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CHOU UNDEFEATED

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FROM THE Head Rail

MIKE HOWERTON

We lost another legend this year, with the passing of Buddy Hall last month.

We've got tributes this month from Jerry Forsyth, Pat Fleming and Mary Kenniston, as well as a sampling of some of the great matches of Buddy's, that we have been treated to by Accu-Stats over all of these years.

Personally, I didn't know Buddy very well, but I will always remember his friendly demeanor anytime I was able to see him at the table. Well, anytime that there wasn't something distracting going on in the crowd.

I do remember seeing Buddy get flashed by Diana Hoppe's camera when he was down on a ball once. He got up like he was going to murder someone until he saw who's camera it was. He just gave her a little grin and got back down to shoot.

Until next time.
Mike





50 YEARS • *Meucci* 1975-2025

LEGENDARY PERFORMANCE MADE IN THE USA





22 Chou over Tkach at Raxx

Story by Skip Maloney - AzB Staff / Photo courtesy Erwin Dionisio



24 Yapp crowned 2025 UK Open Champion

Story by Jack Mitchell - Matchroom Multi Sport / Photos courtesy Taka Wu - Matchroom Multi Sport

- 6** Third Millennium Thinking
Phil Capelle
- 10** Finding Center Ball
Anthony Beeler
- 14** The Passing of a Legend
Mary Kenniston
- 18** World Class Pool
- 20** Gospel Trick Shots
Steve Lillis
- 26** Remembering Our Buddy
Jerry Forsyth / Photos from National Billiard News Archive
- 28** Buddy Hall RIP
Pat Fleming / Photos from National Billiard News Archive
- 29** Buddy's Greatest Hits
- 30** Filler & Reinhold Storm Buffalo's
Mary Kenniston / Photo courtesy Pool Action TV
- 34** Spohr Goes Undefeated at Ginky Memorial
Story by Skip Maloney - AzB Staff / Photo courtesy Erwin Dionisio
- 38** Buruk Hashas Dominates 3 Cushion USA Grand Slam II
Story by AzB Staff / Photos courtesy 3 Cushion USA
- 40** BCA Launches USA National Championships
- 42** WPA & Matchroom Strike Deal
- 44** Cue Queens Docu-Series In Production
- 46** World Pool Championship Returns to Saudi Arabia
- 48** Pro Billiard Series & Box Billiards to Host WPA World 10-Ball
- 50** Matchroom Teams With Princess Royal Hospital
- 51** Onboard Sportswear Extends Matchroom Partnership
- 52** Tournament Results
- 56** Upcoming Events
- 57** AzBilliards Money List

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THIRD MILLENIUM THINKING FOR YOUR GAME, PART 2

Last month we ran Part 1 of this special feature on *Third Millennium Thinking (3MT)* along with how it can be applied to your pool game, and to life in general. The big idea is that there are so many evolving ways of thinking about these things, so it is worth the effort to find out what the three distinguished authors – Saul Perlmutter, John Campbell, and Robert MacCoun – have to say about these cutting edge concepts that will be shaping the world for decades and possibly centuries to come.

As I mentioned last month, the number at the end of each excerpt is the page that this passage can be found in their book. So, without further ado, lets dive into Part 2 of their discoveries. Should you find that these ideas have helped you in one way or another, please send me a message at capellepublishing@gmail.com.

PART 3 – The Radical Can-Do Stance

THINKING IS HARD (BUT ENJOYABLE) (145)

3MT: *We humans are inherently lazy. ... And, oddly enough, it feels like we use a lot of energy to think hard, so we avoid (doing) it when possible.*

PC: The authors assert that people are lazy, and that they don't like to think hard. While this may be true for some pool players, but so many others must enjoy thinking because they often spend a lot of time planning their shots – and because they like to play games that require deep thinking, including 1-Pocket, 14.1, 8-Ball, and 9&10 Ball.

So, if you are into thinking about your shots and your game, then I maintain

that this puts you a cut above most other sportsmen.

DEVELOPING GRIT (146)

3MT: *After a day or so a problem doesn't seem that new, and we're inclined to move on to being curious about something else.*

PC: The authors have detected some people's constant need for new challenges. But this is not the case for people who become immersed in long term projects, like looking for a cure to some disease in a lab, or creating a top caliber pool game over the course of many years of practice and play. In other words, pool satisfies our curiosity as it builds our ability to stick with something that is inherently difficult to do at a high level.

SCIENTIFIC OPTIMISM (146)

3MT: *When a complicated problem comes along, you're much more likely to solve it if you approach it as if that solution is within your grasp.*

PC: The authors embrace a can-do spirit which they call *scientific optimism*. Similarly, pool players must embrace this belief if they are to master the art and science of pool. This

could be called many things, including Pool Optimism, but the bottom line is the same: you must believe you are going to get better, possibly much better, if you are to develop into a very fine player, much less become a pro.

ITERATIVE ADVANCEMENT (149)

3MT: *Making progress on hard problems ... usually requires such iterative advancement, meaning we do better and better with each attempt and build on what we learned in previous attempts.*

PC: Improving at pool can be viewed as a hard problem, so aspiring players must learn to take the long view as they patiently nudge their game forward one small step at a time. This fits in with Bayes Theorem, which basically says that as we learn, we incorporate that learning into our game, and in doing so we constantly improve on our probabilities of success at the various skills that make up our game.

WAITING FOR THE SOLUTION (152)

3MT: *Sometimes the various pieces of a solution that need to come together are not all ready at the same*

time and we need to set the problem aside until, for example, some new supporting technology is available.

PC: Progress at pool can often go undetected as the pieces may be improving, but they have not, yet, jelled in such a way that you now experience a significantly higher level of play. And then a supporting technique (a technology) is employed and, all of a sudden, you game makes a Quantum Leap forward.

FIRST ORDER FACTORS (155)

3MT: *When you are looking for the levers to change a problem in the world, generally there are just a few really big ones that make most of the difference. We call these FIRST-ORDER factors.*

PC: Pool is best and most easily learned by mastering the requisite skills in the correct sequence. Learning first things first, such as becoming strongly grounded in the fundamentals, takes places before it's time to move on to the primary skills, such as cue ball control and safety play. You want to avoid working on third and fourth order skills which embody the kind of situations that rarely come up in a game, and that waste your time at the practice table. As an example, I knew someone who loved to practice 2-rail banks into the side pocket. He enjoyed consistently making these crowd pleasers even though they never came up in a game.

PART 4 – Minding the Gaps

HEURISTICS (175)

3MT: *A heuristic is a specific rough-and-ready method we've learned for making quick judgments, in order to avoid the hard cognitive work of careful deliberation.*

PC: While improving your game you will develop your own set of heuristics – that is, shortcuts that enable you to streamline your decision making, and the execution of so many shots. One example would be quickly choosing particular position routes, such as “that’s a 2-rail route to the opposite of the table.” Or, “I see a kick and stick safety.” As your knowledge grows, you can save your cognitive resources in planning so that you can pour more effort into executing difficult shots.

ON GUESSING QUANTITIES (178)

3MT: *We all have difficulty figuring out how to guess quantities. (Daniel) Kahneman and (Amos) Tversky suggest that we usually approach this task by looking for some arbitrary but salient number to use as a rough starting point; we then make a judgment about whether to adjust upward or downward.*

PC: Pool is a game of starting points, and then making adjustments as needed until we arrive at a point where each element looks and/or feels just right. For example, I recommend that you use my Spectrum of Speeds to gauge the force needed to send the object ball into the pocket, and to have the cue ball arrive close to, or on, its positional bullseye. A 6.0 indicates that a medium hard stroke is needed. Let’s say that seems to be a little too hard. In that case I might revise my estimate to a 5.7. While I may think in numbers like this, when over the ball, the speed is more a matter of feel, and I end up going with what feels right, all relevant factors considered.

BAD SCIENCE (185)

3MT: *The most innocent kind of bad science is done by scientists who are doing most things right but do something important wrong.*

PC: An instructor could make a host of quality recommendations and one that causes great harm to a student’s game. Some of the main culprits might include using a tight grip, taking a set number of WUS, or insisting that a player pause at the end of their backstroke. Others could include using one of the so-called aiming systems that have plausible sounding explanations, such as using the contact point, but that just don’t work at the table.

FAILURE MODES AND GUARDRAILS (202)

3MT: *ONE - Raise our own awareness of these failure modes so we have a fighting chance of recognizing when we start to fall into them and correcting course. TWO - Implement techniques and guardrails to help us avoid falling into a given failure mode.*

PC: Maintaining your game at or near peak levels is a skill that leads to consistently fine play. So, you need to know your error tendencies, such as jumping up too quickly or twisting your wrist at contact. It helps to have a friend who knows your game who can be on the lookout for the reemergence of your flaws – and you can return the favor. One way to prevent landing off your line-of-aim is to stand and face the shot before taking your stance.

BOGUS CLAIMS (203)

3MT: *A “made with science” label on the cover of any argument is not sufficient reason to accept the argument.*

PC: Your game is one of your most valuable possessions, so you need and deserve the very best. But, sadly, when it comes to pool instruction, there is no uniform body of standards for instructors in general. As a result, for those who are seeking instruction, it is caveat emptor!

ANNIE DUKE ON “RESULTING” (212)

3MT: *Professional poker players often omit the outcome of a hand when discussing good and bad plays with colleagues. “Telling someone how a story (a hand) ends encourages them to be resulters, to interpret the details to fit that outcome.”*

PC: In several columns, including the one on Joshua Filler in the April issue, I focused on evaluating a single shot. While a shot may lead to a winning outcome, it is best to evaluate it within the context of how that shot fits into the pattern or defensive strategy. As an example, a somewhat lucky shot could look like a “smart gamble” if it leads to a win even if it was, all relevant things considered, a poor choice.

PART 5 – Joining Forces

OVERRIDING REALISTIC APPRAISALS (223)

3MT: *Concurrence-seeking (a tendency to want to agree and to avoid conflict) becomes so dominant in a cohesive ingroup that it tends to override realistic appraisal of alternative courses of action.*

PC: Some well-known methods for playing pool have their followers, who strictly adhere to them even though several of their steps are not what so many (including myself) would be considered to be the best way to play the game. If you are blindly following a possibly questionable method, it could pay to examine its whats, hows and whys.

A TRUTH WINS PROCESS! (228)

3MT: *At the extreme, a group operating under “strength in arguments” will adopt the best solution or argument that is offered, even if that position only has a single adherent at the start of discussion. Social psy-*

chologists call this a truth wins process.

PC: Examples from TV shows and real life include a dissenting jurist who, through the sheer strength and validity of their arguments, wins over the other 11 to their way of thinking. That is what I try to do when I present new ideas that are based on a process where the “truth wins,” and where I am seeking to replace what I believe to be outdated modes of playing our great sport.

A SHARED CONCEPTUAL SYSTEM (228)

3MT: *It (“demonstrably correct”) means that the group members have a shared way of assessing a potential answer – a shared conceptual system that can be used to verify whether it is correct.*

PC: Two of my conceptual systems are methods for 1) playing a sport at a high level, 2) and systems that can be used for selecting a sport using criteria that most would agree on.

Item one from above could include things like using a relaxed hold of your cue, a balanced stance, using WUS to loosen up and dial in the line-of-aim, and a well-rehearsed technique for landing on the table as precisely as possible.

Item two is a method for evaluating various sports as a way of choosing those to consider playing and/or watching. I will present a detailed conceptual system for evaluating various sports in my upcoming book but, for now, here are a few to consider: can the sport be largely played free of injury; does everyone get to play; does it feature a sufficient number of entertaining plays or shots; it is a hybrid, that is, a sport that all can both play and watch; does it challenge your decision making skills; and, can it sharpen your eye/brain/hand coordination.

ON CHANGING MINDS (243)

3MT: *(Claude) Steele reasoned that because information that challenges our views is threatening, it is possible to make the individual more resilient and better able to withstand the threat by allowing them an opportunity to affirm their values.*

PC: When presented with new instruction worthy of your consideration, but that clashes with your current method, you may deepen your arguments for why you now play the way you do. After this process, you might then be open to new ideas that could offer you the chance for improvement. One of the ideas that helped me the most took place when I made it a habit on facing the shot and landing on the line-of-aim on every single shot. So, what changes might you be considering?

REFLECTIVE EQUILIBRIUM (244)

3MT: *We act when we have reached a settled state, where we’re comfortable both with our actions in particular cases, and with the general rules that our actions illustrate. This is the method of “reflective equilibrium.”*

PC: When deciding on a shot, the ideal choice for a particular layout could be to draw across the table, off the rail, and down towards the other end. In some cases, however, a 2-rail route could be better even though it is an exception to the rule. Before we shoot, we then need to reach what the authors call “reflective equilibrium.”

REVISING YOUR BELIEFS (262)

3MT: *But they (author Phil Tetlock’s contest winning Superforecasters) also had open-minded cognitive styles, with a willingness to acknowledge the limits of their knowledge, the weaknesses of their arguments, and the possibility that they might*

need to revise their beliefs as they learned more.

PC: So many players work so hard to create their game. They then reach a point where they don't want to risk taking a step or two backwards while they incorporate some techniques or methods that could lead to a whole new level of play. So, if your game has not reached the level that you feel capable of, then you may be time to revise your beliefs.

THE EVOLVING CULTURAL PERIOD (269)

3MT: Column 3 (in the book, which shows the 3MT Renewal) sketches the evolving cultural period that we are now experiencing – and our (the author's) 3MT vision for healing the rift between science and society.

PC: Their shift from factual thinking to probabilistic thinking (see Bayes), which is really what pool is all about, as we are always playing the odds. We

make very educated guesses that we are aiming correctly, for example, and that we are feeling the speed needed for each shot. We are also moving from definitive solutions to iterative improvements as we get better a little bit at a time.

