

Billiards Buzz

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**ANOTHER DAY
AT THE OFFICE**

CONTRIBUTORS:

Skip Maloney
Erwin Dionisio
Phil Capelle
Anthony Beeler
Steve Lillis
Mary Kenniston
Jack Mitchell
Luke Riches - EPBF
EPBF
Tim Gallagher
Mike Newsome
WPBA

COVER PHOTO:

Erwin Dionisio

GRAPHICS AND LAYOUT:

Natasha Dolovacki
Nebojsa Dolovacki

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FROM THE Head Rail

MIKE HOWERTON

When you think about the cover headline this month, there are a couple different ways to think about. It can also reference the semi “robotic” approach that some of the top players have at the table anymore.

Now I realize that I am an old curmudgeon who sounds like I am yelling at the top players of the game to get off my yard, but I (and a number of other) do notice that a lot of the “life” is being squeezed out of the game anymore.

There are still a few players that display their passion, but let’s just say that most of them are on the downside of their impressive careers.

What’s really sad is that even the rare “Killer” players in the game today who wear their hearts on their sleeves are taking a beating on social media. I hope there doesn’t come a day when those players give in to social media pressure and become more robotic.

It could be argued that pool is being played at its strongest levels these days, but it sure isn’t as much fun to watch as it used to be.

Until next time,
Mike



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THE NEXT DIMENSION IN CUE BALL CONTROL

Mastering Position at Pocket Speed Plus (PSP)

Most pool players learn to pocket balls using speeds in the middle of the Spectrum of Speeds. This means emphasizing speeds that are feel neither too firm or too soft. This is understandable, as many player's strokes, even those of the pros, tend to break down in the higher end of the spectrum.

And many players, including far too many pros, dislike using soft speeds. However, it is in the softer range of the spectrum that you will discover position plays that you were not aware of, or that were not available to you because of your reluctance to play shots at pocket speed plus. In this feature I am going to provide you with some exercises that will help you develop a soft stroke for shots on the lower range of the Spectrum of Speeds. And, you will learn to develop an ultra-refined feel for the object ball's rolling distance!

Diagram #1 illustrates a challenging position play that comes up quite often in so many games, including 9-Ball. In this case, the 47 degree cut angle on the 8-ball is a little larger than the ideal for this position play from the 8-ball to the 9-ball. When faced with a shot like this the big question is this: Should you try to roll in the 8-ball and send the cue ball down Route A-1 to Position X? Is this even possible?

Let's say you do decide to play this route. When trying to contain the cue ball's roll, you want to stroke it as softly as possible and still make sure that the object ball reaches the pocket with a few inches of rolling distance to spare.

If the slate continued into the pocket, the cue ball might stop about 3" past the lip. This short, but important distance, is your margin for error. Having

a safety net like this helps to prevent the big mistake that all players fear on shots like this – that being failing to get the ball to the pocket. And yes, this does happen at all levels, including the pros!

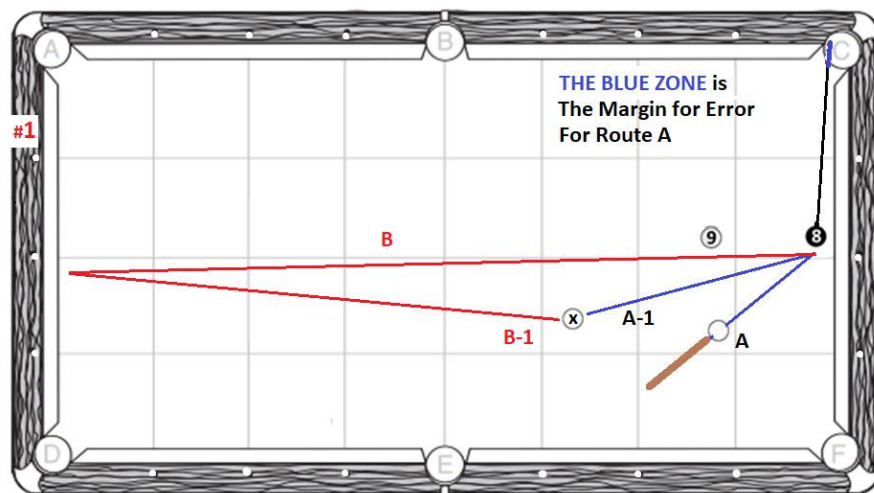
Let's assume your fear of leaving the object ball short is great, and that you do not know this shot well enough to be confident in your ability to roll it in and send the cue ball to Position X. If this is the case, then you will have to send the cue ball to the opposite end of the table down Route B and back to Position X.

If you do choose this long distance position play you could end up playing the 9-ball from well up the table, or the cue ball could go far past Position X and leave you with a tough cut into the corner or side, or maybe even a cross side bank.

So, all kind of problems can, and do happen, when you lack knowledge of the object ball's rolling distance. As we've seen, the errors include failing to get the object ball to the pocket, coming up short or long. And we can add to this hitting any obstructor or possibly even scratching.

SPECTRUM OF SPEEDS

Now that we have brought the issue of pocketing speed to light, we're going to take a look at some ways that you can develop this skill. When you do, you'll be able to control the cue ball



on certain shots that your opponent's won't or can't play. In doing so, you will have yet another strong weapon in your arsenal of position plays.

But first, let's take a look at the speed of stroke that you will mostly be using on shots where you are going to be rolling the object ball in at pocket speed plus.

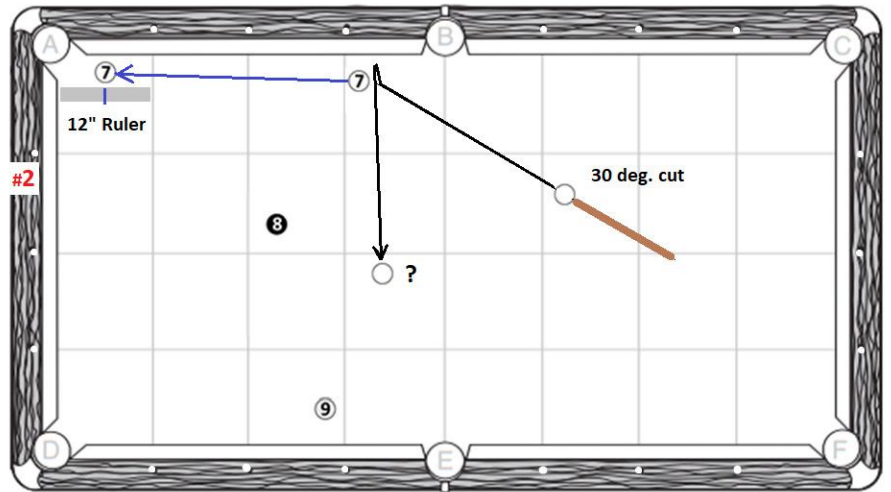
You have probably heard commentators say that certain players, including some of the best in the world, hate to slow roll shots. This includes playing these feel shots with a soft stroke using speeds from soft (a 2) to a speed of about soft to medium soft (a 3.5) on my Spectrum of Speeds. The illustration below should help make it clear the power that is being used on the shots we will be talking about.

I think for many players, if you are not using this part of the Spectrum of Speeds very often (if at all) that you will soon discover that it becomes a most welcome addition to your game.

On shots played at higher speeds, power is derived by your arm swing and by your wrist action. Once you start looking for this kind of motion among the top players, you will see that most of them employ these two sources of power.

Now, when making your final stroke using these softly hit shots, you can derive most of your power from your arm swing. This motion is totally analogous to how pro golfers stroke short putts.

Your goal is to accelerate slowly and smoothly into contact with the cue ball. To do this, it helps to use shorter warm up strokes (WUS) as these will



best prepare for a smooth, slow, and yet authoritative swing into contact. Once you master this kind of stroke, you will be able to use it with great results on shots played with pocket speed plus (PSP).

CREATING A PRACTICE POCKET

In Diagram #1 we looked at a shot that could come up in a game. The shot in **Diagram #2** could also appear in actual play. There are three balls remaining in this game of 9-Ball. Once again the cut is thin enough that you may feel the need to hit the bottom side rail and bounce out for the 8-ball. But playing the shot this way brings the 9-ball and the side pocket into play. And, because of the distance that the cue ball must travel off of two cushions, you might end up with a missable shot on the 8-ball.

Now for the fun part, which is developing a super-refined feel for the object ball's rolling distance. The idea is to roll the 7-ball so gently that it stops a measurable distance short of the

pocket. Place a 12" ruler as shown. This acts like an extension of the pocket. If the 7-ball hits it, you missed the shot. The blue line in the middle of the ruler is six inches from the pocket. You want the object ball to stop opposite this mark.

As we talked about in the first position, you can never know exactly what the plus distance is that comes after PSP. But now, with this exercise, you can zero in on the object ball's precise rolling distance. And now you will be able to feel the speed for both balls. Imagine that!

In the world of pool, so many instructors talk about the speed of stroke and the cue ball's travels, which is all well and good. However, the object ball's speed has been ignored, in part because you can't measure it because the slate ends at the lip of the pocket. Now, by creating a pocket, so to speak, on the bed of the table, you can, finally, zero in on the object ball's speed like never before.

ROLLING DISTANCE AT VARIOUS ANGLES

On exercises and shots played at PSP, you want to be comfortable with marrying the object ball's rolling distance to the speed required to produce it. The two most critical variables are

SPECTRUM OF SPEEDS – SOFT STROKES

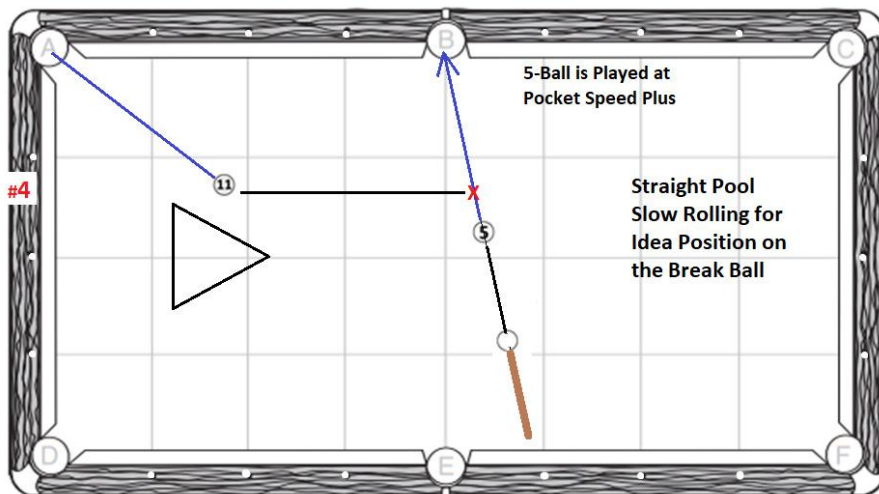
.1 1 **2 3** 4 5 6 7 8 9 9.9

the cut angle and the object ball's distance to the pocket.

