

# Billiards Buzz

an **A Z B** publication

vol.1, Issue 6 - January 2017

## Best in Class

Han Yu & Jayson Shaw  
Win Player Of The Year Awards





A CHAMPION  
IS SOMEONE WHO  
GETS UP WHEN HE CAN'T



NO LIMIT



RISE TO EVERY CHALLENGE, SAVOR EVERY VICTORY.



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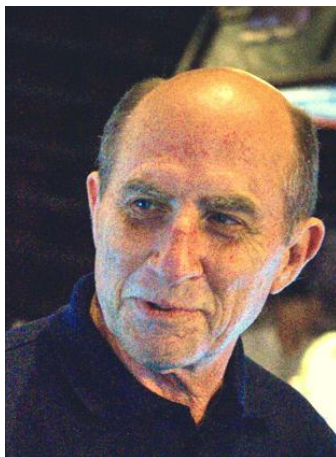
JP Parmentier

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# The Head Rail a message from the Editor



Looking across the socio/political landscape of America there may be changes coming that would affect the billiard industry to a much higher degree than others.

Our new President has promised as much as a 35% tariff on imported goods from China or, alternatively, a Border Adjustment Tax that would disallow importers from deducting the cost of imported goods on their tax returns. For many industries, this is balanced out by not having to pay any taxes on exported goods while getting tax credits for the cost of manufacture of goods that are exported. It is a balance.

But in Billiards many companies do not have a balance of imports and exports. Most billiard goods sold in America today are pure imports. What exactly is a Border Adjustment Tax? It's not actually a tax or a tariff. It would be a fundamental change to the way the U.S. government taxes imports and exports. In a tax system with border adjustment, companies would no longer be able to deduct the cost of their imported goods, and the sales of their exports would no longer be subject to U.S. tax. That means American companies could reduce the prices for products they sell abroad. So how does a Border Adjustment Tax work?

Here is a simple example. Let's say you are a manufacturer who Imports \$50,000 worth of Wizzits per year that are then sold for \$100,000. Under current law, you put the \$100,000 amount as your total earnings and then you get to deduct the \$50,000 that you paid for the product from an overseas supplier. So your taxable income (and this is simplistic as it assumes no other deductions) is \$50,000 and you pay tax on that. If you are in the 35% tax bracket you write a check to Uncle Sam for \$17,500 of your \$50,000 profit and you pocket \$37,500.

Under the Border Adjustment Tax system, you would no longer deduct the \$50,000 it cost you to import your Wizzits. Instead, you just pay tax on the \$100,000 sales figure. At 35% that means you pay \$35,000 in tax and you still have to pay your supplier for the goods they made you so after taxes you are left now with only \$15,000 instead of \$37,500. That is a cut in take-home of over 60%. And for many in pool that means they no longer would have the money for rent, utilities, local taxes and salaries. I spoke with two wholesalers within the industry and both of them said that if this went through they would likely be put out of business. And the tariff idea is no better. A 35% tariff would jack up prices 35% just to stay even and it is a basic economic law that as prices rise demand decreases.

There is light at the end of this tunnel. The president does not set tax laws. that is the job of congress. And every congressman has constituents that will soon have studied these import laws and will certainly be vocal about them. So, in the end, we will most likely end up with something far less onerous. Can we get to a 20% corporate rate? Sure. We are in a competitive world that is in a race to the bottom on corporate rates and we will continue to shift the tax load to the consumer.

But, for a group of conservatives whose claim to fame is to lower regulations on business this Border Tax smells a lot like the King of Regulations, with all companies being told where they can manufacture and where they should sell their goods. It just doesn't seem to fly with the principals of free enterprise and small government.

~ Jerry Forsyth



*Introducing...*

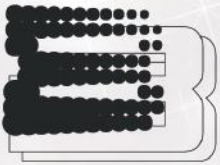
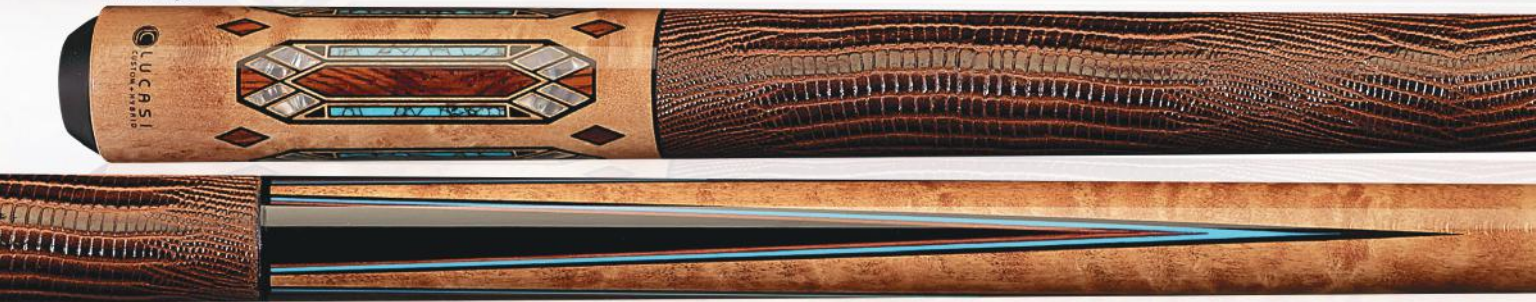
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BY AZB STAFF • Both players had superb years and Han Yu wound up the year as the WPA #1 while Jayson Shaw improved internationally to WPA #4.



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Han Yu has once again told the world that she is the best female player on earth.



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BY AZB STAFF • Shaw came into the Joss NE 9-Ball Tour's Turning Stone Classic XXVII on January 5th at the Turning Stone Casino in Verona, NY as the reigning champion and a four time winner of the event.

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BY JOEY AGUZIN • Some referred to Scotty as a "Crocodile Dundee" kind of guy, while others compared him to "Steve Irwin the Crocodile Hunter," but, the consensus is that Scotty was a "Man's Man."

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# Interviews by Melinda Bailey

by Melinda Bailey



him, you will see why he was easily chosen to be my first interviewee victim.



**Q. You have a very smooth stroke that many players envy. Where did you get that from and when did you figure out that that was a huge part of a being good, consistent player?**

*A: First of all, thank you for the compliment; that means a lot to me. Over the years everyone hears "Stay down, follow through. Stay down, follow through." And after hearing that my whole life, I practiced it and of course realized it was working well, so I knew it was a good thing to continue to do.*

**Q. You were diagnosed with colon cancer in 2008. You told me once that you never thought about giving up and that you knew you were going to make it. What gave you that positiveness?**

*A: Kind of hard to say, but I just think there was a higher power that gave me that confidence and security that it just wasn't my time. Positive thinking is the most important medicine of all. And mine and Ann's [his fiancé's] humor throughout everything helped a lot. Laughing at*

*"... when you start showing frustration, your opponent feeds off that."*

*the situation - what else can you do?*

**Q. What is the most important title you've won?**

*A: That's hard to say, there's several that mean a lot to me. My ACS National Champion title was great (2014). And Tara Williams and I won first place in BCA Master's Scotch Doubles, which was pretty cool. And my two Omega Billiards Tour Championships, I'm pretty proud of those. It's hard to narrow it down to one.*

**Q. Your Dad was a big part of your life and I know his passing in 2012 has been tough. What would you say to him today? What do you think he would say to you?**

*A: That's easy— if he was here today, I would say to him, "Let's go to a tournament." And he'd say, "Let's go." He was known for going to tournaments with me. He would take me to tournaments and league a lot, even after working a 12-hour shift. And he would always fall asleep during the tournament. My good friend, Doug Winnett, told him once, "Alkie, if you keep sleeping a little longer, they'll be serving you a continental breakfast later on."*

**Q. You are extremely calm and you never let things bother you on the table. Where do you think you get them from and why do you act this way? Did something happen when you started to play pool or have you always been this way in every aspect of your life?**

*A: One of the reasons I always try to stay calm is that Daddy told me a long time ago that when you start showing frustration, your opponent feeds off that. So even if I am frustrated, I try not to give my opponent that fuel. Another reason I try not to be a sore loser or a sore winner is that when I was young, Daddy told me if I couldn't act right I couldn't go. I won a big tournament once when I was young and started showing off and he took my cue away from me and wouldn't let me go play for a while. It stopped me from being a brat.*

**Q. I heard that when you won your first Omega Tour stop that it was very meaningful to you. Can you explain your feelings?**

**A:** *It was the first tournament I won after dealing with my colon cancer, but more so it was the first tournament I won after Daddy passed away. When Daddy was sick [he had Mesothelioma], he still wanted to go to tournaments with me and it got to where I would pay more attention to what he was doing on the side than what I was doing on the table because I was concerned about him. But yeah, I struggled after my surgery and chemotherapy to get back up to a level of play I was used to. But winning that first tournament after Daddy passed meant more, because he supported me so much in my game. I wished he could have been there for that one.*

**Q. What is your favorite part of playing pool?**

**A:** *I don't know really - I love it all. I just love the competition and I've met a lot of people playing pool. I have a bunch of friends now that I wouldn't have met outside of pool, including Ann. I wouldn't have met Rick and Alicia Stanley; I reconnected with Lonnie Rozelle after 20 years. Anybody who plays pool can tell you, it's just fun; it's a fun game. It's also pushing myself; I used to stay up for hours and hours just trying to get a little better.*

**Q. What are your thoughts when you are hill-hill?**

**A:** *Get to the table, hope I'm breaking, stay at the table and don't @# \$%&! it up. And chalk. Oh, and don't make a mistake.*

**Q. How do you remain calm when you are in a match? (wait, are you calm on the inside?)**

**A:** *I don't always remain calm. I just look calm on the outside. That goes back to what Daddy said about not showing frustration. And about 6 beers - that helps. Six beers will calm me right down hahaha. Experience also has a lot to do with it. Playing as many matches as I have throughout the years, having "been there, done that" helps me remain calm.*

**Q. When have you been your most nervous during a tournament?**

**A:** *There's been two different times. I had finished 2nd one year and 3rd another in BCA Masters, but I didn't have a first place finish in a national tournament. I was playing Walter Glass in the ACS Advanced finals. I was on the hill shooting the 8 ball for the title. It was straight in the side and when I got down to shoot, instead of thinking of making it, I started thinking, "don't miss it." A pretty simple shot and I had it in my head I was going to miss. I shot, it hit the tip before falling, it didn't go straight in. That was just nerve-racking. And the other time, or*

*really times, is when I play in team events. It doesn't happen all the time, I can't tell you why it happens or why it doesn't happen, but having those teammates counting on you makes me nervous sometimes.*

**Q. What do you do for a living and how does that coincide with allowing you to play pool?**

**A:** *I build fences and the guy I work for is also a pool player. I actually met him when I was 15 years old through playing pool. He's got a table at home, I have a table at home, and a guy that works with us has a table at home, so we get together a lot to play pool. So he understands when a tournament is coming up and he supports me going. I worked as a brick layer before working with him, and after my chemo, I couldn't keep up with the heat and stress. But the brick layers and other construction jobs I've had always allowed me the time to go play pool. Working for individuals, instead of a corporation, has always allowed me more freedom to take off to go to a tournament. So it's never been a problem with work and pool.*

**Q. How long have you been playing pool? What do you think propelled you into becoming the top player that you are?**

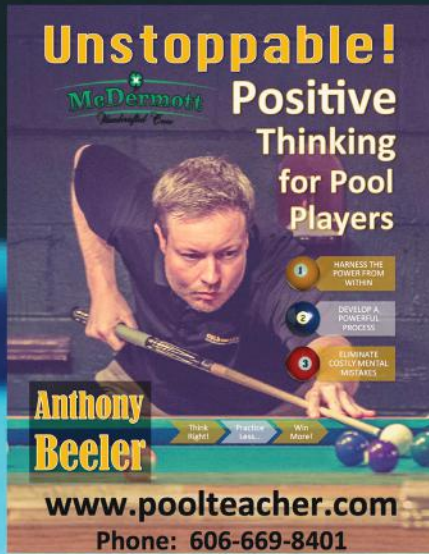
**A:** *I've been playing as long as I can remember. Daddy bought a table and put it in the house when I was 3 years old. I stood on a milk crate to shoot. People say that all the time, but I really did. I just really enjoyed playing. And allowing me to get better was Daddy working 12 hour shifts then taking me to league 2 hours away, then turning around and working another 12 hour shift the next day. As well as taking me to tournaments. His support really helped my love of the game. He enjoyed it as much as I did and that was something we did together. The game got under my skin, I loved it so much and without his support I don't think I would be at the level I am now.*

**Thank you for your time, Tony!**

## Author's Bio

Melinda "akatrigger" Bailey has been in the pool scene as a player and ambassador for pool for over 25 years. She is a loyal blogger, a top player in Texas, and holds numerous BCA/ACS Texas State and National titles (singles, doubles, and teams). She currently runs the successful Omega Billiards Tour across north Texas.