LARGE SOCIETAL SHIFTS IN THINKING (272)

3MT: These (our) ideas anchor the large societal shift in thinking that in the table above (in the author's book) we called the 3MT Renewal. And, we hope, they offer our society a route out of the crisis of confidence and trust that is besetting us.

PC: I would also like to see a societal shift in thinking, one that includes a far more enlightened view of our great sport of pool – and all of the good that it can do for its players, and for society as a whole. Indeed, when someone learns *Third Millennium Thinking* – pool style, that is – they will be even

better prepared to meet the challenges that lie ahead, including the adoption of AI on a wide scale, changes in governments around the world, and the mandate to solve the climate crisis. In sum, the world of today and tomorrow will require thinkers of the first order, and I can think of no other sport that can do a better job of creating them than playing serious pool can do.

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.

Finding Center Ball: A Precision Guide

ANTHONY BEELER

If you're missing more shots than you should, there's a high probability that the problem isn't your aim—it's your contact point on the cue ball.

Even the slightest deviation from the true center can cause the cue ball to deflect or “squirt,” steering it off course and turning a well-planned shot into a frustrating miss.

Striking the exact center of the cue ball is one of the most fundamental—but most overlooked—skills in pool. It's what separates consistent players from streaky ones. In this article, we'll break down effective techniques for finding true center, even under pressure, and make the case for one of the most reliable hits in the game: **high-center**.

Why Center Matters

Imagine trying to shoot at a still target but bumping the barrel of your rifle at the last second. That's what happens

when you unintentionally hit the cue ball off-center. A tiny miss to the left? The cue ball squirts right. Slightly off to the right? It veers left. This lateral deflection may seem small, but it's enough to ruin your line of aim.

So how do you train yourself to hit center ball consistently?

Strategy 1: Use the Top of the Cue Ball

A powerful method is to align your tip with the **top** of the cue ball. Visualize your tip poking straight through the ball. Where would it exit on the opposite side? That imaginary line gives you a reliable vertical reference point and is especially useful when applying topspin.

This method reduces eye movement, helping you stay centered both visually and physically. It's no coincidence that many pros prefer this approach.

Strategy 2: Use the Base of the Cue Ball

When using bottom spin, the **base** of the cue ball becomes your guide. That very bottom point lies directly along the ball's vertical axis. Focusing on that spot helps you stay grounded and hit low-center consistently.

It's all about giving your eyes more precise visual anchors to work with.



Strategy 3: Understand the Equator

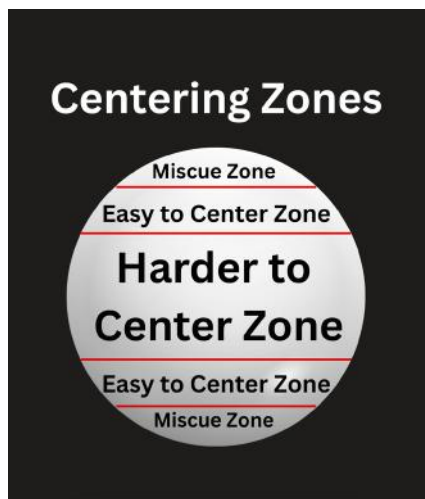
The “equator” of the cue ball—the widest horizontal part—is theoretically the truest center. But ironically, it's the hardest to hit consistently. Because it lacks the taper of the top or bottom, it's easier to be *just* a hair off without realizing it.

That's why I often teach players to aim **above or below** center whenever possible. These areas are more visually defined and help develop a more consistent feel for where center truly lies.

The Case for High-Center

Of all the contact points on the cue ball, **high-center** is my go-to choice for most shots—and here's why.

I remember listening to legendary player Buddy Hall commentate with Bill Incardona. Time and again, Bill would ask, “Buddy, how do you hit this shot?” and Buddy would calmly reply, “High-center.” At one point, Bill asked him, “Why?” and Buddy just said, “I don't know Bill, I just see the shot clearer that way.”



And he was right.

High-center has a visual simplicity that's hard to beat. Your eyes flow naturally from the top of the cue ball straight to the object ball. With low-center, your eyes must travel *up* the cue ball before reaching your target—introducing unnecessary eye movement and more potential for error.

Why High-Center Works So Well

Here's why high-center is a favorite among top players:

1. Less Eye Movement

Your vision flows smoothly from cue ball to object ball, improving focus and reducing distractions.

2. Easier Alignment

The slight taper near the top of the cue ball provides a natural visual anchor for precise aiming.

3. More Accurate Cuts

When you use high-center, cuts stay true. Spin-induced throw is minimized, meaning a 30-degree cut actually behaves like a 30-degree cut.

4. Better Cue Alignment

Your shaft aligns more naturally with the center of the cue ball, because it's narrower at the top. This helps with improving cue delivery.

Final Thoughts

Finding and striking the center of the cue ball is a skill worth mastering. Whether you aim high, low, or at the equator, the key is **consistency** and **clarity** in your visual process. Personally, I recommend high-center whenever the shot allows—it offers visual simplicity, cleaner alignment, and more reliable results.

Remember: If your cue isn't aligned with the center, your game won't be

either. So, start training your eye, refine your stroke, and aim true.

Because when you find center, everything else falls into place.

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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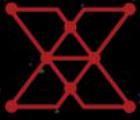
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play so true,

you really have to ask yourself
would you rather play against your opponent...

...or against your
equipment?



THE PASSING OF A LEGEND

The billiard world mourns the passing of one of the greatest players of my generation.

Cecil P. (“Buddy”) Hall passed away on May 22nd – a few days short of his 80th birthday.

He was one of the greatest nine ball players of pool’s Golden Era and that included the likes of Luther Lassiter, Don Willis, Jim Rempe, Nick Varner, Mike Sigel, Earl Strickland and Efren Reyes.

Nicknamed “The Rifleman,” Buddy was not only one of the best to ever hold a cue but he was a great story teller with a laugh that was recognizable from anywhere in the room. Yes, that wonderfully infectious laugh - it was real and full and came from deep inside him. And, if he wasn’t playing in the last few matches of a tournament, he often could be found

in the commentary booth where both players and fans were treated to his depth of knowledge and analysis of the game.

Known for his pure stroke, his uncanny accuracy and impeccable cue ball control, he won over 100 professional events and was a twelve-time world champion in nine ball, one pocket



Buddy Hall - Jimmy Reid & Louie Roberts behind - Ronnie Reynolds & Billy Joe Burge ("Cornbread Red") back right - '82 Dayton Open - Photo courtesy of Mike Haines & Bill Porter

and banks. He was named Player of the Year in 1982, 1991, 1997 and 1998 and was inducted into both the BCA Hall of Fame and the One Pocket Hall of Fame.

He was also the creator of the Clock System through which a player could learn cue ball control.

I remember asking Buddy once who he thought was the best player of the previous generation and he didn't hesitate as he answered, "Luther Lassiter."

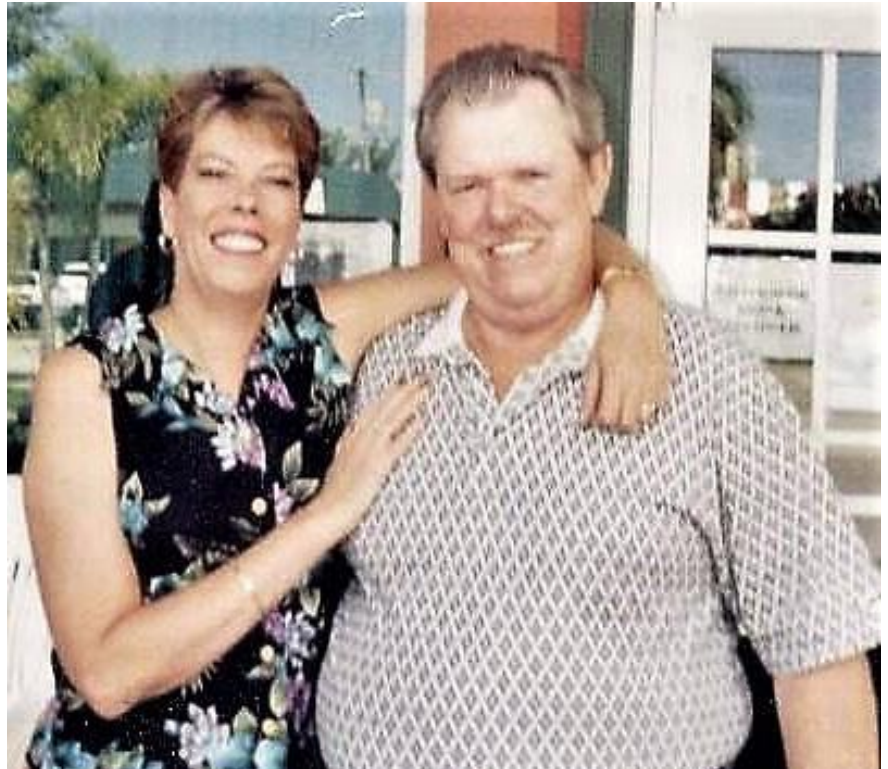
A few years later, he introduced me to Lassiter and I made it a point to talk to him for a few minutes whenever I saw he was alone. One day I asked him who he thought was the greatest player of my generation and he said, "Buddy Hall."

And, like so many others in the billiard world, I loved Buddy. He was my idol, my friend.

When I was in Houston in 1980, we'd practice nearly every afternoon. Well, he'd practice and I'd watch and rack. I used to get a shot about once an hour. But I didn't mind - I watched intently and every time I saw him do something I wasn't sure of, after the game I'd ask him about it. We'd set up the shot, he'd explain how to hit it & I'd shoot it a few times until I had it down.

He also changed the rules several times so I could get to the table but it still wasn't very often. Finally he told me to go the bar and grab a cocktail napkin. I looked at him quizzically but he laughed and waved me off. So, off I went, grabbed a few and handed one to him. He placed it on the table and explained that if the cue ball didn't land on the napkin, I'd get ball in hand!

Well, I was sure I'd get a shot now but my hopes were dashed as I watched whitey land on that small square over and over again! It turned out that



about once every ten or twelve shots, I'd get ball in hand because the cue ball wasn't completely on the napkin, only partly on it! Yup, that legendary cue ball control...

Over the next few weeks, my game skyrocketed as I learned a lot watching him and the other top players. I was always on the table practicing or in action and nothing hones your game like being in action!

While I was there, Buddy introduced me to many players - New York Blackie (Al Bonife), James Christopher, Joe Rocha, Tommy Sanders, a young Earl Strickland and The Mighty Glove (Gene Catron).

One day I saw Catron getting ready to play and he pulled a green Army glove out of his case. The fingertips were cut off & he slipped it on. I watched as he screwed his cue together and turned to Buddy.

"Buddy, how can he play with that glove?"

He looked at me and laughed.

"Real good!"

And he did! That, of course, was before the rest of the pool world caught up & starting using their own gloves!

Sometimes Buddy & I would hit the road and one time we were told to go to the firehouse in Tuscaloosa. Apparently, the fire chief's girl friend liked to play & the chief would stake her. It was late afternoon when we walked in and told one of the firemen that I'd come to play the girlfriend. Within half an hour, I was in action on the bar box - \$10 on the five and \$20 on the nine. It didn't take me long to see that she was easy action, so I just started riding the money balls. If they were made early, they'd get spotted.

After a couple hours, I was up several hundred and the chief angrily snatched the cue out of her hands and said that he'd play me some. He played better than she did but his



Buddy Hall & ref Don Feeny ("Preacher")
- '91 International 9 Ball Championships -
Aurora, IL - Photo courtesy of Andy Hughes

nose was wide open by that time and I started pounding on him too.

Finally, after a few more hundred, he snapped at me & said, "I'm done with you but I'll play your stakehorse some!" And pointed at Buddy!

Talk about jumping from the frying pan into the fire!

We left a couple thousand winner and that was how I found out that every firehouse had a pool table in it and that those guys loved to bet!

By 1985, I was living in Los Angeles and heard that Red's in Houston was going to have a women's division so off I went. When I arrived, the whole place was buzzing about this young Filipino who was in the back room giving all our top players the seven, eight or beating them even!

I asked Buddy when he was going to play him and he told me after the finals. Our good friend, Wade Crane ("Billy Johnson") was having a great year and had won several tournaments already. He was in the finals again and would play this young Filipino who called himself Caesar Morales.

Buddy & I climbed to the top of the bleachers to watch the match and a few games in, Buddy turned to me and whispered, "Pay attention to this guy. He might be the best player you'll ever see in your life."

My head snapped around! Here was my idol telling me to watch someone else! And as good as Billy played, Morales won the tournament easily.

With the finals now over, it was time for Buddy and Morales to play. They played ten ball, eight ahead for \$10,000. I had about \$2,200 on me - I bet \$2,000 on Buddy.

On a side note, not too many knew this but Buddy told me before the match that win or lose, both players would split the gate so at least the loser would make some money.

The match began and it didn't last long - Buddy took it down. And, that was the only time he, Efen Reyes, would play Buddy Hall.

The years rolled by and I'd see Buddy at the various pro events and later at my pool room in Vegas - Cue-Topia. I was there in 2012 to see him inducted into the One Pocket Hall of Fame and the last time I saw Buddy was at the 2015 Super Seniors One Pocket Championship at Bogies in Houston.

As I scroll through all the memories of my friend, I can close my eyes and see him at the table. I remember the twinkle in his eyes. His bear hugs. His smile. His laugh.

My heart is broken.

I'll miss you, Buddy...



Buddy Hall & Luther Lassiter - '84 Tar Heel Open - Rocky Mount, NC - Photo courtesy of the Wade Crane Collection

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.



