

# Billiards Buzz

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**CHAMPION**  
St. Johann Im Pongau, Austria 2026



**CHAMPION**  
St. Johann Im Pongau, Austria 2026

# Champs In Austria

**BILLARD  
BECKMANN  
MEN'S  
OPEN**

Volume 10, Issue #117

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# FROM THE Head Rail

MIKE HOWERTON

I hope everyone has a safe and happy Fourth of July this year. Me, I'll be holding on to my dogs to comfort them from all of the loud noise.

In this month's issue, you will notice that Matchroom has signed a deal with ESPN to broadcast the Mosconi Cup and US Open on ESPN+ this year.

I see a lot of online complaints that ESPN+ is a paid service, so it's not really an opportunity for them to see the events without paying the fee that they would have to pay for WNT TV.

I think that people are not seeing the big picture. Yes, it is not a chance for YOU to see the event for free. What it is though is a chance for a LOT of people who already pay for ESPN+ to see those events when they might not even know they were happening in the past. That helps build the audience for the sport as a whole and that is great for the sport.

It has been said in the past that the members of the billiards industry would rather scrape and claw for 10% of 100, instead of working together for 5% of 1000.

Let's hope that isn't the case anymore.

Until next time.



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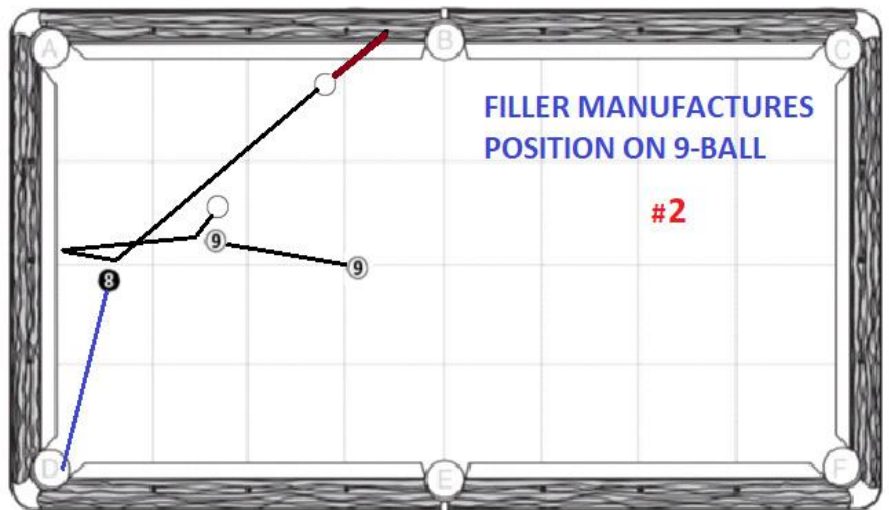


# SHOTS & THOUGHTS FROM THE UK OPEN

## FILLER'S SUPER 5-RAIL BANK SAFETY

When it comes to seeing shots that other's don't – well – my money's on Joshua Filler. In the Round of 32 at the recent UK Open Filler was faced with a choice, to go for the default choice, which is a long rail bank on the 7-ball, or play safe. I am glad he chose the later because he was able to conjure up the shot shown in **Diagram #1**, which is a five rail bank on the 7-ball, sending the 7 around the table and back to about where it started. Meanwhile, the cue ball traveled four rails to its resting spot behind the 9-ball! I give this shot a string of A+s – one for imagination, one for planning, and another for execution.

A big lesson here is that, when it comes to playing safeties, sometimes a little more time spent looking for a novel and potentially devastating

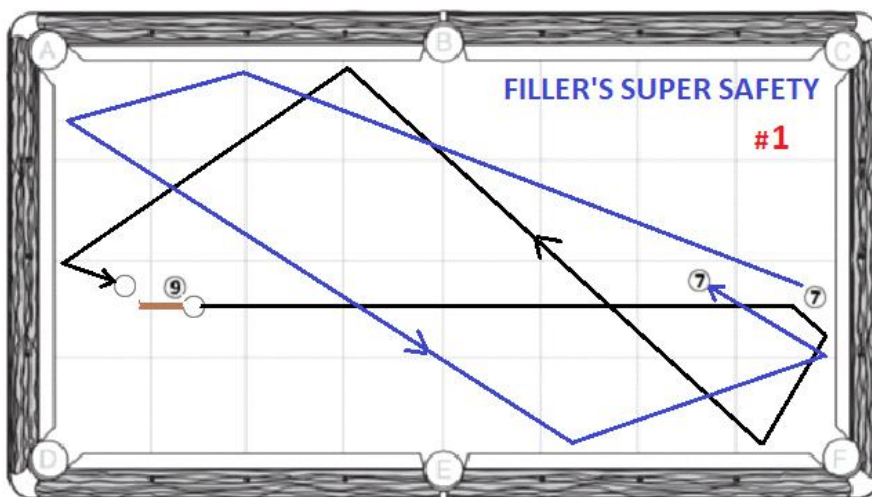


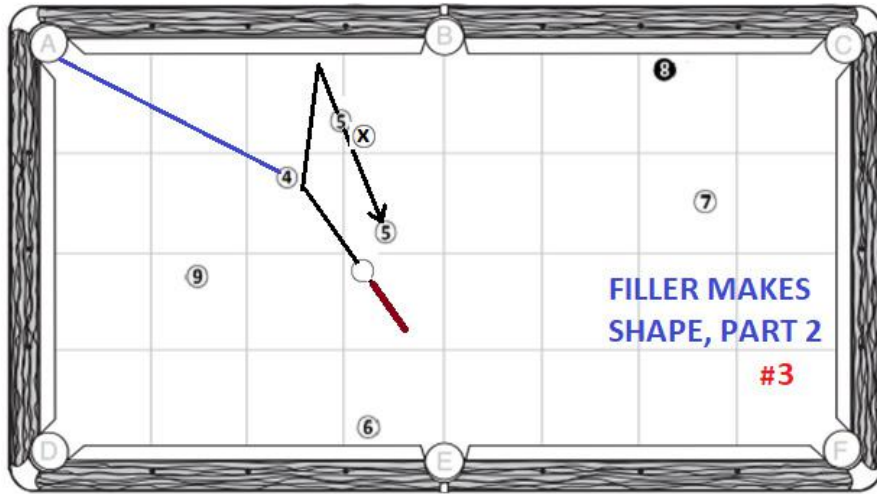
safety play could result in something like Filler's masterpiece. As an added bonus, when you pull off a super safety that your opponent didn't see coming, you can add be sure that a shot like this will have an impact on your opponent's state of mind.

## FILLER'S MANUFACTURES HIS POSITION

Joshua Filler, on his way to a hotly contested 10-7 win Niels Feijen, showed his creativity with a pair of shots in which he made his position by hitting the next ball in the rack.

The first came in game 6 when Niels left himself with a thin cut on the 8-ball and missed, leaving Filler with the position shown in **Diagram #2**. Filler might have tried to roll in the 8, but that is a touchy shot at this distance with this cut angle, and with the prospect of having to shoot the 9-ball with the cue ball far down the table. Trying to power in the 8 and go around the table would be a tough assignment as well. So, he opted to make his position by coming off the rail and into the 9-ball. He took plenty of time while doing about 8 short WUS





before sending the cue ball off the end rail on a precise path into the 9. This resulted in a long but nearly straight in shot, which is a hanger for someone of his shotmaking skill.

Yes, Filler is human as he showed us in game 13 when, even with ball-in-hand, he came up short of his position zone and was forced to play the recovery shot shown in **Diagram #3**. While planning this shot, Filler walked over and laid his cue on the cushion exactly where he wanted the cue ball to come off the side rail and into the 5-ball. I love to see players survey the table like this and to use their cue to signal their intentions to viewers like you and me.

Filler then executed the shot perfectly, leaving himself with a simple shot on the 5 and easy position on the 6-ball. So, two times within eight racks Filler showed his shape manufacturing skill, one that comes in handy when playing Straight Pool, which he practices regularly.

## SPOTLIGHT ON MOMENTUM

Viewers of the first semifinal match between Jonas Souto and Wojciech Szewczyk at the UK Open were treated to a masterful display of cueman-ship by Szewczyk as he dominated play, winning 11-3. At one point, the

score was 5-3 in his favor when Souto had what looked like a routine runout. But he missed position on the 8-ball, went for a tough bank and made it but scratched and, in the process, lost his chance to close the gap to 5-4.

Instead, as pool match math teaches us, losing a game is like losing two in that now he trailed by 3, 6-3. With the momentum now working in his favor, Szewczyk closed out the match by winning the next five games. So, once again, as the commentators mentioned several times, game 9 was the pivotal one as it turned what could have been a close encounter into a rout.

The Lesson: When you experience a potential momentum creator, that is the time to put the pedal to the metal and make you opponent pay heavily for their mistake.

## SZEWczyk's BIG STOP

This match provided viewers with a good look at Szewczyk's style of play. He is very meticulous in his approach to each shot. I particularly like the way he uses a number of AWUS (air warmup strokes) on so many shots as these arm swings, taken while he is standing on the line-of-aim, loosen up his shooting arm. Then, when he's over the shot, he goes through a number of smooth and full WUS, which I see as yet another big plus.

But then, as WUS cycle comes to an end, he comes to a Big Stop. This is not a pause, as pauses tends to last up to a full second, but rather it's a complete stop, which can last from about 3-5 seconds depending on the difficulty of the shot. This Big Stop then necessitates two decisions: one to stop, and another to start the final stroke. And his Big Stop forces him to restart the swinging motion of his shooting arm from a dead standstill.

Most of the moves that we make when playing our shots are either a net positive or negative for our game. In Szewczyk's case, I wonder if he plays as well as he does because of the Big Stop, or in spite of it? I would love to see him drop the stop and adopt the Continuous Motion style of play. Besides eliminating those two big decisions, it would enable him to better access the flow state. And, another big plus from eliminating the Big Stop is that he would shave several crucial seconds off of his routine, which would lead to so many more shots being able to be played without the time clock exerting its pressure on him. And it would enable him to spend those precious seconds on some other crucial element of his routine.

In sports, there are countless stories of players who revamped their game and went on to a successful run of play. In golf, Jack Nicklaus, at age 40, made a big change in his swing in early 1980 and went on to win two majors that year. And Tiger Woods totally revamped his swing after winning the 1997 Masters by 12 shots, and went on a historic run of winning 13 majors in the 10 years from 1999-2008.

If these champions can change their games, I see no reason why Szewczyk couldn't eliminate the Big Stop. And if he did, that might just be the catalyst to winning numerous big titles. PS: Joshua Filler, Szewczyk's opponent in the finals, does not pause at the cue ball nor at the end of his backstroke.

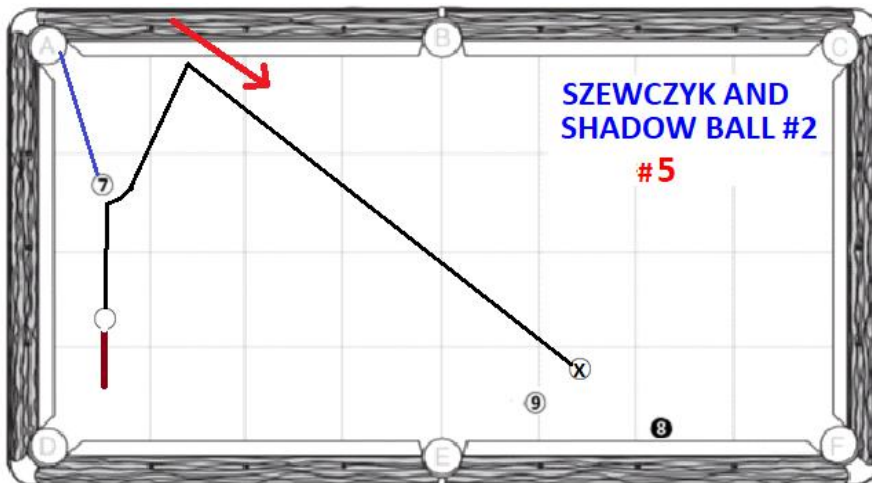
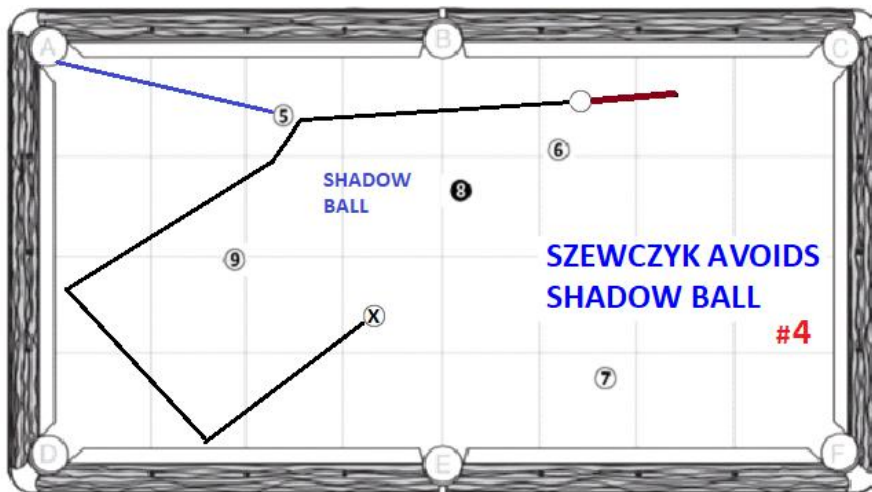
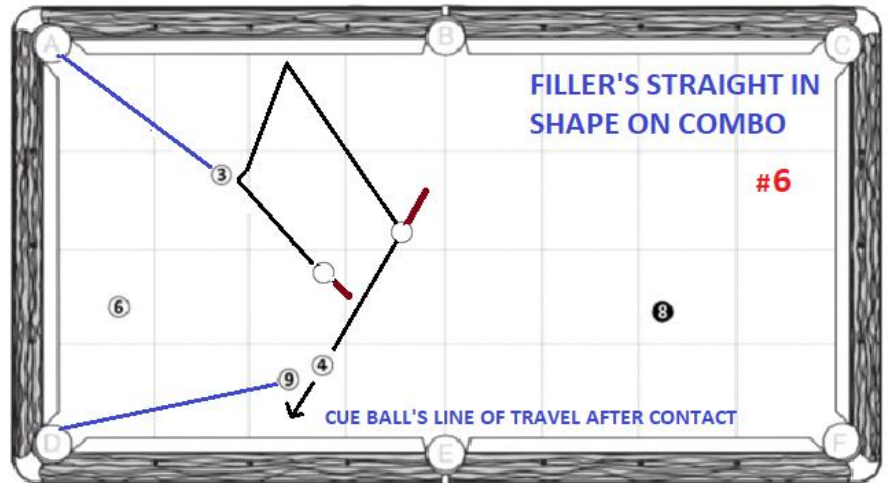
**SZEWczyk AVOIDS SHADOW BALL**