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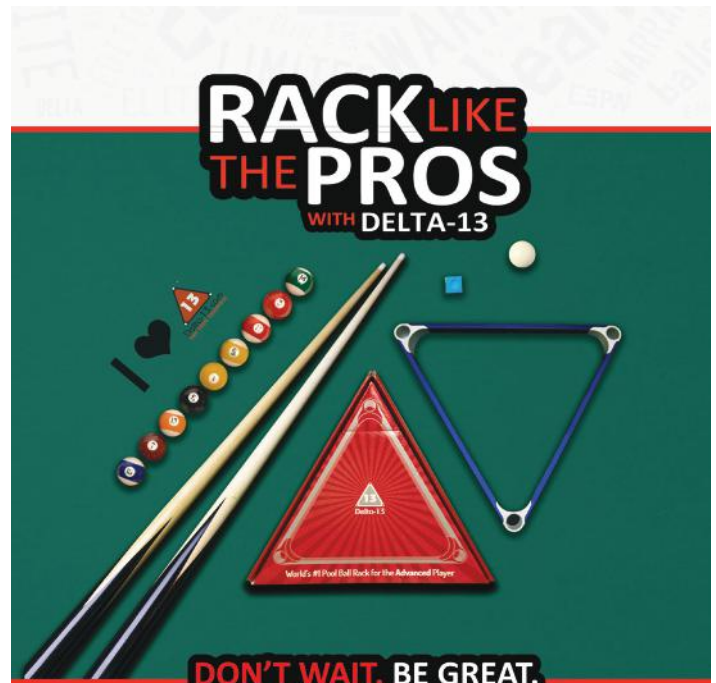
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# What Do I Do When I Have Just Ten Minutes to Practice?

by Karen Corr



## Drill 1

I like to practice first with a straight in shot. I put the cue ball on the head string and the object ball in line on the second diamond at the other end of the table just as the diagram shows.



I focus not just on potting the ball but watching what the cue ball does. I see if the meale ball is spinning to show if I am putting side on the cue ball. Also, I can see if the cue ball goes to the sides. This can show if you're not quite potting the ball clean and/or if there is a slight deflection when putting accidental side on the cue ball.

## Drill 2



With the object ball frozen to the cushion on the second diamond up from the corner pocket, line up the cue ball to the opposite corner pocket. This shot is a half ball hit. I like to test for how the cue ball deflects on different cloths. On an old cloth you can nearly aim at 1/2 ball on the object ball. When you play on a new cloth you will have to aim thicker on the object ball to allow for more deflection on the cue ball. The deflection can change with people's stroke and every cue plays different so you have to get comfortable with your stroke and equipment.

The aim change can be up to an additional 1/4 ball aim. So it's like aiming at the object ball at 3/4 ball. These aim adjustments were taught to me by Robert McCullough.

The cue ball should go off three rails around the table. So you can also see the speed of the table.

## Drill 3



The same shot as Drill 2 in the set up. Object ball on the second diamond and the cue ball lined up at the corner pocket. This drill I test to see if I scratch or beat the scratch into the side pocket. On a worn cloth you can beat the scratch hitting the side rail down towards the cue ball. On a new cloth or bouncy rails you may scratch or even hit the rail opposite to where the object ball is. I make an adjustment to find out what the table gives me and also what my stroke

*“If there is enough time I break and try to run the table to get confidence in running out.”*

is doing on that day. I move the cue ball towards the spot at the middle of the head string. Why do I do this? If I need to get position on a ball say below the 9 ball then I can plan ahead to where I need to play position on the previous ball and feel confident that I can get there as long as I execute a straight smooth stroke.

#### Drill 4



I put the object ball on the short rail on the first diamond. I put the cue ball lined up from the object ball to the side pocket. I test for the rolling cue ball. I see how much speed the cut gives me when coming off the rail. This can vary from different rail speed and whether it is new cloth or old. The new cloth will react faster.

#### Drill 5

I practice the shots I missed in previous matches. This clears my head of the shots missed and why I missed the shot.

If there is enough time I break and try to run the table to get confidence in running out.

I hope these drills will help to improve your game.

~ Karen

### About Karen Corr:

Karen Corr was inducted into the **BCA Hall of Fame** in 2012 as one of the most deserving players ever to earn the honor.

Karen owns four **World Snooker Titles**, three **World English Pool Titles**, and scores of **WPBA Event Titles**.

She won the **Challenge of Champions** three years in a row.

Her game continues to sharpen and she is feared not only by other women but also by the top male pros as she makes a habit of taking them down in style.

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# Mind of Steel

## Playing With Confidence

Dr. Christopher Stankovich  
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Confidence truly is king when it comes to athletic success. Confident pool players constantly look to dominate their opponents and “play to win,” while players lacking confidence consistently underachieve, choke, and play to “avoid losing.”

When you are confident in your pool playing abilities, your mind and body become synchronized and you get into Flow (or as athletes refer to it, “the Zone”). Confident players don’t pay attention to things that don’t matter (the opponent, the fans, the last missed shot, etc), and instead channel their complete energy into the only thing that is important — the next shot. Confidence also impacts perception — for example, say you took 10 shots and made 5 and missed 5. A confident player will stay focused and positive, whereas a player with less confidence will get angry, frustrated, and inevitably miss more future shots.

The good news is you control your self confidence. To begin with, make sure to have a positive attitude every time you pick up your cue. Positive emotions and attitudes have a tremendous impact on self-confidence. The great news is YOU control your emotions and attitude, so be sure to stay positive everyday. This game is tough enough without you being your own worst enemy.

Some additional tips for building self-confidence are presented below:

- **Practice with a purpose.** Work on mastering the basic skills until you can do them without thinking — to the point where they become

automatic. More shots made = greater self-confidence

- **Make pool mastery a personal challenge.** Is the glass half-full or half-empty? The perception you have is as individual as you are. Whenever you play pool you are going to make some shots and miss others — the real question is what will you focus on at the end of the day? If you are challenged to get better every day you will always look to build on the future by challenging yourself to get better every day.
- **Look to learn something new every day.** By improving at the small details of pool (i.e. getting into pinpoint position), you will make more shots and improve your confidence level.
- **Laugh.** Life is short enough, so you might as well enjoy as much of it as you can! Sometimes you have to just break down your stick, smile, and promise to make tomorrow a better day than today. Remember, it’s not the end of the world when you miss a shot (or lose a game), and the sun really will come up tomorrow.
- **Keep a journal of your success.** If you think you will remember the last time you played great pool, think again. I’ll bet you can’t even remember what you had for lunch yesterday, much less that great tournament you played in 6 months ago. Trust me, if you want to feel good nothing beats a quick re-read of one of your best all-time games.

Confidence is king, and you control your confidence level. *Think* like a champion and one day you may become one — good luck!

### Author’s Bio

Develop your mental toughness and your game will go to levels previously not witnessed! Learn more by checking out our #1 best selling video *Mind of Steel for Pool Success*, now streaming at <https://drstankovich.cinevee.com/mind-of-steel-mental-toughness-for-pool-success>

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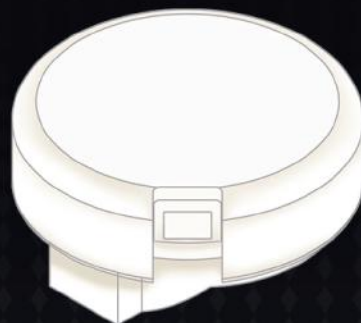
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# Mosconi's Practice Secret

by Anthony Beeler



Willie Mosconi — “87 Exhibition” Click’s, Dallas, TX  
Photo by Mike Haines & Bill Porter • Courtesy of Mary Kenniston

There’s a big difference between practicing hard and getting the most out of your time on the table. All too often, we think playing an eight-hour practice session will benefit us more than shooting just a few balls. As a kid, I desperately wanted to be a great player and heard somewhere that I needed to shoot a shot five hundred times if I really wanted to learn it.

I’d set up the same shot over and over again. Sometimes on a cold snowy day I’d embark on a marathon session on the top floor of my parents’ three-car garage. Very often, my sessions would start out being very productive. I knew what I wanted to accomplish and would get into a pretty nice rhythm. The more I shot, however, the worse I’d perform. I’d quickly lose focus and begin making shots in a non-deliberate manner. The moment I would miss, I would immediately place another ball on the table in the exact same spot and attempt it again. I’d become so undisciplined in my approach that many of my practice sessions would end in a state of frustration.

Back in 1999, I spoke with one-pocket hall of fame inductee Steve Cook. Cook was in the middle of one of his practice sessions at the first annual *Derby City Classic*. I can clearly remember Steve striking one shot after another both purely and deliberately. I asked Steve how he practiced and he then proceeded to tell me a story about Willie Mosconi and what a perfect practice session looks

like. He said, “Ya know, back in the day, Mosconi would go to the table and strike just a few balls.” I learned that he’d hit no more than twenty shots at a time, directing his total focus and commitment into properly reaching a goal that he had set for himself. After twenty balls had been struck, Mosconi would take a quick coffee break and then return to the table to continue his work. The short break would allow him to mentally refresh, reflect, and consider any adjustments he might need to make when he returned to the table.

From my conversation with Steve, I concluded that Mosconi would isolate one area of his game and then direct all of his concentration into that one specific area. Like Mosconi, I also believe it is important to set goals for yourself. I believe in keeping a written record of each practice session so that you can look back and see how much you have improved. After all, if you’re not improving, you need to change something about the way you practice.

Did Mosconi “actually” practice this way? I am not sure, but building my practice sessions in this manner really helped me to develop a more positive approach as I worked to improve my pool game. I never did become a coffee drinker. I did, however, begin shooting only twenty shots at a time, followed by a short break. For me, this process had the same effect, and it felt great to leave a practice session feeling as though I had accomplished something. So the next time you decide to practice, think about incorporating this little secret into your game. I think you will find your practice sessions to be shorter, more positive, and more productive.