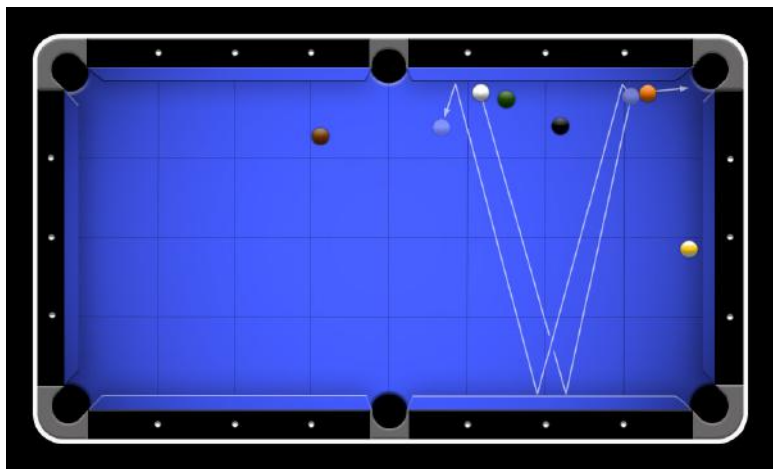
Mahogany
Recon Wood
Inlay

Black
Collar Joint

Sky-Blue
SPR* Inlay

 **becue**
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F R O M



Accu-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 focus on “TK From FLA” Tommy Kennedy with this shot from the 1994 US Open 9-Ball Championship.

Tony Ellin had locked Kennedy up with a safety here and Billy Incardona thought Kennedy would try to nestle the cue ball up with the 5-ball.

Instead, Kennedy kicked the 5-ball in like he was straight in and left himself shape on the 6-ball.

Luck or not, you have to hand it to Tommy for this one.



Niels Fejer

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Gospel Trick Shot #64

The Price Was Paid.

History of the Trick Shot: This shot performed by Wayne Parker is done on a Chinese 9-foot pool table which has snooker type pockets, using a nap cloth which is made up of very fine bristles, brushed in one direction from the head of the table towards the foot cushion. This shot is also featured in the Artistic Pool shot program as the tie-breaker shot when two players are tied during a head-to-head play-off. A dollar bill is used and a cue ball which played around 8 to 9 rails and landing on the dollar bill. The player who gets closest to the bill wins. This shot can also be done on an American type pool table.

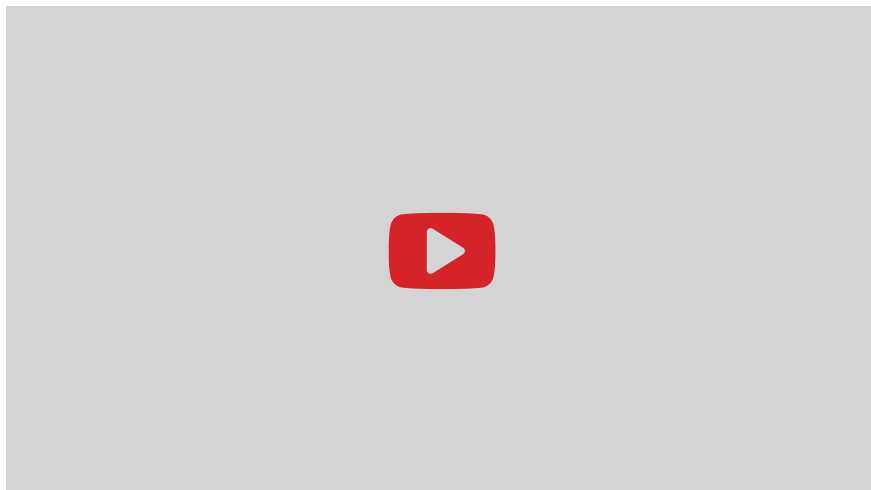
GTS Name and Why: The name of the shot is called “The Price Was Paid” and demonstrates that God paid the price for us to have eternal life. The 3-ball represents the blood of Jesus and how this was payment for our redemption which was accomplished when God sent His only begotten Son who was the price that God the Father paid for our eternal life. The 3-ball shot across 8 rails and eventually lands on top of a dollar bill signifying that through the blood of Jesus the price was paid in full. We would not want to exchange our soul for a million dollars, yet God paid a greater price with His own blood that we might have eternal life in Him.

Scripture Reference: Mark 8:36 (NIV) “What good is it for someone to gain the whole world, yet forfeit their soul?”

Cue Ball Placement: 3-ball placed about half a diamond from the long rail and side pocket as diagramed. This shot can also be done on either side of the table.

Object Ball(s) Placement: Only the 3-ball used as a cue ball and a dollar bill placed near the corner pocket as shown in the diagram.

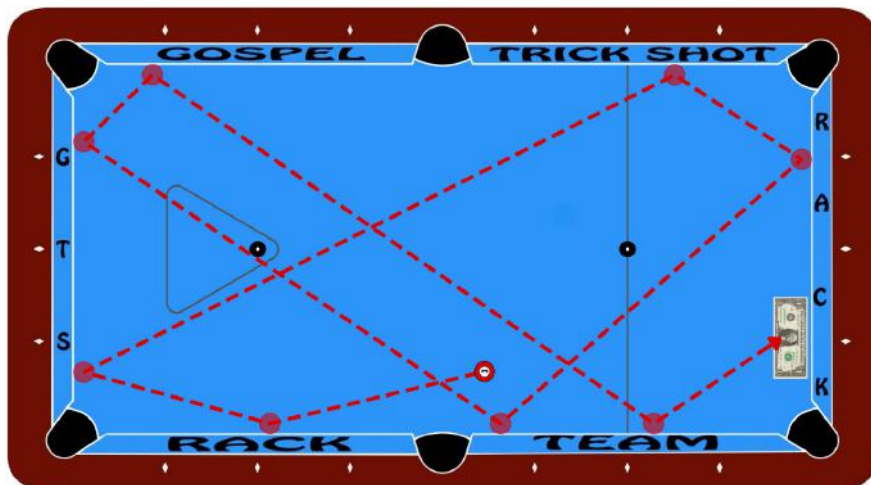
Objective: Hit the cue ball hard straight into the long rail as diagramed with left-



hand English causing the 3-ball to run off 8 or 9 rails and eventually landing on the dollar bill placed near the corner pocket as shown in the diagram.

Special Notes: This shot takes some practice and depending on the speed of the table cloth one would have to compensate with how hard you would strike the ball. Playing with some running English will assist with the ball path reaching the dollar bill.

Crowd Reactions: Because of the ball being hit so hard and off so many rails, there is a build up of anticipation as the cue ball in this case the 3-ball bounces across all the rails and eventually slows down making its way to the dollar bill. When the ball eventually comes to rest on the dollar bill expect a round of applause and being “bang on the money.” As the crowd applause begins to settle, proclaim “You will always be bang on the money when your trust is in Jesus!”



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- The 9ball was spotted on the foot spot (instead of the 1ball), with opponents racking for each other and the remaining seven balls placed at random. Breakers could inspect the rack and request a rerack if needed—but not touch it.
- The 3point rule was removed, eliminating the requirement that balls pocketed and/or crossing the head string total at least three. Originally designed to deter soft breaks, it often penalized powerful, cluster-breaking breaks. The result: truly open racks every time and dramatically varied opening patterns.

Chieh-Yu Chou's trip to the winners' circle began well enough with an 8-2 win over Tarah Conner and an 8-3 follow-up against Monica Webb. She then faced (on paper, at least) two straight, more problematic opponents, each of whom (Margarita Fefilova and Allison Fisher) delivered an almost-double-hill challenge (8-6). Chou moved on to face fellow countrywoman Shui Ching Chiang in one of the winners' side semifinals.

In the meantime, Australia's Bean (Meng-Hsia) Hung, headed out to the hot seat match from her end of the 64-entrant bracket with an opening-round victory over Kim Housman 8-3. Then, another teenager, Kennedy Meyman (18), battled her to double-hill before she (Hung) prevailed to send Germany's Pia Filler to the loss side 8-6. She then downed Taiwan's Tzu-Chien Wei 8-5, and in the other winners' side semifinal, drew the "Roadrunner" (Easton), who'd just sent "Pink Dagger" to the loss side 8-2.

Hung defeated the "Roadrunner" 8-5, while the two Taiwanese competitors battled and eventually sent Chieh-Yu Chou to the hot seat match 8-4. In a double-hill fight, Chou claimed the seat over Hung.

The "Roadrunner" arrived on the loss side and picked up Tkach, who'd

followed her loss to the "Pink Dagger" with four straight victories, over Spain's Mayte Ropero (4), Japan's Sakura Muramatsu (3), Janet Atwell (3) and, in a double-hill battle, Allison Fisher. Chiang drew countrywoman Tzu-Chien Wei, who'd followed her loss to Hung with victories over Fefilova 8-5 and Vietnam's Nguyen Bich Tram 8-3.

Tkach had to contend with an almost-double hill challenge from the "Roadrunner," but did prevail 8-6 and advanced to the quarterfinal. Chiang joined her after eliminating Wei 8-2. Tkach won the quarterfinal match over Chiang 8-5.

The sound of Tkach's 'footsteps' as she approached a meeting versus Chou in the finals (expressed in diminishing loss-side, racks-against numbers) were steady and getting louder. . . 7, 6, 5, and in the semifinals against Hung, got down to 3.

It was the second time in a little less than a year that Chou and Tkach had tangled up in a WPBA final. In June, last year, at the Soaring Eagle Masters in Mount Pleasant, MI, Tkach and Chou met twice, the first time in Round 2 of a Stage 2, double-elimination bracket. They battled to double-hill before

Tkach prevailed sending Chou on a nine-match, loss-side trip that would culminate with a rematch against her in the finals. That final match (we reported at the time) didn't match up to its double-hill expectations, though it was close. Chou edged out in front to win 10-7 and claim what proved to be her first WPBA title.

Chou was apparently unphased by the aforementioned approaching 'footsteps' of Tkach this past weekend and of course, in the absence of a 'fight or flight' option, the two met once again to battle for an event title. Like their meeting at the Soaring Eagle Masters last year, there was plenty of drama, though not the double-hill kind. Chou edged out in front to win 10-5 and claim her second WPBA title.

WPBA representatives thanked Holden Chin and his Raxx Pool Room, Sports Bar and Grill staff for their hospitality, along with Event Sponsors Olhausen Billiards, Mezz Cues, and Hsunami Shafts. Next up on the WPBA calendar, where Chou and Tkach might re-appear and face each other in a third final, will be the \$40,000-added, 2025 Soaring Eagle Masters, scheduled for the weekend of June 5-8 at the Soaring Eagle Casino and Resort in Mt. Pleasant, MI.



ALOYSIUS YAPP

CROWNED 2025 UK OPEN CHAMPION

IN RUTHLESS FINAL PERFORMANCE

Story by Jack Mitchell - Matchroom Multi Sport / Photos courtesy Taka Wu - Matchroom Multi Sport

FINAL RESULT

Aloysius Yapp 13-1 Jonas Souto

Yapp, who won the lag, wasted no time asserting control. A precise 7-9 combo in the opening rack set the tone, followed by a two-rack burst to take a quick 3-0 lead. The Singaporean's break continued to produce ideal layouts, and his clinical cueing saw him stretch the advantage to 5-0 without error.

As Souto remained frozen in his chair, Yapp put together

a series of flawless clearances, showcasing his composure and control. By rack six, the score was 6-0.

In the seventh, Yapp left a tough safety on the 2-ball. Souto eyed a tricky 2-9 combo but failed to convert, handing control straight back to Yapp, who calmly extended his lead to 7-0.

Yapp's momentum momentarily faltered in rack eight after missing a long shot on the 3-ball. Souto returned to the table with a chance to get on the board but left himself poor shape

on the 9, allowing Yapp to steal yet another rack.

Yapp continued his relentless pace, reaching 11-0 before a dry break in the twelfth gave Souto a rare opportunity. A brief safety battle ensued, with Yapp executing a jump shot but once again ending up hooked. Despite escaping the snooker, he failed to pot, but Souto's attempt at safety was undone by a misjudged angle — the cue ball failed to hide behind the 8-ball, and Yapp cleared the table to reach the hill at 12-0.



Aloysius Yapp

the end of the final but the realisation of a long-awaited dream. After coming close on numerous occasions, the Reyes Cup MVP now has a Matchroom Major crown to his name — a fitting reward for his remarkable form and dedication.

NEXT MATCHROOM EVENT

The next signature Matchroom multi-table open event will be the Crown Jewel of the World Nineball Tour – The 2025 World Pool Championship, held in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. This glorious tournament takes place from July 21-26 at the iconic Green Halls in Jeddah.

For more information, click [here](#).

For all the latest updates, follow Matchroom Pool on **Facebook, Instagram, X, TikTok, and YouTube**

You can recap on all the action across the past week at the UK Open Pool Championship on **WNT TV**.



Souto avoided a whitewash in rack 13 after a dry break from Yapp followed by a scratch allowed the Spaniard to finally get on the scoreboard.

In what proved to be the final rack, Souto returned the favour with a dry break of his own. Yapp called a push-

out, leading to a brief safety exchange on the 1-ball. Once again, Souto couldn't lock him out, and Yapp took full advantage, clearing the rack to seal an emphatic 13-1 victory.

As the 9-ball dropped for the final time in Telford, Yapp celebrated not only

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REMEMBERING OUR BUDDY

By Jerry Forsyth / Photos from National Billiard News Archiv

I am certain that the greatest honor I ever received in pool was when Buddy Hall asked me to introduce him at his Hall of Fame induction.

We had long been friends, a friendship inaugurated when I interviewed him at the US Open for a magazine story. He did not know at the time that I was one of his biggest fans. He was surprised that I knew he favored a very simple game of pool. “Don’t ask the cue ball to do too much work” he would say. If he could get good shape by drawing the cue ball back a few inches instead of going two or three rails for shape, that is what he would do. He always removed as many risks from his game as was possible.

As a result, many made the mistake of underestimating his powers. They thought that his simple moves were a result of necessity. But Buddy could uncork magic when he needed to do so. He was actually the master of position play for the era. That’s why it always looked like his runs were easy. His shot were most always sitting at the right angle to get shape and continue.