In the first game of his semifinal match with Souto, Szewczyk was faced with a tricky position play from the 5-ball to the 6-ball as shown in **Diagram #4**. Readers of this monthly feature in the Buzz may recall that I introduced the term Shadow Ball in my first one, and have been harping on it ever since. Why? Because balls in the Shadow Ball position represent one of the biggest obstacles to running out in 9-ball, so I want to make sure that you give them all of the respect that they deserve.

In the position shown, imagine that the 8-ball was near where the word “Avoids” ends. Now getting on the 6-ball would not be too difficult. But

in this case, the 8-ball was acting as Shadow Ball, one that reduced the size of the position zone on the 6-ball, and that offered the possibility of a hook behind it. Szewczyk carefully plotted his route and then executed

it to near perfection. Notice that the cue ball was coming straight down the line of the position zone, and that he did not try to get too close to the 6-ball. Indeed, the emphasis was on direction more than on speed.



**SZEWczyk AND SHADOW BALL #2**

**Diagram #5** shows how Szewczyk handled yet another layout with a Shadow Ball. This time it came with only three balls left on the table. He walked over and surveyed the shot from the position shown by the red line. He had a small angle on the 7-ball, so he needed to use a Medium Hard (6) stroke. At higher speeds it becomes increasingly difficult to control the cue ball's rolling distance. In this case, I would guess that the cue ball stopped a foot or so past where he was trying to stop it. Still, from the position shown he was able to play a three rail route to the 9-ball on his way to winning this game.

**FILLER'S SUPER COMBO SHAPE**

The second semifinal match was between Filler and Jayson Shaw. Filler was up, 5-2 when he was faced with the layout shown in **Diagram #6**. He had his pick from several options: 1) Play shape for a bank on the 4-ball, 2) Try to break the 4-9 cluster and

take put luck, 3) Play some kind of safety after the 3-ball, 4) Try to get on the 4 for a long shot into the corner, or 5) Play shape on the 4-9 combo. I am glad he chose option 5 because it came with a valuable lesson on playing combos.

Filler walked over to check out the position that he wanted the cue ball to stop after playing the 3-ball. His desired position was for a shot that would enable him to shoot directly at the 4-ball! This is the ideal shape for playing combos because you now only need to think about making the full hit on the first ball, and not, as in the case with most combos, worry about cutting the first ball into a cut shot on the second ball!

As you can see, his shape was perfect for two reasons: The 9-ball went in, and the cue ball followed straight forward after contact, which indicates that he made a full hit the 4-ball!

### SOUTO TAKES HIS MEDICINE

In the second game of Jonas Souto's semifinal match with Wojciech Szewczyk he made a difficult backcut on the 4-ball, but failed to get a large enough angle on the 5-ball to easily send the cue ball up table for the 6-ball. When planning his shot for the 5-ball Souto carefully surveyed the table, looking at the angle he needed for the 6-ball.

He then favored the left side of the pocket on the 5-ball, which enabled

the cue ball to hit the side rail and roll out for a playable shot on the 6-ball. Souto then walked to the opposite end of the table and pointed to where he wanted the cue ball to hit the end rail, and to its resting spot (the red dot) for a cut shot on the 7-ball. He then executed his plan to near perfection as his cue ball stopped a few inches from the target he set.

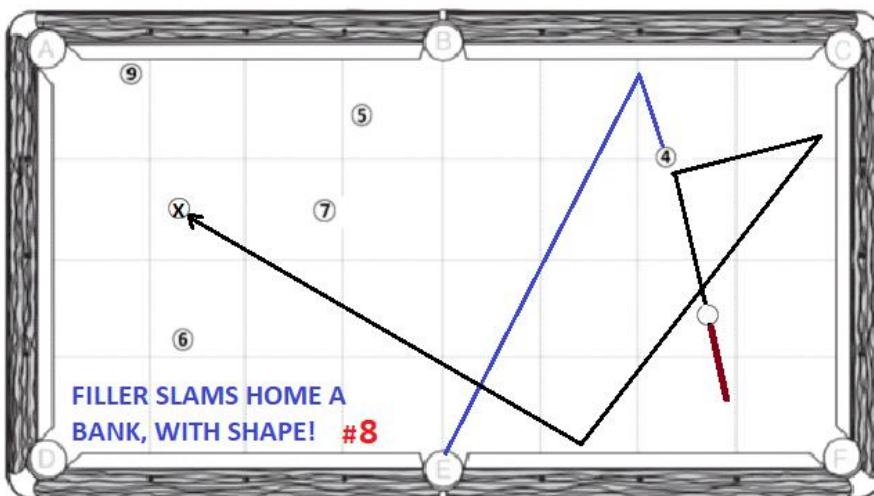
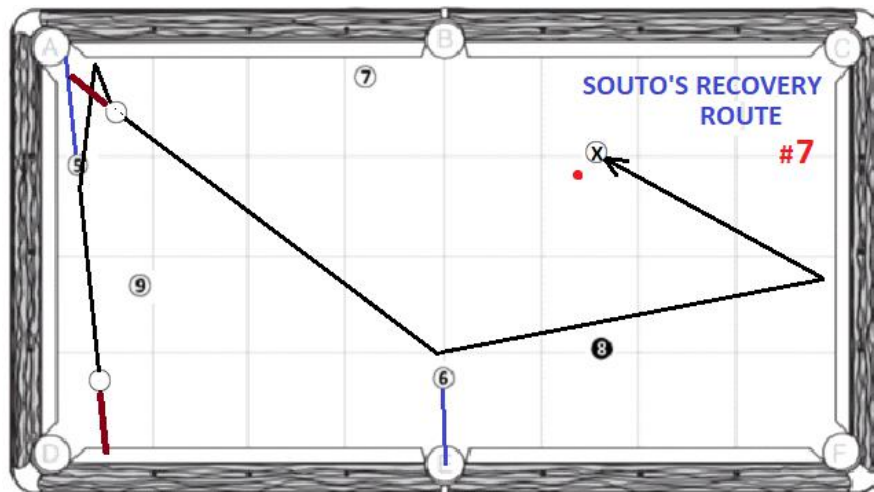
The Lesson: Sometimes after missing your position you need to play for workable shape on the next ball, then play a challenging recovery route, as Souto did in this position.

### FILLER SLAMS HOME A BANK

It seems as if Filler never misses a bank he takes on, which again was the case in game 5 of the UK Open. But what makes the one shown in Diagram #8 so special is the position route he played to get shape on the 5-ball. His cut angle on the 4-ball was rather small, so he had to use an extremely hard stroke (9) in order to send the cue ball to the opposite end of the table. In sum, the two main ingredients to this shot were the imagination to see it, and a powerful stroke to play it. What else can I say but Bravo!

### ABOUT PHIL CAPELLE

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



# Fear Exists in the Imagination

ANTHONY BEELER

If the internal state you want during your next match is fearlessness, contentment, and confidence, this approach can help you create the mental freedom needed to perform more effectively under pressure.

Fear often begins with something that has not happened yet. It comes from imagining a future mistake, loss, embarrassment, or disappointment. Because the mind believes that a poor result could negatively affect what happens next, that imagined future begins to influence how you think and feel in the present.

Players may fear missing an important ball, disappointing others, or damaging their reputation. Because these possible outcomes feel harmful, they become larger in the mind. The player begins focusing on how to avoid failure instead of how to execute the shot. That is when tension, hesitation, and nervousness begin to take over.

## The Outcome Is Always Uncertain

No matter how skilled you become, you will never have complete control over the outcome of every shot, game, or match.

Even the greatest players in the world miss easy balls, misjudge speed, scratch unexpectedly, or receive an unfortunate roll. Pool contains too many variables for the outcome to ever be guaranteed.

There is always a range of possible outcomes. Your next match could be one of the best performances of your life. You



could play steady and solid. You could struggle early and recover. You could play below your normal level. You simply do not know.

Accepting that uncertainty is not weakness. It is reality.

## Surrender the Outcome

Before competition, players often try to predict how they will perform. They tell themselves they are going to play great, dominate the match, or win the tournament.

That may sound positive, but it can create pressure.

A healthier approach is to say:

“I do not know exactly how I will play, but I will give my full attention and effort to every shot.”

This way of thinking removes the burden of trying to control something that cannot be fully controlled. You are no longer demanding a particular outcome from yourself. Instead, you are committing to the process.

You cannot guarantee victory, but you can prepare well, choose wisely, stay composed, and give each shot your complete attention.

## Expect Nothing and Accept Everything

Trying to convince yourself that you will definitely play well can lead to unnecessary expectations. Pool rarely unfolds exactly as planned.

You may receive a bad roll. Your opponent may play exceptionally well. You may miss an easy shot or struggle with speed control. If you entered the match believing everything had to go your way, frustration can quickly take over.

It is better to admit the truth:

“I will do my best on every shot, but I do not know exactly how the match will unfold.”



There are several reasons this is useful.

First, it is honest.

Second, it reduces the disappointment created by unrealistic expectations.

Third, when you accept that every outcome is possible, including an undesirable one, you stop fearing it so intensely. You come to terms with the possibility before it happens.

That acceptance weakens the control that fear has over you in the present moment.

## Acceptance Is Not Approval

Accepting that a poor result is possible does not mean you approve of it or do not care.

Competitive players naturally prefer winning over losing and strong execution over poor execution. Acceptance does not mean becoming indifferent. It means understanding that wanting a particular outcome does not guarantee it.

You can care deeply, compete intensely, and still accept uncertainty.

No matter how much you want to play well, there will be times when you do not. By accepting that possibility before the match begins, you give yourself more freedom during competition and reduce the frustration that follows mistakes.

That freedom can improve performance.

## One Match Does Not Define You

Your identity should not depend on whether you win or lose a pool match.

You are still the same player and the same person after a poor performance. One missed ball, one bad set, or one disappointing tournament does not erase your ability, effort, experience, or character.

When players depend on good results to feel secure, every shot becomes emotionally dangerous. A miss feels like more than a miss. It feels like proof that something is wrong with them.

That creates fear.

When your sense of self remains intact regardless of the result, you gain freedom. You can focus on solving the table instead of protecting your ego.

## Gratitude and Acceptance Do Not Make You Less Competitive

Gratitude does not reduce competitive intensity. It creates a healthier foundation for it.

The opportunity to compete, improve, and test your skills is something to appreciate. When you approach the table with gratitude, you are operating from a sense of having rather than constantly striving for something that you believe will finally make you satisfied.

You can still want to win. You can still compete with focus, discipline, and determination. The difference is that your intensity is supported by appreciation rather than fear.

Gratitude also provides a buffer against setbacks. A missed ball, poor roll, or lost game becomes easier to handle when you remember that you still have the opportunity to compete and learn.

Players generally think more clearly and perform more freely when they are calm, present, and appreciative.

## Final Thoughts

Fear grows when you attempt to control the future.

Freedom begins when you accept that the outcome is uncertain and place your

attention on what you can control right now.

Prepare well. Study the table. Commit to your decisions. Give every shot your full attention. Accept the results without allowing them to define you.

Expect nothing. Accept everything. Compete with gratitude.

That is how you create the freedom to play your best pool.