## Author’s Bio

**Anthony Beeler** is a 2013 BCAPL National 9-Ball Champion. He also finished 9th out of 1086 players at the 2013 BCA National 8-Ball Championships. Beeler has numerous top 25 national finishes and is a certified Master Instructor for the American CueSports Alliance. He is the founder of Virtual Billiard Academy and has authored the book *Unstoppable! Positive Thinking for Pool Players*.

Throughout his pool-playing career Anthony has won over 300 tournaments and has defeated numerous professional players in tournament competition.

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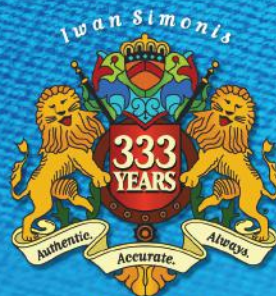
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# On the Road

by Jay Helfert

In the 1960 and 70's there were at least two hundred road men actively pursuing pool games all across the United States. It was a time of prosperity for our country and there were thousands of poolrooms dotting the landscape. There was no internet or cell phones, so we kept apprised in other ways. We shared information!

Everyone had their "black book" which contained notes on players, poolrooms and action spots. A "spot" could refer to a good poolroom to find action or a handicap you may need to give someone to get them to play. A "mark" was someone who was soft action while a "player" was someone with skills that you had to be careful with.

Good information would include a player's name and description, what games he liked to play and how much he would bet. Also how much he might lose was good to know. We would pass this information along to another player in the hope that if they made a score they would throw you a "jelly", usually amounting to 10% or more. This could be settled up the next time our paths crossed or via Western Union money order. Western Union was a good way for us to pass money when someone went broke and needed a "gapper" to get back on their feet.

Sometimes you might have to "lay down" or "stall" to get a good game, meaning play a little under your real speed. Good hustlers were even willing to "slough off" some money so they looked like they might be a mark. It was not a good idea to put too many games "on the wire" for fear of being "stiffed." Often we made our opponent "post" the money so this wouldn't happen. There was always a danger when getting out with the money afterwards so having a trusted partner or some "muscle" was not a

bad idea, particularly when betting high.

*"No one said hello or even acknowledged one another. We didn't want anyone there to know we knew each other."*

After a win it was never a bad idea to give a losing opponent a "gapper" or some "walking around" money. Making a nice "score" could mean winning as little as two or three hundred dollars. You might have to play until your opponent quits. It was never a good idea to quit winners! When entering a new town, if you didn't have prior information, a trip to the nearest phone booth was helpful. We would look in the yellow pages for the section on Billiards and tear out that page. I preferred to go first to the room with the largest Ad.

Often after you played (and won) somewhere, someone would offer to "steer" you around to other pool halls in the area. They might have inside information on other people you could play. A good steer was worth 10% of your win.

Going into bars was a whole other matter. You never walked in with your own cue and you would usually just put up a quarter to challenge the table, and then wait your turn. When your turn came you would rack the balls and typically be told how much they were playing for, maybe five or ten a game, but often only one or two dollars. I always carried small tools in my pocket to rough a tip and smooth a shaft.

Road men we're also called "rounders" or "cross roaders" back then and we knew the nations highways like the back of our hand. If there was a real good spot with lots of action, you might walk in and see several familiar faces. No one said hello or even acknowledged one another. We didn't want

anyone there to know we knew each other.

Being on the road could consist of many short stays of a day or two only to extended stays of a month or more if the action was good somewhere. In a large city there might be dozens of rooms to play in so you might rent a place by the week instead of by the day. When the action dried up or you became known it was time to move on. I knew road men that literally spent years of their life traveling, never settling anywhere long enough to call home. It was (and is) a big country with lots of opportunities. Unfortunately the number of poolrooms has dwindled to a fraction of what it used to be and the cost of travel has gone way up. Thus the road man is a dying breed with only a handful still out there. It's too hard to remain anonymous anymore!



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# The Toughest Shot on the Table

by Jerry Briesath



Some pool playing tips are designed to help you play better and win, while others are designed to keep you from losing --- is there a difference?

There is a shot that most pros refer to as the most difficult shot on the table and when

they talk about the shot, their eyes roll back in their head as they remember the times when the shot cost them a crucial game or match, and it's not the tough shot you might think it is.

Remember the times when you stepped up to the table and made a totally fabulous shot that you never thought you could make, you turned around with a mile wide smile and your teammates all gave you the high five. You felt 10 feet tall, good looking and bulletproof, and then you stepped up to the next easy shot and blew it. That's the shot I'm talking about --- the toughest shot on the table is the one after the great shot. Your elation over the previous great shot causes your concentration to drop to a dangerous level, causing you to miss the next shot. Don't feel bad, it happens to every player many times in his or her lifetime.

Better players recognize when it happens and make sure they bear down with 100 percent concentration on that next easy shot.

Remember the next time you make that great shot, take a few seconds to compose yourself and get your head back on straight before approaching the next shot. It will keep you from losing a few matches every season.

**Good Luck! ~ Jerry Forsyth**

*"Some pool playing tips are designed to help you play better and win, while others are designed to keep you from losing --- is there a difference?"*

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# Jayson Shaw and Han Yu are AZB Players of the Year

by AZB Staff

all photos courtesy of Alison Chang and J.P. Parmentier

Jayson Shaw and Han Yu both finished off 2016 in style. Shaw sank the winning ball at the Mosconi Cup in London and Han Yu won the WPA Women's World 9-Ball Championship in Emeishan, China. Both players had superb years and Han Yu wound up the year as the WPA #1 while Jayson Shaw improved internationally to WPA #4. In the past the WPA rankings would have swayed our decision more than it did as now 80% of their major points events are in Asia and that makes the international points list something that is heavily advantageous to the Asian professionals who do not have to invest as much in travel as their western counterparts.



Jayson Shaw went on a streak this year that was simply amazing. He seemed to win every time he screwed his cue together. Indeed, he took home the highest of honors fifteen times in 2016. He played in twenty-five events this year and was in the top five in all but three of them. He has won four of the last five Turning Stone Classic events and he turned around a bad start at the Mosconi Cup to become a star of the show.

He and his doubles partner Darren Appleton had lost their match on the first day to the American pairing of Skyler Woodward and Justin Bergman. They were the only Euros to suffer a loss on the first day. Then, on the second day, Shaw was again

alone in his singles loss to Rodney Morris. His Cup was not going well. That began to change on day three when he paired with Albin Ouschan to defeat Rodney Morris and Skyler Woodward 5-3. Neither Ouschan nor Shaw backed away from any tough shots in this match. They took them on and executed them well and that aggression paid off in victory. It also set the tone for Shaw's match on Friday, where he took on even the toughest of shots and ran over Mike Dechaine 5-1 by simply keeping him in his chair.

Shaw had a bounty of victories in 2016. Major ones, other than the Moscow Cup, include the Kuwait 9-Ball Open, The Challenge of Champions, The Derby City 10-Ball Challenge, Turning Stone Classic XXVI (and as of press time, Turning Stone XXVII as well), the Steinway Classic, Accu-Stats Make It Happen 8-Ball, the Deurne City Classic, the Ocean State Championship, and the Eastern States Championship as well as smaller events.

And he is versatile. He came in second at the Derby City Banks, fourth on the Derby City One Pocket, and, as already noted, won the Accu-Stats 8-Ball event. 2016 was a year when he proved true his nickname of "Eagle-Eye."



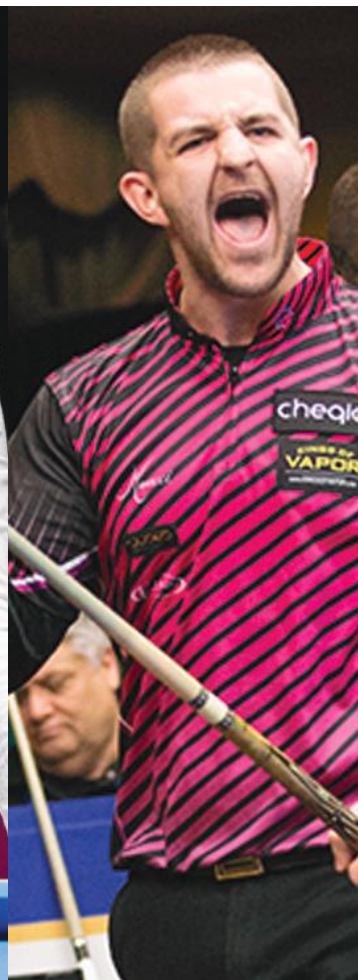
Han Yu has kept a low profile near the top of the pool power rankings for the last three years.



But just this year she won both the Women's World 9-Ball Championship as well as well as the Women's Division of the China Open. She also took third at both the Amway Cup and the Hongze, China CBSA event.

Han Yu is not new to glory. She won the World Championships in 2013 and won the China Open once before as well, in 2014. Unfortunately, most of the events that Han has performed so well in are from China, where the promoters do not find it convenient to send tournament reports out to western media. So while we would like to be able to provide you with all sorts of playing details about Han Yu, the curtain between us is still mostly drawn.

Congratulations to our 2016 Players of The Year: Han Yu and Jayson Shaw!



# Han-Yu Claims Women's World 9-Ball Crown Again

by AZB Staff,  
Ian Anderson

All Photos Courtesy of  
Alison Chang



Han Yu has once again told the world that she is the best female player on earth. She first won this event in 2013 with a dominating performance that demanded everyone's attention as she won her final match in that event by an overwhelming 9-1 score over Lin Yuan Chun. This year she defeated Chihiro Kawahara of Japan 9-7. Han Yu now adds this to her China Open win and her third-place finish in the Amway Cup for admirable performances in major events in 2016.

The format for the WPA Women's World 9-Ball Championship is constructed in two stages. The first stage consists of 8 groups of 8 players in each group. Each group plays a double elimination mini-tournament which means a player must win two matches to qualify. Two losses and you're out. The second stage features 32 players which is a single elimination or knock-out.

Defending Champion and world number one, Liu Shasha got away to a shaky start today when she lost her opening match 5/7 against a very good Chinese player (Zhou Doudou) putting her straight

across to the loser's side of the draw. Another loss and she would have been out of the tournament. Liu did redeem herself in her second match when she defeated Kristina Tkach of Russia 7/4. Zhou Doudou showed her win was no fluke with a 7/1 win over Korean Hyun Ji Won to put her into the final stage along with Shasha.

A bit of a scare for the organizers came about when superstar Pan Xiaoting lost her opening match to Wang Wanling 5/7. Pan also redeemed herself in her next match against Japanese Miyuki Kuribayashi 7/1. A convincing score but Pan did not really play at her best. However, she was aided by a good run of the balls and a lucky shot with the 9 ball to win the fourth rack to lead 3/1 instead of 2/2. Pan did manage to lift her game and was back in good form by the end of the match.

Most other matches went to plan, Korean Kim Gayoung looked very good winning 7/2 against Kristina Grim of Germany, and then qualified for the final stage by defeating Japan's Keiko Yukawa 7/3. Chen Siming started well, winning her two matches, 7/2 against Miyuki Kuribayashi and 7/5 against Wang Wanling. The Fishers got away to a good start also, Kelly winning 7/4 against Korean Lin Run Mi and Allison beating former world champion Liu Shin-Mei 7/2. They will play their second match tomorrow. Former Irish and now American Karen Corr also started with a rush beating Japan's Akimi Kajatani 7/1.

