

DAVIS AND CALHOUN TOPS IN TEXAS

TEXAS STATE OPEN 9-BALL CHAMPIONSHIP / AUSTIN, TX

by InsidePOOL Staff

The competition was cleared at the Texas State Open 9-Ball Championships by James Davis Sr. in the men's division and Belinda Calhoun in the ladies' division. Taking place July 20-23 at Eric's Billiards in Austin, TX, a strong showing of 85 competitors came to clash for the titles.

Calhoun battled through many of the matches, including the finals against fellow touring pro Megan Minerich, where Calhoun was up and down throughout the match before finally defeating Minerich 9-7 for her eighth state title.

Davis repeatedly clashed with several rival players including Junior Jueco, a 22-year-old young gun from Alaska and Jui-Lung Chen. Davis' toughest opponent from the Fast Eddie's Olhausen 9-Ball Tour, Chen came full steam at Davis early on the

first day, but a dry break left Davis to win that set double-hill. The crowd seemed to anticipate a rematch between the two, and they were not disappointed after Davis and Chen destroyed the rest of the field to meet again in the finals.

Davis fell quickly to Chen 9-5, but because of the true double-elimination format, he got one final chance. It would soon be obvious to Chen how Davis gained the nickname "Slow Death" as he slowly and carefully picked away at the racks, going up in the set 5-2. Chen started to mount a comeback, but a methodical four-pack by Davis ended Chen's hope and gave Davis another victory.



Belinda Calhoun

WOMEN'S RESULTS

- | | |
|---------------------|---------------------|
| 1st Belinda Calhoun | 3rd Jennifer Kraber |
| 2nd Megan Minerich | 4th Shayla Neris |

OPEN RESULTS

- | | |
|---------------------|-------------------|
| 1st James Davis Sr. | 9th Lewis Jones |
| 2nd Chen Li | Fred Gardner |
| 3rd Junior Jueco | Roman Bayda |
| 4th Sylver Ochoa | Robert Clark |
| 5th Rick Stanley | 13th Corey Dordec |
| Mario Juarez | Bill Fuller |
| 7th David Henson | Isael Velasquez |
| Robert Newkirk | Carl Ray Almanza |

LLOYD TOPS FIELD ON HUNTER CLASSICS TOUR

HUNTER CLASSICS AMATEUR WOMEN'S TOUR / ROUND ROCK, TX

by InsidePOOL Staff

The top prize went to Heather Lloyd for winning the Hunter Classics Amateur Women's Tour the weekend of July 15-16. Held at G-Cue Billiards in Round Rock, TX, the event attracted a tough field of 45 ladies, all battling not only for first-place money but for the WPBA qualifier as well.

The winners'-side matches resulted with Cristina De La Garza defeating Deanna Henson hill-hill, while Jennifer Kraber lost 7-4 to San Antonio's Sophie Lopez. Lopez and De La Garza then matched up for the hot seat, with Lopez coming out the 7-4 winner.

Interestingly, each of the top four finishers of this tournament marked

their highest finish to date at a Hunter Classics Tour event: Terry Petrosino from Houston placed fourth, while De La Garza ended up in third. Even the top two finishers had never performed so well before.

After losing her first match, Lloyd struggled through the one-loss side to reach the finals against Lopez, where Lloyd would need to defeat her opponent twice for the ultimate prize. Tied at 3-apiece in the first set, Lloyd pulled ahead 7-5 to win. The second set didn't turn out to be as close, with Lloyd leading 6-1. But Lopez didn't give up, nailing a tough cut on the 9 ball to put another rack under her belt. She was stopped there by Lloyd, who took the next rack for her 7-2 victory.



Sophie Lopez, Terry Petrosino, Cristina De La Garza, Heather Lloyd

RESULTS

- | | | | |
|--------------------------|--------------------|----------------------|---------------------|
| 1st Heather Lloyd | 5th Deanna Henson | 9th Melinda Hinojosa | 13th Tara McCracken |
| 2nd Sophie Lopez | Jennifer Kraber | Belinda Lee | Sherril L. Smith |
| 3rd Cristina De La Garza | 7th Kyu Yi | Sharon O'Hanlon | Kim Pierce |
| 4th Terry Petrosino | Leslie Anne Rogers | Deedra Trammell | Snowy Belt |

AR. IA. IL. KS. LA. MI. MN. MO. ND. NE. OK. SD. TX. WI.

CORR SCORES ANOTHER TITLE

WPBA MIDWEST CLASSIC / EAST PEORIA, IL

by Rick Davis

Karen Corr went undefeated through seven rounds to take first place at the 2006 WPBA Midwest Classic. Taking place at the Par-a-dice Hotel and Casino in East Peoria, IL, July 26-30, a full field of 64 competitors were anxious to get shooting.