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

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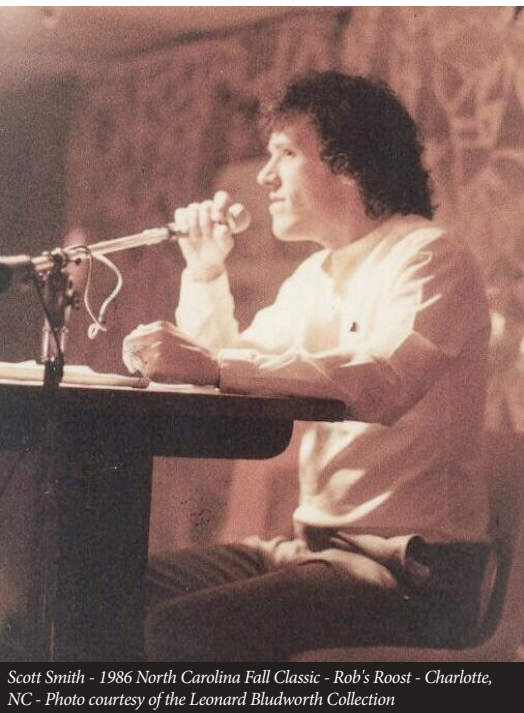
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# CHALKIN' UP THE MEMORIES...



**I walked into Rob's Roost and it was packed. Packed with players, sweaters, bettors and fans. Making the rounds, I stopped every few feet to say hello or talk to players and friends I'd hadn't seen in a while. There was action on the four tight Gandy tables that had been brought in for the tournament. I was in heaven!**

**A**fter an hour or so, Tournament Director Scott Smith got on the mic and started auctioning off the players. To no one's surprise, Buddy Hall and Earl Strickland were the top pics and Nick Varner, Mike Sigel, Wade Crane, Jose Parica and Efrén Reyes also went for big money. There were so many solid players and each one went for top dollar. There was plenty of money in the room and it was so much fun watching all the interplay between the bidders.



Scott Smith - 1986 North Carolina Fall Classic - Rob's Roost - Charlotte, NC - Photo courtesy of the Leonard Bludworth Collection

As one of the top female players, I went for a pretty good amount and as previously, I was bought by old man Kiker – he owned the place with his son, Rob. After the Calcutta, players meeting and draw was done, he sidled up to me and pressed a C-note into my hand telling me it was a down payment and to knock 'em dead. Sweet!

As the tournament wore on, I kept winning and after each match, the old man would come by and stuff another hundred in my hand. I reached the hot seat match and he tucked a few bills into my pocket. I thanked him and headed to the ladies room to see how much he had given me. This time it was \$300!

Well, I won the match and locked up my seat in the finals. And, once again, here came the old man. Closing my hand around a wad of cash, he told me if I won the tournament, there'd be a lot more than that in it for me! In the ladies room, I saw it was another five hundred! I remember thinking if he was giving me all this money, how much was he betting?!!!

My opponent in the finals was Bonnie Hoffman. Although she was still in high school, she had a monstrous break and played pretty sporty but she didn't have a chance this time.

I was chasing a jackpot and poor Bonnie was in my way! I wound up winning the match 9-3 and after the men's finals, they took some photos and handed out the prize money and trophies. I received a check for \$1400. I'd already made almost that much from the old man's gaps!

It wasn't long before the old man found me.

"You done good, girl! I knew you could do it!" he said as he pressed another wad of bills into my hand and told me he'd see me next time.

Again, I thanked him as I knew he didn't have to give me a quarter. He winked as he gave my arm a squeeze as he told me he had to go collect his bets.

I raced to the bathroom and was astonished to see he'd given me another \$2000! SCORE!!! No telling how much he'd bet on me to give me that much!

I was a happy camper and later that night, we all ended up at the Waffle House. The place was packed with people from the tournament. Five of us had crammed into one of those tiny booths – Leonard Bludworth, Wade Crane and his wife, Linda, Buddy and me.

Of course and as usual, when I was walking into the office to check out the next morning, a horn honked. I turned around and saw Charlie and Martha waving as they drove away together.

Later that winter, it was time to go back to Cleveland. Tournament promoter and room owner Frank Zummo had put together his first hotel tournament. The men played straight pool and the women played nine ball.

It was freezing cold when we got there and it had started to snow. By evening, two feet of snow had accumulated since we'd checked in, hit some balls and had our players meeting and draw.

And it was still coming down. Frank was upset because he knew that there would be few spectators coming to watch. As players, we were happy that we didn't have to leave the building to go to our rooms.

However, the tournament room was packed with family, friends and peo-



Bonnie Hoffman - '86 California Mixed 9 Ball Open - Anaheim, CA  
- Photo courtesy of the Robert Ross Collection

We'd just ordered our food when Martha Wilson came flying through the door. Mad as a hornet, she scanned the place.

She spotted us and marched over asking if we'd seen Charlie Brinson – her on again, off again boyfriend.

We told her we hadn't seen him since the tournament and Buddy asked her why she was so upset.

She told us that even though we all knew they fought like cats and dogs, this time it was all over – she'd had it. She was done.

Next thing we knew, in walked Charlie. He scanned the restaurant and spotted Martha. Taking huge strides, he reached us in no time. Standing nose to nose with Martha, he held his hand out and demanded the room key so he “could get his stuff out” and hit the road.

Not missing a beat, she spit out, “Hell, no! I wouldn't trust you, Charlie Brinson, in a shit house with a muzzle on!”

Well, I lost it. As a northeasterner, I'd heard my share of southern sayings and expressions but this one made me almost spit out my coffee. I struggled to contain my laughter as the others looked at me thinking, “what's so funny?!!!!”



Leonard Bludworth - International & American Cue-makers  
Hall of Famer - '86 Nine Ball Classic Cup V - Chicago, IL -  
Photo courtesy of the Leonard Bludworth Collection



*Martha Wilson, Wade Crane ("Billy Johnson") & Charlie Brinson - 1985 - Photo courtesy of the Wade Crane Collection*

only space left in the corner and the east side location had better parking and a one large space. No matter how I tried to lay out the tables and a bar area, I couldn't fit more than fifteen tables in the west side location so we decided to sign a lease on the east side.

I put together a list of about two hundred items that I had to purchase in order to open the room from chalk to matches to coat hooks to pool tables. We wanted to have an elevated bar area so Freddie took care of all the construction while I contacted people I knew in the industry for the tables and other equipment. Little did I realize that Japan was having an explosion following the film, "The Color Of Money," - just about every Gold Crown in the United States was going over there!

I managed to get hold of four new Gold Crowns from a friend that owned a billiard supply in Reno and thirteen

ple that had booths. The legendary banker and raconteur, Truman Hogue, had tagged along with the crew that had set up the tables and he was holding court with some of the other players.

He brought the room to tears with his declaration that his worst nightmare had finally come true - being snowed in and trapped at a straight pool tournament!

I had accumulated many top three finishes since I'd started playing in the WPBA events again in 1984. I had won a few events including taking the 1987 WPBA Nationals and closed out the year with a number two ranking on the tour.

For some time, Freddie and I had been talking about opening a billiard room in Las Vegas so even though I was at the top of my game, I decided to take some time off from tournament play and concentrate on my financial future.

We scoured the city for a location and narrowed it down to two - one was where Pool Sharks (now Griff's) had opened a few years later and the

other was on the east side about two miles from the Strip. Both locations were surrounded by hundreds of apartments and had the demographic we were aiming for.

Both shopping centers were brand new but the west side location had



*Mary Kenniston, Belinda Calhoun, room owner Frank Zumma, Peg Ledman & Loreejon Ogonowski-Brown - '87 Cleveland Open - Eastlake, OH - Photo courtesy of the Pool & Billiard Magazine Collection*

Gandys from LoreeJon's parents who owned a billiard supply in New Jersey. We also purchased two Soren Sogaard three cushion tables for a total of nineteen tables.

I picked out finishes, window coverings, carpet, tile and paint in addition to bar stools and chairs. I purchased all brand new equipment for the bar while the slot machine company built the bar itself.

We were one of the first rooms in the country to use a computer to handle our pool time and incorporate all the things that a room needed – off and on, switching tables, running a tab, etc. I worked with a company out of Denver to customize the computer to handle all the billiard room needs. For quite a while, their advertisement in the billiard publications featured our room layout on the computer screen.

I know it's hard to believe that commercial pool table lighting was not



*Rex Cannon & Toby Fleharty - '88 Cue-Topia - Las Vegas, NV - Photo courtesy of Mary Kenniston*

available at that time but we had to build our own. We decided to go to a sheet metal shop to have the shells fabricated. After they were finished, we took them to an auto body shop to have them painted black on the outside and reflective white on the inside. We then hired an electrician to put the ballasts and wiring in and they were ready to hang.

Over the previous few years I had become good friends with Leonard Bludworth and he told me that he would come out to set up our tables. Once the room was ready for the tables, I gave Leonard a call and within a few days, he and his son, Donald, drove up. With military precision, they installed the tables and hung the lights.

It had taken four months of sixteen hour days to build the room out and we were finally ready to open on July 18, 1988.

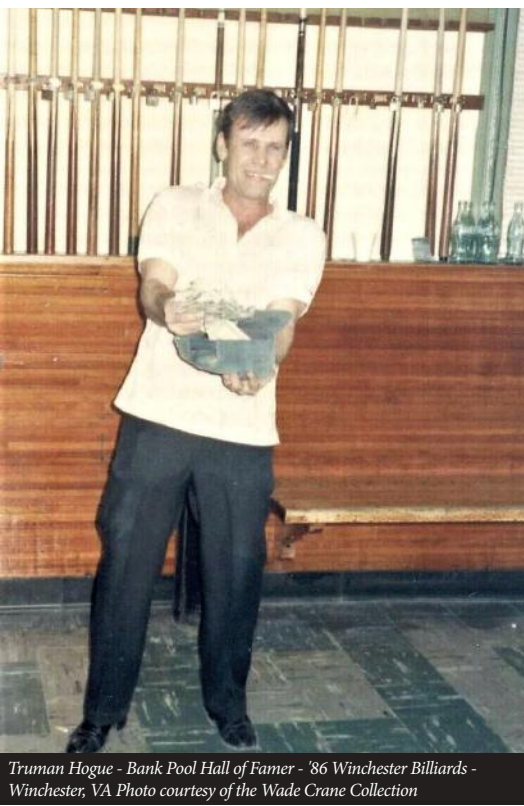
One of the Las Vegas oldtimers, Rex Cannon, had stopped by each morning for the last couple months to check on our progress – always wanting to know when we were going to open. Finally, Rex walked in one day and I handed him a rack of balls.

He wasn't on the table ten minutes when he hollered, "Mare, where are the bridges?"

Duh. I couldn't believe it. I had checked off everything on my list the night before but bridges weren't on it! In my defense and being six feet tall, I used a bridge about twice a year! I ran back to the office, pulled a slip on bridge head out of my case and brought it out to Rex. I then returned to the office and called the local billiard supply to purchase nineteen bridges.

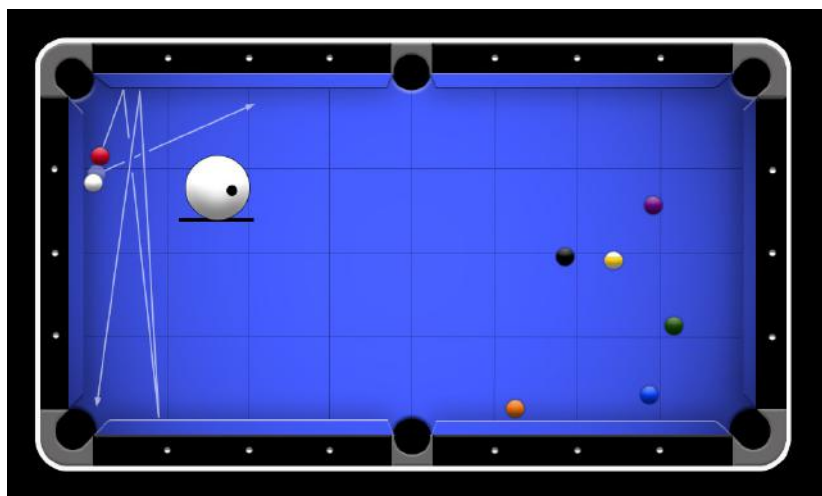
The next person who walked in the door was a young kid who wanted a Pepsi. I poured him one and he handed me a roll of nickels! You know how every business has their first dollar framed and hung on the wall? Not me - I got a roll of nickels...

Known in the pool world as "Nightmare," Mary is a former world & national champion, a WPBA Hall of Famer & owned Cue-Topia in Las Vegas, NV. She has thousands of billiard-related photos in her Facebook Wall of Fame.



*Truman Hogue - Bank Pool Hall of Famer - '86 Winchester Billiards - Winchester, VA Photo courtesy of the Wade Crane Collection*

F R O M



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

This month, we go way back to the year 2000 where Ohio's Gary Spaeth was taking on Glenn "Piggy Bank" Rogers at the second Derby City Classic.

Spaeth was in a tough spot on this shot, but came with a very creative three rail bank back that would have made his Dad proud.

Even Danny DiLiberto in the booth was surprised at the skill of Spaeth on this one.



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# CHAMPIONS CROWNED AT PBS AUSTRIA

Article and photos courtesy Predator Pro Billiard Series

**THERE WAS DRAMA, excitement, pain and joy as the three final matches of the PREDATOR PRO BILLIARD SERIES played out on Tuesday at the Alpina Hotel high in the Alps.**

18-year-old Felix Vogel (GER) emerged victorious in the Billard Beckman Men's Open to become the youngest ever PBS champion, while Seo Seoa (KOR) took down the Carrinho Women's Open. In the Predator Mixed Doubles Open, it was the pairing of Han You (CHN) and Wu Kun Lin who waltzed to victory.