But surely the story of the day is Jia-Hua Chen of Chinese Taipei when she started off defeating South African Nicola Rossouw 7/5, then in her next match she defeated former world champion and world number three Han Yu 7/5. Chen won the Juniors World Championship in Shanghai just a few weeks ago earning herself a spot in the world's most prestigious event for women. Her performance got her through to the knock-out stage, and everyone began looking for her name on the Finals chart.

Day two kicked off with the completion of the double elimination group stage leaving just 32

players remaining. There were no real surprises from the double elimination favored players getting through to the single elimination stage which features 32 players.



The draw was not so kind for two former world champions, Han Yu (CHN) and Kelly Fisher (GBR) were drawn against each other in the first round. Han Yu has a world ranking of 3 and Kelly Fisher 8. Playing on the television table, both players produced some high quality play and it was sad to know that only one of them would remain in the tournament. In a tensely fought battle it was Han Yu who prevailed and advanced to the last 16. Another thriller was between the two Filipinos, world number 7 Rubelin Amit and world number 9 Chezka Centeno. These two players slogged it out going rack to rack with Centeno finally getting in 9/8. Centeno is one of the up and coming stars. A left-hander, she is a real delight to watch with her free and easy style and no messing about attitude.

Two friends and great champions, Allison Fisher and Karen Corr, also drew against each other. Karen has recently acquired a USA passport and now competes under the stars and stripes. It was a real test of wills, both players very cautious as they are well aware of each others ability, but Karen found the finishing line first 9/6. Unfortunately, the bubble burst for the youngster from Chinese Taipei, world junior champion Jia-Hua Chen, but not without a fight, losing 8/9 to Tan Hui Ming. Another former world champion got through to the final 16, Yuan-Chun Lin of Chinese Taipei, when she defeated Sun Danhong 9/7 in another high quality battle.

Another impressive performance came from world number 4, Chinese Taipei's consistent Chou Chieh-Yu who had a comfortable win over Kateryna Polovinchuk of the Ukraine 9/2. One player traveling under the radar is China's Jiang Teng who had a solid performance defeating Korean Solid Choi. Jiang is one to keep an eye on, a dark horse selection.

One of the favorites for this title was world number 2 China's Chen Siming. She had a convincing win over Ji Won Hyun of Korea 9/2. But the best performance of the day belonged to Korean Kim Gayoung against Ho-Yun Chen of Chinese Taipei. After trailing 1/6, Kim then found another gear and played flawlessly to runout the winner 9/7.

The winner of this world championship will gain automatic entry into the 2017 World Games being played in Wroclaw, Poland 24-31 July 2017.

Day three was a tough day at the office for the players and for four of them it meant three tough matches for the chance of getting into the final of a world championship.



Popular favorites, Kim Gayoung and Han Yu made a flying start winning their matches by the same margin, an impressive 9/0. Unfortunately for them, they had to meet in the next round. The youngster from the Philippines, Chezta Centeno was impressive with her free-flowing style and defeated Keiko Yukawa 9/5. Not exactly an upset, but Gao Meng ousted her Chinese teammate and defending champion, world number one, Liu Shasha 9/7. Liu was not the only hotpot to bite the dust, world number two Chen Siming went out when Karen Corr played most impressively dispatching her 9/4.

The quarter-finals were next and one match was one that could have been billed as the final: Kim Gayoung vs Han Yu. High quality play throughout the match, but Han led from the start and beat

Kim 9/6. On another table, Bai Ge eliminated her opponent very convincingly 9/3. Gao Meng and Chezka Centeno had a tough battle with the scores never more than two the difference. At hill/hill, Centeno played a very careless shot and left the table to the mercy of Gao who took full advantage to clean up for a well fought 9/8 victory. The other quarter-final saw Karen Corr trailing 6/0 at one point, but fought her way back to make the scores 5/7. Just when Corr look set to pull another rack closer, she missed a comparatively easy 9 ball and never really recovered from there, losing 5/9.



In the first semi-final Han Yu got away to a handy start and looked the goods for the entire match, winning comfortably 9/4. The other semi-final was a different story. After Gao Meng getting away to a handy lead, a tenacious Chihiro Kawahara started to gradually wear her down and got up in the final rack to win 9/8.



After getting away to a good strong start and leading 3/0, Chihiro missed an easy 1-9 combination shot which allowed Han to the table for her first real chance in the match, and she ran the balls to make it 1/3. In rack five with the chance to run the rack, Chihiro had left herself a really difficult shot, and

after losing the previous rack, it seemed as though this shot on the 7 ball would be expecting too much, but as clean anything into the pocket it went and now she led 4/1. Han broke off in the next, played a push, was sent back in and fouled, Chihiro cleared to now lead 5/1. In rack eight, Han broke the balls and was left without an easy safety. Instead, from the wrong side of the table, she cut the 3 ball onto the 9 to make a fantastic combination to win the rack, now 3/5. Chihiro replied with a nice break and run to lead 6/3. Not to be phased, Han replied with her own break and run to trail 4/6. Rack eleven, Han missed a shot at the 2 ball and Chihiro ran the remaining balls to lead 7/4. It appeared that the writing was on the wall; Chihiro was playing very well, great control of the cue ball with her positional shots, her only blemish really was the missed 1 - 9 combination in the fourth rack. Han won the twelfth rack, and in the thirteenth Chihiro scratched on the break and Han ran out, now the gap had closed to just one, 6/7. In rack fourteen, Han broke and made three balls, and played another great 2 - 9 combination to level the scores at 7/7. In each fifteen, Chihiro made three balls on the break, but no shot at the 3 ball, played safe. Han faltered and gave Chihiro a great chance to get back to the lead. In clearing up, she got herself a little out of ideal position for the 7 ball and tried to force the shot, with the ball refusing to go into the pocket. Han was left with a bank shot, which she made and for the first time in the match Han moved into the lead. In the final rack, Han broke the balls and ran out to win and become the 2016 world champion. Her last few shots were relatively easy if one were playing socially down at the club, but for world title she was starting to feel the nerves set in. Many a deep breath was taken before and after each shot. Both players should be very proud of their performance, there was very little between them. Chihiro was very gracious in her defeat, which must have been hard to do as she must have thought she had the title in her keeping at one stage. This is the second time that Han Yu has won the world championship, and she was a very popular winner here tonight. She is a great ambassador for the game.

**Winner • Han Yu (CHN)**

**Runner-up • Chihiro Kawahara (JPN)**

**Third place • Gao Meng (CHN)**

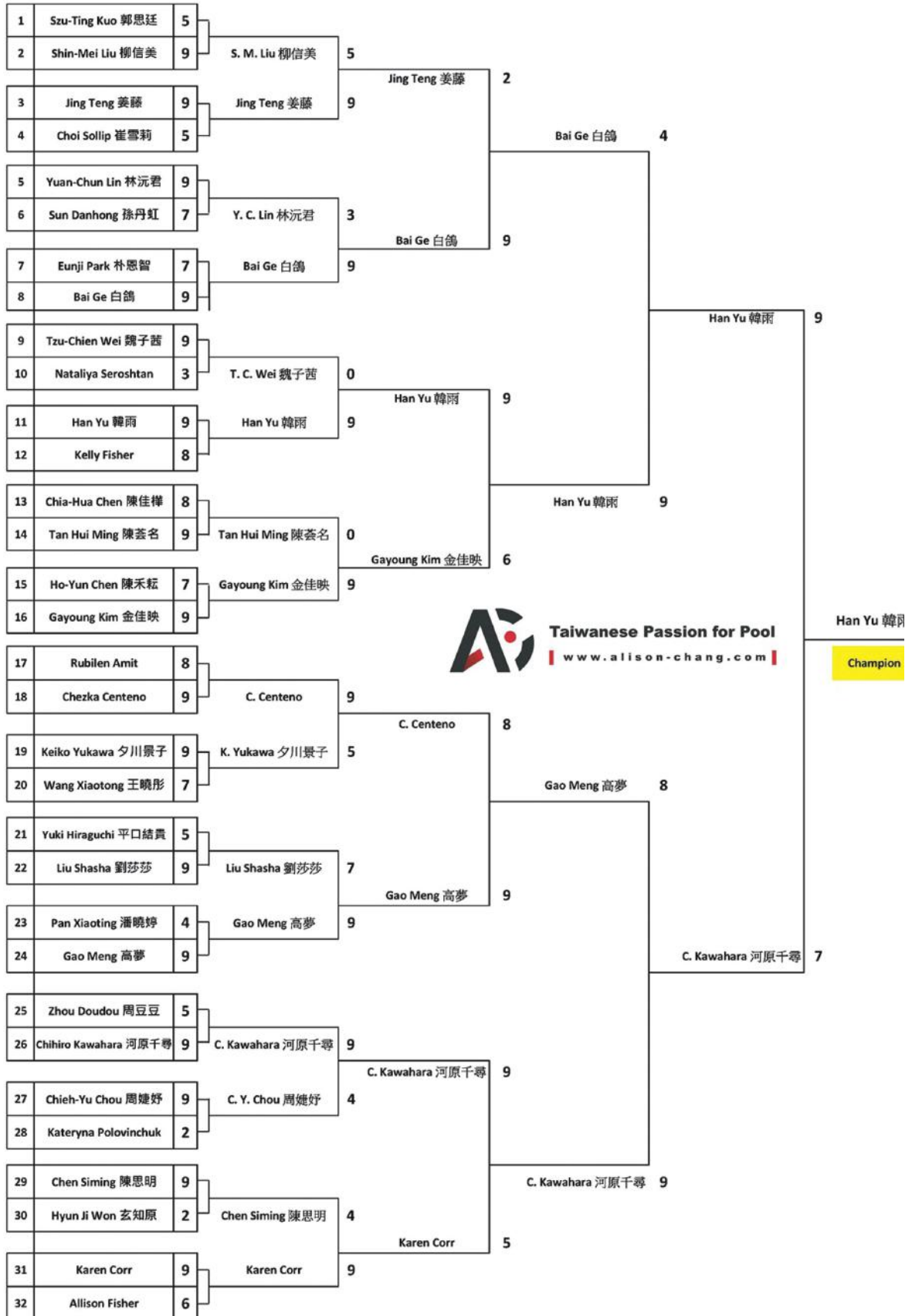
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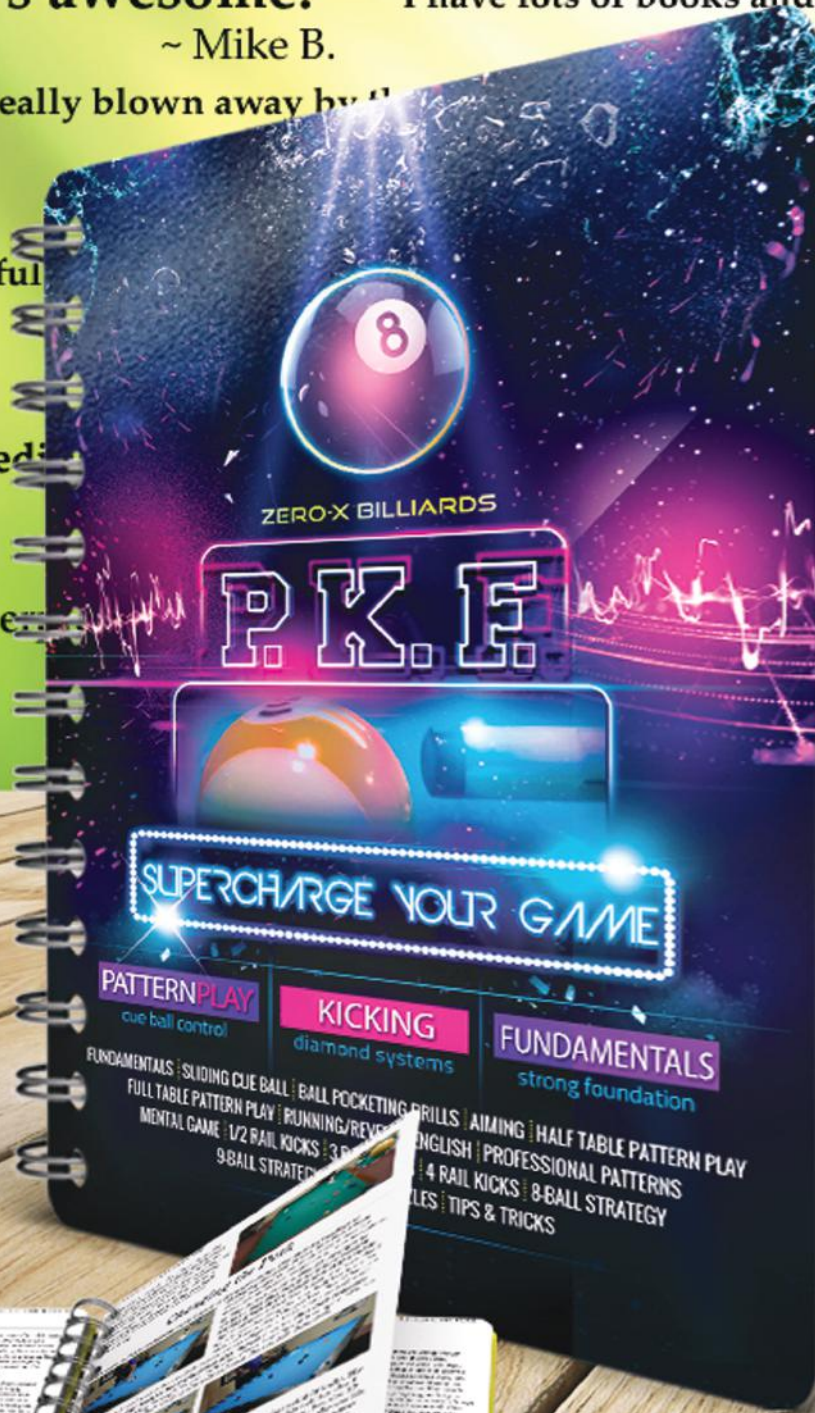
- Donald C.