Action through the first two days served up some surprises as several top players did not reach the top 16 cutoff. Sarah Ellerby, who flew directly from the IPT's North American Open 8-Ball Championship; Jennifer Barretta; and Vivian Villarreal, number six on the tour, were among those not advancing to single-elimination play.

With play on Saturday in full swing, it was do or die for the remaining players. Allison Fisher took a quick win only to be



eliminated 9-7 in the next round by Xiaoting Pan, while Kelly Fisher stormed past Ga-Young Kim 9-4 to meet Pan in the semifinals. Kim White started off good, eliminating Julie Kelly 9-4, but then became Monica Webb's second victim of the day after she sent Gerda Hofstatter a pink slip in the previous round. Webb faced

Corr in the semifinals after she emerged from the most difficult portion of the chart. While Corr won the battle against Val Finnie 9-6, Jeanette Lee nearly shutout Ewa Lawrence 9-2 but then just missed the mark against Corr 9-7.

In the semifinals Corr defeated Webb and Fisher defeated Pan, both 7-4. Then in the final match Corr emerged victorious after defeating Fisher 7-5. This was Corr's third first-place finish in the five events completed this season with only two events remaining.

RESULTS

1st	Karen Corr	5th	Allison Fisher
2nd	Kelly Fisher		Megan Minerich
3rd	Xiaoting Pan		Kim White
	Monica Webb		Jeanette Lee

UPCOMING TOURNAMENTS CENTRAL

Date	Tournament	Venue	City, ST	Contact	\$ Added	Eligibility
9/16-17	Fast Eddie's Olhausen 9-Ball Tour	Fast Eddie's	Beaumont, TX	409-866-2212	\$1,750	Open
9/16-17	Fast Eddie's Olhausen 9-Ball Tour	Fast Eddie's	Beaumont, TX	409-866-2212	\$350	Ladies
9/23-24	Hunter Classics Amateur Women's	Carom Club	Albuquerque, NM	505-242-1966	\$2,000 + qual.	Amateurs
10/7-8	Houston Open	Legends Billiards	League City, TX	281-332-7716	\$4,000	Open
10/14-15	Fast Eddie's Olhausen 9-Ball Tour	Fast Eddie's	Lafayette, LA	210-367-4761	\$1,750	Open
10/14-15	Fast Eddie's Olhausen 9-Ball Tour	Fast Eddie's	Lafayette, LA	210-367-4761	\$350	Ladies

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Mandatory Player's Meeting Monday, September 11th, 12:00pm

9-Ball Tournament September 14-17 **\$7,500 Added**

Based on 128 players- \$100 entry fee (\$85 tourney fee, \$15 green fee)-Limited to 128 players
Race to 11- Double Elimination- finals Race to 15
Mandatory Player's Meeting Wednesday, September 13th, 12:00pm

Dress Code - Casual Dress - No Sweatsuits

For More Information Call
Tournament Director Buxton Turner
(757) 376-1076 Before September 9th
(919) 759-0071 After September 9th

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AR. IA. IL. KS. LA. MI. MN. MO. ND. NE. OK. SD. TX. WI.

Mike Davis



by Rick Davis

Setting fire to the Blaze 9-Ball Tour, Mike Davis has won 7 of their 16 stops this season, including three in a row. When he wasn't in the top spot, Davis has also notched several other top-three finishes. Having only been a professional since 2003, Davis has already managed to claim several top pro titles, including the 2003 Reno Open, the 2005 Florida State Championships, and the 2006 U.S. Open Bar Table 9-Ball Championship.

When not playing at a pro event, the Maryland-based Davis travels to one of many regional tours around the

country. He says, "Every week I find one if there is not a pro event. A lot of pros don't play often enough, and that's why I do well ... I have the pressure and competition almost every weekend." Some of his frequent stops include the Tiger Planet Pool, Joss Northeast, Viking Cue 9-Ball, J. Pechauer Southeast, and Blaze 9-Ball Tours.

The players and staff around the tours have nothing but kind words for Davis. Tournament director Jose Burgos reports, "He is one of the most respected players around. Soft spoken, nice, and very loyal, but with his

back against the wall, he plays like the pro he is." This has been evident in the past when Davis took an early to loss only to come back and win eight straight matches over two days in order to take a top finish.

Davis's plans now include attending all the remaining International Pool Tour and UPA events. He has missed the cut twice for the Mosconi Cup and is hopeful that this year he will be there. Also, he plans another attempt at the World Pool Championships while maintaining his points lead on the Blaze 9-Ball Tour and constant weekend play.



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WESTERN REGIONAL ROUNDUP

ORCOLLO OVERPOWERS RENO'S POWERFUL FIELD

RENO OPEN / RENO, NV

by *InsidePOOL Staff*

With over 150 entries, this summer's Reno Open was truly a showcase of the top touring players. Held at the Sands Regency Hotel and Casino in Reno, NV, this long-running event crowned a new champion in Dennis Orcollo at their June 6-11 tournament.