In the Billard Beckmann Men's Open, Felix Vogel played the match of his life

to hold off Wu Kun Lin, winning the deciding set with play of the very highest quality. They shared the first two sets before the Wu put himself in a strong position, as he moved into a 2-1 lead, but Vogel found something and overturned the deficit before surging to the finish line.

Crowned Predator WPA World Junior Champion less than seven months ago, Vogel has well and truly shed the 'promising youngster' tag with this victory and can look ahead with confidence to more glory days as his dynamic career progresses.

Vogel was understandably thrilled with his success but always modest in victory. He said, "I feel amazing. I was so stressed but I stayed calm and I was so happy. Maybe it was the toughest game ever – he played quite good and I had to play amazing to win and after 2-1 down in the last set I kept focusing and gave it my all.

"I think it's inner peace, and I just stayed calm and thought about all my family and supporters who believe in me. I thought about my Grandpa too and I did it for him. It's my first big title for him and that's where the power came from. In my mind I was always competing with the best but now I proved it," he added.



Felix Vogel

time the Predator Pro Billiard Series came to Europe, and she had too much for Jasmin Ouschan as she lifted the Carrinho Women's Open trophy, winning 4-3, 4-3 to add to her tally. It was a tight match and neither player was at the top of their respective games, but Seoa is getting a winning habit and will certainly be a force to be reckoned with when the Banca Del Fucino WPA Women's 10-Ball World Championship gets underway in Rome in a little over a month.

She said, "Well, I played not good and I missed so many shots that I can't believe I could still win the tournament, so thanks to God and with more practice my performance will get better. I just always try and be better than before and I watch a lot of men's games and see how I can get better and maybe that helps me win a lot of trophies.

"Actually, I finished the match and felt very angry because of my performance, so I went out to see the view and a referee came up to me and said 'a win is a win' so now I'm happy to get another title for myself."

Earlier the final of the Predator Mixed Doubles Open was contested and it was Han Yu and Wu Kun Lin who defeated Fu Xiaofang and Dennis Grabe



Zhang Mu Yang and Seo Seoa

by 4-3, 4-2. The China/Chinese Taipei duo were always one step ahead as they held off their opponents. They beat a string of top pairings as they ran undefeated through the tournament and will surely be sticking together in future Pro Billiard Series mixed doubles events.

The Predator Pro Billiard Series returns on July 31st as it visits Rome with the 2026 Banca Del Fucino WPA Women's 10-Ball World Championship. In the meantime, starting this Thursday 25th June is the Predator Austrian Open, both men's and women's events and part of the Predator Euro Tour Se-

ries. The live stream for Tables 1, 2 and 3 can be found on YouTube, via the Pro Billiard TV channel – <https://www.youtube.com/@ProBilliardTV>

For all results, live scoring and draw visit the events' homepage <https://probilliardseries.com/event/2026-austria/>

For live stats on all matches in Austria, visit <https://probilliardseries.com/livestats/>

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Wu Kun Lin, Han Yu, Fu Xiaofang and Denis Grabe

# 'WEI-WEI' GOES UNDEFEATED TO DEFEND HER WPBA SOARING EAGLES TITLE IN MICHIGAN

Skip Maloney - Photos courtesy WPBA and Erwin Dionisio

'Steady as she goes!'

It's an old sailing command from a ship's captain who wants the vessel to keep moving without adjustment or change of course; no correction, no turn, no acceleration. Just allowing the ship to move where it's going at its own pace. It's become a metaphor about staying calm, avoiding any sudden changes and maintaining a stable course through uncertainty.

It's a state of mind to which most top-level pros and arguably all pool players aspire, a body-language process that plays out every time a competitor steps to the table and embraces a wide range of behaviors from too much activity to snail-like consideration. A player seeks balance between those extremes and as it happens, it's how Taiwan's Tzu-Chien Wei, affectionately known as "Wei Wei," rolls.

She used it to good effect this past weekend (June 4-7), going undefeated for the second year in a row at the WPBA's Soaring Eagles Masters

tournament. The \$40,000-added, double-elimination event drew 64 entrants to the Soaring Eagle Resort & Casino in Mount Pleasant, MI.

Seven of last year's top 12 finishers were back to join this year's final 12. Newcomers to the 2026 final 12 were Briana Miller, Brittany Bryant (17th last year), Margaret Fefilova-Styer, Savannah Easton (13th) and Jordan Helfery.

Tzu-Chien and Margaret Fefilova-Styer battled twice for this title; once in the fourth round and again in the finals, in relatively similar fashion and with an equally similar result. Tzu-Chien's path to the hot seat match went through Judie Wilson 8-3, Cathy McDaniel 8-2 and Loree Jon Brown 8-3. In one of the winners' side quarterfinals, Tzu-Chien sent Styer to the loss side 8-5, to draw her competitor in last year's Soaring Eagle finals, Pia Filler.

Tzu-Chien Wei



From the other end of the bracket, Kristina Zlateva, who'd finished third in 2025, headed out to meet Tzu-Chien in the battle for the hot seat. Zlateva defeated her first four opponents by an aggregate game score of 32-5. Following a shutout over Lynn Richard and an 8-1 victory over Dona Sellman, Zlateva chalked up two straight 8-2 victories over Olivia Cheng and Briana Miller, and in the other winners' side semifinal, drew Sofia "Pink Dagger" Mast, who'd just sent Kristina Tkach to the loss side 8-4.

Last year's finalists got into an almost double-hill battle for advancement to the hot seat match. Tzu-Chien edged out ahead near the end to defeat Filler 8-6. Zlateva sent Mast to the loss-side's 5th/6th matches 8-4. For the second Soaring Eagles' year in a row, Zlateva and Tzu-Chien vied for the hot seat. Tzu-Chien claimed it 8-3.

Four of 2025's final six were still 'in the game,' as Filler and Mast showed up to do battle on the loss side. "The Krystal" (Kristina Tkach), who'd lost her winners' side quarterfinal to teenager Sofia Mast, began her loss-side journey against the other teenager in the mix, Savannah Easton. Tkach downed Easton 8-3 and eliminated Briana Miller 8-1 to draw Filler. Fefilova-Styer had followed her loss to Tzu-Chien with the elimination of a third teenager, Jordan Helfery 8-6, and Brittany Bryant 8-2 to pick up Mast.

Both matches for advancement to the quarterfinals went double hill, before Fefilova-Styer downed Mast and Filler eliminated Tkach. Fefilova-Styer completed her five-match, loss-side detour with two straight 8-4 wins; over Filler in the quarterfinal and Kristina Zlateva in the semifinal.

Somewhere in the mind of all competitors who step to the table in a professional, final match is the thought of 'Steady as she goes.' Maintenance of that ideal is often easier said than done.



Margaret Fefilova-Styer

Fefilova-Styer (MFS) opened the scoring off of her own break. Tzu-Chien tied the score off her own dry break. MFS chalked up the first of only three 'break and run' racks in the match and then took a two-rack lead off Tzu-Chien's break (3-1). Tzu-Chien 'returned the favor,' drawing within one off MFS's break, but MFS responded with a win that put her back in front by two and then, stretched that lead to three for the first and only time.

A 'wind gust' in the air, disturbed the serenity of 'steady as she goes' when Tzu-Chien won rack #8 to draw back within two at 5-3. It was the first of seven straight racks for Tzu-Chien.

MFS missed a tricky, rail-first poke at the 1-ball in rack #9 which led to Tzu-Chien drawing within one and then, off her own break, tying the score with a 4-9 combo; a hallmark of what's known as a 'cut break' at a rack with the 9-ball (not the 1-ball) on the break 'spot.' With a very specific, deliberately-aimed shot at the 1-ball, the rack scatters the balls in a way that puts one in a pocket and has a tendency, with regularity, to set up a relatively easy, two-ball combo that'll drop

the 9-ball. Tzu-Chien used it to tie the score and would use it again, two racks later.

Off her own break, MFS would later miss a cut-shot at the 6-ball, allowing Tzu-Chien to win her fourth rack in a row and take her first lead at 6-5. In rack #12, off her own break, Tzu-Chien made an unusual (for her) unforced error, shooting at the 2-ball, turning the table over to MFS, for a while, until she missed a bank shot, which set Tzu-Chien up for a second 4-9 combo that put her ahead by two at 7-5.

There was, so to speak, a lot at stake in the ominous (if one is inclined to be superstitious) 13th rack. As any player, in almost any sport will tell you (assuming a race to 10), there is a tremendous close-to-the-end difference between 8-5 and 7-6. Appropriate to the occasion, this rack #13 featured the match's first, extended round of back-and-forth safety play, as the competitors engaged in a little 'chess match,' challenging each other's abilities to kick at and/or jump over balls; both were employed in a single game that lasted 20 minutes.



*Shane Van Boening*  
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MFS scratched, shooting at the 5-ball, allowing Tzu-Chien to take the three-point lead. In rack #14, MFS gave a class-act demonstration of good sportsmanship when, shooting at the 6-ball, she inadvertently moved the 7-ball that was nestled up against the cue ball when she took the shot. She made the 6-ball, but when the cue ball came off the rail and took a path back in the direction from where it began, its trajectory took it through the path where the 7-ball would have been had she not jostled it. She halted play, turned to speak to Tzu-Chien, who was unaware of what had happened. Together, they consulted a referee, who, on MFS's explanation, declared

the movement of the 7-ball to be a foul, which gave Tzu-Chien ball-in-hand. She cleared the rack to reach the hill.

“That,” declared Lonnie-Fox Raymond, in the streaming booth with Kelly Fisher, “kind of changed the energy in the room.”

MFS, though, was not done. She broke and ran the 15th rack to pull back within three (9-6) and then, off Tzu-Chien's break and subsequent, unforced error, shooting at the 3-ball, cleared the rack to pull within two.

With excitement back in the air, MFS stepped up, broke the rack, dropping a single ball and watched as the cue

ball rolled into a pocket. It changed the ‘energy in the room’ again, seeming to take all of the room's oxygen out with it. Tzu-Chien stepped up and finished the rack, claiming the 2026 Soaring Eagles title.

WPBA representatives thanked the ownership and staff at the Soaring Eagles Resort & Casino, tour director Frank Maialetti, as well as sponsors Diamond Billiards, Aramith Balls, Simonis Cloth, Kamui Tips, How Tips and Professional Cues, Big Family Custom Creations, ICA Training (<https://www.icatraining.com>) and Castillo (Handmade Leather Products), RJH Custom Cues, [digitalpool.com](https://www.digitalpool.com), and Perfect Rack.

The next scheduled event on the WPBA calendar, scheduled for July 22-26, will be the 2nd WPBA Oneida WPA Women's 8-Ball World Championships, hosted by the Oneida Casino Hotel in Green Bay, Wisconsin.

“ **A PLAYER SEEKS BALANCE BETWEEN THOSE EXTREMES AND AS IT HAPPENS, IT'S HOW TAIWAN'S TZU-CHEIN WEI, AFFECTIONATELY KNOWN AS "WEI WEI," ROLLS.** ”

”



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# DEUEL, BEHRMAN AND INCARDONA CHOSEN FOR HOF

**Longmont, Colo., June 17, 2026 – The United States Billiard Media Association today announced that Corey Deuel, Barry Behrman, and Billy Incardona have been elected to the Billiard Congress of America Hall of Fame as the Class of 2026.**

**D**euel, 48, was elected in the Greatest Player category, while Behrman and Incardona were elected in the Meritorious Service category. The Class of 2026 will be formally inducted later this year.

Known throughout his career as one of pool's most creative and analytical competitors, Corey Deuel built a résumé spanning three decades at the highest levels of professional competition. Among his career highlights are victories at the prestigious U.S. Open 9-Ball Championship and All Japan Men's 9-Ball Championship, two

of the sport's premier international titles. A ten-time member of Team USA in the Mosconi Cup, Deuel also captured championships across disciplines ranging from 8-ball, 9-ball, and 10-ball to one-pocket, banks, snooker, and Heyball.

Beyond his tournament victories, Deuel's influence extended to the evolution of the professional game itself. His innovative break strategies and analytical approach to pattern play exposed competitive advantages that ultimately led to changes in break rules, rack procedures, and event

formats. Few players of the modern era have influenced how the game is played and governed as directly as Deuel.

"I'm over the moon that it happened at all," Deuel said. "Fame was never one of my goals. I just wanted to play the game the best I could. To receive this kind of recognition from people I respect means a great deal to me, and I'm thankful to everyone who helped me along the way."

Barry Behrman's impact on professional pool is inseparable from the history of the U.S. Open 9-Ball Championship. From humble beginnings as a Norfolk, Virginia poolroom owner, Behrman built and sustained the U.S. Open for four decades, transforming it into the most prestigious and storied title in American pool. At a time when professional events routinely appeared and disappeared, Behrman's tournament endured and became the proving ground for generations of champions. The U.S. Open remains one of the sport's crown jewels, and its legacy is inseparable from the vision and determination of its founder.

"This would have meant the whole world to my dad," Brady Behrman said. "Everything he ever wanted was to promote pool, grow the sport, and support the players. To be recognized



Corey Deuel



Barry Behrman

ership. The BCA seeks to enhance the success of its members and promote the game of billiards through educational, marketing and promotional efforts, annual industry trade shows, tournaments and other programs designed to encourage billiards as a lifestyle and make pool everybody's game. For more information, visit [bca-pool.com](http://bca-pool.com) or call 303.243.5070.