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# The Turning Stone Classic XXVII 9-Ball Open Tournament

by AZB Staff



All photos courtesy of Erin Bechner

There are a handful of “sure things” in the billiards world. Earl is going to draw a crowd to watch his match. Efren is going to claim that he got lucky after winning a tournament. Everyone within earshot is going to roll their eyes after hearing a joke told by Tommy Kennedy. It is starting to look like you can add “Jayson Shaw is going to win at Turning Stone” to that list.

Shaw came into the Joss NE 9-Ball Tour’s Turning Stone Classic XXVII on January 5th at the Turning Stone Casino in Verona, NY as the reigning champion and a four time winner of the event. Coincidentally, the only player to have won the title more times than Shaw, Johnny Archer, was also in attendance in this event. Although Shane Van Boening was absent from this event due to a competing event in China, the field was still topped by a grab’s bag of top 9-ball talent, including Thorsten Hohmann, Rodney Morris, Darren Appleton, Karen Corr, Oscar Dominguez, John Morra, Amar Kang, Brandon Shuff, Jeremy Sossei, Shaun Wilkie and Ernesto Dominguez.

Shaw’s trek for title #5 began with dominating wins over Luca Bares and WPBA Regional Tour Champion Jia Li. Shaw’s third round opponent,

Canadian Joey Cicero, wasn’t willing to add his name to Shaw’s list of wins that quickly though. Cicero stunned the fans in attendance with his strong play and raced to a quick 4-0 lead. “I got hooked on the 5-ball in the first game. I played a great shot to make it and scratched. The next time I get a shot it’s 4-0,” said Shaw after the match. Unfortunately for the Canadian, no lead is safe against Shaw. Although Cicero had chances to close out the match, he couldn’t convert and Shaw broke and ran the case rack for the 9-8 win.

After escaping that match, it was back to his usual dominating ways for Shaw as he dispatched countryman Del Sim, a rusty Thorsten Hohmann and former Turning Stone winner John Morra to book his place in the hot-seat match.

*“... I felt fresh when I came down this morning. I felt like me again”*

- Jayson Shaw



Running through the other side of the bracket was the BCA Hall of Fame's newest member, Rodney Morris. Morris raced through early matches against Mike Perhach, Nick Antonakos, Eric Cloutier and Tom Zippler without breaking a sweat. Dennis Hatch would put up a fight in the quest for his elusive first Turning Stone title, but Morris would pull off the 9-7 win and then send road partner Amar Kang to the one loss side to book his place against Shaw on the winner's side.



Hatch, who has arguably been the most dominant player over the history of the Joss NE 9-Ball Tour with over 40 tour stops won, had yet to earn the first place check at Turning Stone and he couldn't have been blamed for thinking the pool gods were on his side in this one. After dropping the match to Morris, Hatch hit the one loss side and crushed Clowery 9-2. He went nose to nose with Archer next, and it was Archer that blinked at 7-7 when he missed an elementary 9-ball to allow Hatch to win the match 9-7. Hatch then dispatched Morra 9-2 before he ended Kang's tournament in 4th place with a hill-hill victory.

Back on the winner's side, Shaw was keeping the Rocket grounded to the launch pad as he took a quick 4-0 lead and then stretched the advantage to 7-1 before scoring a convincing 9-3 win for the hot-seat.

The semi-final match between Hatch and Morris looked like a great one early on, with the scoring knotted at 1-1 and 2-2, before Morris won four racks to take control. With a comfortable lead, Morris was able to cruise to a 9-3 win and the rematch with Shaw in the finals.



While Shaw always brings his "A game" to Turning Stone, he seems to really hit top gear when it comes to the finals. Morris, on the other hand, looked noticeably nervous and allowed Shaw to take early control of the match. A couple early missteps from Morris led to a quick 6-0 lead for Shaw. Shaw was in complete control at 11-1, before Morris could do much to fight back. Morris put together a five rack winning streak, but it was too little too late as Shaw turned in a convincing 13-6 win.

"I'm over the moon. A lot of people probably took a little break during Christmas, but I didn't. I worked hard. I stayed in the pool room and practiced hard, ate good and trained good. At the start of the week, I only played about 60% of my game, but I woke up today and felt so good. I felt fresh when I came down this morning. I felt like me again," said Shaw after winning his fifth Turning Stone title. He will have the chance to tie Johnny Archer's record of six titles on August 31st - September 3rd when the Joss NE 9-Ball Tour returns to Verona for the Turning Stone Classic XXVIII.

# Scotty Townsend

by Joey Aguzin



Scotty Townsend was born July 15, 1960 in Monroe, LA and passed from this life on December 22, 2016 in Pointe, LA at the age of 56. He was a professional pool player and a resident of West Monroe, LA. Scotty is preceded in death by his parents, Billy and Betty Townsend; and two brothers, Ronald Dale "PeeWee," Townsend and Sammy Wayne Townsend, and wife Melina Sue Coffman. Survivors include his two children, Michael Scott Moss and Melina Haistie Moss; his cousin, Cody Gilbert; four uncles, Mack, Johnny, Jackie and Joe Gilbert; his friend, Tommy Semmes; his many friends with whom he enjoyed playing pool; and a host of extended family and friends.

All these years, all the battles, all the good times, and I never knew his first name. Well, I'm going to continue calling you Scotty because that's how the

pool world knew you - it's how I always knew you. Scotty and I frequently talked about our love for our respective families. Scotty's beautiful wife, Melinda Sue Coffman, passed away May 9, 2014 and the last two years have not been easy for him. Scotty's young children, Melinda Haistie Moss (age 16) and Michael Townsend Moss (age 25) suffered that terrible loss and now have lost another parent.

In my years on this planet, I have seen many of our brothers and sisters pass on but, I have never seen this type of outpouring of grief for the passing of any pool player or member of our pool community. Scotty was the type of guy who made friends wherever he went. Some people must work at being liked while others just have it in their DNA, like Scotty.

In the last few days, I have been talking with several people about Scotty and reading all the items on social media about Scotty and it simply reinforces what most of us believe about him. Some referred to Scotty as a "Crocodile Dundee" kind of guy, while others compared him to "Steve Irwin the Crocodile Hunter," but, the consensus is that Scotty was a "Man's Man." Merriam Webster defines a "Man's Man" as a man who is liked and admired by other men. This sums up how we all felt about Scotty. I could probably write for a week and never cover all the characteristics of his personality that endeared him to all of us. There has been a massive expression of love for Scotty here on AZBilliards.com as well as other social media. I think; no, I am positive, that Scotty knew that he had the love and friendship of many of us. He squeezed every ounce of essence out of this thing we call life and shared it with us on his journey.

It seems that everyone has a great story about their interaction and experience with Scotty and I'm no exception. I was fortunate to live in the same state as Scotty and to have had many battles on the pool table with him. I always found a friend at the end of the battle, whether I won or lost. Scotty was always a far better pool player than myself and he saw to it that I always had a fair game (at least I thought it was). I don't remember when I first met him, but, each visit with Scotty became another treasure in my pool life. He was the kind of guy who, when he beat you out of your money, always found a way to comfort you in your loss. In fact, Scotty always had a kind word for the people with whom he came in contact.

He spoke about The Golden Rule, which was his philosophy of life. Essentially, he said to treat others as you would have them treat you. I can say from personal experience, Scotty didn't just talk the talk. He was a perfect example of that philosophy. Now, in the pool world, almost everyone gets criticized by others, justly or not. Personally, I've never heard anyone say a bad word about Scotty, except for comments about his excessive imbibing from time to time. On rare occasions, I would sit and drink with Scotty. I always enjoyed his company, whether we were drunk or sober. I keep thinking about all the people that I know, and how they all have a great story about their experience with Scotty. In fact, I have yet to find anyone who has anything negative to say about him. It's safe to say, we have all lost someone who we looked up to, someone who we liked and loved.

Many years ago, Scotty and I would play 9 ball for decent money and he almost always won. Scotty gave me a generous handicap and spotted me the 5 ball. After one of the many beatings, I asked him to sign the 5-ball in memory of him and the incredible heart that he had to give up such a large spot.



Scotty wasn't the kind of guy who had his hand out when he was short on money. Scotty was an "action player" and was always looking for a gamble. He once quipped, "I have never really been beat. I just ran out of money a few times.." If he

wasn't hustling up some action on the pool table, he was making some wild bet like jumping off the Huey P. Long Bridge. Scotty was fearless, kind, generous and practiced the thing that Shakespeare wrote about in Hamlet - "To thine own self be true, and it must follow, as the night the day, thou canst not then be false to any man." Scotty was true to himself and to others, and we will miss his over-the-top positive personality.