Buddy had a virtual circus of relatives, many of whom would spend parts of their lives living with Buddy. He told me after a big tournament win: “When I got home with that check there were more hands reaching for it than I had fingers.” But they were family, so Buddy never seemed to care a great deal. Buddy had problems as the years ate away at him. In his instruction book he warned his readers about gaining



weight. He would say that once you were overweight you had to beat two opponents in every match, the other guy and your own heft. It affected him in many ways. When Buddy made his life as a road warrior he was shark-proof. But early in his 50's Buddy became super-sensitive to surrounding noise. He would often mildly chastise noisy fans and ask for quiet. At one US Open back at the Chesapeake Convention Center Buddy had broken a rack, retrieved his shooting cue, and was studying the table. A fan about 6 or 7 rows back rattled a bag of potato chips as opened them. Buddy said nothing. He just turned around and looked at the offender, then sat down and would not rise again until the bag of chips was finally consumed. He then won the match 9-0.



Larry Johnson, J Caras & R Martin - D West, S Mizerak, B Hall, L Butera, N Varner, E Taylor & M Sigel - '00 BCA Trade Induction - NY, NY - Courtesy Pool & Billiard Magazine Collection

We are not done with Buddy. His legend will be with us for many, many years. I just hope something he told me once is true for him. He said, when

speaking of the legends of the past like Mosconi and all the rest: "You know, it has always surprised me that the longer someone has been dead, the bet-

ter they are said to have played." One last thought. Do me a favor. When you think of Buddy, always be amazed. Every one who ever played him was.



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Action Photography ©mediumpool

Buddy Hall RIP

Pat Fleming

Buddy Hall was one of the first regulars in the Accu-Stats commentary booth, and what a presence he had. When Buddy shared the mic with Billy Incardona or Grady Mathews, their chemistry was pure gold—unforgettable then and just as cherished now.

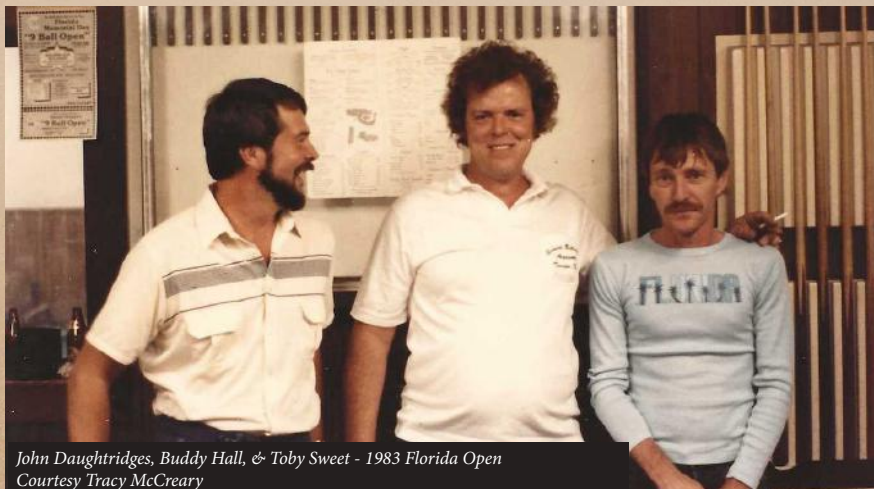
Buddy was as courteous and friendly as anyone you'd ever meet. Listening to him share his pool knowledge felt like attending a masterclass—every moment was worth its weight in gold.

Whether you were a beginner, a seasoned pro, or just a curious spectator, Buddy always offered his opinion with honesty and sincerity. He never hesitated to help, and he made you feel like your question truly mattered.

He was also a natural storyteller, and his infectious laugh could light up a

room—it was the kind of laugh you'd recognize from across the hall.

Though Buddy “The Rifleman” Hall has left this world, his spirit lives on in all of us. His legacy, warmth, and wisdom will remain with us forever.



John Daughtrides, Buddy Hall, & Toby Sweet - 1983 Florida Open
Courtesy Tracy McCreary



Joe Burns, Buddy Hall, Joe Kerr & Earl Strickland - 1982 Dayton Open

BUDDY'S GREATEST HITS

Some of the best Buddy Hall matches from Accu-Stats Video Productions



1998 US Open 9-Ball Championship
Finals vs Tang Hoa



2001 US Open 9-Ball Championship
Vs Earl Strickland



15th Sands Regency 9-Ball Open
1992 vs Steve Mizerak



1998 Legends of One Pocket
Vs Efren Reyes



15th Sands Regency 9-Ball Open
1992 Player Review vs Grady Mathews



1998 Legends of One Pocket
Finals vs Shannon Daulton

FILLER & REINHOLD STORM BUFFALO'S

Story by **Mary Kenniston** - Photos courtesy **Pool Action TV**

As soon as Buffalo's Pro One Pocket Championship ends, one pocket players and aficionados can't wait for next year's event.

Presented by PoolActionTV.com, owner James Leone ("Buff") and his General Manager, Steve Tesvich, welcomed thirty six of the top one pocket players on the planet and a full field of 128 nine-ball players plus hundreds of fans who stampeded to Buffalo's Billiards in Jefferson, LA for their Tenth Annual Pro Classic.

There were three divisions – the \$1,000 added One Ball One Pocket, the \$20,000 added Pro One Pocket and the \$10,000 added Open Nine-Ball tournament.

The One Ball One Pocket event had a \$200 entry fee and was single elimination with races to four. The double elimination Pro Classic One Pocket event had a \$2,000 entry fee with races to five on both sides. The Nine Ball event was also double elimination with a \$100 entry fee, played on seven footers with races to seven on both sides and alternate break. Once down to sixteen players, it was single elimination with races to nine – finals to be one extended race to eleven.

Following the players auction, meeting and draw, this year's event kicked off on Tuesday evening with the One Ball One Pocket Championship. Sponsored by the Action Palace of Dayton, OH, forty four players joined the fray. When the smoke cleared, it was Germany's Joshua Filler and USA's own Josh Roberts in the finals. Roberts played great but it was Filler who added another title to his belt.

On Wednesday night, the main event, the double elimination Pro One Pocket Championship opened with a rousing player auction of the thirty six players entered into the event– final total \$378,350!

As soon as the players meeting and draw was completed, play began and everywhere you looked, there was world class one pocket being played.

Racing through the brackets, it was BCA Hall of Famer Shane Van Boening, Sky Woodward, Joshua Filler, One Pocket Hall of Famer Scott Frost, defending champ Roberto Gomez, Devin Poteet, last year's runner-up Tony Chohan and Fedor Gorst who made the final eight on the winner's side.

In a nailbiter, it was Woodward over Van Boening 5-4, Filler over Frost 5-3,

Gomez over Poteet – also 5-3, while Chohan edged out Gorst 5-4.

Filler tore through Woodward and Chohan thrashed Gomez – both scores 5-0. This set up the hot seat match – Filler smoked Chohan 5-1 and locked up his seat in the finals. Chohan headed west to await an opponent.

On the west side of the chart, Van Boening avenged his earlier loss to Woodward 5-2 but was eliminated by Chohan – also 5-2. Last year's runner-up Woodward finished fourth and Van Boening finished in third place.

On Thursday night there was a break in the action to celebrate the induction in absentia of Alex Pagulayan into the Greatest Player category of the One Pocket Hall of Fame. Also inducted for Meritorious Service was Steve Booth,

Tony Chohan and Joshua Filler



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Chris Reinhold

Hall of Famer went for \$2,000 in the auction and cashed \$14,000!

PoolActionTV.com would again like to thank James Leone and his staff for going the extra mile to show players and fans the Big Easy spirit.

We would also like to thank all the great people for making the added money come together. They included James Leone aka "Buff," attorney Joseph J. Long, Terry Terrebonne with Lanier Engineers, Wade Allemand with Artco, Ray Hansen with PoolActionTV.com, Albert Trujillo of Fort Worth Billiards, Chris Faucundus of Cue Maker Supply, Jimmy and Brandi Randolph of Total Rentals and the Action Palace of Dayton, OH for sponsoring the One Ball One Pocket Championship.

Thanks to Tournament Director Ian Jones for doing a great job juggling the various events. We'd also like to thank Larry Schwartz, Billy Incardona, Jeremy Jones, Joe Long, Scott Rabon, John Hennigan ("Johnny World") and Gary Bradshaw for their expert commentary.

Thanks to custom cuemaker Steve Lomax of Lomax Cues for donating another beautiful \$2000 cue!

Congratulations to Joshua Filler and Chris Reinhold for becoming this year's Buffalo's champions!

founder of OnePocket.org. Steve can take credit for the explosion of one pocket here in the United States & the rest of the world. Congratulations to both! Well deserved!

While the Pro One Pocket was winding down, the Open 9-Ball was just getting started. Playing on a sea of seven footers, the field was finally whittled down to the sixteen player knockout round. Within a few matches, there were four players left standing. Gregorio ("Guama") Sanchez squeaked out a 9-8 win over Chip Compton and Chris Reinhold defeated the always tough John Morra 9-4. Compton and Morra finished in a 3-4 tie.

The final match was tight all the way until Reinhold pulled away at the end to defeat Gregorio 11-8 and become this year's Buffalo's Open 9-Ball Champ.

It had been a grueling few days for all involved and the Pro One Pocket finals had finally arrived – it was time to crown a champion. Since this was true double elimination, Chohan would have to defeat Filler two sets for the title. After all the bets were down and everyone settled in, the match began.

Both players fought hard for every ball and game as Buffalo's House Pro T-Rex looked to claim his fourth title and the Killer aiming for his first.

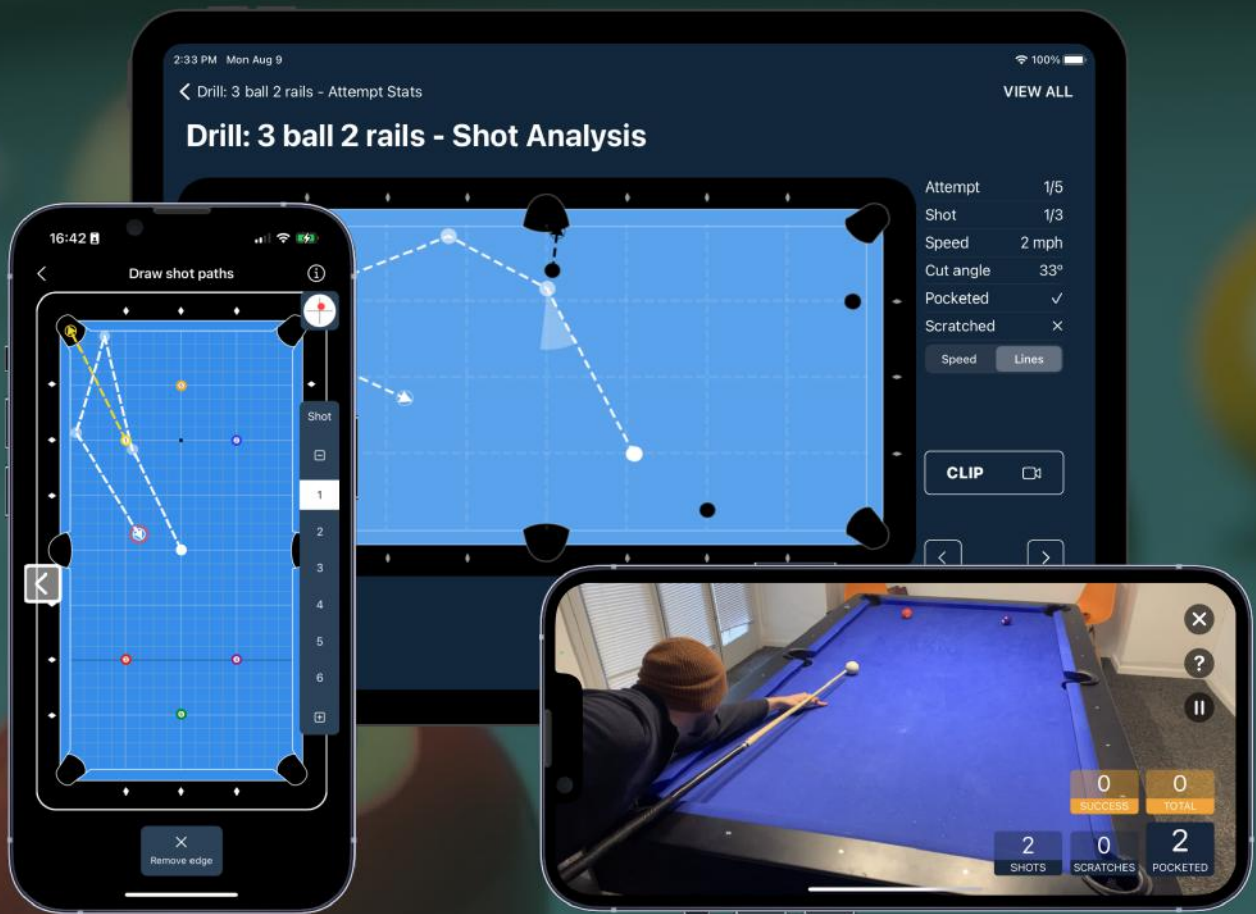
And did these players give everyone their money's worth! Tied at four apiece, it was Filler who sank the final ball to win the premier one pocket event of the year!

For an interesting aside, Joe Long once again picked the winner – making it a total of four! And One Pocket



Presenter attorney Joseph J. Long & new inductee Steve Booth for Meritorious Service

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SPOHR GOES UNDEFEATED

TO CLAIM OPEN/PRO DIVISION OF ANNUAL "GINKY" MEMORIAL AT RAXX

Story by **Skip Maloney - AzB Staff** / Photos courtesy **Erwin Dionisio**

We've come a long way since the very first George "Ginky" Sansouci Memorial in 2011, when Mike Dechaine (over Dennis Hatch in the finals) claimed the Open/Pro title at Amsterdam Billiards in NYC, while Raj Vannala won the Amateur division of the event.