**About United States Billiard Media Association**

Founded in 2007, the United States Billiard Media Association (USBMA) is a non-profit association dedicated to elevating the visibility and status of billiards in the media at large. The USBMA consists of professional print, radio, TV, public relations, and Internet media persons who cover cue sports. One of the association's main functions is electing of billiard media members to the Billiard Congress of America's Hall of Fame Board for the purpose of nominating and electing players and notable figures to the Billiard Congress of America Hall of Fame.

for those efforts was important to him.”

Billy Incardona, 82, has spent nearly five decades serving professional pool as a player, commentator, educator, and ambassador. Widely regarded as one of the premier players of the 1970s, Incardona later became one of the sport's most respected and recognizable voices. Drawing upon decades of firsthand experience, he helped generations of fans better understand the strategy, patterns, and nuances of the game through television and video commentary. Known for his encyclopedic knowledge, authenticity, humor, and unmistakable personality, Incardona has long been one of professional pool's most trusted and influential ambassadors.

“To be honest, I may have had a passing thought about the Hall of Fame, but it wasn't something I spent much time thinking about,” Incardona said. “This is absolutely fantastic for me. I think people recognize that I did good for the game, helped its visibility, and promoted the sport.”

**About Billiard Congress of America**

Founded in 1948, the Billiard Congress of America is a non-profit trade organization dedicated to growing a united, prosperous and highly regarded billiard industry through BCA lead-



Bill Incardona

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# **ALBIN AND AMBER**

## **GRAB THE GLORY IN THE ALPS**

Article and photos courtesy **Luke Riches** and **EPBF**

**THE TWO TITLE** deciders played out on Sunday evening at Alpina Hotel in St Johann as the destination of the trophies at the Predator Austrian Open was determined and it was Albin Ouschan who claimed his third ever Predator Euro title.

In the women's Open, it was an emotional Chen Chieh Hua who claimed the title in her first ever Predator Euro Tour event. Albin defeated Joshua Filler 11-6, while Chen got the better of Jasmin Ouschan by 9-4.

With so many matches in the tournament ending 11-10 or 11-9, it seemed certain that this heavyweight clash between two of European pools greats, would go down to the wire. Filler was chasing his 12th Euro Tour title, while

Ouschan was gunning for his third following wins in 2012 and 2015.

The Austrian had an immense start to the match as he came out firing, capitalising on some errors from Filler to open up a 5-0 lead. That was soon to become 8-1 and in the alternate break, two breaks each format, it looked unassailable.

Filler though got it back to 8-3, 9-5 and then 10-6 to give Ouschan something to think about, but the ice-cold Austrian kept himself together to close the tournament out.

"I haven't been playing a lot of Euro Tours in the past but I was feeling



Albin Ouschan

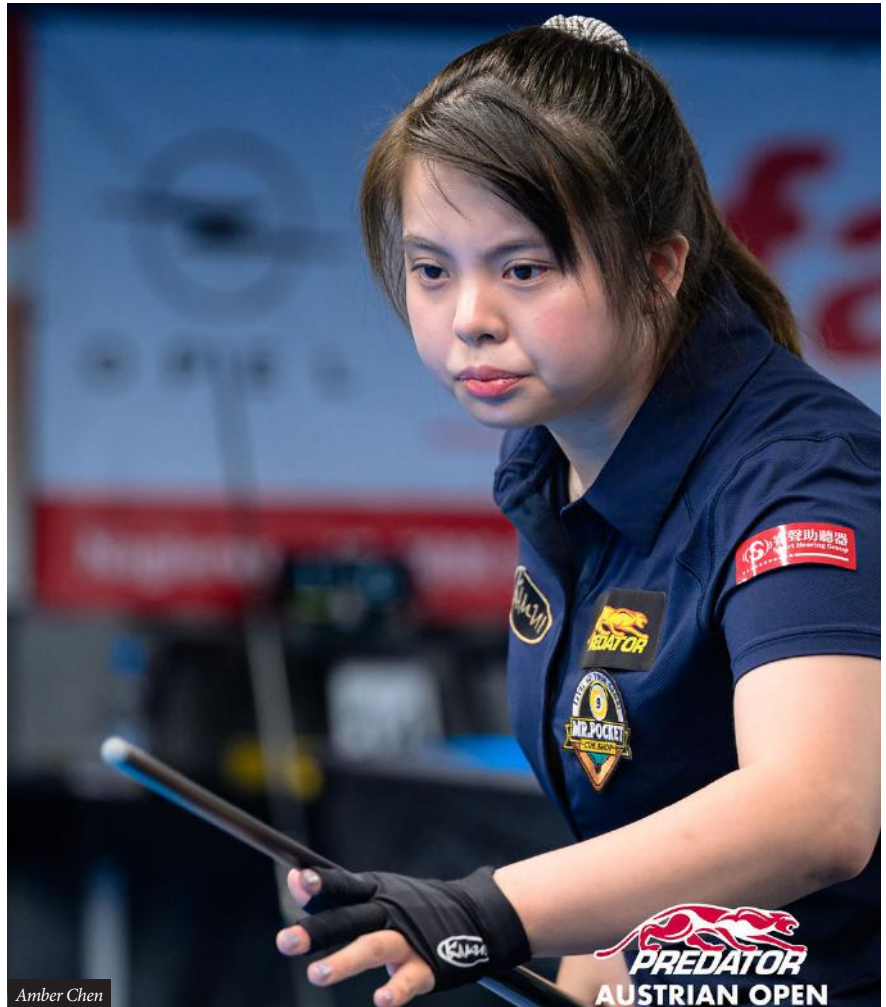
good and I was playing alright in the previous matches. It was long days and many long matches, tough conditions, humidity, and we were already here for two weeks so I'm super happy it ended with winning the tournament.

"He helped me a little bit as his break wasn't working in the beginning and he missed quite an easy 5-ball I would say, which was unusual for him but he's still one of the greatest players we've ever seen so fair play to him.

"I was up 8-1 and I still knew he could come back and I couldn't give him any chances and then it was 9-5 and I was like alright he's got two breaks now so I had to stay ready if I got a chance and take it, otherwise its 9-7. I managed to play a very, very good set and overall, I'm super happy with my performance.

"I got better and better, it was tough conditions especially against Gnadeberg in the second round, it was a tricky match but I was feeling well against Oliver, Wiktor and against Josh, I played my best match of the tournament and I knew I needed my best performance."

Amber Chen



Filling out the semi-finals were Oliver Szolnoki, who lost 11-8 to Ouschan and David Alcaide who went down 11-6 at the hands of Filler.

Chen, who likes to go by her anglicised name of Amber, decided to extend her stay in Austria after competing in the earlier Predator Pro Billiard Series and it proved to be a wise move as she held off Jasmin Ouschan to claim the Predator Austrian Women's Open. Chen had found herself on the losers side after a defeat to Bojana Sarac, but came through, beating some of the tour's best players to claim a berth in the final.

The championship match was poised with Chen leading 5-3 at the midpoint but she moved away from Ouschan

to take a well-deserved victory. Chen was absolutely thrilled with her win and was still emotional about it all some time after victory.

She said, "I'm really, really happy, I can't believe it! It's been a long time since I've been a champion and I really enjoyed the tournament; there were so many good players. I'd really like to thank Jasmin as she's such a nice player and she played really good; it was such a good match!"

Beaten semi-finalists were Sandra Baumgartner – 9-2 at the hands of Chen – and Marion Jude, who lost 9-1 to Jasmin Ouschan.

The Predator Euro Tour returns from 20 to 23 August with the Longoni

Open, taking place in Treviso, Italy. As of 2026, WPA World Ranking points are now available on both men's and women's Predator Euro Tours.

Action from Tables 1, 2 and 3 at the Predator Austrian Open can be found on YouTube, via the Pro Billiard TV channel – <https://www.youtube.com/@ProBilliardTV>

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# VIKING CUES

## ANNOUNCES SPONSORSHIP OF JUSTIN BERGMAN

**Viking Cues has officially announced an exciting new partnership with powerhouse American pro Justin Bergman, backing his highly anticipated full-time return to the professional circuit for the 2026 season.**

**B**ergman, widely recognized for his immense talent, understated precision, and fierce competitiveness, will be representing Viking on the global stage as he sets his sights on a major season goal: reclaiming his spot on the USA Mosconi Cup roster.

The multi-time Mosconi Cup veteran revealed that he had his pick of sponsors this year, but the decision ultimately came down to the equipment and the culture.

“I’ve had offers from pretty much every pool cue maker out there this year and I chose Viking because I feel like I can play my best pool with them,” Bergman said. “Why I chose Viking was I liked the way the cue felt right away and I didn’t have to adjust much to the deflection when all the other cues I have had to. Also, the people all seem top notch... extremely helpful and welcoming.”

Speaking on the performance of their carbon fiber line, Bergman noted, “The carbon is very close to kielwood as far as deflection goes. I think it’s the

better option for as long as playing rotation games like 9 & 10-ball. 8-ball as well.”

For Viking Cues, signing Bergman represents a perfect alignment of brand philosophy and authentic pool history.

“What makes this partnership special isn’t just the double-decade long resume — it’s the roots,” Viking Cues stated. “Justin is a guy who never left his community, never chased the spotlight for its own sake, and built his name the hard way. That’s a story we’re proud to be part of, and we think our customers will feel that authenticity every time they see him with a Viking in his hands.”

Beyond representing the brand at the table, Bergman’s world-class insights will directly influence the workshop. “Justin’s understated power and precision at the table align perfectly with Viking’s philosophy: quality built to perform when it matters most,” the company added. “His feedback will shape the equipment we build for players who demand reliability under pressure.”

With a revitalized tour schedule ahead and the backing of one of the industry’s legacy cue makers, Bergman is primed for a massive year on the tables.



Justin Bergman

The image features three pens with marbled barrels in shades of blue, yellow, and red, set against a dark background. In the foreground, a paint palette is visible, showing various colors of paint. The brand name 'becue' is prominently displayed in the upper left, with a stylized '10' logo. The word 'DRIP' is written in large, white, dripping letters. Below it, the tagline 'Art is intentional.' and the website 'becueofficial.com' are shown. At the bottom, a paragraph of text explains the brand's philosophy, followed by the sentence 'The Drip cue follows this same philosophy.'

10 becue

# DRIP

Art is intentional.

[becueofficial.com](http://becueofficial.com)

There is something deeply compelling about the unique. Every painting, every sculpture, every poem, every masterpiece exists as its own singular expression. It may inspire copies, interpretations, imitations, but it can never be recreated exactly as it was. Once it exists, it belongs only to itself.

*The Drip cue follows this same philosophy.*

# **PUTNIK TRIUMPHS IN INAUGURAL BALLAZZO SENIORS OPEN**

Article and photo courtesy Predator Pro Billiard Series

**CROATIA'S IVICA PUTNIK** took down the inaugural Ballazzo Seniors Open as the one-day event for the over 45s played out at the Alpina Hotel in St Johann im Pongau. Supported by Predator, the tournament took place in the same arena as the preceding Predator Pro Billiard Series and Euro Tour events.

**P**utnik defeated Germany's Gordan Farina in the title decider after an impressive run through a strong international field. Third place finishers were Claudio Pontuti of Italy and Czechia's Roman Hybler, who's current Predator Euro Tour ranking of #5 was a testament to the tournament's strength of field.

Champion Putnik produced a series of excellent performances, including a standout semi-final victory over Hybler. The Croatian had played in both the Predator Pro Billiard Series and the Euro Tour and was well used to the venue and conditions.

Putnik said, "It's great to play these tournaments. There are so many players of our age who still love competing, and I can see this growing into something special. I really hope this continues because we all had a lovely time here."