I've talked with several of Scotty's other friends this past week and they all say the same thing: Scotty was one of a kind, a good guy who was generous with all those he met, not just with his worldly possessions but with his most valuable possession, time. It seemed that when Scotty was talking to you, you felt like he was, to use one of poker's terms, "all in." One day, several years ago, I found myself in Scotty's presence at a pool tournament at The Green Room in Jackson, MS. I had gone there to play in their one pocket event. There was a 9-ball event on bar tables, but, I didn't have an interest in playing in both, so I chose the one pocket event. Before the event, I practiced many long hours at Buffalo's Billiards here in New Orleans, getting in stroke. The day of the tournament came and I was on the road early in the morning, wanting to get there in plenty of time to practice on their tables. I did all the right things going in to this event; eating well; practicing hard; getting rest; and pushing myself to my limits with lots of time on the table. Scotty was busy playing on the bar tables with the many others that came to this event. We didn't talk before my matches, but, nodded and exchanged brief hellos as we always did when our paths crossed. As the tournament progressed, I found myself running into stiff competition and went two and out. I didn't play up to my ability, but, that sometimes happens. It was getting late, about 2:00 am, and I hadn't checked into a hotel. I was contemplating staying the night but then I saw that the 9-ball event was already started and the 9 foot tables were all taken for the one pocket event. This meant that I wouldn't be able to gamble or play any more in either event, so I decided to go home. I was tired and I guess it showed, but, Scotty walks up to me and asks how I was doing. I told him I was a tired old horse. That's when he took me on the side and told me, "Now Joey, I been out on the road all over this country and I know what's up with this traveling business, so let me give you some advice. You want some advice?" I laughed and said

“Sure.” He continued by saying, “I’ve been out on the road, and maybe you have too, and you get to nodding when you are behind the wheel. You know you’re tired but you keep pressing to get where you’re going. Well, this is the worst thing you can do. Today, it was warm and tonight it has cooled down a little. Here’s what you want to do: When you get behind that wheel heading home and you have that first nod behind the wheel, you immediately start looking for an exit off the highway and find a service station, a Waffle House or some other business with lights on all night long. You pull right up to the building under the lights and park your car. You keep those windows up. That’s right, don’t let any air in your car. It’ll keep the “skeeters” out and you will be able to rest. Now when that sun comes up, your car will heat up like an oven and you will start sweating and that will wake you up, but, by that time you will have rested and be fresh for finishing the drive home.” I smiled and thanked him for that sage advice. I don’t know what it was about Scotty, but he was always giving me advice, even though he was ten years my junior. I valued every piece of advice he shared with me, and knew he had a lot more experience at these things than I did. So, I leave North Jackson headed South down I-55 and before I get to Highway 80 which is kind of South Jackson, I felt my first nod and remembered Scotty’s advice so I pulled off the next exit and found a business open all night with lights everywhere and pulled right up to the building. The windows were already up with the AC on full blast so I just turned off the engine and went fast asleep. It must have taken me about 60 seconds before I was in deep slumber. I had left the pool room about 3:00 am and it was about 3:20 when I closed my eyes. At daybreak, the Southern sun was bearing down on my car and the heat was incredible. I woke up in a sweat, just like Scotty had described, rested and ready to safely finish my trip home.

Now, a friend to so many is gone. It was a vehicle accident that took his life and I think to myself that it would have been nice if I had been able to talk to Scotty that night and share his own advice with him. We will all miss him and I just wish I had one more chance to tell him “Thank you for your friendship.” That won’t happen for me or you, so today or really soon, when you are around someone you care about, make darn sure you take that opportunity to tell them how you feel about them. My own Dad used

to say, “When I’m dead and gone, don’t bring me any flowers.” What he was saying is that we don’t have much time here on earth and we shouldn’t wait until someone is gone to appreciate what they meant to us.

Scotty meant a lot to all of us and he will be sorely missed.

Here are a few links that you might enjoy:

#### **Road Trip Anyone?:**

[http://www.circleximagery.com/scotty/scottytownsend\\_RTA.html](http://www.circleximagery.com/scotty/scottytownsend_RTA.html)

#### **Scotty’s Story:**

<http://www.circleximagery.com/scotty/scottytownsend.html>

#### **TAR Podcast:**

[http://www.circleximagery.com/scotty/scotty\\_townsend.mp3](http://www.circleximagery.com/scotty/scotty_townsend.mp3)

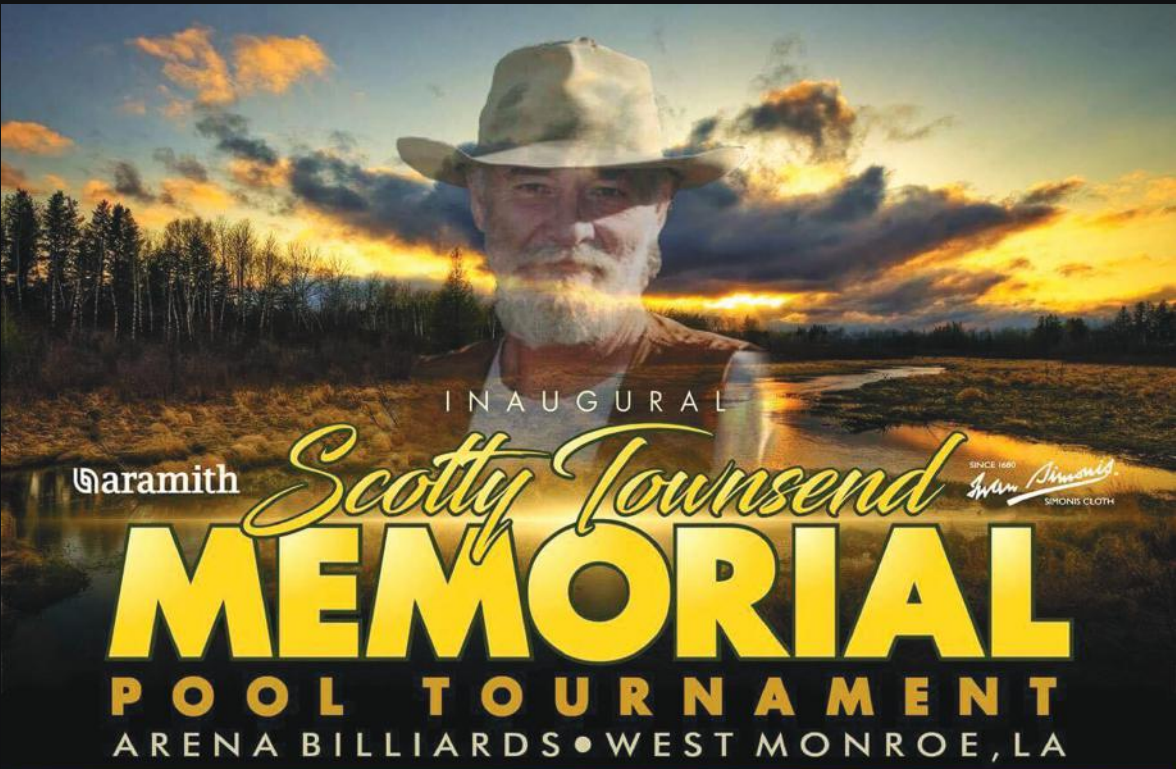
It’s times like this when I think of the following poem. I hope that I will make a better effort in the future to respect its message.

**“The clock of life is wound but once,  
And no man has the power  
To tell just when the hands will stop  
At late or early hour.**

**To lose one's wealth is sad indeed,  
To lose one's health is more,  
To lose one's soul is such a loss  
That no man can restore.**

**The present only is our own,  
So live, love, toil with a will,  
Place no faith in “Tomorrow”  
For the Clock may then be still.”**

— Robert H. Smith



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# Through The Keyhole:

## Industry Spotlight on American Billiard Radio

By AZB Staff



American Billiard Radio, usually known as ABR, has rapidly become an important source of news and information about the game we all share. It has become a touchstone that reflects not only the health and status of the players and industry figures it interviews but also of the game itself. David Bond of Chicago is the force behind ABR and we sat down with him recently to talk about how ABR came about and how our readers can listen to the show weekly.

David says he came to pool the same way so many of us did. As a kid growing up south of Houston, he recalled “growing up around pool rooms.” But he admits he wasn’t working hard to improve his game as a youngster. “I was your average ball-banger who played pool a couple of times a week. And then time was spent getting through High School and College.” By the end of college David was in Chicago, still just playing pool for recreation. But then he learned that Chicago had a big history in the game and he “got the history bug.”

“I actually had intended to write a book about the history of pool in Chicago,” David says. He discovered so much material about pool in Chicago that he realized that he could not reasonably expect to print a book

about it that would be at all comprehensive because of the massive page count it would require. (As an aside, much of this work may wind up in a billiard museum. Work on that has already begun, and the museum has expanded to cover areas nationally and not just Chicago, though much of it is still Chicago-centric.) “While doing the research for that project it became clear to me that the mainstream media no longer covered the game and without exposure any sport will flounder.” It’s not on television anymore. But with the internet and the capabilities that it brings you can now watch pool as much as you want. It is all over YouTube and many other sites as well. But there still was not much of a way to learn a great deal about the players themselves. There was no place to watch interviews with them so we could learn about their favorite food or their dog or cat and there was just no way to get to know them as individuals. The personality was lacking from the game. Fandom itself was lacking. Folks couldn’t tell you who the top players were and those that could could not tell you much about them. There was this big hole there.”

“And since mainstream media was ignoring us I decided to create a media channel that would be a panel of folks across the country who would each conduct their own interviews with players and personalities. Mark Cantrill has been with me from the start doing interviews with players that he already had a relationship with anyway, so it isn’t like a stranger asking them for interviews. And Mike Howerton still sometimes has time to work with us. We are talking to folks about other areas of the country to get the panel up to strength.”

“We wanted a channel to provide players a place to speak and for folks to learn about the personalities that make up the game and for companies to expose their products to their basic customer base. There were many obstacles. Live interviews proved not to be feasible as players are often on the move and cannot always schedule their time with certainty. So we went with the taped format and every week we play all the interviews on [www.americanbilliardradio.com](http://www.americanbilliardradio.com). The new episodes are loaded and ready at 9PM CST every Thursday night and of course they are archived so you can listen to them whenever you wish. Since it is audio instead of video

you can work on other things while you listen to the show on your computer."

ABR first went live the first week of December in 2013. "I remember Barry Hearn was one of the guests on the first show and he was great." And the audience has grown consistently since that first night. "I knew folks would not want to just listen to me night after night and Mark Cantrill, who originally was our SouthWest correspondent, has been the main man for interviews since we began. He shared my vision and understands the potential in the future.

The future has many options. "Lots of folks have asked why we don't do the video thing, like Skype interviews and such, and part of me does want to explore the multi-media thing in some way, but I want to look before I leap. I am not yet convinced about video because radio has an advantage for many in that they do not have to watch it, they can just listen. That is appealing to a lot of our folks. People listen to us while they are driving and you just can't do that with video."

"We are still exploring live broadcasts and we are looking at different types of segments for the show or even having another show that focuses on different areas of billiards than does ABR. So that is our immediate future, new shows, new segments, and maybe some

live broadcasts from events. We could go to the Derby and set up a place and broadcast for a couple of hours with the folks there, stuff like that."

We asked Dave if he was still enjoying doing the show. "Oh, I certainly do! I have always liked anything where you can learn something and every interview has gems of new knowledge in it so yes, I certainly do still enjoy the work. It can be difficult, especially during slow news times, but I enjoy the challenge of finding topics of interest even when the active scene is dormant."