When you are preparing to play a shot at PSP, knowing the object ball's distance to the pocket is Critical Component #1. How hard must it be hit to get to the pocket with only a few inches to spare? And how well can you feel the speed you need as you are making your final forward stroke? As you know, the amount of the cue ball's energy that is transferred into the object ball decreases as the cut angle increases, meaning that, as the cut angle increases, so too must your speed of stroke to get the object ball to the target.

In **Diagram #3**, the object ball is about 2.2 diamonds from the pocket and, this time, it is over a diamond from the rail. The three cut angles are small (15 degrees), medium (30 degrees), and thin (45 degrees). The gray lines show the placement of two rulers. These indicate about where the sides of the pocket would be if it extended a foot out from the points. Once again, the idea is to softly roll the object ball and have it stop a few inches short of the actual pocket.

The distance that the cue ball bounces off the rail is directly related to the cut angle. As you practice this, I suggest that you alternate every shot



among the three angles. In the process you will begin to feel the distance the 1-ball is going to roll, and you will marry that to the distance that the cue ball travels after contact. This knowledge is instrumental in planning and executing these soft stroke position plays. You will also be ingraining soft to very soft speeds of stroke, and you will begin to feel more and more comfortable shooting shots at this end of the Spectrum of Speeds.

USING SOFT STROKES IN STRAIGHT POOL

Straight Pool, 8-Ball, and 1-Pocket are three games in which you will have numerous opportunities to put your

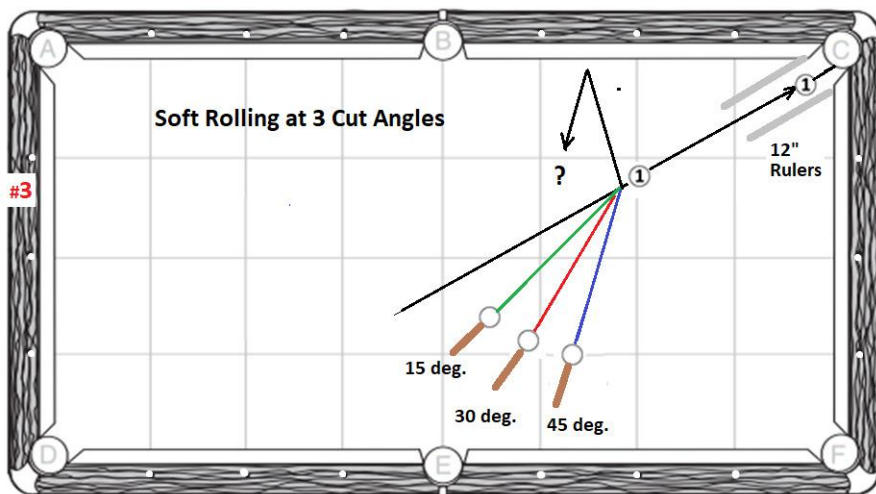
skill at shooting balls in at PSP to work.

Diagram #4 shows a position from a game of Straight Pool. You have a shot on the 5-ball, the Key Ball. If it is played with great precision you will be rewarded with exactly the angle you want on the 11-ball, which is the Break Ball.

While this position is for illustrative purposes, and the results could vary depending on the cloth and the balls, I think you get the gist of it all. If the 5-ball is rolled gently into the side pocket as shown, the cue ball will stop where the Red X is positioned. From here you have a very makeable break shot, and you have a big enough cut angle that the balls should open up nicely.

There are, of course, high run artists like John Schmidt and Jayson Shaw who seemingly never miss, so they would likely opt for sending the cue ball four or so inches past the Red X, leaving themselves with a high angled back cut, a shot that is guaranteed to spread the balls widely across the table.

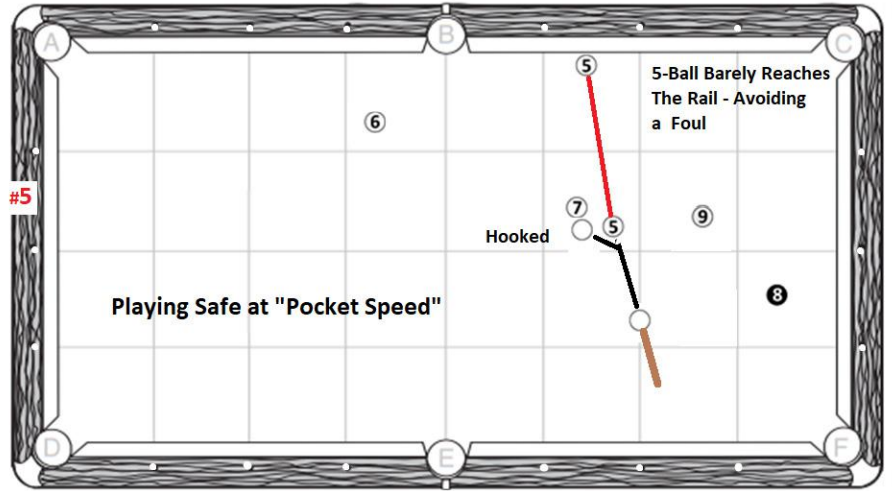
When playing Straight Pool, start looking for more shots where you can add precision to your position plays by using soft strokes more often. I think you will enjoy your results.



USING "POCKET SPEED" ON SAFETIES

Diagram #5 shows how you can use your skill of knowing the cue ball's rolling distance on safeties. The position below is very similar to one that a player faced at the recent European Open. The pro sought to leave the cue ball behind the 7-ball. This required rolling the cue ball into the 5 so that it would crawl over behind the 7-ball without stopping to either side of the blocker, which would have left his opponent with the opportunity to play a strong safety.

To get the result as shown, he had to roll the object ball so softly that it barely reached the cushion, thereby avoiding a foul. One of the many beautiful things about pool is that your skills, including a very refined feel for the cue ball's rolling distance at very soft speeds, can be applied in so many ways.



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.

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BE LIKE MIKE!

ANTHONY BEELER

To this day, the best pre-match routine I ever saw was the one implemented by local legend Mike Blevins. Blevins grew up in Somerset, Kentucky and defeated his share of world champions during his prime.

One thing I remember, was that out of all the champions I have ever encountered he had the best pre-match mental game that I have ever seen. To play well, you need to start preparing for your match about 10-15 minutes before it starts. In this article, I am going to discuss my observations of Mike's mental game warm-up and how it can benefit your play.

RELAX

Start with some deep breaths to calm down your body and mind. You will probably be nervous before your match, which is perfectly normal, but to perform well, you will need to make sure your mind and body are relaxed.

After a minute or so of deep breathing, return to your normal breathing and scan your body to notice any tension. Start with your face, noticing any tension in your facial muscles and jaw.

If you notice tension, soften it. Then move through the rest of your body. Be aware of exactly how you feel and use your breathing to release any stress or tension.

ENJOY

It's a given that you care about how you play, but let's keep it in perspective. The more we can do this, the more freedom we will create. If all we're doing is piling pressure onto every shot – equating our score with our level of enjoyment – we're going to make it hard to play well. Instead, let's be grateful and happy for the opportunity to play the game we love. You are not going into battle or work! Spend a minute thinking about everything you love about what you will experience during your match. Having that perspective will make it easier to deal with the inevitable ups and downs of the game and keep you in a state to play well.



PROCESS

We can't control the outcome, but we can control the process. The process is about what you will focus on during each moment you are at the table. Whatever the result, you want to make sure you are following both your pre and post-shot routine on every single shot. Use this to remind yourself of your goals for the match.

VISUALIZE SUCCESS

Visualization is an integral part of your mental game warm-up. It's about tapping into your subconscious and creating a sense of success for your upcoming match. Start by building some confidence from successes that you have already achieved. Relive some key moments and shots from the past, along with how well you handled each shot and the feeling of success you got at the end. Make it an immersive experience – try to imagine the sights, feelings, and sounds. Next visualize success in your upcoming match.

Go through your pre and post-shot routine in your head. Think about what situations could cause you prob-



lems and visualize how you will overcome them if they occur.

Imagine the player you want to be. Although you don't have complete control over what the outcome of the match will be, you can decide what player will show up. What will your attitude, focus, body language and self-talk be like? Visualize you being your "best performing self."

BE TOUGH

One of the reasons we love the game of pool is the mental and physical challenge it provides. If the game was easy, it would quickly lose its appeal. In any given match there will be setbacks, mistakes, and challenges to overcome. Top pros can do this well and not lose confidence. What is your plan to deal with things such as:

- Negative thoughts
- Bad luck
- Scratching on the break

You need to figure this out before the match. Set the expectation that it will be a tough challenge but be confident you have the mental and physical tools to deal with it. Prepare to have to focus fully on every shot, recover from mistakes, manage your emotions, and keep motivating yourself throughout. This is not an easy task and will require 100% effort!

POSITIVE AFFIRMATIONS

Words have a powerful emotional effect, which is why the right positive affirmations can give you a boost. Create your own positive affirmations

based upon truths about your best qualities and what you can do today. For example:

- “I am a mentally tough player.”
- “I am a tough competitor.”
- “Whatever happens, I will remain positive.”

Preparation is the key! Be like Blevins! Take the time to go through this pre-match routine regularly, I'm confident that you'll see more success on the table. You will play a more positive game and playing may actually be fun again.

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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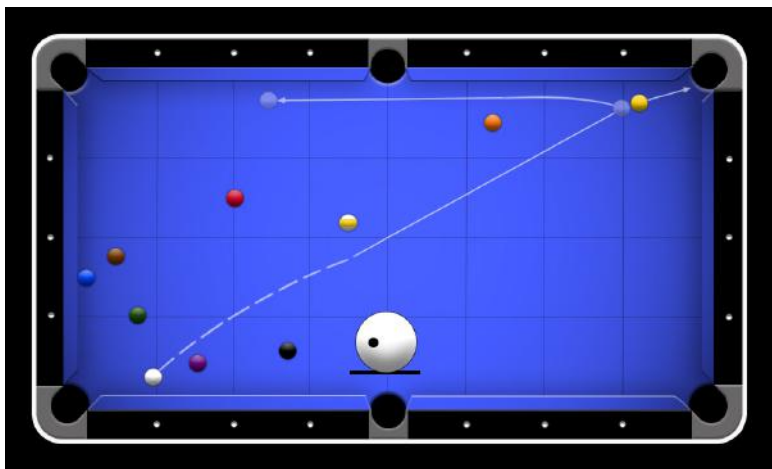
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The advertisement features a central image of a computer keyboard where the keys are replaced by small portraits of students. A large black and white pool ball with the number 8 is positioned on the right side of the keyboard. The background is a dark blue with light blue energy-like patterns. Various logos are visible on the keyboard keys, including 'SPM MAGAZINE', 'ACS', 'McDermott', 'pbia', and 'Billiards Buzz'.