The following year, "Earl the Pearl" defeated Dechaine in the finals with Daniel Dagotdot claiming the Amateur title. That year, the 'Ginky's 128-entrant Amateur field was (we reported) "one of the largest New York City pool tournaments, ever." The focus shifted to Steinway Billiards in Astoria (Queens) in 2013, where Zion Zvi won the first title awarded at that location, downing Mika Immonen in the final. In one of the pool community's great tragedies, Steinway Billiards closed for business just two years ago and the "Ginky" moved out onto Long Island, where it now resides at Raxx Billiards in West Hempstead, NY.

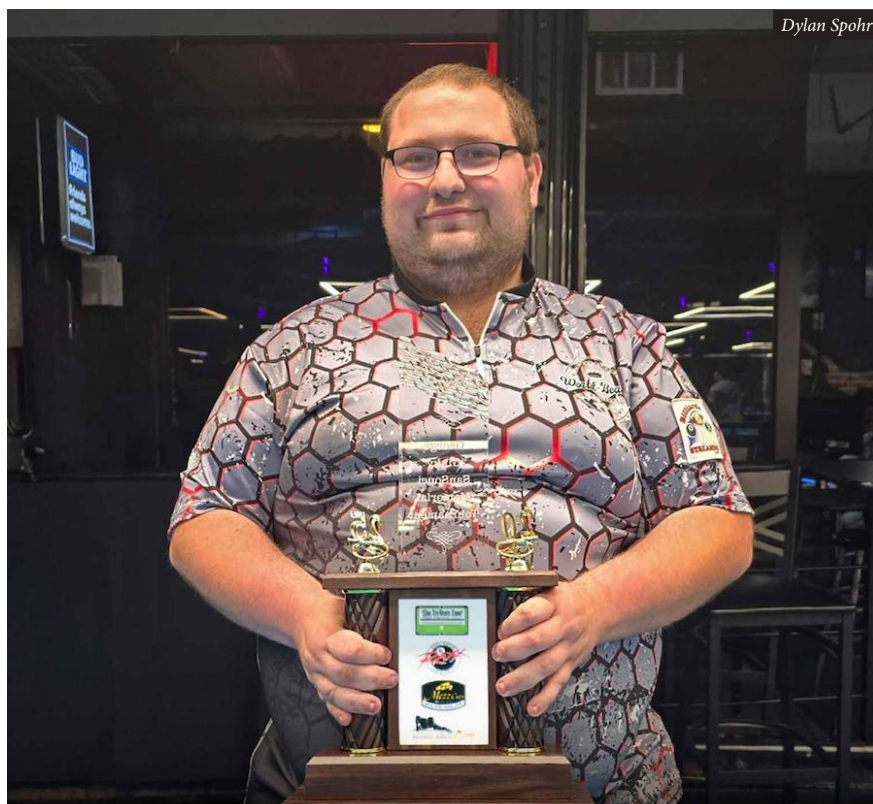
A quick glance at the payout lists of those earlier "Ginky" tournaments demonstrates the participation of a lot of the sports' top professionals at the time; Dechaine, Earl, Hatch, Mika, Thorsten Hohmann, Tony Robles, Warren Kiamco, and Ryan McCreesh, just to name a few. Oscar Dominguez came out from California a time or two, finishing in the tie for 5th place with Jeremy Sossei in 2012. Those lists also contain quite a few prominent New York (and vicinity) competitors like Sossei, Zvi, Sean Morgan, and up from the mid-Atlantic region, Shaun Wilkie, who finished 4th in the first "Ginky."

The Open/Pro side of the annual event has lost some of its top professionals over the years. SVB used to come around. Competed against Strickland

at the first Steinway "Ginky" in 2013, but never won the event (a YouTube video of that SVB/Earl match can be viewed at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VieMciksJ0>). Jayson Shaw's won it twice ('15 & '17) and in 2014, found himself battling Karen Corr. In a way, "Ginky" himself might, in his after-life pool community, be content that while a lot of the 'guys' against whom he used to compete haven't

been making the trek to New York to compete in his Memorial these days, his memory and legacy are being maintained by the same level of homegrown-in-NYC-area competitors that formed something of a local George "Ginky" Sansouci fan club back in the day.

Last weekend (May 24-28) at the \$5,000-added, 12th Annual "Ginky"



Dylan Spohr



Euryel Castillo

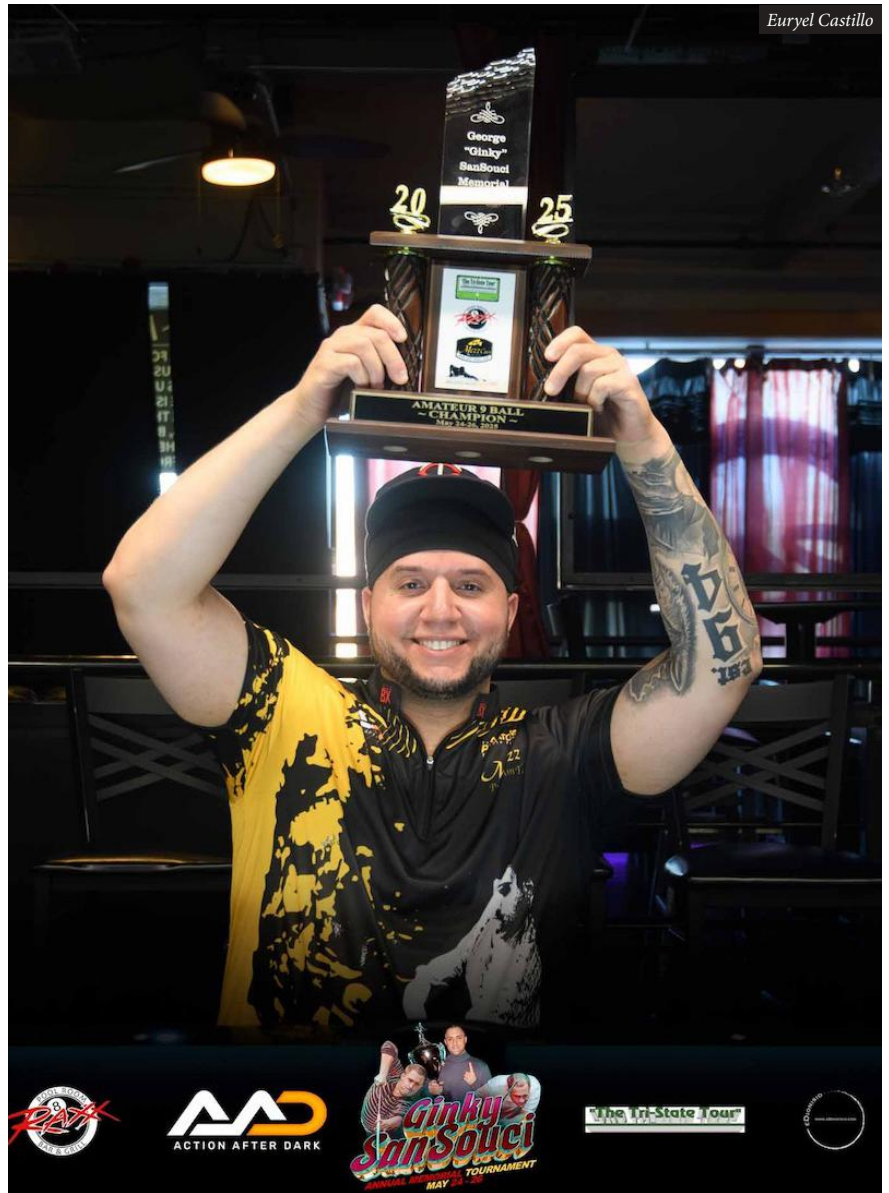
Memorial (it was not held, twice, during the COVID years), it was Pennsylvania's Dylan Spohr who went undefeated to claim the 26-entrant Open/Pro "Ginky" title, his first (recorded) in 2025. New York's Euryel Castillo went undefeated to record his first event victory in two years, winning the 115-entrant (split bracket) Amateur division. Castillo's last recorded payout and event win occurred when he won the Amateur division of the 2023 "Ginky" Memorial.

In races to 9, Spohr's six-match trip to the Open/Pro title saw his racks-against come down from an initial seven (versus Scott Haas), down to five (Christopher Lazarovitch), up a little to six (Daniel Torres), and down to four in a winners' side semifinal against Frankie Hernandez that put him Spohr into the hot seat match.

Patrick Gutierrez, in the meantime, headed out on a trip that would put him up against Spohr in that hot seat match. After a bye, he downed by Duc Lam (7), ahead of facing a double-hill challenge from the event's eventual runner-up, Mhet Vergara. Gutierrez won that double-hill challenge (they'd meet again) and downed Carl Morgan 9-5 in the other winners' side semifinal to join Spohr in the hot seat match. Spohr claimed the seat 9-4.

On the loss side, Hernandez picked up Vergara, who'd followed his loss to Gutierrez with victories over Tsewang Topden 9-7 and Troy Deocharran 9-6. Morgan drew Josh Thiele, who'd lost a second-round match to Frankie Hernandez 9-4 and followed with wins over Max Watanabe (4) and Elvis Rodriguez (1).

Morgan and Thiele battled to double hill before Morgan prevailed to claim a spot in the quarterfinals. Vergara joined him after eliminating Hernandez 9-6. He then defeated Morgan 9-6 and in the semifinal, Gutierrez 9-3. In his only double-hill match, Spohr



downed Vergara in the final to claim the 2025 "Ginky" Memorial title.

Castillo ignores awarded 'beads on the wire' to claim Amateur title

In four of the five matches that it took Euryel Castillo to reach the hot seat match of the Amateur division's High Side bracket, he was awarded a single 'bead on the wire' in races to 7. He didn't need any of them, as he got by Julian Tierney (3), Cesar Ortiz (3), Alberto Estevez (4) and Wilkin Sanchez (2). Awarded two 'beads on the wire'

in another race to 7 in a winners' side semifinal, he battled Jose Vicente to double hill before winning the match and stepping to the table for the hot seat match.

Gary McDonnell played and won two straight-up races to 7 in his trip to the hot seat match, opening and winning the first one against Jason Goberdhan 7-4 and then, his fourth against Alexander Martinez 7-5. Between those two, he used a single 'bead on the wire' to down Nicolas Sandoval 6-4 and got two 'beads' to take out Aidan



Ginky Memorial

Wagner 5-4 (Wagner racing to 7). He got two more 'beads' in his winners' side semifinal against Ron Gabia, sending him to the loss side 5-3 and joining Castillo in the winners' side final.

Castillo punched his ticket to the Amateur division's Final Four bracket with a 7-5 victory over McDonnell in the High Side bracket's hot seat match. McDonnell moved over and in the High Side bracket's semifinal, met up with Jose Vicente, who'd followed his loss to Castillo with wins over Henry Cha 7-2 and Lidio Suaza 7-5. Vicente joined Castillo among the Final Four with a 7-5 victory over McDonnell in those semifinals.

It was Darielvy Nuñez and Kevin Li who ended up joining them from the Amateur event's Low Side bracket. Li got there primarily in straight-up, race-to-7 wins against Anil Dhanraj (1), Nishant Narang (4), Erick Garcia (4), and in a winners' side quarterfinal,

Matt Wrobel (5). He awarded Jose Torres a single 'bead on the wire' in a winners' side semifinal, defeated him 7-2 and advanced to the hot seat match. Same story with Nuñez, straight-up races to 7 with one exception. He defeated Deborah Hopkins (3) and David Callaghan (4), prior to awarding Mark Antonetti a single "bead on the wire" in a race to 7 and defeating him 7-3. He went back to the straight-up race to 7 in his winners' side semifinal, battling to double hill and defeating Jorge Paz.

Li downed Nuñez 7-5 to claim the Low Side hot seat. Nuñez moved over to the semifinals and defeated Wrobel 7-4 to be the final piece of the "Ginky" Memorial's Final Four puzzle.

Castillo and Li, the two hot seat occupants of the Low and High Side brackets, respectively, squared off in a Final Four hot seat match, while Vicente and Nuñez battled in the Final Four's quarterfinal. Castillo downed

Li 7-2, while Vicente was hard at work, eliminating Nuñez 9-4. Vicente then greeted the arriving Li for their semifinal (Final Four) matchup. Vicente defeated Li 7-3 and turned for a rematch from one of the High Side bracket's winners' side semifinals; the one in which Castillo survived his only double-hill match and sent Vicente to the loss side.

Castillo was getting three 'beads on the wire' in a race to 8. He hadn't need any of the ones he'd been awarded while competing on the High Side bracket and he didn't need the three he got in the event final. He downed Vicente 5-3 to claim the 12th George "Ginky" Sansouci Memorial.

Event representatives of the Mezz ProAm Tour and the Predator Tri-State Tour, who combined to produce the event, thanked Holden Chin and his Raxx Billiards staff, along with Action After Dark for their cooperation in making it happen.

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BURUK HASHAS

Dominates 3 Cushion USAs Grand Slam Event

Story by AzB Staff - Photos courtesy 3 Cushion USA

3 Cushion USA was back at the Quechan Casino & Resort in Yuma, Arizona over the week of May 18th - 24th with \$10,000 in added prize money. While the field included most of the regular 3 Cushion USA players, it was a new competitor from Turkey who was drawing all of the attention.

Nineteen year old Buruk Hashas dominated the events Open Division and then teamed up with John Guldali to win the Scotch Doubles event.

Hashas came out of Group A in the Open Division with a group record of 4-1, having only dropped a match to Javier Teran (30-26) in 20 innings. That was enough to make Hashas the top player from his group. Joining him as other Group top seeds were Pedro Piedrabuena, Hugo Patino and Jesus Campas.

Teran eliminated Patino in the quarterfinals 35-13, but then lost to Hashas in the semis with a score of 35-20. The other semi-final match saw Vicki Pineda defeat Piedrabuena 35-17. The final match was another 35-20 victory for Hashas for first place.