Mark Cantrill



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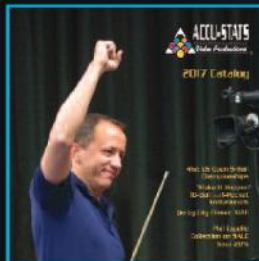
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# Mosconi Cup: Mark Wilson Stands Down as United States Captain

Following three years at the helm of the USA Mosconi Cup side, Mark Wilson has stood down as captain after the recent heavy defeat at the Alexandra Palace, London. Wilson was appointed in January 2014 following a run of defeats and was in charge of all team affairs for the next three Mosconi Cups, all of which resulted in losses.

Commented Wilson; "The three year record speaks for itself and while it is personally painful and deeply disappointing, it is the reality. Sport is about winning and a philosophy change is due when the scoreboard reflects a team's shortcomings."

"Despite the pain of losing there have been victories towards building the sport and I hold no regrets in terms of the efforts, support, and direction chosen. The tremendous individual people and businesses that have shared the vision and contributed wilfully to create a brighter future for billiards all have my deepest gratitude."

"I completely respect the opportunity afforded me to be part of the best event that our sport has to offer. All of us look forward to the day that Team

USA reclaims the Mosconi Cup."

Matchroom Sport Chairman Barry Hearn said, "I'd like to go on record to thank Mark and his team for all the hard work they put in to try and turn American fortunes around in the Mosconi Cup. Mark is a man of great integrity and has a deep passion for the sport and it is a personal disappointment to me that the results didn't come for him."

Matchroom Sport hopes to announce new leadership details in the New Year.

## BY THE NUMBERS

2014 • Europe 11 / USA 5

2015 • Europe 11 / USA 7

2016 • Europe 11 / USA 3

Europe 33 / USA 15



2015 Chinese 8-Ball World Champion  
- Darren Appleton



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# BEF Junior National 9-Ball Championships Returns to Vegas with the BCA Expo

The Billiard Education Foundation (BEF) is excited to announce that its 29th Annual Junior National 9-Ball Championships will be returning to Las Vegas, and will be held August 2-5, 2017 at the South Point Hotel & Convention Center.

The BEF Junior Nationals still remains the only youth billiard event in the nation that qualifies student-athletes to compete in junior events all around the world, such as the WPA World Junior 9-Ball Championships and the Atlantic Challenge Cup.

2017 plans to have even more in store for players, guests and the industry. This year's Junior Nationals qualified 14 players to represent the U.S. at the WPA World Junior 9-Ball Championships. "2016 was a great year jam packed with junior state championships and an amazing junior national event. We had our largest field of over 200 players and we hope to see you again in 2017!" said BEF Executive Director, Samm Diep-Vidal.

Bids will be accepted for cash and product sponsorships for this prestigious event, as they are available, through May 1, 2017. Through BEF underwriting/sponsorship, you can enhance your corporate image throughout the community with exclusive recognition, while supporting your favorite billiard charity and its junior members. Event production categories include, but are not limited to: tables, cloth, balls, catering, lodging, travel, trophies, shirts, prizes, media, printing, and photography.



Underwriting all or a portion of any one of the event costs enables the BEF to direct more funds to youth billiard programs and academic scholarships. BEF also accepts goods or services to help offset these costs.

To receive the Underwriting & Sponsorship Bid Application for the 2017 BEF Junior Nationals, or to host or participate in a National Qualifier for Junior Nationals, contact the BEF directly.



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# 13 Ways to Remain Calm During Your Game

by Kristin Taggart



**KEEP CALM**  
and  
**BREAK**



## 1. Stay focused on the present.

It's easy when you're playing a game to jump yourself to the end, the outcome of the game. The best technique to wipe away those nerves and perform your best is to stay concentrated on the "now", whether it's your present shot, or coming move.

## 2. Play as if winning doesn't matter.

Sometimes forgetting completely and taking yourself mentally "out of the competition" can help you play your best and reduce stress.

## 3. Only think about what you can control.

Easier said than done. Don't focus on what you can't directly control, this will cause you to lose confidence and play poorly.

## 4. Do not outwardly release your frustration between each turn.

Even if you are frustrated, outward expressions waste mental and emotional energy and though you may not realize it, actually working against yourself. Instead, stay prepared for your next turn.

**KEEP CALM**  
and  
**HAVE FUN**



## 5. Have fun.

Sometimes you get into your own head and you need to stop and remember that it is just a game and you play it because it is fun!

## 6. Keep your mind distracted before the match.

This will help you to not psych yourself out as it will be easier to remain calm during the match if you do not over think beforehand. Also, keep your pre-game rituals the same.

## 7. Rebound quickly from mistakes.

Pick your head up and make up for the shot missed or the mistake you made on your next shot to remain in the game and staying calm.

## 8. Do not fall for intimidation.

Know going into the game that your opponent can try and mess with your head and intimidate you. So, do not fall for it. Stay calm and focused. During practice, you can have your opponent try to intimidate you, so in the real match, it does not even bother you.

## 9. Believe in yourself.

No matter what the game throws at you, believe you can win.



**KEEP CALM  
and  
THINK POSITIVE**



**10. Think positive.**

If you think positive about winning during the entire match, you will have a better chance at remaining calm and winning the game.

**11. Take deep breaths.**

When you feel like you're about to explode, close your eyes and take a couple slow, deep breaths to help you remain calm and keep your head in the game.

**12. Do not get distracted during the match.**

There will be other tables playing, loud voices, racks breaking, balls flying, cheering....you name it! Practice in a pool hall setting before the big match, so you get use to these distractions and teach yourself how to stay calm and focused. Your pump up song can help keep you calm before the match! Singing it in your head during the match can help keep those game distractions away and get you fired up to win:

*"It's the eye of the tiger  
It's the thrill of the fight  
Rising up to the challenge of our rival  
And the last known survivor  
Stalks his prey in the night  
And he's watching us all with the eye  
of the tiger."*

**13. Slow down and trust your training.**

You have been at the pool hall or in your basement practicing day after day, week after week, year after year. Trust in your abilities, slow down and stay focused. You can win. Keep calm and share this blog!

Feel those nerves coming before, during, and even after the game? Share these tips with others and follow us @theDelta13 for daily tips, pool playing inspiration and all-around fun!

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### May 27-28, Pucketts

5705 Crowley Rd, Fort Worth 76134  
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### June 24-25, Clicks Billiards

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(817) 649-POOL

### July 15-16, Open Table

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112 Southeast Pkwy, Azle, Tx 76020

### Aug 5-6, Wizards

747 S. Central Expressway (I75),  
Richardson, TX 75080 972-235-0371

### Sept 9-10, Speed's Billiards

700 N. Watson Rd, Arlington, TX 76011  
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### Oct 14-15, Hideaway

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# Upcoming Tournaments

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

## February 1 - February 28:

### WPBA Masters 2017

**02/01 - 02/05**

Soaring Eagle Casino & Resort  
Mt. Pleasant, MI  
Website: <http://www.wpba.com/>

### Falcon Cues Quebec Tour stop #10

**02/04 - 02/05**

Tailgators  
Ottawa  
Website: <http://www.falconcuesquebectour.com/>

### OB Cues Ladies Tour 2017 Stop 1

**02/04 - 02/05**

Rusty's Billiards  
Arlington, TX  
Website: <http://www.obcuestour.com/>

### 2016 Mezz West State Tour Stop 16

**02/11 - 02/12**

The Cue Spot  
Merced, California  
Website: <http://www.mezzweststatetour.com>

### Ride the 9 Tour 2016-2017 Stop 6

**02/12 - 02/12**

Bo's Billiards  
Warwick, RI  
Website: <http://www.ridethe9tour.com>

### 44th Annual Texas Open

**02/16 - 02/19**

Skinny Bob's Billiards  
Round Rock, Texas  
Website: <http://skinnybobs.com/texasopen.html>

### 2017 World Pool Masters

**02/17 - 02/19**

Tercentenary Sports Hall, Victoria Stadium  
Gibraltar, Gibraltar  
Website: <http://www.matchroompool.com/page/WorldPoolMasters/Home>

### Joss Stop #10 at Sharp Shooters's

**02/18 - 02/19**

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

### Norcal Pool Tour 2016-2017 Stop 9

**02/18 - 02/19**

Hard Times Billiards  
Sacramento, CA  
Website: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/297634297243311/>

### Jay Swanson «Swanee» Memorial 9-Ball

Tournament 2017

**02/18 - 02/19**

On Cue Billiards  
La Mesa, CA

### 2017 NAPT Women's Division II Championship

**02/23 - 02/26**

Hard Times Billiards  
Sacramento, CA  
Website: <http://www.playnapt.com/>

### 2016 Mezz West State Tour Stop 17

**02/25 - 02/26**

On Cue Billiards  
La Mesa, CA  
Website: <http://www.mezzweststatetour.com>

### Falcon Cues Quebec Tour stop #11

**02/25 - 02/26**

Dooly's Neufchatel  
Neufchatel, Quebec  
Website: <http://www.falconcuesquebectour.com/>

### Ride the 9 Tour 2016-2017 Stop 7

**02/26 - 02/26**

Crow's Nest  
Plaistow, New Hampshire  
Website: <http://www.ridethe9tour.com>

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ATTENTION POOL PLAYERS

# Upcoming Tournaments

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

## March 1 - March 31:

### **N.E. Pool & Billiard Hall of Fame 9-Ball Open**

**03/04 - 03/05**

Snookers - Sports Billiards, Bar & Grill  
Providence, RI

Website: <http://www.joss9balltour.com/>

### **Chinook Winds Open 8-Ball Open Division**

**03/09 - 03/11**

Chinook Winds Casino  
Lincoln City, OR

### **Northeast 9-Ball Open XXIX**

**03/11 - 03/12**

Trick Shot Billiards  
Clifton Park, NY

Website: <http://www.joss9balltour.com/>

### **Norcal Pool Tour 2016-2017 Stop 10**

**03/11 - 03/12**

Edgie's Billiards  
Milpitas, California

Website: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/297634297243311/>

### **Inaugural Scotty Townsend Memorial**

**03/13 - 03/19**

Arena Billiards  
West Monroe, LA

### **2016 Mezz West State Tour Top Gun/Little Gun**

**03/18 - 03/19**

Hard Times Billiards  
Sacramento, CA

Website: <http://www.mezzweststatetour.com>

### **Joss Tour Stop #13 at King Smiley Billiards**

**03/18 - 03/19**

King Smiley Billiards  
Fort Edward, New York

Website: <http://www.joss9balltour.com/>

### **Falcon Cues Quebec Tour stop #12**

**03/18 - 03/19**

Billard Lounge L'Abasie  
Trois-Riveres, Quebec

Website: <http://www.falconcuesquebectour.com/>

### **Ride the 9 Tour 2016-2017 Stop 8**

**03/19 - 03/19**

Bo's Billiards  
Warwick, RI

Website: <http://www.ridethe9tour.com>

### **Dixieland Classic**

**03/23 - 03/26**

Cue Time Sports Bar & Grill  
Spartanburg, SC

Website: <https://www.facebook.com/pages/The-Great-Southern-Billiard-Tour/252833964374>



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4<sup>th</sup> Annual

# Chinook Winds pen

March 9-11, 2017  
Chinook Winds  
Casino Resort  
Lincoln City, OR

## \$24,000 Added

### Men's Division

Race to 7, Alternate Breaks

\$15,000 guaranteed for 1<sup>st</sup> place if FF

\$10,000 guaranteed for 2<sup>nd</sup> place if FF

FF = Full Field = 128 entries

Maximum bracket size - 256

### Women's Division

Race to 5, Alternate Breaks

\$6,000 guaranteed for 1<sup>st</sup> place if FF

\$3,670 guaranteed for 2<sup>nd</sup> place if FF

FF = Full Field = 48 entries

Maximum bracket size - 64

## 8-Ball Championships

Entry Fees: \$200 (\$175 entry + \$25 gf)

Entry Deadline: March 3, 2017

Entry Forms: go to [westernbca.org](http://westernbca.org)

### Schedule of Events

Malarkeys dates/info/flyer link here

March 8 (Wed), 6p - Calcutta

March 9 (Thurs), Noon - Play Starts

March 10 (Fri), 7p - 2nd Chance Tournament

\$2000 added/\$100 entry

Limited to 32 players

Finals will be Saturday, times TBA

### Dress Code

Collared Shirts/Slacks/Jeans ok if not torn or frayed. No leggings or shorts.