The tournament is named after Ballazzo, the predominant billiard club in Sankt Johann im Pongau, which is renowned for its strong community spirit. Wanting to create something

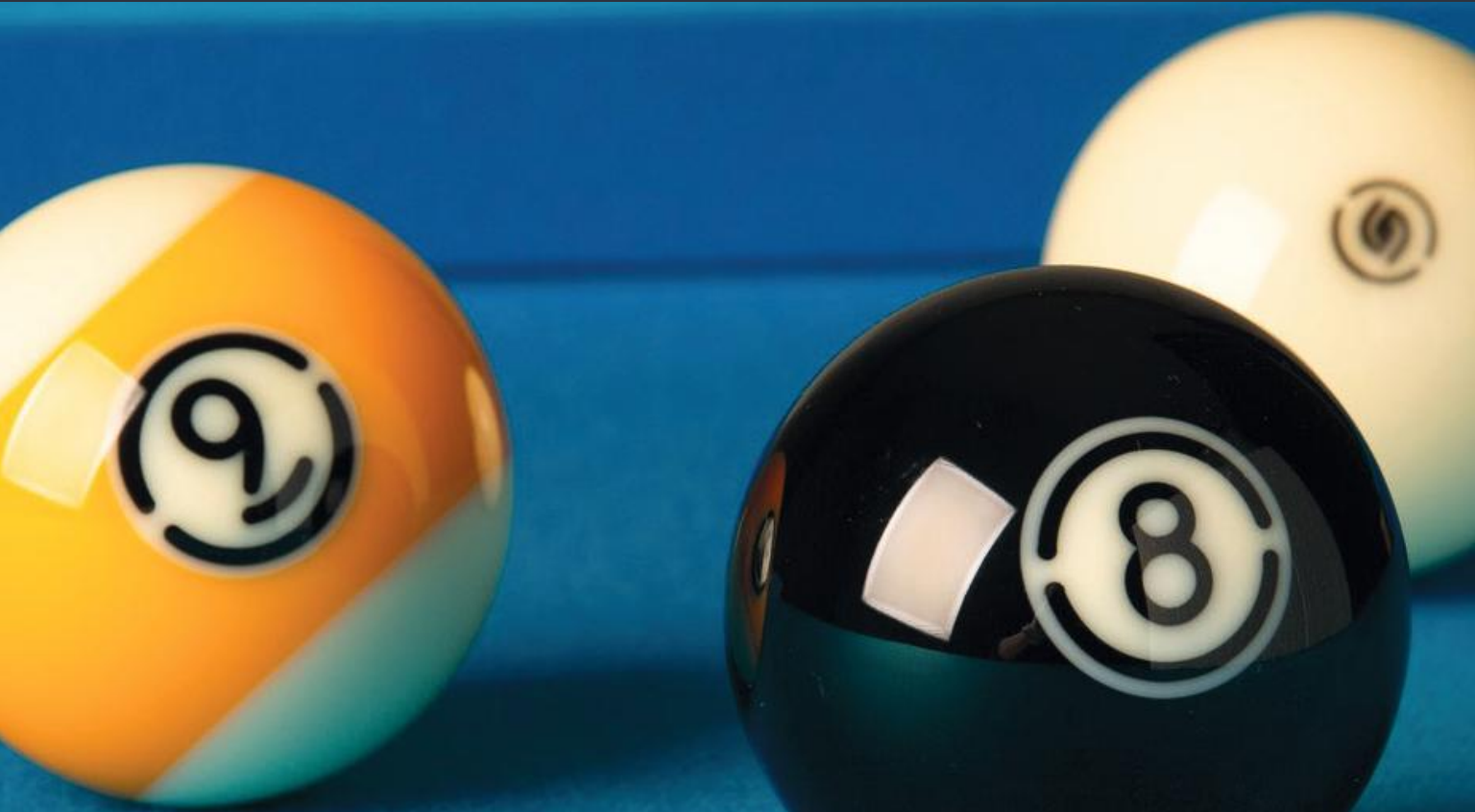
special for senior players, the club partnered with Predator to launch a new event dedicated to one of the sport's fastest-growing categories. With tremendous player interest and growth potential, it is hoped that the second edition will go ahead in 2027.

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*Ivica Putnik and Gordan Farina*



Simonis Cloth and Aramith Balls

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...or against your

equipment?

# MAJID WINS

## THIRD STRAIGHT, LONDON'S FINEST POOL'S SUMMER OPEN 10-BALL EVENT

Skip Maloney - AzB Staff

We decided to take a trip to London that didn't involve actual travel this past weekend (Sun., June 14), to see how the Brits do things when it comes to their regional tournament structure.

We are, after all, AZBilliards, with an emphasis on the full alphabetical spectrum of the worldwide pool community. And while we can't be everywhere, we do like to 'get out of the house,' once in a while, to take a look at what's happening in other, distant neighborhoods.

The first thing we found out, possibly limited to this one event, was that this particular tournament organizer set up a Round Robin structure, involving multiple (what are known as) 'flights' and a number of 'groups' with a certain number of competitors (who've won the most in their group's flight) that advance to a single-elimination Stage 2. This has a way of first, affecting the headline for a report, because normally, in a headline, we have "X goes undefeated to claim Tournament Y title" Or "X comes from the loss side to . ." etc. An attempt to explain that Imran Majid (who won the event for the

third straight year this past weekend) came out of a Round Robin flight with a single loss and went on to go undefeated through four, single-elimination matches to win the London event takes up a lot of headline space.

So, with that out of the way, we'd like to introduce you to an organization known as 'London's Finest Pool,' an organization that might be compared to regional tour systems, similar to the Joss NE 9-Ball Tour or Jersey Girl



Imran Majid



Billiards series here in the US. It operates a series of four Open events (spring 9-ball, summer 10-ball, fall 8-ball and multi-ball winter), leading to a 9-Ball Masters Final in December. We were a little confused, at first, about the venue for their recent 2026 Summer Open 10-Ball event, which drew its 32 entrants to ZANS Snooker and Pool Club (known, for short, as London Snooker Tooting), which suggested that in addition to accommodating 10-Ball (with 8 ProAm Diamond tables, as it turns out), the room has snooker tables. All well and good, we thought, but what did 'tooting' have to do with it? Turns out that Tooting is a subdivision of the London Metro area and the name identifies the room as being in that specific location. The UK, of course, is not alone in having townships with unusual names, like Slickpool (Idaho) or Boogerhole (West Virginia).

Okay, back to pool, or what they call in the UK, 'American pool,' which, in turn leads to the London's Finest Pool organization, created by Ciprian Dandu and Andrew Phan in 2018, and its aim, to bring together a community of "American pool" players and offer them value for money tournaments so players can improve."

Based on this single event, it would appear that the UK's 'regional' tour operations have a tendency to draw a much more international pool crowd than your average US regional tour.

Part of the reason for this is geography. You could take the British Isles, France, Spain, Portugal, the Low Countries, Germany, Switzerland, Austria, Italy, Poland, Czechia, Slovakia, Hungary, the Balkans, Scandinavia, and even Ukraine, Belarus and Moldova before you'd approach the east/west, north/south land mass represented by the US. A trip from Bern, Switzerland to London, which would include a voyage across a body of water (the English Channel, which



Ramesh Gokhul and Imran Majid

is anywhere between 26 miles at its narrowest point to the north and 150 at its widest, south), is equivalent to a highway ride from New York City to Pittsburgh.

London's Finest Pool's 32 entrants had representatives from 12 countries (most from the UK) with two each from Ukraine and the Philippines. There were no Americans, who, at minimum, from NYC, were over 3,500 water-miles away. The field had an average Fargo Rate of 616, with winner, Imrad Majid (775; one of the 17 competitors representing the UK) at the top and Italy's Edoardo Brizi at the bottom (the only '200' range competitor at 219). So, for the most part, an upper-level FargoRate field in a place that apparently (though not definitively) has yet to employ the currently, oft-used here in the US idea of split brackets.

The tournament began, as noted with a Round Robin, Stage 1 phase; eight groups of four, each of whom played three matches, which, in turn, advanced two competitors from each group, for a total of 16, to a single-elim-

ination Stage 2. In match-races to 5, five of the eight flights advanced undefeated (3-0) competitors to Stage 2. The eventual winner and runner-up (Guyana's Ramesh Gokhul) were not among them. Darya Siranchuk (Group 2), Mark Capito (3), Rico Diks (5), Oliver Lawrence (7) and Carlo Blasi (8) advanced undefeated. They were joined from their respective groups (all with 2-1 Round Robin records) by Gabriel Vasilache (Group 2), Darren Saxby (3), Ramesh Gokhul (5), Arjon Hasi (7) and Muhammed Ali (8).

There were 13 competitors with 2-1 records in Round Robin play. All but two of them, based on their racks-against totals, failed to advance to Stage 2. Advancing from Group 1 with 2-1 records were Matthew Rigley and Dainius Zvirblys. Group 4 advanced Russell March and winner, Majid. Saman Gholami and Leo Hsieh rounded out the Stage 2's Final 16.

On to four rounds of single elimination . . .

"The highlight," of the event, according to Andrew Phan of London's Finest



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Pool in a FB post, “(was) the rise of the young players in the sport, with Carlo Blasi, Matthew Rigley and Oliver Lawrence, all in the Final 8. It was great to see so many young players progressing further and further into these tournaments.”

Blasi and Rigley, as you’ll see, made it all the way to the semifinals, until bested by Majid and Gokhul on their way to the final.

Scores rarely tell a complete story because as they reveal the obvious ‘who won’ fact, they don’t tend to convey the struggle that either of the competitors had winning the matches that they did, or losing the ones that they didn’t. The average score in all four, races-to-7, Stage 2 rounds that eventually crowned the event’s champion was just percentage points above 7-3. Of the 15 matches played in Stage 2, only two competitors managed as many as five racks against their op-

**“ LONDON’S FINEST POOL’S 32 ENTRANTS HAD REPRESENTATIVES FROM 12 COUNTRIES (MOST FROM THE UK) WITH TWO EACH FROM UKRAINE AND THE PHILIPPINES. ”**

ponent, who was, in both cases, runner-up Ramesh Gokhul; Russell March in an opening-round bout and Mark Capito in the second round.

Matthew Rigley advanced to the semifinals with wins over Muhammed Ali 7-4 and Arjon Hasi 7-3. He faced Gokhul, who’d eliminated March and Capito in the two 7-5 matches. Majid opened up with two straight 7-2 wins over Rico Diks and Saman Gholami and in the other semifinal, drew Carlo Blasi, who’d shut out Dainius Zvirblys and downed Oliver Lawrence 7-3 to reach him.

Majid defeated Blasi 7-4, as Ghokul was eliminating Rigley 7-2. Majid com-

pleted the event with a representative, Stage 2 win over Gokhul 7-3.

Ciprian Dandu and Andrew Phan thanked the ownership and staff at London Snooker Tooting (as the only club in the UK with 8 ProAm Diamond tables) for hosting the event, along with its sponsors, Pro9 (European Pool Player Resource), digitalpool.com, Diamond Billiard Products, Pool-Billiards.co, and Korea Foods, UK.

The next scheduled event on the London’s Finest Pool calendar will be its 2026 8-Ball Autumn Open, set for Sunday, September 20th at London Snooker Tooting.

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# ERIC NARETTO

## HONORED AS THE JERRY BRIESATH INSTRUCTOR OF THE YEAR

The Professional Billiard Instructors Association (PBIA) has named Eric Naretto as the recipient of the 2026 Jerry Briesath Instructor of the Year Award, recognizing his outstanding contributions to billiard instruction, player development, and the continued growth of cue sports.

Presented annually, the Jerry Briesath Instructor of the Year Award is the PBIA's highest individual honor. It recognizes instructors whose dedication, professionalism, and commitment to teaching reflect the values established by the Billiard Congress of America Hall of Fame instructor Jerry Briesath. The award honors those who develop skilled players while strengthening the future of cue sports through education, mentorship, and service to the industry.

Naretto has earned a reputation as one of the game's most respected instructors, dedicating countless hours to helping players of all ages and skill levels improve their fundamentals, confidence, and understanding of the sport. Through private instruction, clinics, instructional programs, and mentorship, he has become a trusted resource for students seeking to elevate their game.

"Receiving the Jerry Briesath Instructor of the Year Award is truly an incredible honor," said Naretto. "To be recognized by my fellow instructors and peers is something I never take for granted. I share this recognition with every student who has trusted me as their instructor and every mentor who has helped shape my own journey."

Over the years, Naretto has consistently demonstrated a passion for education while promoting professionalism and excellence throughout the cue sports community. His dedication extends beyond the lesson table, where he has supported player development,



Eric Naretto

encouraged new participants, and worked tirelessly to grow the game.

"Eric Naretto embodies everything the Jerry Briesath Instructor of the Year Award represents," said Rob Moreno, Chair of the PBIA Committee. "His passion for teaching, commitment to developing players of every age and skill level, and willingness to give back to the cue sports community have made a lasting impact. Eric understands that great instruction goes beyond mechanics. It's about building confidence, character, and a lifelong appreciation for our sport. We are proud to recognize him with one of the PBIA's highest honors."

The Billiard Congress of America also applauded Naretto's lasting impact on cue sports and the important role instructors play in growing the game.

"The PBIA exists because of instructors like Eric Naretto who dedicate countless hours to growing the sport one student at a time," said Shane Tyree,

Chief Executive Officer of the Billiard Congress of America. "While championships are won on the table, the future of our sport is built in pool rooms converted to classrooms by passionate educators who inspire the next generation. Eric's commitment to excellence, professionalism, and mentorship reflects the very best. Jerry Briesath established the standard for professional billiard instruction, and this award recognizes those who continue that legacy by elevating both the game and the people who play it. We congratulate Eric on this well-deserved recognition and thank him for the tremendous impact he continues to make."

The PBIA Jerry Briesath Instructor of the Year Award is presented annually following a nomination and review process conducted by the PBIA Honors Committee. Nominees are evaluated based on their instructional excellence, contributions to the organization, service to the billiard community, and commitment to advancing the highest standards of professional instruction.

Past recipients of the PBIA Jerry Briesath include:

- Jerry Briesath (2017)
- Randy Goettlicher (2018)
- Scott Lee (2019)
- Mark Finkelstein (2020)
- Roy Pastor (2021)
- Dr. Dave Alciatore (2022)
- Galiek Saville (2023)
- Samm Diep-Vidal (2024)
- Kim Young (2025)

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# JACKSON OSBOURN NAMED RECIPIENT OF THE 2026 ANTHONY BEELER VIRTUAL BILLIARD ACADEMY SCHOLARSHIP

**BRADFORDSVILLE, KY — The Anthony Beeler Virtual Billiard Academy is proud to announce that Jackson Osbourn has been selected as the recipient of the 2026 Anthony Beeler Virtual Billiard Academy Scholarship.**

The scholarship was established to recognize outstanding young people who demonstrate academic achievement, strong character, leadership, and a commitment to pursuing their goals. Applicants were asked to submit an essay detailing how billiards influenced their lives.