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 take you all the way back to the 2008 US Open 9-Ball Championship.

After a Rodney Morris dry break, Thorsten Hohmann was faced with this ugly shot on the one.

He came with this amazing full cue jump with shape on the two ball.



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Gospel Trick Shot #55

The Repentance Shot

History of the Shot: This Gospel Trick Shot is performed on a regulation English style Blackball pool table. A similar version of the shot has been performed by Artistic Pool players on standard American pool tables in Artistic Pool competition since year 2000. The shot was part of a new pilot Artistic Blackball program that Gospel Trick Shot (GTS) introduced in Johannesburg, South Africa in 2023. The event was called the GTS Classic Artistic Blackball Cup during the Hawley Cup Championships under Blackball International. The shot will be included once again in the WPA Artistic Blackball World Championships in Bridlington, UK in October 2024. In the Artistic Blackball program, it is Shot #2 in Discipline 4 which are the follow shots and has a Degree of Difficulty (DOD) of 7 points. Making the shot on the first attempt would be 7 points, second attempt 6 points, 5 points on the 3rd attempt, and 0 points if not executed in 3 attempts.

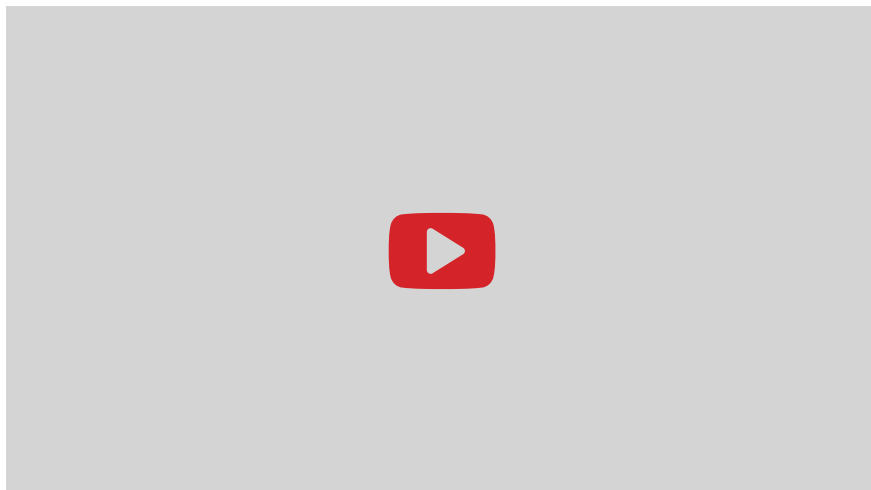
GTS Name and Why: This shot is called “The Repentance Shot” by GTS RACK Team member Phil Ball who created the story line and performed the shot in the video. The word repent literally means “turn around”. It was originally used as a military term by a commander to instruct his troops and horses to turn around and retreat. It can also mean to have a change of heart and mind and head in the opposite direction. Jesus uses this term to tell us to turn away from our sinful way of living and follow Him. This means changing our thoughts, changing our hearts, and changing our old selfish habits. To receive Christ, we need to acknowledge our sin and the things in our lives that are not pleasing to God our Creator, ask for forgiveness, trust what Jesus did on the cross for us, and follow God’s ways. That is the Gospel!

Scripture Reference (NIV): Proverbs 28:13-14, “Whoever conceals their sins does not prosper, but the one who confesses and renounces them finds mercy. Blessed is the one who always trembles before God, but whoever hardens their heart falls into trouble.”

Cue Ball Placement: Behind the second diamond at the head of the table about one ball’s width from the side rail as shown in the diagram.

Object Ball Placement: A yellow or red ball called C is placed about one half to one cube of chalk’s width from the edge of the corner pocket. The 8 ball is placed midway between the first and second diamond on the bottom rail. A third ball called F is placed in front of the other corner pocket on the bottom rail about one half to one cube of chalk’s width and may be adjusted if needed (a helper ball may also be used).

Objective: Shoot the cue ball into the C ball by the pocket with maximum top spin with about a half

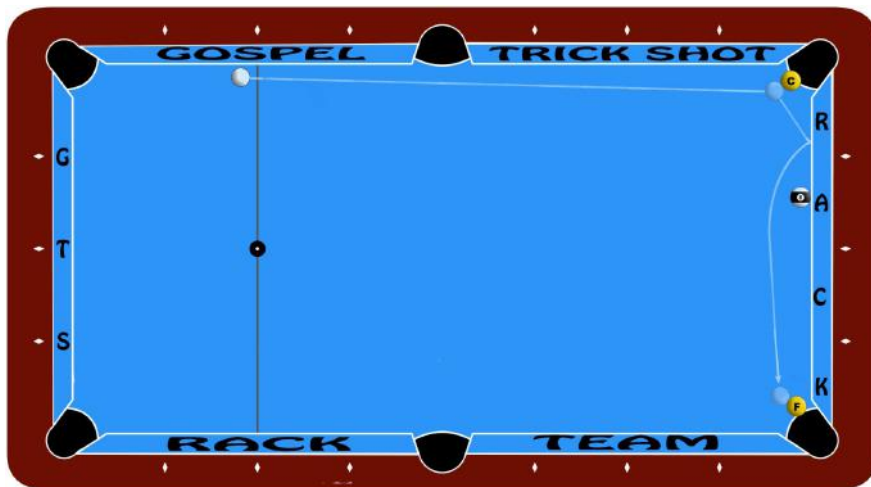


ball hit. This will cause the cue ball to come off the rail and the top spin will drive it back into the same rail causing it to go around the 8 Ball and pot the F ball by the other corner pocket on the bottom rail. The cue ball will naturally want to head up table, but the top spin will change its direction, causing it to go around the 8 ball and hitting the second object ball into the pocket.

Special Notes: You will need to experiment with the placement of the C ball by the pocket, the placement of the cue ball, and the power of your stroke used to get the desired result.

Crowd Reaction Through the Years: This is a newly adapted Gospel Trick Shot for the Blackball Table. Again, this shot first appeared in competi-

tion in October 2023 in Johannesburg, South Africa on a United Blackball pool table as part of the first Artistic Blackball pilot program in the GTS Classic Artistic Blackball Cup as Gospel Trick Shot was a featured sponsor. There was a full field of 48 Blackball players with a waiting list of 19. This shot was a favorite as many Blackball players scored points while encountering this shot in competition for the first time. The setup creates an element of surprise for spectators as the shot doesn’t seem possible in how the cue ball stays on one end of the table with all that forward momentum. This illustrates Jesus’ message of how He can help us change our sinful ways and go in the direction He has for our lives. This shot is not easy and requires a lot of practice and adjustments, as does our walk with Jesus.



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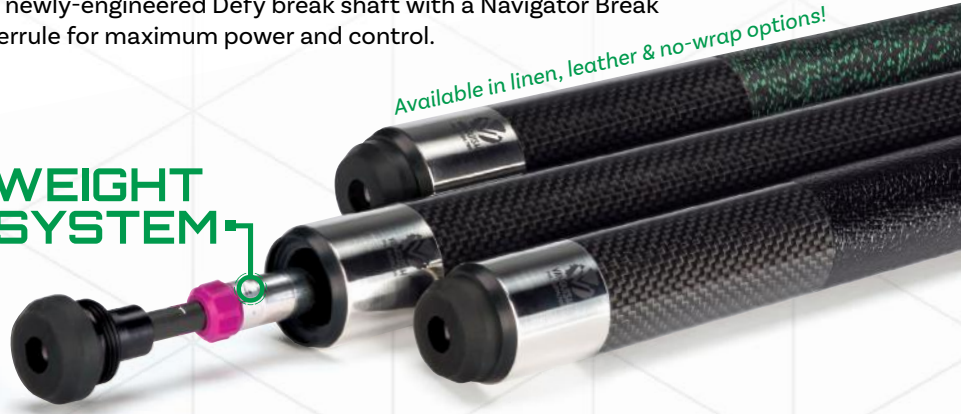
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FEDOR GORST MAKES HISTORY AS THE NEW US OPEN CHAMPION

Story by JACK MITCHELL - Matchroom Multi Sport / Photos courtesy TAKA WU - Matchroom Multi Sport

Fedor Gorst has won the 47th US Open Pool Championship at Harrah's Resort, Atlantic City, after defeating five-time US Open champion in a historic finale live on Sky Sports in the UK and DAZN in the USA.

Final Result

Fedor Gorst 13-10 Shane Van Boening

Fedor Gorst and Shane Van Boening, who had clashed just a week prior

in a gruelling race-to-120 marathon, were fated to meet again in the historic 2024 US Open Championship final. This marked the first all-American US Open final since 1999, with

both players on the brink of making history.

The pressure was palpable as the two Americans stepped into the arena,



Fedor Gorst (Take Wu - Matchroom Multi Sport)

each acutely aware of the stakes. Van Boening, winning the lag, was first to secure a rack, but Gorst quickly seized upon a dry break in the second rack, running up the score to take an early 3-1 lead.

A missed 2-7 carom by Gorst in the next rack handed Van Boening the chance to close the gap to level the score 3-3. However, another dry break from Van Boening allowed Gorst to regain his two-rack advantage. The momentum swung again when Gorst's failed safety on the 5-ball brought Van Boening back to the table, allowing him to edge ahead 6-5. Gorst quickly evened the score after Van Boening faltered on the 3-ball in the twelfth rack.

Gorst then pressed his upper-hand, forcing Van Boening into a scratch after a jump shot attempt to escape a tricky hook. Yet, when Gorst missed a bank shot on the 7-ball, Van Boening took full advantage, bringing the score level once more. The back-and-forth continued, with Van Boening haunted by another scratch, allowing Gorst to regain the lead.

The drama escalated as Van Boening pounced on a dry break from Gorst in the sixteenth rack. He attempted to snooker Gorst on the 4-ball, but Gorst, displaying his trademark resilience, executed a brilliant jump shot to foil Van Boening's strategy and retain his advantage.

Close to reaching the hill, Gorst made an uncharacteristic error on the 2-ball, giving Van Boening another lifeline. Van Boening then played a cunning safety on the 5-ball, drawing Gorst into a foul. A tense safety exchange



Shane Van Boening (Taka Wu - Matchroom Multi Sport)

ensued, with Van Boening emerging victorious, only to miss the crucial 6-ball, allowing Gorst to reach the hill.

Just when it seemed Gorst was poised to close out the match, a self-inflicted hook on the 2-ball offered Van Boening a glimmer of hope. He capitalised on this, claiming two racks and narrowing the gap. However, a cursed scratch from Van Boening sealed his fate.

With chalk still on his chin, Gorst returned to the table for one final, decisive run. Determined to atone for his loss in last year's final, the World Champion flawlessly cleared the table to finally be crowned champion with 13-10 triumph.