Thirteen year-old Austin Murphy, an IPT member who burned up the charts, remained undefeated until running up against former U.S. Open champion Gabe Owen, who bested Murphy double-hill. Murphy had dealt losses to players such as Chris MacDonald 9-7 and Bobby Hunter 9-7 before going home with 13th place. Another entrant who deserves notable mention is Michelle Rakin. After her third-round loss to Jose Parica 9-4, she was sent to the one-loss side, where she eliminated Tyler Edey (who had just ousted her sister Mary in a hill-hill match) 9-7, Randy Baker 9-6, and John Thomas 9-5 before being defeated by Paul Jaurez 9-5. Rakin went home with 17th place.

Kim "California Kid" Davenport cruised through the winners' side of the bracket, notching victories over Jose Parica 9-5, Ernesto Dominguez 9-5, and Brian Parks 9-6. He was not flummoxed at all by Warren Kiamco, another recent IPT addition, and skated over him 9-6 to advance to the hot seat match against Orcollo.



Dennis Orcollo

Orcollo, who recently joined the International Pool Tour in February by winning a qualification tournament at Bellflower, CA, cruised unscathed through the winners' bracket of the 157-player event with victories over Todd Chapman, Corey Deuel, Tom Seymour, Tim Hall, and Rich Geiler. He met up with Davenport in the hot seat match after a hill-hill victory over Bill Ganne, only to steamroll Davenport 9-1.

Davenport, now on the one-loss side, was faced with Texas's Jui-Lung Chen, fresh off a 9-5 win over Owen. It was a tough match, but Davenport went on to relegate Chen to third place, thus advancing to the finals.

The rematch against Orcollo didn't go Davenport's way from the beginning,

as Orcollo sprinted to a 5-1 lead in the race to 9; however, Davenport rallied to turn the match around and win the next six racks in a row. He only allowed Orcollo another two games before winning the first set of the double-elimination finals 9-7.

In the second set, it was touch and go, and Orcollo ended up on the hill first with Davenport only trailing by a game. The Filipino scratched on the break, and "California Kid" dished up to bring it to hill-hill. Davenport broke and had no shot on the 1 and opted to push—Orcollo had a shot at the 1 ball and made it, clearing the table for his 9-8 victory.

RESULTS

1st Dennis Orcollo	13th Austin Murphy
2nd Kim Davenport	Ian Costello
3rd Jui-Lung Chen	Ernesto Dominguez
4th Gabe Owen	Paul Jaurez
5th Warren Kiamco	17th Bobby Hunter
Bill Ganne	Michelle Rakin
7th Gandy Valle	Corey Deuel
Chris Bartram	Chuck Evans
9th Rich Geiler	Trevor Smith
Robb Saez	Jeremy Jones
Edwin Montal	Tim Hall
Brian Parks	Danny Kuykendall

ABBINK REACHES THE ACME

ARIZONA WOMEN'S BILLIARD TOUR / PHOENIX, AZ

by *InsidePOOL Staff*

Cruising through undefeated, Rachael Abbink took top honors at the Arizona Women's Billiard Tour June 25-26. A total of 35 women from all over the Southwest and even Canada came out to Metro Sportz Bar in Phoenix, AZ, to play for the WPBA qualifier and \$1,240 in prize money.

One by one, contestants were eliminated until there were two left: Abbink and Bonnie Plowman. The Canadian easily won her way to the hot seat by besting all of her opponents by large margins. Plowman had easily won all of her matches that day as well, until she met up with Abbink, who had defeated her in an earlier match. Catching up to Holly Sholes



Rachael Abbink

in the semifinal match, Plowman triumphed in the hill-hill match after Sholes missed the last 9 ball, earning a shot at the title.

The first couple of games in the finals, a rematch between Abbink and Plowman, went back and forth. But from 2-all on, the match was all

Abbink. In the rare cases when she didn't have a good option on the table, she'd play a strong safety. There were a couple shots when Plowman could've taken advantage of the table but made some uncharacteristic mistakes that inevitably cost her each game. Abbink won the next five games in a row and won the match 7-2.

RESULTS

1st Rachael Abbink	7th Susan Mello
2nd Bonnie Plowman	Susan Williams
3rd Holly Sholes	9th Melinda Huang
4th Susan Wilbur	Noel Rima
5th Kristin Haney	Bernie Store
Julie Nogiec	Michelle Trevino

AK. AZ. CA. CO. HI. ID. MT. NM. NV. OR. UT. WA. WY.

VARDAMAN, CALLADO, WINTER VICTORIOUS IN ACUI 9-BALL CHAMPIONSHIPS

ACUI CHAMPIONSHIPS / TUCSON, AZ

by InsidePOOL Staff

The best collegiate players in the nation gathered in Tucson, AZ, the weekend of July 7-9, for the annual Association of College Unions International's (ACUI) Collegiate National 9-Ball Championships. This is the second year the event has partnered with the Billiard Congress of America's (BCA) Junior National Championships, but the ACUI has hosted a national collegiate billiards playoff nearly every year since the 1930s.