After reviewing numerous submissions, Jackson was selected for his

thoughtful essay, impressive accomplishments, and dedication to excellence both inside and outside the classroom.

“One of the most rewarding parts of this scholarship is having the opportunity to invest in the next generation,” said Anthony Beeler, founder of Beeler’s Virtual Billiard Academy. “Jackson distinguished himself through his

work ethic, character, and vision for the future. I have no doubt that he will continue to achieve great things in the years ahead.”

The Anthony Beeler Virtual Billiard Academy Scholarship was created as a way to give back to students and encourage lifelong learning, perseverance, and personal growth. While the academy is best known for providing billiards instruction to students throughout the United States and around the world, Beeler believes strongly in supporting education and helping young people pursue their dreams.

Jackson will receive a \$500 scholarship to assist with future educational expenses.

Beeler, a nationally recognized billiards instructor, author, and player, has taught more than 31,000 students in over 100 countries and is the founder of PoolTeacher.com and Beeler’s Virtual Billiard Academy.

The academy congratulates Jackson on this well-deserved honor and wishes him continued success in all of his future endeavors.

For more information about the Anthony Beeler Virtual Billiard Academy Scholarship, visit PoolTeacher.com.



Anthony Beeler with Jackson Osbourn

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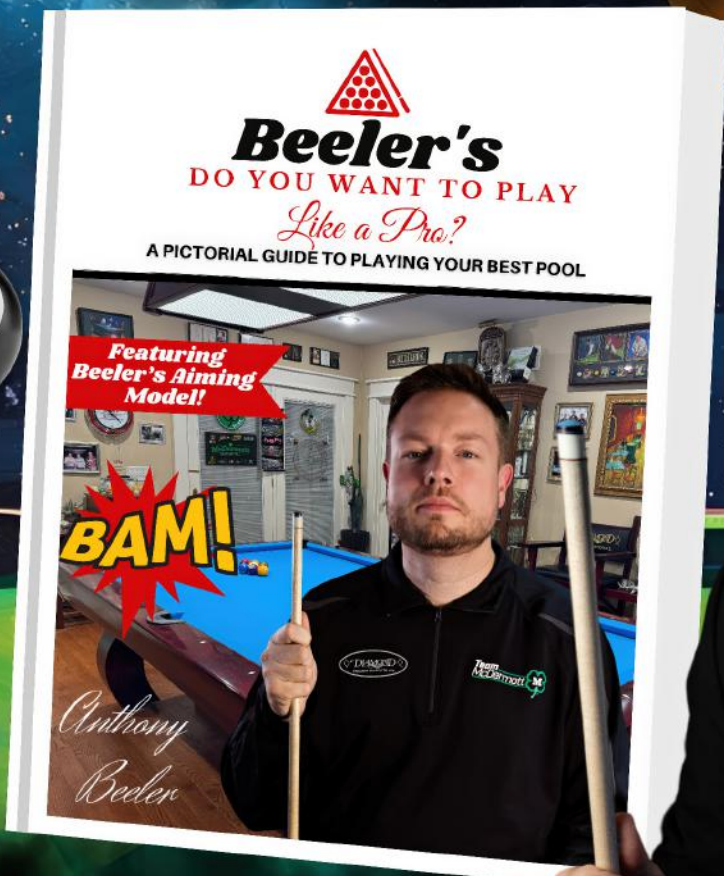
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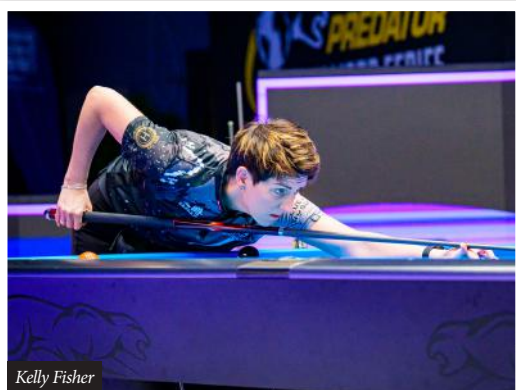
**Pro Billiard Series Gallery**



David Alcaide and Denis Grabe



Jayson Shaw and Savannah Easton



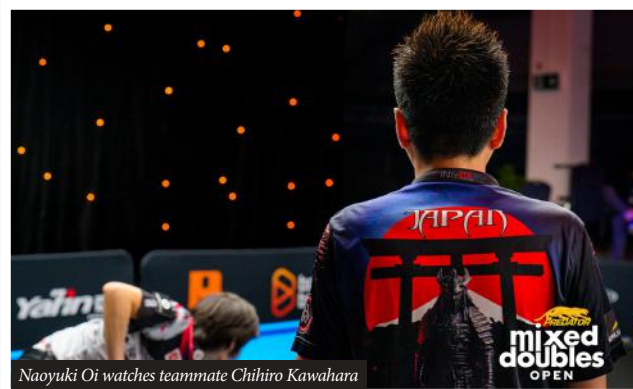
Kelly Fisher



David Alcaide, Wan-Ling Wang, Xiaofang Fu and Denis Grabe



Kun Lin Wu and Han Yu celebrate the win



Naoyuki Oi watches teammate Chihiro Kawahara



Fedor Gorst



Kristina Tkach

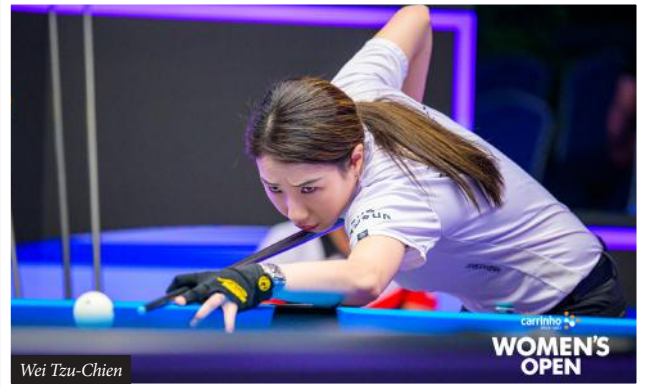


Jasmin Ouschan and Wei Tzu-Chien



Naoyuki Oi

mixed  
doubles  
OPEN



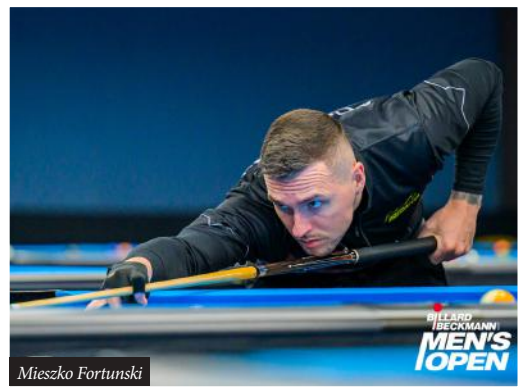
Wei Tzu-Chien

WOMEN'S  
OPEN



Kun Lin Wu, Han Yu, Chihiro Kawahara and Naoyuki Oi

mixed  
doubles



Mieszko Fortunski

MEN'S  
OPEN



PREDATOR  
PRO BILLIARD SERIES  
mixed  
doubles

PREDATOR  
PRO BILLIARD SERIES  
mixed  
doubles

CHAMPIONS

CHAMPIONS

mixed  
doubles  
OPEN



Wu Kun Lin

MEN'S  
OPEN



Jayson Shaw



Muyan Zhang  
and Seo Seo



Kun Lin Wu and Han Yu

mixed  
doubles  
OPEN

# Tourney Results

## Jun 03 - Jun 07

### Eleventh Annual Seniors One Pocket Classic

#### Sharpshooters Billiards

Miami, FL

- 1 Robert Madenjian \$3,200
- 2 John Ditoro \$2,000
- 3 Kim Davenport \$1,300

## Jun 04 - Jun 07

### 2026 WPBA Soaring Eagle Masters

#### Soaring Eagle Casino & Resort

Mt. Pleasant, MI

- 1 Tzu-Chien Wei \$15,000
- 2 Marharyta Fefilava \$8,500
- 3 Kristina Zlateva \$6,200
- 4 Pia Filler \$4,500
- 5 Kristina Tkach \$3,500
- 5 Sofia Mast \$3,500
- 7 Briana Miller \$2,800
- 7 Brittany Bryant \$2,800
- 9 Jordan Helfrey \$2,000
- 9 Kelly Fisher \$2,000
- 9 Meng-Hsia Hung \$2,000
- 9 Savannah Easton \$2,000
- 13 Caroline Pao \$1,500
- 13 Kaylee McIntosh \$1,500
- 13 Molly Bontrager \$1,500
- 13 Veronique Menard \$1,500
- 17 Dona Selman \$1,000
- 17 Emily Duddy \$1,000
- 17 Eylul Kybaroglu \$1,000
- 17 Kennedy Meyman \$1,000
- 17 Lonnie Fox-Raymond \$1,000
- 17 Loree Jon Hasson \$1,000
- 17 Olivia Cheng \$1,000
- 17 Rachel Lang \$1,000

## Jun 05 - Jun 07

### Mezz Hill-Hill Estonian Open 2026

#### Hill-Hill Billiard Cafe

Talinn, Pohja

- 1 Oliver Szolnoki \$5,000
- 2 Pijus Labutis \$3,500
- 3 Mark Magi \$2,250

- 3 Michel Rehepapp \$2,250
- 5 Aleksandr Jermikimov \$1,000
- 5 Casper Matikainen \$1,000
- 5 Petri Makkonen \$1,000
- 5 Yannick Pongers \$1,000
- 9 Arseny Sevastyanov \$500
- 9 Carlo Blasi \$500
- 9 Denis Grabe \$500
- 9 Karl Gnadeberg \$500
- 9 Matthew Rigley \$500
- 9 Oliver Ruuger \$500
- 9 Quinten Pongers \$500
- 9 Revo Maimre \$500
- 17 Aleksandrs Horsuns \$250
- 17 Evertti Overmark \$250
- 17 Gabriel Aspholm \$250
- 17 Janne Huttunen \$250
- 17 Jokubas Silantjevas \$250
- 17 Kashyap Choudhary \$250
- 17 Mark Yousef \$250
- 17 Pius Baier \$250
- 17 Raimo Teesaar \$250
- 17 Sami Jokinen \$250
- 17 Stanislav Saiov \$250
- 17 Sullivan Clark \$250
- 17 Tommy Tokoph \$250
- 17 Walter Laikre \$250

## Jun 06 - Jun 06

### The West Coast Women's Tour 2026 Stop 2

#### Rack N Cues Billiards and Brews

Windsor, CA

- 1 Gigi Callejas \$375
- 2 Khanh Ngo \$315
- 3 Becky Simi \$250
- 4 Mary Dughi \$200
- 5 Linda Miyoshi \$135
- 5 Tina Asuncion \$135
- 7 Emilyn Callado \$85
- 7 Janna Sue Nelson \$85

## Jun 06 - Jun 06

### Q City 9-Ball Tour Stop

#### Mickey Milligan's Sports Bar

New Bern, NC

- 1 Glenn Weatherly \$420
- 2 Eddie Almonte \$250
- 3 Ron Sellers \$150
- 4 Tracy Hardie \$55

## Jun 06 - Jun 06

### 2026 Rack Race Stop #12

#### Rack and Grill II

Augusta, Georgia

- 1 Josh Roberts \$1,100
- 2 Paul Song \$580
- 3 Johnny Archer \$340
- 4 Jason Stemen \$240
- 5 Doug Cogdell \$140
- 5 Timmy Prince \$140
- 7 Calvin Le \$80
- 7 Steven Gonzalo \$80

## Jun 06 - Jun 06

### 2026 Rack Race Stop #12 - 550 & Under

#### Rack and Grill II

Augusta, Georgia

- 1 Wesley Rhoden \$540
- 2 Dallas Hopps \$280
- 3 Curtis Smith \$160
- 4 Dalton Johnson \$120
- 5 Keith Floyd, Jr. \$60
- 5 Ryan Mallett \$60
- 7 Daniel Askew \$40
- 7 Vu Nguyen \$40

## Jun 13 - Jun 14

### 6th Anthony Mabe Memorial

#### Dot's Cue Club

Rocky Mount, NC

- 1 Jason Rogers \$500
- 2 Dustin Wiley \$320
- 3 Joshua Padron \$210
- 4 Adam Davis \$155

## Jun 13 - Jun 13

### Sullivan Pool Tour Stop

#### Shooters Family Billiards

Wayne, New Jersey

- 1 Mhet Vergara \$1,200
- 2 Ramon Canela Alvarado \$800
- 3 Murtaza Azfal \$420
- 4 Gregorio Sanchez \$220
- 5 Kirill Rutman \$120
- 5 Wilson Martinez \$120

## Jun 13 - Jun 13

### Cue Club of Lexington 7th Anniversary Celebration

#### Lexington, KY

- 1 Kash Keaton \$300
- 2 John Hawkins \$200
- 3 Michael Whitehead \$120
- 4 Brent Sexton \$80
- 5 Darren Watkins \$60
- 5 Mason Ballard \$60
- 7 Nicholas Ratliff \$50
- 7 Scotty Napier \$50
- 9 Christopher Finch \$20
- 9 Kelly Wyatt \$420
- 9 Randy McDonald \$20
- 9 Ricky Jenkins \$20