Van Boening's dream of a record-breaking sixth title ended in heartbreak, but history was nonethe-

less made. Fedor Gorst not only won his first US Open Championship title, he became the first player ever to hold the titles of US Open Champion, World Pool Masters, and World Pool Champion simultaneously.

Next World Nineball Tour Event

The World Nineball Tour heads to the Ox Billiards, in Seattle, USA for the Seattle Nineball Open between September 6-8th.

Next Matchroom Major

The World Nineball Tour descends on the Vietnamese capital for the Mansion Sports Hanoi Open Pool Championship, held between October 8-13th at the Hanoi Indoor Games Gymnasium in partnership with the City of Hanoi and the country's number one sports agency Vietcontent.

For all the latest news and announcements follow Matchroom Pool on Facebook, Twitter, YouTube and Instagram.

“ FEDOR GORST NOT ONLY WON HIS FIRST US OPEN CHAMPIONSHIP TITLE, HE BECAME THE FIRST PLAYER EVER TO HOLD THE TITLES OF US OPEN CHAMPION, WORLD POOL MASTERS, AND WORLD POOL CHAMPION SIMULTANEOUSLY. ”

MICKEY KRAUSE

IS THE 2024 EUROPEAN OPEN CHAMPION

Story by JACK MITCHELL - Matchroom Multi Sport / Photos courtesy TAKA WU - Matchroom Multi Sport

Mickey Krause has claimed the title of 2024 European Open Pool champion, defeating Johann Chua 12-8 at Hotel Esperanto in Fulda, Germany.

Final Result:

Mickey Krause 13-8 Johann Chua

The match began as a tactical battle, with Chua taking the first rack and Krause responding in kind. In the third rack, Chua led initially but faltered on a 2-7 combo, allowing Krause to seize the opportunity and take the lead.

In the fourth rack, Krause made a sharp jump shot on the 3-ball but left himself hooked on the 5-ball. Chua had a chance to level the score but missed a crucial 6-ball, allowing Krause to maintain his lead. The Danish Viking then extended his advantage by winning three consecutive racks, including a skilful long bank shot on the 6-ball in the fifth, bringing the score to 4-1.

Krause's momentum was briefly interrupted when he scratched on an attempt to pot the 6-ball, giving Chua a chance to pull back a rack. However, Chua's fortune turned in the following rack when he scratched on the 8-ball, enabling Krause to continue his rack-winning streak.

In the tenth rack, after a dry break from Krause, Chua attempted to narrow the gap but faltered by missing a critical 5-ball, gifting another rack to Krause, who pushed the score to 8-2.



Mickey Krause (Taka Wu/Matchroom Multi Sport)

The eleventh rack highlighted Chua's struggle. After Krause made an error on the 4-ball, Chua tried to capitalise, even fluking the 6-ball. Yet, his hopes were dashed when he missed the 9-ball, extending Krause's lead to 9-2.

Chua managed to secure a third rack after a dry break from Krause but quickly relinquished control with another miss in the 13th rack, allowing Krause to make it 10-3.

Despite the odds, Chua took advantage of another dry break from Krause in the 14th rack and secured the next one. In the 15th rack, Chua hooked himself on the 7-ball, seemingly setting up Krause to close out the match. However, Krause's own error parked the 7-ball in the pocket, handing the rack to Chua, who made it 10-5.

Misfortune continued for Chua as he broke dry in the 16th rack, allowing Krause to reach the hill. Chua mounted a valiant effort with a three-rack

run after another scratch from Krause, narrowing the score to 12-8. But in the end, a missed 8-ball from Chua sealed his fate, and Krause capitalised to claim the European crown.

Mickey Krause not only celebrated his first-ever Matchroom Major title that evening but also secured his place in the inaugural Reyes Cup later this year.



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ALLISON FISHER

GOES UNDEFEATED TO WIN WPBA PALMETTO BILLIARDS INVITATIONAL

Story by SKIP MALONEY - AzB Staff / Photos courtesy WPBA and ERWIN DIONISIO

Allison and Kristina Tkach move within 'striking distance' of Kelly Fisher in WPBA rankings

They came from opposite ends of the pool-experience spectrum, not to mention opposite ends of the WPBA's \$20,000-added Palmetto Billiards Invitational bracket. BCA Hall of Famer Allison Fisher, who's been winning pool tournaments longer than AZBilliards has been around, was looking for her first win since she began the year with an undefeated run at the Iron City Billiards Invitational in January. Her opponent in the finals of the August 22-25 Palmetto Invitational, Bulgaria's Kristina Zlateva, who's been cashing in professional tournaments all over the world since 2013, was looking for her first (recorded) professional win. And came within a game of finding it. The two battled to double hill in the finals before Fisher prevailed to claim the event title that had drawn 64 entrants to the newly-opened Palmetto Billiards Academy in Charleston, SC.

The two Fishers, Allison and Kelly, also started out at the extreme, opposite ends of the bracket and until the winners' side semifinal, were on-target to face off in the hot seat match. They both started out with shutouts over their first opponents, Shanelle Lorraine for Kelly and Kari Anderson for Allison. Allison was challenged, double hill, twice along the way; first, in the third round by Monica Webb and then, after defeating Margarita Fefilova

8-2 in a winners' side quarterfinal, by Kristina Tkach in one of the winners' side semifinals.

In the meantime, Zlateva was working a steady route to her winners' side semifinal against Kelly. Opening with three straight 8-3 wins over Tracy Cantrell, Kia Burwell and Susan Williams, she advanced to defeat Ashley Rice 8-2 and pick up Kelly in the other winners' side semifinal.

Allison survived her double-hill bout versus Tkach and was joined in the hot seat match by Zlateva, who'd sent Kelly to the loss side 8-5. In their first of two, Allison took an early 2-0 lead before Tkach responded with three that gave her the lead. Zlateva did that twice, getting ahead by one until the score was tied at 4-4. Allison regained the lead she would never relinquish at 5 and then 6-4, allowed Tkach to draw within one at 6-5 and then, closed it



Allison Fisher and Kristina Zlateva

out from there; two in a row to claim the hot seat.

On the loss side, Kelly and Tkach faced Fefilova and Melissa Heland (formerly Melissa Herndon), respectively. Fefilova had followed her loss to Allison with victories over Savannah Easton (3) and Kaylee McIntosh (2) to draw Kelly. Heland had lost a third-round match to McIntosh and then won four straight, including, most recently, the elimination of Ashley Rice (3), after which she survived a double-hill challenge from The Grinder (April Larson).

Though it would have been bad form to say it out loud, people saw the quarterfinal coming; Kelly downing Fefilova 8-2 and Tkach defeating Heland 8-5 to join her. They'd seen it before, early June, in the semifinals of the Raxx Invitational. What they might not have predicted was the uncharacteristic, mistake-riddled quarterfinal itself with uncharacteristic, unforced errors from both of them, though in the end, Kelly's examples proved more fatal to her cause. After trading racks in the first two, Tkach chalked up three in a row. Kelly responded with two to draw within one at 4-3, but in the eighth rack, looking to tie, she missed her shot at the 8-ball. Of course, not unheard of in any situation, but it was a high-percentage shot and the miss was extravagantly uncharacteristic.

Kelly, very characteristically, recovered quickly to win rack #9, to which Tkach responded by winning #10. In rack #11, Kelly once again faced a shot at the 8-ball and while she made the shot, she scratched. Two shots later, Tkach was on the hill at 7-4. Three games later, Kelly had caught up to knot the match at double hill.

Tkach dropped three balls on the final break and then, added to the total unforced error tally by rattling the 2-ball in a hole. Not to be outdone, Kelly stepped to the table, ran to the 5-ball

and with the win in sight, rattled it in a hole. Tkach stepped to the table, finished connecting the dots and advanced to the semifinals against Zlateva.

The Final Four

Since May, Tkach had been among the final four in WPBA events five times. She'd finished third once (the Biker Week Showdown; partnered with Loree Jon Hasson), runner-up three times (Borderline Invitational, Raxx Invitational and Soaring Eagle Masters) and broke through to win the Iron City Invitational the last weekend in July. As she stepped to the tables against Zlateva in the semifinals, she was assured of matching one of those finishes. It proved to be her second, third-place finish. Zlateva, eager for her own improvement on two runner-up finishes since March (the Fairfield Invitational and the Biker Week Showdown, when she was partnered with Bean Hung), battled Tkach to double hill in that quarterfinal match before prevailing for a second shot at Allison in the finals.

Racing to 10 in the final, Allison got out to an early and slim 2-0 lead before Zlateva got 'on the board.' Allison chalked up another, before Zlateva won two in a row to create the first of five match ties at 3-3. Two matches later, they tied it again at 4-4. Allison won three in a row, but then, so did Zlateva to knot the match for the third time at 7-7.

Allison broke the tie and Zlateva won rack #16 to tie it for the fourth time. Rack #17 put Zlateva on the hill, but shooting at the 3-ball in rack #18, she scratched and Allison pounced to create the fifth and final tie. As she prepared to break the last rack, Zlateva stepped up and shook Allison's hand.

Zlateva got to the 3-ball again, but left herself in an awkward position, necessitating a 'needle thread' shot be-

tween two balls to just hit the 4-ball. She missed the 4-ball altogether, fatally, as it turned out. Allison stepped to the table, and cool as you please, with five balls left, the Duchess of Doom closed out the rack to win the first Palmetto Billiards Invitational.

Thanks to some significant changes in the ongoing WPBA rankings, all eyes shift now to the Centennial State of Colorado (it joined the union in 1876), where Kelly Fisher is expected to enter the \$15,000-added Olhausen Colorado Classic, scheduled for Sept. 26-29 and to be hosted by Felt Billiards Bar in Denver. Though she will enter the event still at the top of the WPBA's rankings, Fisher's closest competitor in those rankings, Kristina Tkach, who, thanks to her finish in the Palmetto Invitational, is currently at #2. She is only a single event away from supplanting Kelly at the top of the rankings, dependent, of course, on the outcome.

With her win in Charleston, SC, the Duchess of Doom also edged within 'striking range,' jumping up to #3 in the rankings. In fact, all the way down the list to #7 (Brittany Bryant), and again, dependent on the outcome and range of points at stake and who shows up to compete in Colorado, there are competitors who could catch and pass Kelly Fisher to become the WPBA's #1.

Tour representatives thanked the ownership and staff at the Palmetto Billiards Academy in Charleston, SC, along with sponsors Diamond Billiards, Aramith Billiard Balls, Simonis Cloth, HOW Tips, Big Family Custom Creations, ICA Training, Kamui Roku 6 Chalk, Castillo Leather Goods, DigitalPool.com, and The Perfect Rack. As always, matches from this past weekend's tournament, as well as what is likely to be the highly-anticipated Olhausen Colorado Classic can be viewed on the **WPBA's YouTube channel**.