Lars Vardaman of Southern Illinois University in Edwardsville took home the ACUI men's title for a third year in a row. Only one other player in ACUI history has ever achieved this feat: Leroy Kinman of Eastern Kentucky State University (1949-1951). Vardaman charged virtually uncontested through the winners' side of the chart, logging victories over JP Engstrom of Boise State University 9-1, Tien Pham of the University of Washington 9-6, James Winter of UCLA 9-2, Ryan Balks of Michigan State University 9-3, and Andrew McKinn of Cal State University at Los Angeles 9-6. Philosophy doctoral student James Winter, in his fourth consecutive top-four appearance in the ACUI championships, was Vardaman's final contender. Winter, in his fifth and final year of ACUI eligibility, was aching for a title, having finished in second place in 2003 and 2005 and in third place in 2004. Winter first faced Vardaman in the third round, losing by a score of 9-2. He then dispatched five players on the one-loss side before facing Vardaman again for a rematch in the finals. But the alternating-break format prevented either player from gaining momentum. Failure to pocket a ball on his break, combined with a few bad rolls (including one ball that was pocketed but jumped back onto the table) kept Winter in his chair. Vardaman capitalized, running out at nearly every opportunity and exercising thoughtful safety play. He was unstoppable, allowing Winter only three games in a race to 9.

In the women's division, familiar names rose to the top as well, with twin sisters Eleanor and Emilyn Callado of



James Winter, Lars Vardaman, Betsy Sundholm, Eleanor Callado, Emilyn Callado



Men's Best Break / Aaron Reeseman



Women's Best Break / Mili Kozomara



Men's Sportsmanship / Joe Kuligowski



Women's Sportsmanship / Laura Van Grinsven

San Francisco State University facing each other in the finals. For Eleanor, it was a relatively easy road to the finals—her nearest contender en route to the hot seat match won only two games in a race to 7. She defeated local favorite Nicole Hayashi of Tucson's Pima Community College in the winners'-side finals 7-5. Emilyn, on the other hand, was stunned by the University of Florida's Amy Chen in her first match of the tournament 7-4 but fought her way through seven matches in the one-loss side. She tallied wins over Valerie Garcia of Texas A&M 7-6, Lai Li of the University of Maryland 7-6, Kristin Lupo of the University of Illinois 7-5, Marcia Keat of the University of Michigan 7-2, Amy Whitehead of Idaho State University 7-6, and her SFSU teammate Lynda Hinds 7-4. Her final and most convincing win was against Nicole Hayashi in the semifinals, a blowout of 7-0.

Despite Emilyn's newfound zone, a two-set finals match for the twins was not meant to be, as the elder Callado—born two minutes earlier—dashed her younger sister's hopes of a championship with a decisive 7-2 victory. This was the third ACUI championship title for Eleanor—she won at East Carolina University in 2003 and the University of Michigan in 2005. In 2004 she placed second behind Maria Juana of the University of Wisconsin. Lars Vardaman and Eleanor Callado are both BCA Junior tournament alumni. Vardaman was the Boys 14 & Under Artistic Pool champion in 1999 and the 18 & Under Artistic Pool runner-up in 2003. Eleanor was the Girls 18 & Under 9-Ball champion in 2002 and 2003.

The ACUI also recognizes its students for good sportsmanship and their breaking ability. Winners of the men's and women's sportsmanship trophies (voted by their peers) were Joe Kuligowski of Penn State University and Laura Van Grinsven of the University of Wyoming. Winners of the best break trophies (determined by a break contest) were Aaron Reesman of the University of Wisconsin in Whitewater and Milica Kozomara of Northern Illinois University.

AK. AZ. CA. CO. HI. ID. MT. NM. NV. OR. UT. WA. WY.

BERGMAN, KOSTANIAN, AND MURPHY REPEAT WHILE LOVELY NETS FIRST JUNIOR NATIONALS WIN
BCA JUNIOR NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS / TUCSON, AZ

by AZBilliards Staff

A trio of reigning champions successfully defended their titles, and one new champion emerged to claim Junior Nationals gold at the 2006 BCA Junior National Championships the first week of July. A total of 98 young hopefuls competed in the Tucson, AZ, event, which comprised four divisions, and represented 25 states and Canada.

The event started off with the finals in the 14 & Under Boys and Girls divisions, which came down to defending champion Chelsea Hardwick from Evansville, IN, going up against Elizabeth Lovely from Centerville, OH. This match was marred by nerves from both players, keeping them from bringing their "A" games to the table. Lovely took an early 2-0 lead, but Hardwick came back to take the next three racks in a row. The third game would be the last game Hardwick won, as Lovely took the next three racks for the 5-3 victory and her first Junior Nationals title.