Questions-Call Mike Jensen at 360-703-4081



**FEBRUARY 16-19TH, 2017**

SKINNY BOB'S BILLIARDS PRESENTS

★ ★ *Third Annual* ★ ★

# TEXAS OPEN

## TEN BALL CHAMPIONSHIP

### \$4,500 GUARANTEED ADDED

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#### 7PM OPEN BANK RAILS RING GAME

PLAYED ON 9' GOLD CROWNS  
WINNER BREAKS RACK YOUR OWN  
\$100 ENTRY NO GREEN FEE

★ ★ ★

#### 8PM OPEN 10-BALL TOURNAY

PLAYED ON 9' GOLD CROWNS  
WINNER BREAKS RACK YOUR OWN  
RACE TO 3 SINGLE ELIM.  
\$25 ENTRY NO GREEN FEE

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#### 2PM OPEN 10-BALL RING GAME

PLAYED ON 9' GOLD CROWNS  
WINNER BREAKS RACK YOUR OWN  
\$100 ENTRY NO GREEN FEE

★ ★ ★

#### 2PM LADIES 10-BALL RING GAME

PLAYED ON 9' GOLD CROWNS  
WINNER BREAKS RACK YOUR OWN  
\$30 ENTRY NO GREEN FEE

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#### 7PM TEXAS OPEN 10-BALL OPEN DIVISION CHAMPIONSHIP

PLAYED ON 9' GOLD CROWNS  
ALTERNATE BREAKS RACK YOUR OWN  
RACES TO 7/7 DOUBLE ELIM.  
\$125 ENTRY \$25 GREEN FEE  
CALCUTTA AT 7PM, PLAY FOLLOWING  
TWO SETS OF MATCHES PLAY FRIDAY  
\$4K ADDED \$500 TO TOP LADY

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#### 12PM TEXAS OPEN 10-BALL LADIES DIVISION CHAMPIONSHIP

PLAYED ON 7' DIAMOND TABLES  
ALTERNATE BREAKS RACK YOUR OWN  
RACE TO 7/7 DOUBLE ELIM.  
\$40 ENTRY NO GREEN FEE  
CALCUTTA AT NOON, PLAY FOLLOWING  
\$500 ADDED GUARANTEED

FOR QUESTIONS PLEASE CONTACT

**JAMES DAVIS SR 512-797-8947**

**JOHN PALMORE 512-971-1889**

## GET SIGNED UP TODAY

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# Monthly Results

Tournament results from December 2016

## 12/01 - 12/04

### Space City Open V Open 9-Ball

#### Bogies Billiards & Games

##### Houston, TX

1 Shane McMinn	\$2,300
2 Alejandro Calderon	\$1,300
3 Manny Chau	\$860
4 Josh Roberts	\$680
5 Jeremy Jones	\$520
5 Tommy Tokoph	\$520
7 Sylver Ochoa	\$430
7 Joey Torres	\$430
9 Robert Eaton	\$250
9 Andy Jethwa	\$250
9 Justin Espinoza	\$250
9 Ernesto Bayaua	\$250
13 Jacob Watson	\$170
13 Kenny Price	\$170
13 Scott Frost	\$170
13 Robb Saez	\$170

## 12/01 - 12/04

### Space City Open V Open One Pocket

#### Bogies Billiards & Games

##### Houston, TX

1 Justin Hall	\$1,300
2 Josh Roberts	\$900
3 Marvin Diaz	\$500
4 Jeremy Jones	\$320
5 Sylver Ochoa	\$170
5 Richie Richeson	\$170
7 Tommy Tokoph	\$100
7 Sergio Rivas	\$100

## 12/01 - 12/04

### Space City Open V Open 9-Ball

#### Banks

#### Bogies Billiards & Games

##### Houston, TX

1 Jeremy Jones	\$1,100
2 Manny Chau	\$740
3 James Davis Jr.	\$460
4 Sergio Rivas	\$300

## 12/01 - 12/04

### Space City Open V Ladies 9-Ball

#### Bogies Billiards & Games

##### Houston, TX

1 Natalie Rocha	\$575
2 Ricki Lee Casper	\$375
3 Gail Eaton	\$175
4 Ming Ng	\$100

## 12/03 - 12/04

### Q City 9-Ball Tour Stop

#### Gate City Billiards Club

##### Greensboro, NC

1 Colin Hall	\$800
2 Danny Jones	\$500
3 James Blackburn	\$300
4 Stevie McClinton	\$200
5 Brad Barton	\$100
5 Don Liebes	\$100
7 Josh Jones	\$50
7 Zack Leonard	\$50

## 12/03 - 12/04

### Predator Pro-Am Tour 2016 Tour Championship

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

##### West Hempstead, NY

1 Juan Guzman	\$5,500
2 Justin Muller	\$3,300
3 Abel Rosario	\$2,200
4 Lukas Fracasso-Verner	\$1,300
5 Miguel Laboy	\$750
5 Marvin Phisitkraiayakorn	\$750
7 Tony Ignomirello	\$500
7 Rhys Chen	\$500
9 Elvis Rodriguez	\$400
9 Ron Gabia	\$400
9 Joe Torres	\$400
9 Dave Callaghan	\$400
13 Dany Recinos	\$300
13 Gary Bozigian	\$300
13 Manny Stamatakos	\$300
13 Shawn Sookhai	\$300

## 12/03 - 12/03

### New England 9-Ball Tour Stop

#### Stix and Stones

##### Abington, Maine

1 Matthew Rezendes	\$825
2 Rick Gatta	\$550
3 Andrew Tankerly	\$300
4 Al McGuin	\$230
5 Ed Murray	\$125
5 Mike Pettit	\$125
7 Brian Greene	\$70
7 Dennis Levesque	\$70

## 12/03 - 12/04

### OB Cues Ladies Tour

#### Rusty's Billiards

##### Arlington, TX

1 Tara Williams	\$800
2 Melinda Bailey	\$640
3 Orietta Strickland	\$465
4 Natalie Mans	\$340
5 Jeannie Kim	\$160
5 Brittany Williams	\$160
7 Cris Fields	\$80
7 Tracie Voelkering	\$80

## 12/10 - 12/11

### Action Pool Tour 2016 Season Finale

#### Q-Master Billiards

##### Virginia Beach, VA

1 Eric Moore	\$750
2 Shaun Wilkie	\$450
3 Reymart Lim	\$250
4 Pat Carosi	\$150
5 Nil Lim	\$100
5 Greg Sabins	\$100
7 Christopher Wilburn	\$60
7 R.J. Carmona	\$60

# Monthly Results

Tournament results from December 2016

## 12/13 - 12/18

### Women's World 9-Ball Championship

#### China

1 Han Yu	\$42,000
2 Chihiro Kawahara	\$20,000
3 Gao Meng	\$10,000
3 Ge Bai	\$10,000
5 Karen Corr	\$6,000
5 Chezka Centeno	\$6,000
5 Ga-Young Kim	\$6,000
5 Jiang Teng	\$6,000
9 Siming Chen	\$3,000
9 Chieh-Yu Chou	\$3,000
9 Sha Sha Liu	\$3,000
9 Keiko Yukawa	\$3,000
9 Hui Ming Tan	\$3,000
9 Tzu-Chien Wei	\$3,000
9 Yuan-Chun Lin	\$3,000
9 Shin-Mei Liu	\$3,000
17 Xiao Tong Wang	\$1,500
17 Yuuki Hiraguchi	\$1,500
17 Xiao-Ting Pan	\$1,500
17 Doudou Zhou	\$1,500
17 Kateryna Polovinchuk	\$1,500
17 Ji-Won Hyun	\$1,500
17 Rubilen Amit	\$1,500
17 Ho-Yun Chen	\$1,500
17 Chia Hua Chen	\$1,500
17 Kelly Fisher	\$1,500
17 Nataliya Seroshtan	\$1,500
17 Eunji Park	\$1,500
17 Sun Dan Hong	\$1,500
17 Sollip Choi	\$1,500
17 Szu Ting Kuo	\$1,500
17 Allison Fisher	\$1,500

## 12/16 - 12/18

### Taom Tips Tour 2016-2017 Stop 3

#### Carom Room

#### Beloit, WI

1 Billy Thorpe	\$3,060
2 Shane McMinn	\$1,890
3 Dennis Hatch	\$1,170
4 Demitrios Jelatis	\$730
5 Sean Mitchell	\$435
5 Larry Nevel	\$435
7 Zach Marquart	\$290
7 Gene Albrecht	\$290

## 12/17 - 12/18

### Q City 9-Ball Tour Stop

#### Borderline Billiards

#### Bristol, TN

1 Mike Hancock	\$650
2 Jody Musselman	\$400
3 Jonathan Hennessee	\$250
4 James Parks	\$125
5 Alex Boles	\$50
5 Jonathan Ailstock	\$50

## 12/17 - 12/17

### Gambler's Pro Tour 2016 Tour Stop

#### Diamond Billiards Bar & Grill

#### Rochester, NY

1 Nick Brucato	\$385
2 Jason De Wolf	\$225
3 Roberto Junior	\$100

## 12/18 - 12/18

### Tri State Tour 2016-2017 Stop

#### Steinway Billiards

#### Astoria, NY

1 Atif Khan	\$750
2 Eric Carrasco	\$490
3 Elvis Rodriguez	\$300
4 David Grant	\$180
5 Akbar Karmoddien	\$120
5 Ben Holcome	\$120
7 Philip Pearce	\$90
7 Ellahi Zouraz	\$90

## 12/18 - 12/18

### Western New York Pool Tour 2016

#### Jingle Grind

#### Diamond Billiards Bar & Grill

#### Rochester, NY

1 Mark Hatch	\$400
2 Geoff Montgomery	\$175
3 John Reed	\$100
4 Nick Brucato	\$50

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A **\$3,500** B **\$3,500** C **\$3,000**

Second chance **\$40** entry

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Races to **11**, finals race to **17**, alt. break

Pro **\$500**, A **\$350**, B **\$250**, C **\$150**

Includes **\$40** green fee, and **\$35** registration

Open to **256** players.

Played on oversize **8<sup>ft</sup>** tables

Dress code: dress shoes, dress pants,  
collared shirt, & no hats



Jeff KENNEDY



Mike DECHAIINE



John MORRA



Tom THERIAULT

Corey DEUEL

Rodney MORRIS



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