## Jun 14 - Jun 14

### London's Finest Pool Summer Open

#### Zans Snooker and Pool Club, London

- 1 Imran Majid \$662
- 2 Ramesh Gokhul \$331
- 3 Carlo Blasi \$165
- 3 Matthew Rigley \$165
- 5 Arjon Hasi \$66
- 5 Mark Capito \$66
- 5 Oliver Lawrence \$66
- 5 Saman Gholami \$66

## Jun 16 - Jun 23

### 2026 Billard Beckmann Men's Open

#### Alpina Sport und Wellnesshotel

- St. Johann im Pongau,
- 1 Felix Vogel \$37,500
  - 2 Kun Lin Wu \$17,500
  - 3 Georgi Georgiev \$8,750
  - 3 Oliver Szolnoki \$8,750
  - 5 Eklent Kaci \$4,375
  - 5 Jonas Souto Comino \$4,375
  - 5 Mateusz Sniegocki \$4,375
  - 5 Maximilian Lechner \$4,375
  - 9 Albin Ouschan \$2,190

- 9 Aleksa Pecelj \$2,190
- 9 Alexandros Kazakis \$2,190
- 9 Daniel Maciol \$2,190
- 9 Fedor Gorst \$2,190
- 9 Joshua Filler \$2,190
- 9 Naoyuki Oi \$2,190
- 9 Wiktor Zielinski \$2,190
- 17 Casper Matikainen \$1,095
- 17 David Alcaide \$1,095
- 17 Denis Grabe \$1,095
- 17 Francisco Sanchez-Ruiz \$1,095
- 17 Hubert Lopotko \$1,095
- 17 Kledio Kaci \$1,095
- 17 Konrad Juszczyszyn \$1,095
- 17 Mario He \$1,095
- 17 Mieszko Fortunski \$1,095
- 17 Mika van Berkel \$1,095
- 17 Mustafa Alnar \$1,095
- 17 Ralf Souquet \$1,095
- 17 Robbie Capito \$1,095
- 17 Roman Hybler \$1,095
- 17 Tobias Bongers \$1,095
- 17 Wojciech Szewczyk \$1,095

## Jun 17 - Jun 23

### Carrinho Women's Open 2026

#### Alpina Sport und Wellnesshotel

- St. Johann im Pongau,
- 1 Seo Sea \$27,000
  - 2 Jasmin Ouschan \$15,750
  - 3 Mu Yan Zhang \$7,875
  - 3 Tzu-Chien Wei \$7,875
  - 5 Chihiro Kawahara \$3,940
  - 5 Han Yu \$3,940
  - 5 Pia Filler \$3,940
  - 5 Sha Sha Liu \$3,940
  - 9 Chia Hua Chen \$1,970
  - 9 Chieh-Yu Chou \$1,970
  - 9 Kristina Tkach \$1,970
  - 9 Nakyoung Song \$1,970
  - 9 Shui Ching Chiang \$1,970
  - 9 Xiao-Fang Fu \$1,970
  - 9 Xin Yu Hong \$1,970
  - 9 Yuki Hiraguchi \$1,970

## Jun 17 - Jun 23

### 2026 Predator Mixed Doubles Open

#### Alpina Sport und Wellnesshotel

- St. Johann im Pongau,
- 1 Han Yu \$20,000
  - 1 Kun Lin Wu \$20,000
  - 2 Denis Grabe \$10,000

- 2 Xiao-Fang Fu \$10,000
- 3 Chihiro Kawahara \$5,000
- 3 David Alcaide \$5,000
- 3 Naoyuki Oi \$5,000
- 3 Wan-Ling Wang \$5,000
- 5 Chia Hua Chen \$2,500
- 5 Daniel Maciol \$2,500
- 5 Eklent Kaci \$2,500
- 5 Joshua Filler \$2,500
- 5 Kristina Tkach \$2,500
- 5 Pia Filler \$2,500
- 5 Wojciech Szewczyk \$2,500
- 5 Yuki Hiraguchi \$2,500

## Jun 20 - Jun 21

### NWPA Tour 2026 Stop 3

#### Silver Star Saloon

- Vancouver, Washington
- 1 Molina Ortiz \$875
  - 2 Kathie MacDonald \$590
  - 3 Evelyn Hazlett \$380
  - 4 Melissa Rushton \$265
  - 5 Gia Pitillo \$175
  - 5 Shaundra Radford \$175
  - 7 Angele Silveira \$130
  - 7 Sarah Myers-Mitchell \$130
  - 9 Judy Reaves \$90
  - 9 Lela Andrews \$90
  - 9 Marion Poole \$90
  - 9 Regene Lane \$90
  - 13 Jeanne Christiansen \$60
  - 13 Malini Baker \$60
  - 13 Nancy Measer \$60
  - 13 Robin Adams \$60

## Jun 20 - Jun 20

### Q City 9-Ball Tour Stop

#### Busters Bar & Billiards

- Burlington, NC
- 1 Damon Kotke \$400
  - 2 Brian Overman \$240
  - 3 Daniel Adams \$140
  - 4 Dan Worline \$105

## Jun 20 - Jun 21

### Pool Series Stop

#### Brass Tap Billiards

- Raleigh, NC
- 1 BJ Ussery \$720
  - 2 Mike Davis \$440
  - 3 Diego Guerrero \$220
  - 3 Joshua Padron \$220
  - 5 Adam Davis \$100



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OF THE SHAFT GIVE ME  
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I NEED FOR MY GAME”**

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5 Dylon Massey \$100  
5 Freddy De la Garza \$100  
5 Jason Rogers \$100

## Jun 20 - Jun 21

### B & L Billiards Quad Bracket

#### Bank Shot Bar & Grill

Laurel, MD  
1 Lucas Kilgore \$2,700  
2 Jordy Morales \$1,360  
3 Paul Oh \$800  
3 Robert Carl \$800  
5 Edward Mejia \$420  
5 Jay R Yumul \$420  
5 Kevin Lee \$420  
5 Zach Edwards \$420  
9 Aidan McIntosh \$200  
9 Frank Markward \$200  
9 Frankie Spain \$200  
9 Jason Donia \$200  
9 Keith Curtis \$200  
9 Lukas Fracasso-Verner \$200  
9 Mitchell Mendez \$200  
9 Tony Long \$200

## Jun 24 - Jun 24

### Ballazzo Seniors Open

#### Alpina Sport und Wellnesshotel

St. Johann im Pongau,  
1 Ivica Putnik  
2 Gordan Farina

## Jun 25 - Jun 28

### 2026 Universal Open

#### Jakarta

Jakarta,  
1 Jonas Magpantay \$15,000  
2 Yi Chang \$8,000  
3 Jefrey Consigna Roda \$4,000  
3 Ruslan Chinakhov \$4,000  
5 Bernie Regaliaria \$2,000  
5 Harry Vergara \$2,000  
5 Oliver Villafuerte \$2,000  
5 Sun Yi Hsuan \$2,000  
9 Aivhan Maluti \$1,000  
9 Aloysius Yapp \$1,000  
9 Hui-chan Lu \$1,000  
9 Irwanto \$1,000

9 James Aranas \$1,000  
9 Jeffrey De Luna \$1,000  
9 Jerico Bonus \$1,000  
9 John Rebong \$1,000

## Jun 27 - Jun 28

### Carolina Billiards Circuit Stop 5

#### Fat Cat's Billiards

Arden, NC  
1 Lukas Fracasso-Verner \$1,200  
2 Kim Davenport \$930  
3 Johnny Archer \$700  
4 Josh Heeter \$500  
5 Jesse Draper \$350  
5 Mike Davis \$350  
7 Andy Twitchen \$200  
7 Marty Shook \$200  
9 Adam Pendley \$100  
9 Rodney Holland \$100  
9 Ryan Hollingsworth \$100  
9 Tommy Tran \$100

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# Upcoming Tournaments

**JULY/AUGUST**

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

## 2026 Mezz Bucharest Open

**Jul 03 - Jul 05**

Club IDM  
Bucharest

## 2026 USA National Pool Championships

**Jul 05 - Jul 11**

Dubuque Iowa  
Dubuque, IA

## 2AM Prague Open

**Jul 08 - Jul 11**

2AM Billiards  
Prague

## The West Coast Women's Tour 2026 Stop 3

**Jul 11 - Jul 11**

Family Billiards  
San Francisco, CA

## Shane vs Fedor King of the Hill

**Jul 11 - Jul 12**

Hilltop Promotions Studio  
Anderson, SC

## 2026 McDermott Open

**Jul 16 - Jul 19**

Yale Billiards  
Wallingford, Connecticut

## NWPA Tour 2026 Stop 4

**Jul 18 - Jul 19**

Players Sports Bar  
Kennewick, Washington

## 2026 Empire State Classic

**Jul 23 - Jul 26**

Raxx Pool Room, Sports Bar & Grill  
West Hempstead, NY

## iCue Snooker Open 2026

**Jul 25 - Jul 26**

iCue Billiards Club  
Rowland Heights, CA

## Vice City Classic

**Jul 29 - Aug 02**

Classic Billiards  
Lauderhill, Florida

## 2026 Banca Del Fucino WPA Women's World 10-Ball Championship

**Jul 31 - Aug 06**

Rome Italy

## 2026 Rome Wheelchair Open

**Jul 31 - Aug 03**

Rome Italy

## 2026 Women's Doubles Master Showdown

**Jul 31 - Aug 04**

Rome Italy

## The West Coast Women's Tour 2026 Stop 4

**Aug 01**

Buffalo Billiards  
Petaluma, California

## Florida Open

**Aug 04 - Aug 09**

Caribe Royale  
Orlando, Florida

## Arizona Open

**Aug 13 - Aug 16**

Quechan Casino and Resort  
Yuma, Arizona

## Phoenix Open

**Aug 18 - Aug 22**

Metro Sportz Bar  
Phoenix, AZ

## 2026 U.S. Open 9-Ball Championship

**Aug 25 - Aug 30**

Embassy Suites Hotel Dallas-Frisco  
Frisco, TX

## NWPA Tour 2026 Stop 5

**Aug 29 - Aug 30**

Legacy Billiards Bar & Grill  
Spokane, Washington

## 53rd Annual Texas Open 9-Ball

**Aug 31 - Sep 07**

Skinny Bob's Billiards  
Round Rock, Texas

# AZBILLIARDS MONEY LIST

	NAME	COUNTRY	\$ AMOUNT	
	Joshua Filler	 GER	153.215,00 US\$	
	Fedor Gorst	 USA	137.540,00 US\$	
	Aloysius Yapp	 SIN	110.400,00 US\$	
	Shane Van Boening	 USA	83.900,00 US\$	
	Francisco Sanchez-Ruiz	 ESP	73.220,00 US\$	
	Wiktor Zielinski	 POL	72.294,00 US\$	
	Chezka Centeno	 PHI	63.719,00 US\$	
	John Morra	 CAN	62.475,00 US\$	
	Wei-Tzu Chien	 TPE	60.975,00 US\$	↑
	Wojciech Szewczyk	 POL	60.495,00 US\$	

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### NINEBALL

**\$2,000 ADDED**

**JULY 15TH**  
WEDNESDAY  
7PM

- \$200 ENTRY - NO GREEN FEE
- SINGLE ELIMINATION
- RACES TO 7
- 9FT DIAMOND TABLES
- 32 PLAYER LIMIT

### ONE POCKET

**\$10,000 ADDED**

**JULY 16TH**  
THURSDAY  
7PM AUCTION  
PLAY AFTER

- MODIFIED ENTRY BASED ON FARGORATE
- 619 AND BELOW \$200 | 620-739 \$300
- 740 AND OVER \$400
- RACES TO 3/3-FINALS ONE RACE TO 4
- 3 FOUL RULE-32 PLAYER LIMIT

### BANKS RING GAME

**\$1,000 ADDED**

**JULY 18TH**  
SATURDAY  
10PM CENTRAL

- \$250 ENTRY NO GREEN FEES
- SINGLE ELIM BANKS PAID PER RAIL
- STARTS SATURDAY 10PM CENTRAL
- FIELD 8 PLAYER INVITATIONAL

### BAR TABLE 9 BALL

**\$2,000 ADDED**

**JULY 17TH**  
FRIDAY  
5PM AUCTION  
PLAY AFTER

- \$25 ENTRY INCLUDES \$5 ADMIN FEE
- RACE TO 7 ALT BREAK DOUBLE ELIMINATION
- AUCTION AT 5PM FRIDAY PLAY AFTER
- FIELD LIMITED TO 1ST 196 PAID PLAYERS

FARGO USED BASED ON A ROBUSTNESS OF 300 OR MORE OR PLAYERS KNOWN ABILITY  
FINAL RATINGS OF PLAYERS BASED ON THE SOLE DISCRETION OF THE EVENT PROMOTER/DIRECTOR

BAR TABLE EVENT REGISTRATION AT [WWW.POOLPLAYERMATCHUPS.COM](http://WWW.POOLPLAYERMATCHUPS.COM)

PRO EVENTS TOURNAMENT DIRECTOR  
IAN JONES (762) 224-9456

BAR TABLE TOURNAMENT DIRECTOR  
BRANDON JACOBS (515) 520-3612

PRO EVENTS REGISTRATION



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