The 14 & Under Boys Division featured IPT pro Austin Murphy from Folsom, CA, against Ryan Dunn from Hillsboro, TN. Murphy started this match playing cool and confident, taking what the table offered and not forcing anything to control the table, quickly building up a 4-0 lead. Murphy finally made a mistake, allowing Dunn to the table with ball in hand in the fifth rack. Dunn took full advantage of some uncharacteristic errors by Murphy, and soon the score was tied at 5-all. Dunn had the chance to get to the hill first but missed a 2-9 combo that led to a table run from Murphy to make the score 6-5 Murphy. The twelfth rack gave Dunn another chance, and he ran his way through some difficult shots but missed the 6 ball, and it was all over when Murphy ran the last three balls to defend his 14 & Under Boys title.

While both 14 & Under division matches were close until the end, the 19 & Under division matches were one-sided. The 19 & Under Girls division saw defending champion Anna Kostanian from Albuquerque, NM, take on 2004 champion Mary Rakin from Daly City, CA. Though the match started close, Kostanian took control and pounced on every miss by Rakin on her way to a 6-1 lead in the race-to-7 match. Rakin saw a short reprieve in the eighth rack when Kostanian missed the case 9 ball, but the match was over in the next game when Kostanian won a short safety battle and ran out for the 7-2 win.

While the 19 & Under Girls division was fairly one-sided, the 19 & Under Boys division was utter domination. Reigning champion Justin Bergman from Fairview, IL, played nearly perfect pool and kept Chad Palmer from Battle Creek, MI, in his chair for the majority of the match. Bergman ran out from everywhere, and Palmer couldn't get a roll to help him get started, allowing Bergman to cruise to

an 8-0 lead. Palmer ran a nice rack in the ninth game after a Bergman miss, but a foul on the 1 ball in the following by Palmer was the end, as Bergman confidently ran out the final rack for the 9-1 win.



Anna Kostanian



Austin Murphy

9-BALL RESULTS

19 & UNDER BOYS

- 1st Justin Bergman
- 2nd Chad Palmer
- 3rd Daniel Rakin

19 & UNDER GIRLS

- 1st Anna Kostanian
- 2nd Mary Rakin
- 3rd Allison Hardwick

14 & UNDER BOYS

- 1st Austin Murphy
- 2nd Ryan Dunn
- 3rd Corbin Coe

14 & UNDER GIRLS

- 1st Elizabeth Lovely
- 2nd Chelsea Hardwick
- 3rd Nicole Jaynes

ARTISTIC POOL

19 & UNDER BOYS

- 1st Mike Mallen
- 2nd Trey McMullen

19 & UNDER GIRLS

- 1st Allison Hardwick
- 2nd Mary Rakin

14 & UNDER BOYS

- 1st Austin Murphy
- 2nd Corbin Coe

14 & UNDER GIRLS

- 1st Nicole Jaynes
- 2nd Chelsea Hardwick

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J. PECHAUER WEST COAST TOUR / PORTLAND, OR

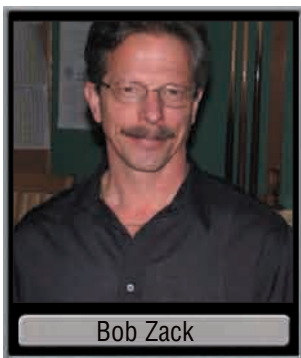
by *InsidePOOL Staff*

Bob Zack was the last man standing at the Rialto Poolroom the weekend of July 22-23. The J. Pechauer West Coast Tour stop rolled into Portland, OR, attracting not only a large field of men but five ladies as well.

Jesse Johnson was coming through the top bracket but was stopped in his tracks by Mike Stevens, a top point leader on the tour. Stevens also advanced over Todd Gooch and Zack to rest in the hot seat, waiting for an opponent.

In the one-loss side, Zack sent Jesse Allred, fresh off a quarterfinal win over Gary French, home early to get into the finals. In the single

race to 13, Zack, surrounded by his friends, ultimately won by the close score of 13-10.



Bob Zack

RESULTS

- 1st Bob Zack
- 2nd Mike Stevens
- 3rd Jesse Allred
- 4th Gary French
- 5th Todd Gooch
- Glenn Atwell
- 7th Michael Jensen
- Jesse Johnson

SHOLES A SURE THING

ARIZONA WOMEN'S BILLIARD TOUR / PEORIA, AZ

by *InsidePOOL Staff*

A rich purse and a WPBA qualifier brought 35 women to Sixshooters in Peoria, AZ. Held the weekend of July 22-23, this stop on the Arizona Women's Billiard Tour saw Holly Sholes take the top prize with her victory over Susan Mello.

Mello and Sholes met in the first match of the day on Sunday, with a landslide 7-0 victory going to Mello. Going on to the hot seat match, Mello defeated Noel Rima soundly.