The B Championship and Handicapped division both had similar stories for the winners.

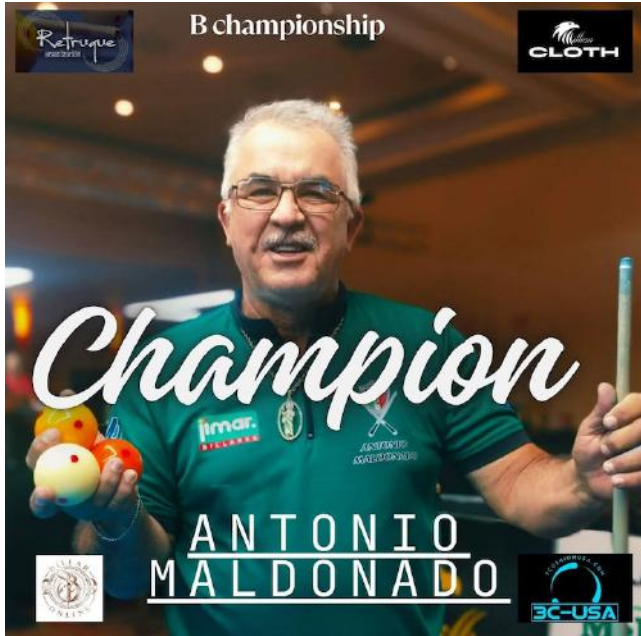
Antonio Maldonado came out of his B Championship group with a 4-3 record, earning him the #10 seed over-

all. When the event switched to single elimination, Maldonado turned up his level of play and defeated the #2 (Javier Garcia), #3 (Ricardo Hernandez) and #7 seeds (Bernie Pettipiece) in his way to the finals, where he defeated #9 seed Gustavo Leal.

The Handicapped division saw Harry Pena emerge from his Group with a 4-3 record, making him the #20 seed in the final twenty four players. Notable single elimination wins for Pena included #1 seed (Young Ha Choi), #4 seed (Raymundo Munoz), #5 seed (Ha-



Buruk Hashas



shas) and #13 seed (Pettipiece) in his way to the finals.

Joining Pena in the finals was #23 seed Jimmy Semerci, who would set-

tle for second place with Pena winning the event.

All in all, it was another successful event for 3 Cushion USA. 3 Cushion

USA thanked their sponsors McDermott Cues, Tiger Billiard Products, Million Dollar Billiards, Perimeter Billiard Lights and Aramith Billiard Balls.

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BCA LAUNCHES INAUGURAL USA NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS

The Billiard Congress of America, the recognized governing body for cue sports in the United States and North America is excited to announce the launch of the inaugural USA National Championships.

This prestigious new event will serve as the premier national competition for American pool and billiard athletes and provide them with an opportunity to qualify for the WPA World Championships.

Set to debut in Quincy, IL on July 6 – 12 at the Oakley Lindsey Civic Center, the USA National Championships will feature the country's top pool players across multiple disciplines, including: 8-Ball and 10-Ball for the women, 9-Ball and 10-Ball for the men, and 8-Ball and 9-Ball for wheelchair competitors.

In a landmark development for U.S. cue sport athletes, each winner will earn the title of USA National Champion and be provided an invitation to represent the United States at the WPA World Championships, in the discipline in which they prevail.

“This is a significant step forward for American pool and billiards,” said Shane Tyree, Billiard Congress of America CEO. “Creating the USA National Championships will provide an unprecedented opportunity for our American athletes, as it will establish a clear and prestigious pathway to represent their country and compete at the highest level internationally.”

The event will adhere to WPA rules and standards, ensuring that winners are fully prepared for world-class competition. With the full endorsement of the WPA, the USA National Championships are poised to become a cornerstone in the development and

recognition of elite American talent on the global stage.

Entry for the event will be reserved to Billiard Congress of America and WPBA ranked American players until June 1, on June 2, 2025, registration will be open to the public.

For more information about the USA National Championships schedule of events or hotel information please contact the Billiard Congress of America today, or visit the **BCA event calendar page**.

2025 USA NATIONAL POOL CHAMPIONSHIPS
July 6-12, 2025 in Quincy, IL

USA National Championships
Men's 9-Ball & 10-Ball: July 6-9
Women's 8-Ball & 10-Ball: July 8-12

Champions earn the right to represent the USA in the next WPA World Championships in their division!

USA National Wheelchair Championship
8-Ball & 9-Ball: July 7-12

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WPA AND MATCHROOM STRIKE DEAL

The World Pool Association (WPA) and Matchroom are pleased to announce that an agreement has been reached, ensuring that World Nineball Tour (WNT) events will be ratified by the WPA moving forward.

Crucially, this deal guarantees that all player license suspensions will be lifted with immediate effect, and all licences reinstated without any financial liability. Furthermore, the agreement ensures that no WPA-licensed player will be banned solely for participating in ratified WNT events, providing players with the freedom to compete wherever and whenever they choose without fear of sanctions.

Matchroom has significantly elevated professional pool, creating new opportunities and enhancing the sport's global appeal. Their investment and innovation align with the WPA's shared vision of expanding the game's reach.

The WPA looks forward to continued collaboration with Matchroom and its other key partners to advance pro-

fessional pool in the best interests of players, fans, and the sport.

Ishaun Singh, President of the WPA, said:

"The WPA is committed to a global structure that supports the growth and integrity of professional pool. We are pleased to have reached an agreement with Matchroom that provides clarity and stability for players and event organizers. To ensure long-term stability, integrity, and inclusivity, it is vital that all stakeholders work within the WPA's structured framework. Maintaining a unified, well-regulated global structure remains essential. Matchroom's contributions are undeniable, and we look forward to working together under the WPA's strategic plan to elevate the sport. Collaboration is key, and this agreement will help drive pool forward in a unified and sustainable way."



WORLD POOL ASSOCIATION

Emily Frazer, Chief Executive of Matchroom Multi Sport, said:

"While the last year was a fantastic one for us and the WNT, it was equally frustrating with all the distractions off the table and the challenges players faced for participating in our events. I've always maintained that players should be the priority and shouldn't play in fear of being banned. After careful negotiations, we're extremely pleased to have reached this deal with the WPA. We're looking forward to moving forward with mutual respect and recognition so we can focus all of our energy on making the WNT the biggest and best professional pool tour in the world."

« When I play all the big tournaments around the world, we only use Aramith and Simonis. You know you get 100% high quality. It just makes the game easier to play. »

Jayson Shaw



ARAMITH BALLS





CUE QUEENS Docu-Series in Production Launches Online Fundraising Campaign to Run May 3 - June 16

This independent production following the world of professional women's billiards is seeking funding to take the documentary crew to international tournaments and events, primarily, The World Games this August 7-17, 2025, in Chengdu, China.

Los Angeles, CA, April 28, 2025

Director Ashley Archer Tindall and producers Julie Edwards and Kim Shaw began production on **Cue Queens** in December of 2024, documenting the Women's Professional Billiards Association's end of year Tour Championship in Rothschild, Wisconsin. On April 25, 2025, the team wrapped their second on location shoot - a full week of capturing verite lifestyle footage, interviews and round table discussions with WPBA Hall of Fame players, Ewa Mataya Laurance, Allison Fisher and Gerda Hofstatter Gregerson.

The next intended stop on the **Cue Queens** documentary tour is The World Games in Chengdu, China. To fund this trip, the producers will

launch a crowdfunding campaign via the film/tv fundraising platform, SeedandSpark.com. Supporters may follow the project now on Facebook, Instagram and seedandspark.com/fund/cue-queens for behind the scenes sneak peeks and updates when the fundraiser goes live May 3, 2025.

- Cue Queens provides unprecedented access to the greatest women billiards players in the United States across four generations, from retired living legends to the teen prodigies following in their footsteps.

"This resilient community of women have changed the face of the sport, raised it to a new level and are continuing to change it. So, whether that's bringing it into the Olympics or ensur-

ing that the women are paid as much as the men, the women that we are profiling are making an incredible change in this world, and I want people to see that." - Director Ashley Archer Tindall.

Also a competitive rower, Tindall's credits include productions for **National Geographic, PBS & HBO**. Edwards is a BAFTA nominated director and producer with 30 years of television directing credits at the **BBC** on shows including *Casualty*, *East Enders* and *Footballers' Wives*. Starting as a snooker player in England, Kim "The Cooler" Shaw moved to 9-ball and the U.S. in 2001 and was named the WPBA's "Rookie of the Year". Now retired from competitive play, Shaw remains a vital part of the professional billiards players community.

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cuequeensfundraiser@gmail.com

Cue Queens

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WORLD POOL CHAMPIONSHIP AND SAUDI ARABIA SNOOKER MASTERS SET FOR SPECTACULAR RETURN TO JEDDAH AS LANDMARK PARTNERSHIP WITH SAUDI ARABIA BILLIARD SNOOKER FEDERATION STRENGTHENS

The world's finest snooker and pool players will once again converge on Saudi Arabia this summer, as part of a landmark partnership that continues to bring two of cue sports' most prestigious events to the Kingdom – helping shape the future of billiards across the Middle East.

- The 'Crown Jewel' World Pool Championship returns to Jeddah, 21–26 July 2025
- The 'Battle on the Baize' – the Saudi Arabia Snooker Masters – set for Jeddah debut, 8–16 August 2025

The World Nineball Tour (WNT) and World Snooker Tour (WST) – in collaboration with the Saudi Arabian Billiard & Snooker Federation and under the supervision of the Ministry of Sport for Saudi Arabia – will continue their historic sporting alliance this summer, as two of the most high-profile tournaments on the global cue sports calendar return to the Kingdom.

The action begins in July (21–26) with the 2025 World Pool Championship – the Crown Jewel of the World Nineball Tour – welcoming the sport's elite back to Jeddah for a second successive year. A record \$1,000,000 prize fund will once again be contested by the world's top 100 players, including reigning world champion Fedor Gorst, 2023 world champion Francisco Sánchez Ruiz, five-time US Open winner and 2022 world champion Shane Van Boening.

In August (8–16), the Saudi Arabia Snooker Masters makes its Jeddah debut at the iconic Green Halls. Now firmly established as the sport's

'fourth major', the ranking event will feature all 128 WST tour players, joined by 16 wild cards from Saudi Arabia, competing for a prize fund in excess of £2 million – making it the second richest tournament on the 2025 World Snooker Tour schedule. Alongside the sport's traditional Triple Crown, the Saudi Arabia Masters continues to elevate snooker's global prestige and reach. Judd Trump won the inaugural title last year, beating Mark Williams 10-9 with an all-time great clearance in the deciding frame.

These back-to-back world-class events highlight Saudi Arabia's growing presence on the international sporting



stage, aligned with Vision 2030 – the Kingdom’s wide-reaching initiative to diversify its economy and empower the next generation through sport.

Now in the second year of a transformative partnership, Matchroom’s collaboration with the Saudi Arabian sporting authorities is underpinned by a long-term legacy programme. With a shared vision alongside the Ministry of Sport and the Saudi Arabian Billiard & Snooker Federation, both tours remain committed to expanding cue sports at every level – from youth development and grassroots coaching to international wild card opportunities for emerging regional talent.

President of the Saudi Billiards and Snooker Federation Nayef Aljawini stated: “We’re are delighted to launch this partnership, positioning Saudi Arabia at the center of the global billiards and snooker scene. It highlights the world’s trust in the Kingdom’s abil-

ity to host major events and opens up new opportunities to cultivate local talent and train the next generation of Saudi players.”

Director of Matchroom Sport Emily Frazer commented: “We are proud to return to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia for the second year of this landmark partnership. These events continue to set new benchmarks – not only in terms of prize money, but also in prestige and global impact. Last year featured world-class hospitality and an exceptional set-up for the players, raising the bar for professionalism and player experience. It’s about more than competition; it’s about legacy, opportunity, and inspiring the next generation of players.”

World Snooker Tour Chairman Steve Dawson said: “Last year’s inaugural Saudi Arabia Snooker Masters was a historic landmark for snooker as the first ever ranking event in the King-

dom. It was a wonderful experience for the players and the event has already established itself as our tour’s fourth major. We are excited to stage the event in Jeddah for the first time and to bring the all-time greatest players to new fans. Our expansion into Saudi Arabia is a huge step forward for snooker and a key element in our strategy to develop our sport globally. We are working closely with our partners in the region on the ambition to develop our sport at all levels from the elite major events, to grassroots and participation. In years to come we would love to see professional players and even tournament winners from Saudi Arabia.”

Both the Saudi Arabia Snooker Masters and World Pool Championship will be broadcast globally through major international partners. Further details will be announced in due course by the World Snooker Tour and World Nineball Tour.

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PRO BILLIARD SERIES AND BOX BILLIARDS

JOIN FORCES TO HOST THE WPA WORLD 10-BALL CHAMPIONSHIP IN VIETNAM

The Pro Billiard Series is proud to announce a landmark partnership with Box Billiards to host the WPA World 10-Ball Men's Championship in Ho Chi Minh City this September 2025.

This elite event will welcome 96 of the world's top male players, showcasing the highest level of competitive pool in one of Asia's most dynamic cities.

The week will also feature two major companion tournaments: the Saigon 9-Ball Open for Women, featuring 64 international competitors, and the Box Billiards Mixed Doubles Open, bringing together 32 elite pairs in a unique mixed-format competition.

Events Dates:

- (Sep 20-28) WPA World 10-Ball Men's Championship
- (Sep 20-26) Saigon Women 9-Ball Open
- (Sep 17-19) Box Billiards Mixed Doubles

This championship marks the first year of a three-year agreement between the Pro Billiard Series and Box Billiards, reflecting a shared commitment to elevate the sport in Vietnam and beyond.