DYNAMIC BILLARD TREVISO OPEN

SNIEGOCKI RULES IN ITALY

Article by **LUKE RICHES - EPBF** / Photos courtesy **EPBF**

POLAND'S MATEUSZ SNIEGOCKI landed the **DYNAMIC BILLARD Treviso Open** today as he defeated **Felix Vogel** 8-5 in the championship match.

It was the 39-year-old Pole's fourth Euro Tour triumph, following wins in Bosnia (2013), Portugal in 2015 and Albania the following year. For Vogel at just 16, it was his second Euro Tour final of the season, which in itself is an incredible feat and augurs well for the coming years.

The match was never easy for both players as they struggled to deliver the type of breaks that are essential for 10-ball success and it was Vogel who got the match underway. A miss on the 1 ball left an open, albeit difficult table for Sniegocki but he too failed on the yellow. There were multiple visits on the 1 ball before the Pole dropped it and completed the runout to take the early lead.

That soon became 2-0 as Sniegocki ran out from the break. Vogel downed a ball off his next break and left himself a clear go on the 1 ball. With a nice open table, he ran out to reduce the arrears. There was more safety play on the 1 ball after Sniegocki's next break but it was Vogel who got the first good look at it and he duly cleared to level the match up.

A missed 3 ball from Vogel in the next left a jump for his opponent but he was unable to capitalise. However, a ball-in-hand opportunity came Sniegocki's way after a good safety and he cashed in to restore his lead at 3-2.

With an unforgiving break, there was more safety play in the sixth game as they both looked to put the 3 ball

away. A loose one from Vogel gave the chance to Sniegocki and it set him on his way to a 4-2 lead. Vogel delivered the best break of the match so far, with two balls down and a nice spread. He hooked himself though, going from 3 to 4, and his one rail escape saw him scratch. With another ball-in-hand, Sniegocki increased his lead to 5-2.

A dry break got Vogel back to the table but only a push out was available. He managed to completely hook himself and his jump escape failed to come off. Things were looking bleak for the

young German as Sniegocki took ball-in-hand and he made no mistakes to stretch his lead to four racks.

A ball down from Vogel on the next break resulted in no shot on the 1 ball. He pushed out and Sniegocki decided to take on the jump shot which he executed with aplomb. There was nothing available on the next ball – the 3 – and his solid safety kept the initiative. Vogel returned the favour and Sniegocki missed his kick to give his opponent a glimmer of hope. He held his nerve to move the score to 6-3.



Mateusz Sniegocki

Treviso Open



taking. There were a couple of difficult moments but he held himself together well to take the Dynamic Billard Treviso Open.


Commented Sniegocki, “Of course I’m very happy and satisfied with the result. That was my fourth and there was a few year’s break before my last one. I didn’t play that bad during that period between titles but there’s always something that goes wrong. There were a lot of good players who played better than me and the break was my biggest problem for most of the Euro Tour, especially 9-ball, so I’m very glad that it’s 10-ball.

“Vogel is a very talented player, he plays very wise, especially at such a young age and his time will come so I’m not feeling very guilty that I won and I’m sure he will win a lot of good titles. I’ve been here many times in Treviso, I’ve always liked the place and now I like it even more,” he added.

Sniegocki came up dry and left the 1 ball available for Vogel. With little to work with by way of scoreline, he could ill-afford any errors but a miss on the 3 ball set his opponent up and he comfortably cleared the table to put himself on the hill.

With no margin for error, Vogel took the next, closing out the rack with a

courageous bank on the 10 ball. There was a tough layout for Sniegocki, following his break, and he made three difficult pots but his kick on the 3 was in no-man’s-land and left it for Vogel. He pocketed it and then the rest of the table to stay alive in the match at 7-5. A dry break from Vogel left the 1 ball on and it was there for Sniegocki’s



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Yapp and Filler dominate the International Open and DCC XXV. NEW products from Earl, Jayson, Capelle, and Zero X Billiards.

Action Photography ©mediumpool

WOMEN'S PREDATOR TREVISO OPEN KAPLAN CAPTURES TWO-IN-A-ROW

Article by LUKE RICHES - EPBF / Photos courtesy EPBF

INA KAPLAN WAS once again in dominant form as she captured the Women's PREDATOR Treviso Open, beating Katarzyna Wesolowska (Poland) by a 6-2 scoreline. Overall, it was the German lady's sixth Euro Tour title and her second in a row, following victory in Podčetrtek last month.

In fact, Kaplan had won the last women's 10-ball event on the Euro Tour, also in Treviso in 2013. For Wesolowska, her finished represented steady progress after returning to the

tour earlier this year following a seven-year absence.

After a couple of hard-fought semi-finals, Wesolowska got things up and

running but her break wasn't ideal with several balls tied up on the rails. Kaplan gained the first momentum in the early exchanges and she used it well to run out to take the opener.



Ina Kaplan

A tidy break from Kaplan in the next, kept her at the table with a shot on the 1 ball. She made that and then carefully completed the run out to double her lead. A dry break from the Pole was the last thing she wanted and with the 1 ball sitting ominously, it was another good opportunity for Kaplan. She delivered another clinical runout to reach the halfway stage at 3-0.

Kaplan elected to push out after her break and she left enough of the 1 ball for Wesolowska to pocket it. They went back-and-forth on the 2 ball before Wesolowska potted it via a jump shot. Her jump on the 3 ball left it on for her opponent but a miss on the 4 ball from Kaplan saw the rack slow right down. A miscue foul from the German, using the bridge, gave Wesolowska a ball-in-hand opportunity and she cleared to get on the board.

The fifth game started with a push out and then a ball from Kaplan going into a non-nominated pocket. That put Wesolowska at the table and she looked good for the rack until she left the 9-ball hanging in the pocket. The 10 ball blocked out the white, but Kaplan banked it in but proceeded to miss a pressure 10 ball and Wesolowska grabbed the chance to move the score to 3-2.

There was plenty of back and forth in the next as neither player could really assert themselves. A ball-in-hand for Kaplan put her in the driving seat and a neat snooker behind the 6 ball forced the miss from Wesolowska. Kaplan took advantage to clear for 4-2

There was nothing on the break for Wesolowska and the runout for Ka-



Katarzyna Wesolowska

plan looked achievable. However, the 4 ball wasn't in the best spot and her safety allowed her a better chance of it. She missed the cut into the centre pocket, though. It ran clear and Wesolowska couldn't get it safe. Another miss from Kaplan, this time on the 6, gave the Pole a good look at it but she too rattled the jaws. This time Kaplan made no mistakes as she reached the hill at 5-2

Breaking for the match, Kaplan made a ball and then pocketed the yellow 1. With a nice spread, she sensed her opportunity and ran through the table for the win.

Kaplan, who works as a university lecturer in German language didactics in

Cologne, was thrilled with her second consecutive Euro Tour victory; "With winning the last Euro Tour in Slovenia, I'm really rolling! Treviso has always made me feel really comfortable and I'm always having a good showing here. It would really be a dream come true if this wins takes me to the No.1 spot in the rankings. It's been one of my goals and that would be really great.

"Now my job is part-time at 20 hours a week, there's more time to practice but my two children also take a lot of my time as well. I do train a kids group at pool, including my 9-year-old daughter so that is fun as well. My son is five but he's also interested in pool!"

Kaplan will be in Antalya, Turkey in November to attempt a historic three-in-a row. Earlier, Wesolowska had defeated Jolien Schuurman in their semi-final while Kaplan edged out Ana Gradisnik.

“ IT WOULD REALLY BE A DREAM COME TRUE IF THIS WINS TAKES ME TO THE NO.1 SPOT IN THE RANKINGS. IT'S BEEN ONE OF MY GOALS AND THAT WOULD BE REALLY GREAT.

– Ina Kaplan



BIADO GOES UNDEFEATED TO CLAIM RAXX MVP (MHET VERGARA PRO AM) TOUR'S WNT EVENT

Story by SKIP MALONEY - AzB Staff / Photos courtesy ERWIN DIONISIO

In any given year, one does not 'quietly' ascend to #5 in our AZBilliards' Money Leaderboard, yet the Philippines' Carlo Biado, in the midst of his best recorded earnings year (and it's only August) appears to have done just that.

Over half of his recorded earnings this year came as the result of winning last February's Predator WPA World 10-Ball Championships in Las Vegas, at which he left Fedor Gorst in the semifinal 'dust' and defeated Japan's Naoyuki Oi in the finals.

He added to his stash of cash this past weekend (Aug. 15-18) as he went undefeated at the \$10k-added, Raxx MVP (Mhet Vergara ProAm) Tour Open, defeating Greece's Alex Kazakis in the finals of the event which drew 74 entrants to Raxx Pool Room on Long Island (West Hempstead), NY.

Though on this side of the 'ponds' (Atlantic and Pacific), we have a tendency to focus attention on the WNT rankings and subsequent choices being considered for the USA team that will compete against Europe in the 31st annual Mosconi Cup (scheduled for Nov. 30-Dec. 3 in Orlando, FL this year), Team Europe is also preparing for the inaugural Reyes Cup (in honor of Efren 'Bata' Reyes), scheduled for Oct. 17-20 in Manila. There, Team Europe will face off against an Asian team, which has already chosen Singapore's Aloysius Yapp and the Philippines Johann Chua as their first picks.

Albania's Eklent Kaci was the first selection for the European team and along with Denmark's Mickey Krause, will presumably face both the US and Asia in their separate locations.

If Team Asia hasn't got its sights set on Carlo Biado yet, they might consider doing so, soon. Though not exactly an Asian version of the pool world's 'Indiana Jones,' jetting around the world (with pool cue, not bullwhip) in search of ranking points, his 2024 'quiet' surge to the top of our MoneyLeaderboard, along with recent victories over the best that the international pool community has been able to throw at him (Gorst, in February, for example) speaks to a renewed commitment to improvement. Though he's currently #27 on the World Nineball Tour's overall rankings (prior to the RAXX MVP Open), he's at #9 among the Asian contingent of that worldwide ranking system, which includes competitors from Chinese Taipei, Singapore, Chi-



Carlo Biado

**Alex Kazakis**

na, Hong Kong, Japan and of course, the Philippines. Japan's Naoyuki Oi, Biado's opponent in the finals at the World 10-Ball Championships in February, sits at #24 overall and one step ahead of him among Asian competitors at #8.

Oi was in attendance at the RAXX MVP Open, as was Hong Kong's Robbie Capito, who's one step higher (#23) on the WNT ranking list than Oi. Biado's path to the winners' circle did not put Oi in his way, though he did face Capito in the single-elimination Stage 2 of the event.