Fighting back through to the finals, Sholes knew she would have to defeat Mello twice in the finals to win. Though Mello took an early 3-0 lead, Sholes came back to win the next seven racks in a row, winning the first set 7-3. They traded racks in the second set until the score was knotted at 3. From there, it was all Sholes again, as she put together runs and safeties to stay in control of the table, winning the second set 7-4.



Holly Sholes

RESULTS

- 1st Holly Sholes
- 2nd Susan Mello
- 3rd Noel Rima
- 4th Bonnie Plowman
- 5th Kristin Haney
- Susan Williams
- 7th Melinda Huang
- Marney Teague
- 9th Jeri Engh
- Zita Galoway
- Kristie Ortega
- Susan Wilbur

UPCOMING TOURNAMENTS SOUTHEAST

Date	Tournament	Venue	City, ST	Contact	\$ Added	Eligibility
9/2-10	IPT World 8-Ball Open	Reno Hilton	Reno, NV	internationalpooltour.com	\$3,000,000	Open
9/9-10	J. Pechauer North West Tour	Cadillac Long Island Casino	Longview, WA	503-674-8300	\$1,500	Open
9/16-17	Western Women's 9-Ball Tour	Hard Times	Sacramento, CA	916-332-8798	\$1,000	Ladies
9/23-24	J. Pechauer South West Tour	Family Billiards	San Francisco, CA	503-674-8300	\$2,000	Open
9/30-10/1	Glen White Memorial One-Pocket	Family Billiards	San Francisco, CA	415-931-1115	\$2,000	Open
10/4	International Speed Pool Challenge	ESPN Zone	Las Vegas, NV	860-379-8414	\$50,000	Invitational
10/4-5	Trick Shot Magic	ESPN Zone	Las Vegas, NV	860-379-8414	\$50,000	Invitational
10/7-8	Western Women's 9-Ball Tour	Broken Rack	Emeryville, CA	510-652-9808	\$1,000	Ladies
10/13-15	J. Pechauer North West Tour	Island Casino	Kennewick, WA	503-674-8300	\$1,500	Open
10/18-22	WPBA U.S. Open 9-Ball	Sandia Casino	Albuquerque, NM	704-344-8664	N/A	Pros
11/4-5	Arizona Women's Billiards Tour	Metro Sportz Bar	Phoenix, AZ	480-272-2016	\$500	Ladies
11/4-5	Western Women's 9-Ball Tour	Family Billiards	Sacramento, CA	415-931-1115	\$1,000	Ladies
11/8-12	WPBA National 9-Ball Champs	Chinook Winds Casino	Lincoln City, OR	704-344-8664	N/A	Pros
12/9-10	Arizona Women's Billiards Tour	Sixshooters Sports Grill	Phoenix, AZ	623-247-8540	\$500	Ladies
12/12-17	IPT King of the Hill Invitational	The Wynn	Las Vegas, NV	internationalpooltour.com	\$1,000,000	Invitational

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REGIONAL ROUNDUP

SECOND WIN FOR WILLIAMS

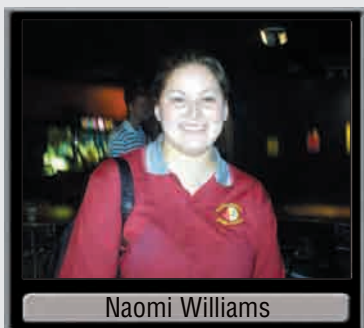
20K TOUR / SCARBOROUGH, ONT

by Willy Hermoza

Fifty players gathered at Pool Paradise for the 20K Tour's June 10-11 stop. Hosted by Shooters Billiards in Scarborough, ONT, this event saw Naomi Williams cruise unscathed to the winner's circle.

Williams won the hot seat over Rob Brandenburg with a defiant 6-3 victory, sending her opponent to the one-loss side. Roberto Ache and Paul Duell battled in the quarterfinal match, with Duell coming out ahead 7-3. He went on to face Brandenburg in the semis, where Brandenburg was successful in earning a rematch against Williams with his 8-3 win.

Brandenburg led 8-2 in the first set, almost certain that there would be a second, only to watch Williams grind back and take the match hill-hill, claiming her second tour stop.



Naomi Williams

RESULTS

- 1st Naomi Williams
- 2nd Rob Brandenburg
- 3rd Paul Duell
- 4th Roberto Ache
- 5th Al Lougheed
Jason Hunt
- 7th Colin Holdaway
Ron Ranalli

VIDAS VICTORIOUS IN TORONTO

20K TOUR / TORONTO, ONT

by Willy Hermoza

Six players cashed at the 20K Tour's stop June 18, but Mike Vidas took home the lion's share with his victory in the finals. The stop was hosted by Shooters in Toronto and attracted 39 participants.