Vincent Rochefort, Director of Predator Events, shared his enthusiasm for the new partnership: "Vietnam's pool scene is growing fast. During my time there, I was blown away by the energy and passion in every pool room I visited. That same energy is evident in our partner Box Billiards. They truly share our vision and are playing a key role in building an event that both players and fans will not want to miss."

This partnership is more than just a tournament—it's a strategic collaboration to foster the growth of professional billiards in Southeast Asia. With Vietnam's thriving enthusiasm for the sport and Box Billiard's local leadership, this event is set to become a cornerstone of the international calendar.

Further details on the schedule, player lineups, and ticketing will be announced soon.



About the Pro Billiard Series:

The Pro Billiard Series is the number one tour dedicated to promoting professional pool through high-caliber global events and strategic partnerships.

About Box Billiards:

Box Billiards is a leading promoter of cue sports in Vietnam, known for his commitment to growing the game at every level.



Shane Van Boening
GENERATION II

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MATCHROOM POOL TEAMS UP WITH PRINCESS ROYAL HOSPITAL TO BRING SMILES TO CHILDREN IN TELFORD

While the world's top nine-ball stars battle it out at the UK Open Pool Championship at the Telford International Centre, Matchroom Multisport CEO Emily Frazer and commentator Jeremy Jones took time on Thursday afternoon to visit the Children's Ward at Princess Royal Hospital, just 15 minutes from the venue.

Armed with t-shirts and gifts, the Matchroom Pool team brought smiles to young patients and their families, spending time chatting and sharing stories about the sport of nine-ball pool and the exciting event taking place in town. The visit offered a moment of joy and a meaningful distraction to children being treated on the ward, which caters to patients from just a few days old up to 18 years.

The Princess Royal Hospital has been at the heart of children's care in Shropshire since opening in 2014. With a strong emphasis on creating a positive environment during hospital stays, the Play Team is dedicated to finding engaging, uplifting experiences for young patients. The ward even includes a school room with a half-scale pool table, where Jeremy Jones treated staff to a few friendly games and a demonstration of Nineball—sparking what could become a new favourite activity on the ward.

As part of its ongoing commitment to community engagement, Matchroom Pool has invited several young people from the hospital living with long-term conditions—such as cystic fibrosis and type 1 diabetes—and their families to attend the final day of the UK Open Pool Championship on Sunday, 11 May. The group will experience the buzz of the arena firsthand as the 2025 UK Open Champion is crowned.

This visit is just one of many initiatives Matchroom Pool has implemented to

build lasting relationships with local communities across the World Nine-ball Tour calendar. Earlier in the week, the event hosted its inaugural 'Race to 5K'—a community run with over 30 participants taking to a local park. In addition, Matchroom Pool partnered with a local Telford pool hall to distribute complimentary tickets for the UK Open, ensuring more local fans can enjoy top-tier nine-ball action.

Speaking on the visit, **Matchroom Multisport CEO Emily Frazer** said:

"It warmed my heart to see how our visit to Ward 19 at Princess Royal Hospital impacted both the staff and patients there this afternoon. Just a small gesture can have such a significant impact at really tough times in people's lives. It was particularly great to spend time with the staff, who do a great job caring for the kids on the ward. We feel that Telford is the home

of the UK Open Pool Championship, and we are keen to deepen our relationship with the community here."

Kerry Davies, Youth Worker on the ward, added:

"A huge thanks to Emily, JJ, and the team for visiting the Children's Ward at PRH this afternoon. Visits to the ward make a real difference to the patients and their families—they provide a great distraction to those children and young people receiving treatment. Having chatted to patients and staff, we might have a few more Nineball fans!"

With every event it delivers, Matchroom Pool remains committed to leaving a positive impact not only on the table, but off it too—building meaningful connections with the people and places that welcome the world of nine-ball.



ONBOARD SPORTSWEAR

EXTENDS PARTNERSHIP WITH MATCHROOM AS OFFICIAL CLOTHING & MERCHANDISE PARTNER OF THE WORLD NINEBALL TOUR

Matchroom Multi Sport is delighted to announce that Onboard Sportswear has extended its partnership as the Official Clothing & Merchandise Partner of the World Nineball Tour for a further year, with the new agreement running until 1st January 2026.

The extension builds on a successful relationship that began in 2021, with Onboard Sportswear playing a key role during the inception and launch of the World Nineball Tour in 2023. Together, Matchroom and Onboard have delivered a premium merchandise offering for players and fans alike, contributing to the growing success and global reach of nineball.

Emily Frazer, CEO of Matchroom Multi Sport, said: “We are thrilled to continue our partnership with Onboard Sportswear, a company that shares our ambition and vision for the World Nineball Tour. From day one, Onboard has consistently delivered high-quality products and innovative designs that reflect the professionalism and prestige we want associated with our events. We look forward to building further on this success and bringing even more exciting merchandise to fans and players around the world.”

Ceri Morris, Co-Founder and Director at Onboard Sportswear, added: “I’m absolutely thrilled to announce the extension of our partnership with Matchroom and the World Nineball Tour. This

continued collaboration marks an exciting chapter in our journey, as we deepen our involvement with one of the most dynamic and fast-growing cue sports platforms in the world. At Onboard, we’re passionate about innovation, performance, and supporting players at the highest level – values that are clearly shared by Matchroom and the World Nineball Tour.

Over the past couple of years, we’ve seen this partnership evolve into something truly special, with world-class players proudly wearing our apparel on the biggest stages in the sport. We’re excited to continue providing cutting-edge performance wear that meets the demands of elite com-

petition and to keep pushing boundaries as the global reach of Nineball expands. The energy around the sport right now is electric, and we’re proud to be a part of its global rise. Here’s to the next chapter of this journey – with more passion, more growth, and more excellence on and off the table.”

Onboard Sportswear will continue to deliver a range of official World Nineball Tour merchandise across upcoming major events, as well as through the **official online store**.

For all the latest updates, follow Matchroom Pool on **Facebook, Instagram, X, TikTok, and YouTube**.



Tourney Results

May 01 - May 04

2025 WPBA Olhausen Raxx Mezz Invitational

Raxx Pool Room, Sports Bar & Grill

West Hempstead, NY

- 1 Chieh-Yu Chou \$10,250
- 2 Kristina Tkach \$6,250
- 3 Meng-Hsia Hung \$6,250
- 4 Shui Ching Chiang \$6,250
- 5 Savannah Easton \$2,500
- 5 Tzu-Chien Wei \$2,500
- 7 Allison Fisher \$1,800
- 7 Nguyen Bich Tram \$1,800
- 9 Janet Atwell \$1,400
- 9 Marharyta Fefilava \$1,400
- 9 Pia Filler \$1,400
- 9 Sofia Mast \$1,400
- 13 Bojana Sarac \$1,050
- 13 Kristina Zlateva \$1,050
- 13 Nina Torvund \$1,050
- 13 Sakura Miramatsu \$1,050
- 17 Caroline Pao \$700
- 17 Dawn Hopkins \$700
- 17 Eylul Kybaroglu \$700
- 17 Joanne Ashton \$700
- 17 Kaylee McIntosh \$700
- 17 Maria Teresa Roper Garcia \$700
- 17 Olivia Cheng \$700
- 17 Veronique Menard \$700

May 03 - May 04

Joss Tour 2024-2025 Stop 17

Fairway Billiards

Fulton, NY

- 1 Bucky Souvanthong \$1,000
- 2 Bob Mendenjian \$750
- 3 Dan Sharlow \$550
- 4 Mike Zuglan \$400
- 5 Gary Bradshaw \$225
- 5 Nate Marshall \$225
- 7 Mike Renshaw \$125
- 7 Ron Casanzio \$125

May 03 - May 03

The West Coast Women's Tour 2025 Stop 1

Dog House Billiards

Cotati, California

- 1 Lela Andrews \$420
- 2 Emilyn Callado \$310
- 3 Motoko Siguenza \$220
- 4 Maria Lopez \$170
- 5 Becky Simi \$120
- 5 Milianne Chin \$120
- 7 Jaime Dizon \$80
- 7 Somala Delchiaro \$80

May 03 - May 03

Q City 9-Ball Tour Stop

Breaktime Billiards

Cary, NC

- 1 Jayce Little \$800
- 2 Michael Fuller \$600
- 3 Jas Makhni \$400
- 4 Andy Spencer \$200
- 5 Ashley Carpenter \$100
- 5 Jason Figueroa \$100
- 7 Bryan Plummer \$55
- 7 PJ Schmidt \$55

May 03 - May 04

Joss Tour 2025-2026 Stop 17

Second Chance

Fairway Billiards

Fulton, NY

- 1 Joe Van Linder \$300
- 2 Jake Jackson \$200
- 3 Chrstine Cockrell \$140
- 4 Jason Reese \$80
- 5 Andrea Duvall \$40
- 5 John Cox \$40

May 03 - May 03

Garden State Pool Tour Open Stop

Shooter's Family Billiards

Wayne, NJ

- 1 Matt Wrobel \$500
- 2 Michelle Brotons \$300
- 3 Chris Hanold \$180
- 4 Jimmy Sobel \$140
- 5 Logan Ringleben \$110
- 5 Michael Vigna \$110

May 04 - May 04

Mezz Cues LA 9-Ball Series Stop

Good Timez Billiards

Huntsville, Alabama

- 1 Jason Wetherald \$1,000
- 2 Darwin Bernadaz \$550
- 3 Luis Garcia \$350
- 3 Luke Lao \$350
- 5 Isaac Pineda \$200
- 5 Jacob Ventura \$200
- 5 Jose Centeno \$200
- 5 Trinh Lu \$200
- 9 Chaokun Li \$100
- 9 David Nichols \$100
- 9 Jamal Oussi \$100
- 9 James Cabal \$100
- 9 Johnny Tang \$100
- 9 Juan Carlos Carina \$100
- 9 Rhino Lay \$100
- 9 Rocky Ortiz \$100

May 06 - May 11

2025 UK Open

Telford, UK

- 1 Aloysius Yapp \$40,000
- 2 Jonas Souto Comino \$16,000
- 3 Mickey Krause \$10,000
- 3 Tyler Styer \$10,000
- 5 Fraser Patrick \$7,000
- 5 Jayson Shaw \$7,000
- 5 Pham Phuong Nam \$7,000
- 5 Wiktor Zielinski \$7,000
- 9 Aleksa Pecelj \$4,000
- 9 Ang Tuan Nguyen \$4,000
- 9 Carlo Biado \$4,000
- 9 Georgi Georgiev \$4,000

9 Mateusz Sniegocki \$4,000
9 Naoyuki Oi \$4,000
9 Pijus Labutis \$4,000
9 Quoc Hoang Duong \$4,000
17 AJ Manas \$2,000
17 Daniel Maciol \$2,000
17 Fitim Haradinaj \$2,000
17 Hui-chan Lu \$2,000
17 Imran Majid \$2,000
17 Joshua Filler \$2,000
17 Kledio Kaci \$2,000
17 Marc Bijsterbosch \$2,000
17 Mario He \$2,000
17 Maximilian Lechner \$2,000
17 Nicholas Tan Guo \$2,000
17 Ri Teng Liu \$2,000
17 Szymon Kural \$2,000
17 Ta Li Lin \$2,000
17 Thorsten Hohmann \$2,000
17 Wojciech Szewczyk \$2,000
33 Alexandros Kazakis \$1,000
33 Antonis Brabin \$1,000
33 Arseny Sevastyanov \$1,000
33 Bader Al Awadi \$1,000
33 Can Salim \$1,000
33 Chia-Chen Hsieh \$1,000
33 Ching Ting Tang \$1,000
33 Daniel Guttenberger \$1,000
33 David Alcaide \$1,000
33 Dean Shields \$1,000
33 Flavian Glont \$1,000
33 Hunter Lombardo \$1,000
33 Jan Van Lierop \$1,000
33 Jani Uski \$1,000
33 Joao Grilo \$1,000
33 Juan Carlos Exposito \$1,000
33 Jung-Lin Chang \$1,000
33 Konrad Juszczyszyn \$1,000
33 Kristian Mrva \$1,000
33 Lo Ho Sum \$1,000
33 Michael Schneider \$1,000
33 Mieszko Fortunski \$1,000
33 Mohammed Hassan A-Baabad \$1,000
33 Mustafa Alnar \$1,000
33 Radoslaw Babica \$1,000
33 Ramazan Akdag \$1,000
33 Robbie Capito \$1,000
33 Salvador Garcia \$1,000
33 Sam Henderson \$1,000
33 Skyler Woodward \$1,000

33 Wang Hung Hsiang \$1,000
33 Yannick Pongers \$1,000

May 10 - May 10

Pool Series Stop #7

Brass Tap Billiards

Raleigh, NC
1 Josh Roberts \$880
2 Gregorio Sanchez \$550
3 BJ Ussery \$350
4 Joao Sias \$200
5 Kaleb Hixon \$100
5 Mike Davis \$100
7 Jason Rogers \$50

May 10 - May 10

Q City 9-Ball Tour Stop

Action Billiards

Inman, SC
1 Barry McDonald \$600
2 Chad Dill \$400
3 Bill Fowler \$200
4 Javier Oliu \$155

May 16 - May 18

Rack Race Stop #9

The Rack & Grill III

Aiken, SC
1 Mike Dechaine \$2,700
2 Paul Song \$1,380
3 Josh Roberts \$860
4 Landon Hollingsworth \$640
5 Bradley Harrelson \$380
5 James Council \$380
7 Colston Harrelson \$220
7 Johnny Archer \$220
9 Kim Davenport \$180
9 Larry Jackson \$180
9 Nathan Childress \$180
9 Yash Ajmera \$180

May 17 - May 18

JPNEWT Tour 2025 Stop #3

Winnie Bar and Billiards

Laconia, NH
1 Ashley Benoit \$600
2 Briana Miller \$500
3 Carol Borja Montanez \$350
4 Ying Liang \$175