In the double-elimination Stage 1, on the winners' side of the bracket, Biado was challenged by a pair of formidable Europeans before facing one of his countrymen, Bernie Regalario in the last qualifying round for Stage 2. Biado and Mika Immonen were awarded opening-round byes and squared off in the 2nd round. Biado defeated 'The Iceman' 9-2 and then, by the same score, defeated Germany's Thorsten Hohmann. In their first of two meetings in the event's separate stages, Bernie Regalario got within a game of forcing a double-hill, deciding game, but Biado edged out in front to win 9-7 and in so doing, advanced from the winners' side of the initial bracket to Stage 2.

Robbie Capito, from the same quarter-bracket, advanced to Stage 2 after

defeating Bobby Lewis (3), Lee Vann Corteza (5) and the USA's Lukas Fracasso-Verner 9-7. Fracasso-Verner had previously defeated Romania's Babken Melkonyan 9-7 before, to the surprise of more than a few, sending Aloysius Yapp to the Stage 1 loss side 9-7.

Also advancing from the winners' side of Stage 1 in their respective quarter-brackets were Naoyuki Oi and Lithuania's Pijus Labutis, Denmark's Mickey Krause and Spain's Jonas Souto, Germany's Moritz Neuhausen and eventual runner-up, Alex Kazakis, who'd defeated two Canadians, Barry Hetherington (0) and John Morra (4), along with Vietnam's Bui Truong An to advance.

From the loss side of the Stage 1 bracket, Poland's Wiktor Zielinski and USA's Tyler Styer advanced, along with the Philippines' Patric Gonzales and Bui Trong An, who'd shut out his only loss-side opponent, Michael Feliciano to advance. Germany's Joshua Filler won three on the loss side to advance, while Austria's Max Lechner won his only loss-side match, downing Chinese Taiwan's Yu Lung Chang 9-7. Rounding out the advancing loss-side field were Fracasso-Verner, who'd won his solo shot on the loss side 9-4 over Indonesia's Alvin Anggito and Bernie Regalario, who punched his ticket to Stage 2 with a single loss-side win over The Kaiser, Germany's Ralf Souquet.

It was an odd group of Mosconi/Reyes Cup hopefuls that gathered on Saturday morning to begin Stage 2 of the Raxx MVP Open. Not 'odd' in any behavioral way, but the 16 competitors vying for the event title had an average spot among the top 128 players in the WNT rankings of #37. There were only two among the top 10, although half the field of 16 were among the top 25 in the rankings. Highest among them were Joshua Filler (#6), Wiktor Zielinski (#8), Mickey Krause (#15) and Moritz Neuhausen (#17). At the lower end of the rankings stood Bui Truong An (#128), Bernie Regalario (#80), Lukas Fracasso-Verner (#72) and Patric Gonzales (#69). The winner (Biado) and runner-up (Kazakis) were #27 and #31, respectively.

Biado opened up his Stage 2 campaign by eliminating Fracasso-Verner 11-9, which he followed with an 11-6 victory over Robbie Capito. Biado advanced to meet (for the second time) countryman Bernie Regalario in one of the semifinals. Kazakis, in the meantime, began with an 11-5 win over Max Lechner, which he followed with an 11-7 victory over Moritz Neuhausen to draw Bui Truong An in the other semifinal.

Biado downed Regalario 11-7, as Kazakis was busy eliminating Bui Truong An 11-6. As Biado and Kazakis prepared for the final, Regalario and Bui Truong An stepped away from the tables knowing that as the two lowest-ranked WNT players among the final 16, they'd reached the semifinals, an accomplishment which is likely to do wonders for their confidence, which, as the most important component of advancement in any field, is just as likely to make them harder to beat the next time around, wherever and whenever that might happen.

Biado didn't waste a lot of time establishing a lead in the event final. And when he got it, he kept expanding it.



Troy Deocharan, Raxx Owner Holden Chin, Carlo Biado, Niks Biado and Josh Friedberg

In the end, he gave up only four of the 17 racks played and claimed the RAXX MVP Open title.

MVP ProAm Tour director Mhet Vergara thanked his co-director Charles 'Darwin' Vergara, along with Holden Chin and his Raxx staff for their hospitality, Troy Deocharan, Josh Friedberg, Matt Harricharan and sponsors Simonis Cloth, Aramith Balls, Magicball rack, Inthebox, Queens bodega, J Workshop, Dynamic Tips, Eclat Break Cues.

The next stop on the MVP Tour, scheduled for the weekend of Sept. 7-8 will be hosted by Cue Bar in Bayside (Queens), NY.

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VAN BOENING & ROBERTS MAKE IT LOOK EASY

Story by **MARY KENNISTON** - Photos courtesy event staff

Buffalo's Billiards is rapidly becoming the destination of choice for pool players as they swooped in for House Pro Tony Chohan's Predator Big Easy Classic.

Held just outside of New Orleans in Jefferson, LA, this \$25,000 added event featured three divisions – one pocket, big table nine ball and bar table nine ball.

Presented by Predator, promoted by Tony Chohan and streamed by PoolActionTV.com, other sponsors included JB Cases, Aramith, Simonis, Savage Billiards, Jefferson (LA) Parish, Cb Prime, attorney Joseph J. Long, Buffalo's Billiards, PoolActionTV.com, realtor Michelle L. Griffin of Schuler

Bauer in Elizabethtown, KY, Capitol Wellness Solutions of Baton Rouge, LA and Fort Worth Billiards Superstore of Fort Worth, TX.

Players from all over showed up to play in this event including BCA Hall of Famer Francisco Bustamante, current Skinny Bob's Nineball Classic champ Vitaliy Patsura and reigning Buffalo's Pro One Pocket champ Roberto Gomez. Shane Van Boening – to be inducted into this year's BCA Hall of Fame and 2023 Buffalo's Pro Classic

One Pocket champ, Evan Lunda, were joined by Tony Chohan – winner of three one pocket events just this year. Newly minted Buffalo's House Pro Sergio Rivas was there as well as last year's Buffalo Pro Classic Open Nine Ball champ Alex Calderon, 2022 Iron City Open One Pocket winner Josh Roberts, Robb Saez, Louis DeMarco, Mitch Ellerman, Chris Reinhold, Joey Aguzin & rising star Lukas Fracasso-Verner – winner of this year's Buffalo Pro Classic Open Nine Ball Championship.

The tournament began with the \$10,000 added One Pocket division. Eleven players posted a \$1,000 entry to play in this double elimination event. Racing to four on the winners side and three on the one loss side, the final match was an extended race to five.

After the players auction, meeting and draw, play began on Monday evening.

In the upper portion of the bracket, Gomez shot out of the gate with victories over DeMarco 4-1, Rivas 4-0 and Roberts 4-1. In the lower portion of the chart, Chohan survived a 4-3 match with Calderon and then smoked both Zach Marquardt and Van Boening 4-0.

Reaching the hot seat match, it was Tony's turn to get blitzed as Roberto won the match 4-0 and advanced undefeated to the finals.



Francisco Bustamante and Shane Van Boening

After being unceremoniously dumped into the losers bracket, Van Boening took dead aim and annihilated Rivas, Bustamante and Chohan – all 3-0!

As mentioned previously, the finals was one extended race to five. And, what a match it was! Gomez won the lag and after a long safety battle, Van Boening broke serve and claimed the first game 8-0. The second game was closer but Shane won that one too – score 8-6.

Roberto finally got on the board with an 8-0 shutout followed by an 8-1 win and then another 8-2! Three in a row!

Taking dead aim, Van Boening won the next game 8-0 and leveled the score at three apiece! Then winning the next game 8-2, Shane reached the hill first.

However, Gomez answered with an 8-2 victory of his own and tied it up at 4-4! One game for it all!

Roberto broke the balls and the final game was a lot closer. Gomez inched out 2-0 and then gave a ball to Van Boening to make it 2-1. After a short safety battle, Shane was left with a straight back to his hole and hit it poorly.

When looking back on this match, he got the roll that may have won him the tournament! He missed it so badly, it caromed off another ball by the stack and limped into the pocket! All Roberto could do was laugh and shake his head.

From there, Van Boening moved out to a 5-2 lead. Then it was 6-3, 7-4, 7-5 and finally, 8-4 for the game, match & title! What a match!

“ VAN BOENING MOVED OUT TO A 5-2 LEAD. THEN IT WAS 6-3, 7-4, 7-5 AND FINALLY, 8-4 FOR THE GAME, MATCH & TITLE! WHAT A MATCH!



Frank Diaz and Josh Roberts

The \$10,000 added Big Table Nineball division began on Thursday night. Featuring 25 players who posted a \$330 entry fee, the tournament was double elimination, race to eight with winner break until down to the final eight players. From there it was races to nine and one extended final race to eleven.

After the player auction, meeting and draw, play began.

Bustamante, Ellerman, Van Boening and Calderon all raced to the final four on the winners side.

Bustamante had defeated Jimmy Randolph and DeMarco with identical

scores of 8-3 and then escaped with an 8-7 win over Chohan. Ellerman beat Ricky Evans 8-5, Isaiah Arellano and Saez – both 8-2. Van Boening had wins over Zach Marquardt 8-0, Gomez 8-4 and Patsura 8-1. After drawing a first round bye, Calderon had victories over Rivas 8-4 and Chris Kimball 8-5.

Now racing to nine, Bustamante skunked Ellerman 9-0 and Van Boening defeated Calderon 9-4.

Bustamante and Van Boening then moved into the hot seat match and it was neck and neck until Shane pulled away to win the match 9-6 and lock up his seat in the finals.

Over on the one loss side, Rivas eliminated Patsura 9-4 only to be knocked out by Bustamante – same score – 9-4. Patsura finished fourth and Rivas came in third.

Now back in the finals, Bustamante stayed neck and neck until Shane

Big Easy Classic

pulled away at the end to win the match 9-6 and take another title!

Saturday at high noon saw the start of the final event of the Big Easy Classic – the \$5,000 added Bar Table Nineball Championship.

This double elimination event had 56 players. Each paid an entry fee of \$150 to compete in this double elimination event with races to 7/7 and alternate breaks. The final match was one extended race to nine. And, as always, play began after the players auction, meeting and draw.

Louisiana transplant Robb Saez cut through the field with wins over Aguzin 7-0, Mohammad Alshammari 7-2, Marquardt 7-3 and Dallas Broussard 7-3. Chohan showed he wasn't just a one pocket player as he beat Bernell Dartez 7-1, Isaiah Arellano 7-1, Reinhold 7-5 and Evans 7-2. He and

Saez then battled it out with Chohan notching the win – score 7-2.

In the lower portion of the bracket, Frank Diaz made his way through Jeremy Shaw 7-4, Kevin Frauenberger 7-5, Josh Roberts 7-1 and Ellerman 7-3. Rivas beat Todd Babin 7-3, won a forfeit over Jonathan LaRocca, defeated Chris Patterson 7-1 and sent Calderon packing 7-5.

So, after making their way to the winners side final four, Diaz defeated Rivas 7-5 and Chohan beat Saez 7-2. Next was the hot seat match with Diaz locking up his seat in the finals over Chohan 7-5. Tony headed west to await an opponent.