Vidas went unscathed through the event, taking the hot seat with a 9-6 win over Al Lougheed, sending him to the one-loss side of the chart. Erik Hjorliefson was working his way through the west side, eliminating Ramon Mistica 9-6 and then sending Jason Klatt home with fourth place with a double-hill win. He then dispatched Lougheed 9-6, going on to face Vidas in the finals. As it was a true double-elimination match, Hjorliefson would have had to defeat Vidas twice to prevail; however, Vidas had other ideas and quickly closed the door with a 9-6 score.



Mike Vidas

RESULTS

- 1st Mike Vidas
- 2nd Erik Hjorliefson
- 3rd Al Lougheed
- 4th Jason Klatt
- 5th Leo Sauve
Ramon Mistica

MORRIS TAKES NO PRISONERS

TIGER CANADIAN WOMEN'S POOL TOUR / BURLINGTON, CAN

by InsidePOOL Staff

Danielle Morris battled through the 24-player field at the Tiger Canadian Women's Pool Tour event, held in Burlington at Bobby D's, to claim the top spot in the July 8-9 event.

Morris, ranked number two on the tour, had no problems in the first day and quickly made her way toward the second, where several ladies were waiting to thwart her efforts, such as Zabrina Wellmans, who went undefeated in Saturday's matches.

The hot seat match wobbled between Wellmans and Morris, but a rattled 8 ball was the final blow for Morris, causing her to move to the one-loss side. Waiting there was Naomi Williams, who ended up being plagued by bad luck. A bad roll from an otherwise great safety gave Morris the win in the

first set, then an unfortunate cue ball foul by Williams sealed the deal and advanced Morris to the final match.

The final table saw a rematch between Morris and Wellmans, and Morris was looking to avenge her early loss. In the first set she blazed through 6-1, but the second set was a toss-up early on. As play continued, Morris reached the hill again, and Wellmans' dry break left Morris to run out a perfectly played rack and claim the title.

RESULTS

- 1st Danielle Morris
- 2nd Zabrina Wellmans
- 3rd Naomi Williams

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Efren Reyes	\$65,000	Mika Immonen	\$17,000	Bobby Hunter	\$10,000
Ralf Souquet	\$50,000	Jason Kirkwood	\$17,000	Markus Juva	\$10,000
Evgeny Stalev	\$40,000	Alex Lely	\$17,000	Jon Kucharo	\$10,000
Ronato Alcano	\$30,000	Antonio Lining	\$17,000	Marko Lohtander	\$10,000
Darren Appleton	\$30,000	Rafael Martinez	\$17,000	Sam Monday	\$10,000
Francisco Bustamante	\$30,000	Rodney Morris	\$17,000	Steve Moore	\$10,000
Marcus Chamat	\$30,000	Shawn Putnam	\$17,000	Ronnie O'Sullivan	\$10,000
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Rodolfo Luat	\$30,000	Earl Strickland	\$17,000	John Schmidt	\$10,000
Larry Nevel	\$30,000	Sandor Tot	\$17,000	Nick Varner	\$10,000
Gabe Owen	\$30,000	Nick Van den Berg	\$17,000	James Walden	\$10,000
Alex Pagulayan	\$30,000	Gary Abood	\$10,000	Jimmy Wetch	\$10,000
Daryl Peach	\$30,000	Johnny Archer	\$10,000	Charlie Williams	\$10,000
Dee Adkins	\$17,000	Karl Boyes	\$10,000	Johl Younger	\$10,000
Yannick Beaufiles	\$17,000	Sarah Ellerby	\$10,000		
Corey Deuel	\$17,000	Vilmos Foldes	\$10,000		

CANADIAN WOMEN'S POOL TOUR

Naomi Williams	550
Danielle Morris	510
Carrie Dwyer	350
Brittany Bryant	300
Zabrina Wellman	280
Nikki Manzer	270
Terri Mason	270
Sharlene Watkinson	210
Dorothy Brown	180
Susan Wipper	145
Dawn Craigie	140
Grace Nakamura	140
Leanne Amable	140
Elizabeth Kishimoto	130
Sheryl Richmond	130
Donna Sasges	120

J. PECHAUER WEST COAST TOUR

Robert Zack	785
Glenn Atwell	550
Mike Stevens	390
John Doherty	320
Gary French	310
Don Wirtaman	295
Raul Abenojar	250
Al Perez	240
Lee Remmers	215
Mark Tademey	200
Pat Schumacher	185
Pete Gates	180
Brian Bergman	175
Robert Colby	175
Michael Jensen	170
Todd Gooch	165

HUNTER CLASSICS WOMEN'S TOUR

Lisa Brannen	710
Anna Kostanian	625
Leslie Anne Rogers	520
Heather Lloyd	510
Xiaoting Pan	400
Terry Petrosino	380
Christina De la Garza	350
Amanda Lampert	340
Belinda Lee	325
Jennifer Kraber	255
Tara McCracken	230
Kim Pierce	230
Helen Hayes	210
Kyu Yi	210
Lisa Henderson-Major	205
Shayla Neris	200