May 17 - May 17

Tiger Florida Tour 2025 Stop

Stix Billiards

St Petersburg, Florida
1 Sofia Mast \$550
2 Kim Housman \$300
3 Jeannie Seaver \$150
3 Kaylee McIntosh \$150
5 Carrie Vetrone \$100
5 Jessica Barnes \$100

May 17 - May 17

TOP Tour Stop

Breaktime Billiards & Sports Bar

Clemmons, NC
1 Joey Tate \$700
2 Joao Sias \$500
3 Paul Scarboro \$275

May 18 - May 24

2025 Quechan Casino Grand Slam II

Quechan Casino and Resort

Yuma, Arizona
1 Burak Hashas \$3,300
2 Vicke Pineda \$2,500
3 Javier Teran \$1,300
3 Pedro Piedrabuena \$1,300
5 Hugo Patino \$300
5 Javier Campas \$300
5 Julian Torres \$300
5 Ricardo Carranco \$300

May 18 - May 24

2025 Quechan Casino Grand Slam II B Division

Quechan Casino and Resort

Yuma, Arizona
1 Antonio Maldonado \$3,000
2 Gustavo Leal \$2,200
3 Danny Pham \$1,100
3 Richard Hernandez \$1,100
5 Alex Borboa \$425
5 Ignacio Castaneda \$425
5 Javier Garcia \$425
5 Jose Guadalupe Garcia \$425

May 18 - May 24

2025 Quechan Casino Grand Slam II Handicapped Division

Quechan Casino and Resort

Yuma, Arizona

- 1 Harry Pena \$3,700
- 2 Jimmy Semerci \$2,800
- 3 Harry Zamora \$1,800
- 3 Young Ha Choi \$1,800
- 5 Burak Hashas \$700
- 5 Hugo Patino \$700
- 5 Ivan Rosales \$700
- 5 Javier Teran \$700
- 9 Jim Hendrickson \$250
- 9 Luis Aveiga \$250
- 9 Manny Gutierrez \$250
- 9 Nam Nguyen \$250
- 9 Pedro Piedrabuena \$250
- 9 Raymundo Munoz \$250
- 9 Ricardo Carranco \$250
- 9 Ricky Carranco \$250

May 18 - May 24

2025 Quechan Casino Grand Slam II Scotch Doubles Division

Quechan Casino and Resort

Yuma, Arizona

- 1 Burak Hashas \$1,500
- 1 John Guldali \$1,500
- 2 Raymundo Munoz \$1,100
- 2 Richard Hernandez \$1,100
- 3 Gustavo Leal \$500
- 3 Jose Guadalupe Garcia \$500
- 3 Luis Aveiga \$500
- 3 Ricardo Carranco \$500

May 20 - May 25

10th Annual Buffalo's Pro Classic Open 9-Ball

Buffalo's Billiards

Jefferson, La

- 1 Chris Reinhold \$5,500
- 2 Gregorio Sanchez \$3,500
- 3 Chip Compton \$2,200
- 3 John Morra \$2,200
- 5 Billy Thorpe \$1,350
- 5 Jamie Baraks \$1,350
- 5 Lukas Fracasso-Verner \$1,350
- 5 Trenton White \$1,350
- 9 Alejandro Calderon \$500
- 9 Jeremy Seaman \$500
- 9 Josh Roberts \$500
- 9 Justin Hall \$500

- 9 Kash Keaton \$500
- 9 Mika van Berkel \$500
- 9 Shane Wolford \$500
- 9 Yannick Pongers \$500

May 20 - May 25

10th Annual Buffalo's Pro Classic One Ball One Pocket

Buffalo's Billiards

Jefferson, La

- 1 Joshua Filler \$3,700
- 2 Josh Roberts \$2,500
- 3 Billy Thorpe \$1,000
- 3 Sergio Rivas \$1,000
- 5 Jeremy Jones \$400
- 5 Mickey Krause \$400
- 5 Robbie Langford \$400
- 5 Skyler Woodward \$400

May 20 - May 25

10th Annual Buffalo's Pro Classic

Buffalo's Billiards

Jefferson, La

- 1 Joshua Filler \$40,000
- 2 Tony Chohan \$20,000
- 3 Shane Van Boening \$10,000
- 4 Skyler Woodward \$8,000
- 5 Devin Poteet \$4,000
- 5 Roberto Gomez \$4,000
- 7 Fedor Gorst \$3,000
- 7 Jeremy Jones \$3,000

May 23 - May 25

Mezz Hill-Hill Estonian Open

Hill-Hill Billiard Cafe

Talinn, Pohja

- 1 Pijus Labutis \$5,000
- 2 Casper Matikainen \$3,500
- 3 Daniel Maciol \$2,250
- 3 Denis Grabe \$2,250
- 5 Petri Makkonen \$1,000
- 5 Rafiq Adigazalov \$1,000
- 5 Sullivan Clark \$1,000
- 5 Wiktor Zielinski \$1,000
- 9 Azuolas Tadaravicius \$500
- 9 Jere Virtaranta \$500
- 9 JJ Faul \$500
- 9 Liam Monk \$500
- 9 Mark Magi \$500
- 9 Markus Juva \$500

- 9 Mateusz Sniegocki \$500
- 9 Niels Feijen \$500
- 17 Aleksandr Jermikimov \$250
- 17 Aleksandrs Horsuns \$250
- 17 Ali Asgar Merchant \$250
- 17 Gert Maimre \$250
- 17 Imran Majid \$250
- 17 Ivica Putnik \$250
- 17 Juss Saska \$250
- 17 Karl Gnadeberg \$250
- 17 Kasparas Budnikas \$250
- 17 Kestutis Zadeikis \$250
- 17 Michel Rehepapp \$250
- 17 Oliver Lepp \$250
- 17 Raimo Teesaar \$250
- 17 Rainer Laar \$250
- 17 Sasu Raudas \$250
- 17 Walter Laikre \$250

May 24 - May 24

Q City 9-Ball Tour Stop

Mickey Milligan's Sports Bar

New Bern, NC

- 1 JT Ringgold \$600
- 2 Steven Page \$400
- 3 Justin Outlaw \$200
- 4 Pamela Perry \$100

May 24 - May 25

2025 DFW 9-Ball Tour Stop 5

Rusty's Billiards

Arlington, TX

- 1 Gavin Mathew \$1,100
- 2 Daniel Intong \$860
- 3 Matt Wilson \$660
- 4 John Rawlins \$460
- 5 Easton Rogers \$300
- 5 William Banda \$300
- 7 Clint Palaci \$160
- 7 Jennifer Hooten \$160

May 24 - May 25

Strokers 9-Ball Open

Stroker's Billiards

Palm Harbor, FL

- 1 Konnor McFayden \$950
- 2 Kyle Bova \$740
- 3 Randy Hernandez \$500
- 4 Tommy Kennedy \$400

5 Kaylee McIntosh \$250
5 Nelson Abdiel Terron \$250

May 24 - May 25

Ginky Memorial 2025 Amateur Division

Raxx Pool Room, Sports Bar & Grill

West Hempstead, NY
1 Euryel Castillo \$3,000
2 Jose Vicente \$1,800
3 Kevin Lee \$1,400
4 Darielvy Nunez \$1,000
5 Gary McDonnell \$800
5 Matt Wrobel \$800
7 Lidio Suazo \$600
7 Stefano Barahona \$600
9 Henry Cha \$400
9 Jorge Paz \$400
9 Jose Torres \$400
9 Ron Gabia \$400
13 Alejandro Gil Martinez \$300

13 Luis Carrasco \$300
13 Mark Antonetti \$300
13 Wilkin Sanchez \$300
17 Alexander Estevez \$250
17 Brian Vasquez \$250
17 Dave Callaghan \$250
17 Erland Lami \$250
17 Jacob Shomstein \$250
17 Josh Friedberg \$250
17 Luis Genao \$250
17 Shawn Sookhai \$250

May 24 - May 25

Ginky Memorial 2025 Open Division

Raxx Pool Room, Sports Bar & Grill

West Hempstead, NY
1 Dylan Spohr \$1,900
2 Mhet Vergara \$1,000
3 Patrick Gutierrez \$800
4 Carl Morgan \$500

5 Frankie Hernandez \$200
5 Josh Thiele \$200

May 31 - Jun 01

NWPA Tour 2025 Stop 2

Silver Star Saloon

Vancouver, Washington
1 Molina Ortiz \$1,035
2 Shaundra Radford \$695
3 Maryann McConnell \$450
4 Sophia Tran \$300
5 Kathie MacDonald \$215
5 Sarah Myers-Mitchell \$215
7 Aimee Wilson-McDonnell \$155
7 Sara Moore \$155
9 Cindy Rosenthal \$105
9 Nicole Donisi \$105
9 Raquel Minjarez \$105
9 Toby Stogner \$105
13 Amy Burdick \$70
13 Linda Fuller \$70
13 Marion Poole \$70
13 Regene Lane \$70

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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.

JUNE/JULY

2025 WPBA Soaring Eagle Masters

Jun 05 - Jun 08

Soaring Eagle Casino & Resort
Mt. Pleasant, MI

Joss Tour 2024-2025 #19

Jun 07 - Jun 08

Snookers - Sports Billiards, Bar & Grill
Providence, RI

New England Junior American Billiard Championship Series Stop 5

Jun 07 - Jun 07

Yale Billiards
Wallingford, Connecticut

New England Junior American Billiard Championship Series Stop 6

Jun 21 - Jun 21

Billiards Cafe
Ayer, MA

The West Coast Women's Tour 2025 Stop 2

Jun 21 - Jun 21

Rack N Cues Billiards and Brews
Windsor, CA

JPNEWT Tour 2025 Stop #4

Jun 28 - Jun 29

Snookers - Sports Billiards, Bar & Grill
Providence, RI

NWPA Tour 2025 Stop 3

Jun 28 - Jun 29

Phil's Bar & Grill
Salem, Oregon

Oneida World Women's 8-Ball Championship

Jul 02 - Jul 06

Oneida Casino
Green Bay, Wisconsin

2025 USA National Pool Championship

Jul 06 - Jul 12

Oakley-Lindsay Center
Quincy, Illinois

Kamui Slovenia Open 2025

Jul 10 - Jul 13

Tri Lilije Hall
Lasko, Slovenia

Arizona Women's Billiards Tour 2025 Stop 4

Jul 12 - Jul 13

Metro Sports Bar & Billiards
Fayetteville, GA

The West Coast Women's Tour 2025 Stop 3

Jul 12 - Jul 12

The Break Room
Berkeley, CA

NWPA Tour 2025 Stop 4

Jul 19 - Jul 20

The Pocket
Boise, Idaho

Tiger Florida Tour 2025 Stop

Jul 19 - Jul 19

Village Cue Club
North Palm Beach, Florida

World Pool Championship 2025

Jul 21 - Jul 26

Saudi Arabia

Rally in the Shenandoah Valley

Jul 31 - Aug 02

On Cue Sports Bar & Grill
Front Royal, Virginia

AZBILLIARDS MONEY LIST

	NAME	COUNTRY	\$ AMOUNT	
	Joshua Filler	 GER	148.507,00 US\$	
	Fedor Gorst	 USA	68.600,00 US\$	
	Shane Van Boening	 USA	67.600,00 US\$	
	Aloysius Yapp	 SIN	57.000,00 US\$	↑
	Tony Chohan	 USA	51.450,00 US\$	↑
	Roberto Gomez	 PHI	49.875,00 US\$	↓
	Pijus Labutis	 LTU	48.075,00 US\$	↓
	Denis Grabe	 EST	46.075,00 US\$	↓
	Mickey Krause	 DEN	44.400,00 US\$	
	Billy Thorpe	 USA	40.450,00 US\$	↓

WPA & WPBA PRESENTS



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WPA & WPBA

2-6TH JULY

2021 ONEIDA CASINO GREEN BAY, WI

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PAT FLEMING PRESENTS

2025



INTL

THE INTERNATIONAL OPEN

Nov. 14-23 2025



ALL EVENTS
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RENAISSANCE RESORT AT WORLD OF GOLF VILLAGE

ST. AUGUSTINE, FL



BIG FOOT INVITATIONAL 10-BALL

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 14 THRU MONDAY, NOVEMBER 17

16 PLAYERS — \$500 ENTRY FEE — SINGLE ELIMINATION — SEMIS & FINALS ON MONDAY, 11/17 AT 2,5, & 8

\$8,000 added

14

INTL STRAIGHT POOL OPEN

Formerly Peter Burrows' American 14.1 Straight Pool Championship

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 14 THRU TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 18

42 PLAYERS — \$400 ENTRY FEE — ROUND ROBIN — SEMIS & FINALS ON TUESDAY, 11/18 AT 12, 3, & 7:30

\$20,000 added

0

INTL 1-POCKET OPEN

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 14 THRU WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 19

150 PLAYERS — \$200 ENTRY FEE — SINGLE ELIMINATION — \$100 BUY-BACK — SEMIS & FINALS ON WED, 11/19 AT 12,3, & 7:30

\$20,000 added

9

INTL 9-BALL SEMI-PRO OPEN

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 18 THRU SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 22

192 PLAYERS — \$125 ENTRY FEE, \$25 REGISTRATION, — SINGLE ELIMINATION. — \$50 BUY-BACK — 650 FARGO MAXIMUM
FINALS ON SATURDAY, 11/22 AT 10AM

\$10,000 added

9

INTL 9-BALL OPEN

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 19 THRU SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 23

128 PLAYERS — \$750 ENTRY FEE — DOUBLE ELIMINATION — SEMIS & FINALS ON SUNDAY, 11/23 AT 2, 4:30 & 7:30

\$75,000 added

JR

JUNIOR TOURNAMENT

16 BOYS, 8 GIRLS FINALS ON SUNDAY 11/23 AT 10 AM AND NOON

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 21 THRU SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 23

BCA HALL OF FAMERS EXHIBITION MATCH, FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 21ST
WITH ANNUAL BCA HALL OF FAME BANQUET ON SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 22ND

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