In dead punch after eliminating Gomez 7-2, Rivas 7-5 and Saez 7-0, Chohan was no match for Roberts as he was eliminated 7-3. Tony finished in third place.

Roberts moved into the finals against Diaz. Frank led the match 4-1 but Josh answered by evening it up to four apiece. Tied again, Josh finally pulled away to reach the hill first with an 8-6 score. Diaz was unable to keep Roberts from winning that last game and the title 9-6.

Congratulations to Shane Van Boening for taking both the one pocket and big table nine ball titles and Josh Roberts for winning the bar table nine ball!

Tournament Director Eric Kintzer and commentators Jeremy Jones, Larry Schwartz and Ray Hansen did a great job throughout the entire event.

Thanks to James Leone (“Buffalo”), General Manager Steve Tesvich (“Bullseye”) and their staff for showing both players and fans the Big Easy spirit. We look forward to returning next year!



Tony Chohan, Shane Van Boening and Roberto Gomez



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MILLER

COMES FROM THE LOSS SIDE TO CLAIM MARYLAND STATE LADIES 9-BALL CHAMPIONSHIP

Story by SKIP MALONEY - AzB Staff / Photos courtesy event staff

As best as we can figure, the last time (before this past weekend) that Briana Miller and Tina Malm met in a meaningful pool match was in the summer of 2017 at a stop on the J. Pechauer Northeast Women's Tour (JPNEWT) in Frederick, MD.

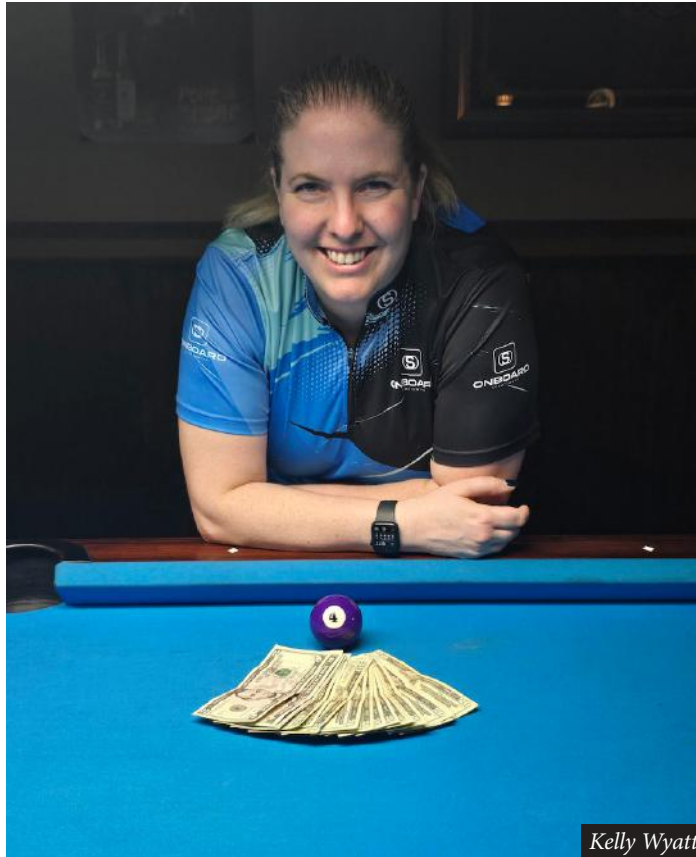


Tina Malm and Briana Miller

At the event, they both had to contend with Karen Corr, who, two years earlier, had dominated the JPNEWT season, winning eight of the tour's 11 stops that year. In 2016, Corr competed in and won all three of the tour's events in which she participated. In that summer of 2017, she was making what would prove to be her only appearance on the tour and came from the loss side to win it. Briana Miller met up with Corr in the third round of that event and defeated her in a double-hill bout. Miller advanced, eventually, to the hot seat match, which is where she ran into Malm. Miller sent Malm off (7-2) to what proved to be a semifinal match against Corr. Corr defeated Malm (also 7-2) and then defeated Miller 9-4 in the final to claim her one and only JPNEWT title that year.

Miller and Malm met in another hot seat match this past weekend (Sat., Aug. 17) at the Maryland State Ladies 9-Ball Championships, which drew 26 entrants to Bank Shot Bar and Grill in Laurel, MD. They met three times, in the hot seat match and double-elimination final. It was Miller who came from the loss side in this one and returned to defeat Malm twice to claim the MD State Ladies title.

Miller, the current tour director of the JPNEWT, opened her winning campaign against the former JPNEWT tour director, Linda Shea, who'd initiated an extremely cordial and peaceful transfer of power two years ago. Over the years, Miller and Shea had met on a number of occasions, most recently,



Kelly Wyatt

in the finals of a stop during the 'transitional' 2022 season when Miller was learning the ropes of taking over as tour director. They battled in the final of that tour stop, with Miller claiming the title. Oddly enough they'd finished as winner (Miller) and runner-up (Shea) in that 2017 season during which Malm and Miller had squared off in the hot seat match of the event won by Corr. Five months later, Miller and Shea battled in the finals once more, with Miller again claiming the event title.

The luck of the bracket draw this past weekend set them up against each other in the opening round of play. They battled back and forth towards what looked to be a double-hill battle, but Miller got out ahead by two to win it 6-4. Shea lost her opening, loss-side match to another JPNEWT veteran, Nicole Nester 5-3.

Miller advanced to take on a series of other JPNEWT veterans, including wins over Eugenia Gyftopoulos 6-1 and Ashley Benoit 6-4, to draw junior competitor Skylar Hess in one of the winners' side semifinals. Malm, in the meantime, who'd drawn an opening round bye, opened with a 6-3 victory over Nester, before downing Christy Norris 6-1 and drawing Kelly Wyatt in the other winners' side semifinal.

Miller and Malm advanced to the hot seat match with identical 6-2 victories over Hess and Wyatt. Malm grabbed the 'seat' 6-4 and waited on Miller's return.

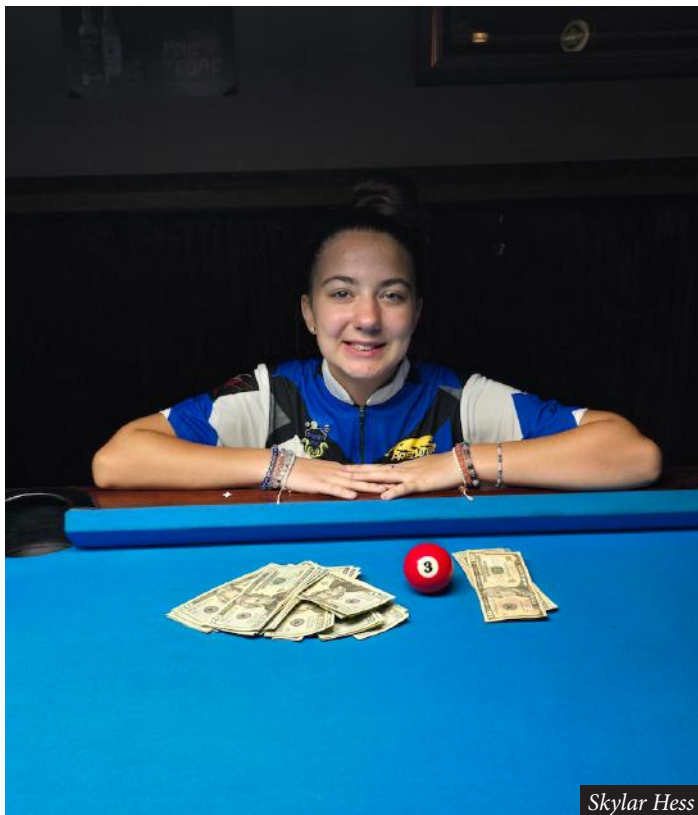
On the loss side, Gyftopoulos and Nester were both working on four-match, loss-side winning streaks when Hess and Wyatt showed up to challenge them. Gyftopoulos had followed her opening-round loss to Miller with victories over Rachel Walters 5-3, Harley King (2), Theresa Tascarella (2) and survived a double-hill battle against Christy Norris to meet up with Hess. Nester had followed her loss to Malm with victories over Shea (3), Judie Wilson (3), Carol Clark (double hill) and defeated Ashley Benoit (3) to meet up with Wyatt.

Between them, Hess and Wyatt gave up just a single rack in the combined 11 games they played for advancement to the quarterfinals. It was Hess who gave up the single rack to Gyftopoulos, while Wyatt was engaged in shutting out Nester. Hess then confined Wyatt's loss-side trip to a single match, defeating her in those quarterfinals 5-2.

Maryland State 9-Ball Championship

It's all well and good to talk about 'playing your game, not your opponent,' but there's little doubt that Hess faced Miller in the semifinals with some sense of how formidable an opponent Miller represented. It turned out to be a well-founded sense of wary anticipation because Miller shut Hess out to earn her second and necessarily, third shot at Malm, waiting for her in the hot seat.

Malm may have approached the final with a similar sense of wary anticipation, albeit one that had her victory in the hot seat match to build upon. Miller took the opening set of the



Skylar Hess

final 6-3 and backed it up with a 6-2 second set to claim the MD State Ladies 9-Ball Championship title.

Tour director Loye Bolyard and On the Hill Productions thanked the ownership and staff at Bank Shot Bar & Grill for their hospitality, along with Moori, Iwan Simonis Cloth, Aramith Billiard Balls and AZBilliards. The next On the Hill Productions event, scheduled for the weekend of Sept. 14-15, will be a '1000 and under' Partners tournament. Limited to 64 teams, the event will be hosted by Brews & Cues on the Boulevard in Glen Burnie, MD.

A promotional banner for the Olhausen Colorado Classic. The background is a blurred image of a pool table with three women in the foreground. The woman in the center is Allison Fisher, wearing a red shirt with 'PLAYCRAFT' and 'Mizz Cup' logos. The woman on the left is Savannah Easton, and the woman on the right is Sofia Mast. The text 'OLHAUSEN COLORADO CLASSIC' is at the top in large white letters. Below it, 'DENVER, CO' and the WPBA logo are visible. The dates 'SEPTEMBER 26-29, 2024' are on the right. On the left, '\$15,000 Added' is written in large white and red text. At the bottom, the names 'SAVANNAH EASTON', 'ALLISON FISHER', and 'SOFIA MAST' are listed.