J. PECHAUER NORTHEAST WOMEN'S TOUR

Caroline Pao	930
Kathy Friend	805
Gina Lipsky	755
Morgan Steinman	595
Barbara Stock	575
Pamela Treadway	540
Carol Clark	465
Tiffany Nelson	360
Annette Carroll	320
Ellen Yu	260
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Sherry Pouncey	250
Melissa Jenkins	245
Sueyen Rhee	225
Liz Taylor	225
Kathleen Lawless	220

BLAZE 9-BALL TOUR

Mike Davis	3035
Matt Krah	2095
Danny Basavich	1535
Eddie Abraham	1255
Billy Kirschner	1050
Shaun Wilkie	1030
Gary Barnish	685
Jerry Slivka	670
Wali Muhammad	635
David Abraham	610
Al Lapena	590
Carmen Lombardo	565
Oscar Bonilla	550
Bill Smith Jr.	460
Mark Pantovic	460
Paul Robinson	450

LADIES' SPIRIT TOUR

Tracie Hines	710
Debbie Schjodt	580
Jeannie Seaver	525
Xiaoting Pan	425
Leslee Davis Blaikie	360
Ellen Van Buren	350
Charlotte Sorensen	320
Stephanie Mitchell	310
Crystal McCormick	300
Niki Rasmussen	275
Helene Caukin	250
Tiffany Nelson	250
Bonnie Coats	230
Vanessa Seaver	230
Dianna Lane	225
Emily Wilmoth	215

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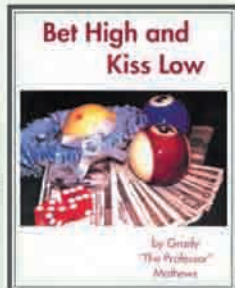
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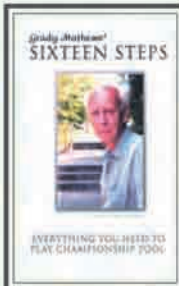
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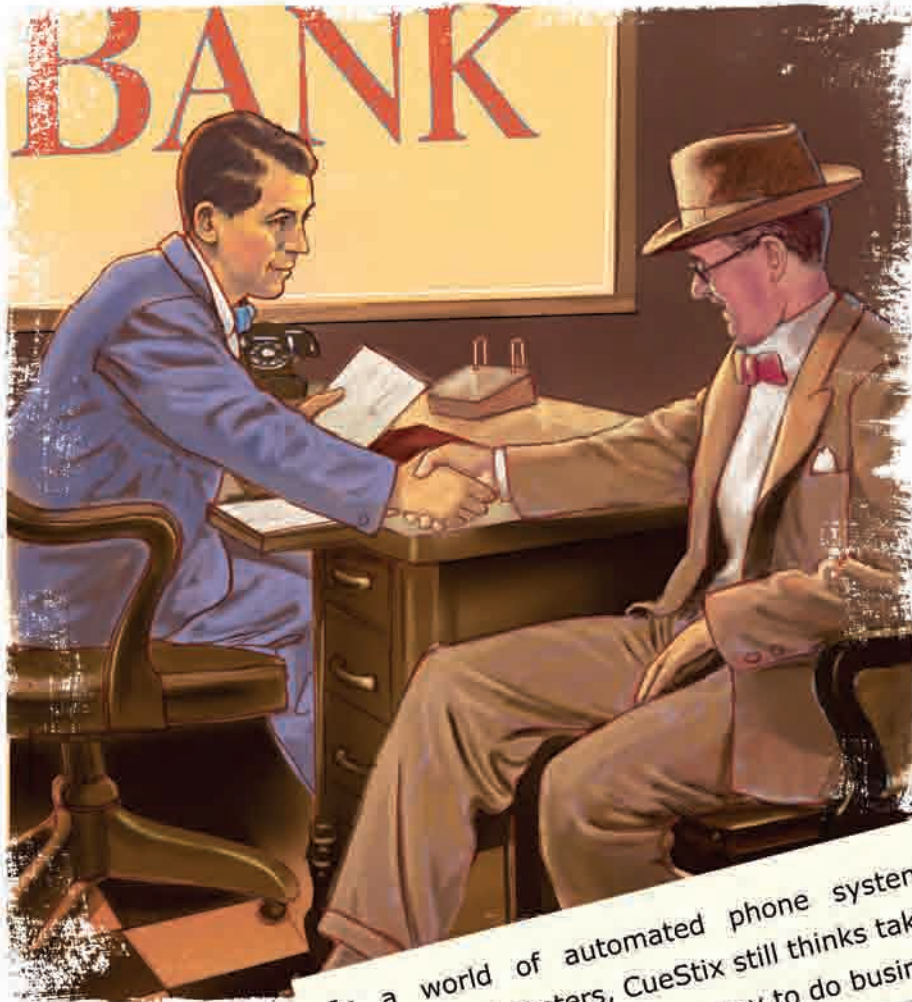
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