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ROBERTS WINS SEVEN ON THE LOSS SIDE

DOUBLE-DIPS ARCHER TO WIN 2024 RACK RACE FINALE

Story by **SKIP MALONEY - AzB Staff** / Photos courtesy **MIKE NEWSOME & ERWIN DIONISIO**

Roberts and Le take home top cash prizes as Rack Race Player of the Year and runner-up

You couldn't have asked for a better finale to the 2024 Rack Race season. Headlining this past weekend's (August 16-18) season finale, from the get-go, was a potential matchup between Johnny Archer and Josh Roberts who'd battled in the Rack Race finals six times over the past two years. Roberts had won the first four of those meetings, until Stop #12 of the current season, when Archer came from the loss side to double-dip Roberts in the final. At Stop #13, it was Roberts who came from the loss side to challenge Archer, but Archer won the single-set final. Roberts did not compete in Stop #14, while Archer chalked up his third in a row.

The random draw of the \$8,000-added season finale that drew 48 entrants to Rack & Grill III in Aiken, SC, put Archer and Roberts on opposite ends of the bracket, guaranteeing that if they were going to meet on the winners' side of the bracket, it was going to happen in the battle for the hot seat. It didn't, because after winning his opening match and then defeating his runner-up in the battle for Player of the Year honors, Calvin Le, Roberts' trip to the hot seat match was diverted. He lost his next match 9-7 to Eddie Wahdan, who advanced to become Archer's opponent in that winners' side final.

From that point on, it was all about the anticipation.

There was very little doubt about who would win the Rack Race's Player of the Year award, which added \$1,000 (and a separate trophy) to whatever amount the winner would take home in the actual event (\$500 and trophy for the runner-up). That was Josh Roberts and Calvin Le going into the event.

They were separated by less than 100 points in the standings, but unless Roberts finished 'out of the money' and Le won the event, it was destined to (and did) end up that way. Roberts won and it was Le who finished 'out of the money,' with the runner-up \$500 softening the blow of an uncharacteristically low finish in the season finale.



Josh Roberts



Johnny Archer

Adding a little spice to the already-tasty tournament menu with its potential for an Archer/Roberts battle (or two), were a number of Rack Race regulars, and a few occasional 'visitors,' who, if nothing else, let Roberts and Archer know that their path to victory and toward each other could get a little complicated at any point along the way. And it did, for Roberts especially, who along his loss-side path to the finals met up with BJ Ussery, Jr., Mike Davis, Jr., Tommy Kennedy, Barry Mashburn, and Kim Davenport before facing Eddie Wahdan a second time.

Archer's path to the hot seat went through three of the same competitors. He opened with a 9-3 win over Joe Hyatt before defeating Ussery 9-2. He then downed Brent Underwood 9-2 before sending his competitor in the finals of the 1992 US Open 9-Ball Championships, Tommy Kennedy, to the loss side 9-4. This set Archer up to face and shut out Keith Bennett in one of the winners' side semifinals.

Meanwhile, Eddie Wahdan, who'd opened by giving up just a pair of racks to 'Snake,' gave up 27 racks over his next four games. He downed Clay Branham 9-6, sent Roberts to the loss side 9-7, defeated Scott Rabon 9-6 and then, in the other winners' side semifinal, survived a double-hill match versus Barry Mashburn. Wahdan gave up

nine racks (to his two) in the hot seat match that made Archer the last undefeated man standing, or sitting, as it were, in the hot seat.

By the time Barry Mashburn showed up on the loss side to face him, Josh Roberts had run the gauntlet of four of his seven loss-side wins. He'd defeated Jimmy Broughton 7-2 and then, in order, defeated Ussery 7-4, survived a double-hill challenge from Mike Davis and eliminated Tommy Kennedy 7-3. Bennett arrived on the loss side to pick up Kim Davenport, who'd lost his third-round match to Mike Davis 9-2 and chalked up four in a row versus Ian Jones (2), Billy Fowler (3), Scott Rabon (4), and Jason Stemen (3).

Davenport advanced to the quarterfinals 7-3 over Bennett and was joined by Roberts, who'd eliminated Mashburn 7-2. Roberts and Davenport fought an almost-predictable, double-hill match which eventually eliminated Davenport and sent Roberts to the semifinals against Wahdan.

Roberts gave up just a single rack in those semifinals and earned his double-elimination-final shot at Archer. Roberts took the opening set 9-2. Archer battled him to double hill in the second set, but Roberts had the last 'word,' completing his loss-side run to claim title to the season finale of the 2024 Rack Race season.

The Rack Race almost doubled its participants in its second year, from 280 in 2023 to 500 (332 unique) to this year's Race. At the end of each year, Michael Newsome (owner of the Rack & Grill locations, tour director for the Rack Race and an entrant in this year's season finale) has guaranteed that the following year, money-added to the main events would double. He made it official for the third season, as well, guaranteeing, for example, that 2025's season finale and championship will add \$16,000 to the prize fund.

"The more we grow and get more support from the players participating," said Newsome, "we will continue to do more money each year."

Though the 2025 Rack Race schedule is still being formulated, there will, according to Newsome, be a minor change to the Race format. They will look to employ a 'break box' in the 2025 Rack Race. Players will have to break from the middle box, reducing the ability to sink the 'wing' ball as a prelude to repeated 'break and run' racks.

In the interim between the end of the Rack Race's second season and the start of its third, Newsome and company (to include his wife, Avery) will hold the 2nd Annual Rack's Carolina Classic on the weekend of Sept. 13-15 at the Rack & Grill III location in Aiken, SC. The weekend will feature a \$500-added Jack and Jill 8-ball event, a \$1,500-added 9-Ball event and a \$5,000-added One Pocket event.

Newsome and his wife, Avery thanked the staffs at Rack & Grill II and III for their able assistance in helping to keep the Rack Race events running smoothly, as well as sponsors Predator, Iwan Simonis Cloth, digitalpool.com, Filta Environmental, Newsome Distributing, GFL, JTs Automotive Group, Salazar, Pepsi, CSRA Machine Fab, NationalBilliardAcademy.com, Hampton Inn and Hilton Garden Inn.

FEDOR GORST AND EKLENT KAÇI ARE THE FIRST TO SECURE SPOTS FOR THE 2024 MOSCONI CUP

Story by JACK MITCHELL - Matchroom Multi Sport / Photos courtesy TAKA WU - Matchroom Multi Sport

World Champion and WNT No. 1, Fedor Gorst, and Eklent Kaçi are the first players to qualify for Team USA and Team Europe, respectively, at the 2024 Mosconi Cup.

This prestigious event is set to take place 30 November – 3 December at the Caribe Royale resort in Orlando, Florida, and will be broadcast live on Sky Sports in the UK & Ireland and DAZN in the USA.

The 2024 European Open marked the initial cut-off stage for determining the first players to qualify for Team USA and Team Europe. Fedor Gorst and Eklent Kaçi secured their spots by reaching the final of the World Pool Championship and climbing the rankings earlier this year.

Fedor Gorst, who triumphed at both the World Pool Championship and the World Pool Masters this year, cemented his position as the top-ranked player on the World Nineball Tour (WNT). His victory at the World Pool Championship earned him a record-breaking prize of \$250,000, further establishing him as one of the sport's top talents.

"It's been an incredible year for me, winning both the World Pool Championship and the World Pool Masters," said Gorst. "Securing my place in the 2024 Mosconi Cup is the perfect way to cap off an already successful year. I'm thrilled to be back for my third appearance, and this time, I'm ready for Team USA to win."

Eklent Kaçi is set to make his fifth appearance for Team Europe at the Mosconi Cup, having first joined in

2018 as the youngest player ever to compete in the event. His impressive runner-up finish at the World Pool Championship this year propelled him to third in the WNT rankings, making him the first player to qualify for Team Europe this year.

"I remember joining the team in 2018 as the youngest player, and it's incredible to see how much I've grown since then. Qualifying first for Team Europe this year is a proud moment for me, and I'm ready to give it my all in Orlando. The Mosconi Cup is always a special event, and I'm eager to compete alongside my teammates and bring the trophy home once more."

Qualification for the Mosconi Cup will continue in two more stages, with

one player for each team being announced following the US Open Pool Championship in Atlantic City, USA, and the Hanoi Open Pool Championship in Hanoi, Vietnam. These selections will be based on the 2024 one-year rankings for both Team Europe and Team USA.

The tournament will return to the United States following last year's Mosconi Cup at Alexandra Palace, London. With Jayson Shaw leading Team Europe and Skyler Woodward captaining Team USA both as playing captains, the 2024 edition promises to reach new heights of excitement and competition.

Tickets for the 2024 Mosconi Cup are still available to purchase here.



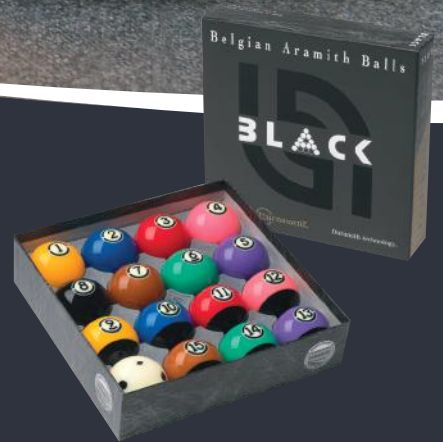
Fedor Gorst and Eklent Kaçi (Taka Wu/Matchroom Multi Sport)



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TOP SIXTEEN CONFIRMED TO COMPETE IN THE 2024 MANSION SPORTS HANOI OPEN

The top 16 pros of the World Nineball Tour are confirmed to compete at the 2024 Mansion Sports Hanoi Open October 8-13 in the heart of Vietnam, sponsored by leading sports investment firm, Mansion Sports & Entertainment Group.

In partnership with UK broadcaster Sky Sports and Vietnam broadcaster Vietcontent, this electrifying spectacle on the World Nineball Tour will once again grace the Hanoi Indoor Games Gymnasium within the Vietnam National Sports Complex.

SPECTATORS TICKET INFORMATION TO BE ANNOUNCED SOON

The WNT top 16:

1. Fedor Gorst – World champion, World Pool Masters champion and US Open Champion
2. Francisco Sanchez Ruiz – 2023 World champion
3. Eklent Kaçi – 2023 UK Open champion
4. Ko Ping Chung – US Open champion
5. Jayson Shaw – Hanoi Open champion
6. Joshua Filler – 2018 World Pool champion
7. David Alcaide – 2023 European Open champion
8. Wiktor Zielenski – 2024 World Championship quarter-finalist
9. Aloysius Yapp – Team Asia Reyes Cup qualifier
10. Shane Van Boening – Five-time US Open champion
11. Ko Pin Yi – 2023 World Pool Masters champion
12. Johann Chua – 2024 European Open Championship runner-up



13. Mario He – 2023 World championship semi-finalist
14. Mickey Krause – European Open champion
15. Skyler Woodward – 2024 Team US Mosconi Cup captain
16. Moritz Neuhausen – 2023 World Cup of Pool runner-up

This year's event will see the reigning Hanoi Open champion Jayson Shaw joined by an elite roster of pool players. The new World Champion and WNT No.1 Fedor Gorst, the 2023 World Champion Francisco Sanchez Ruiz, and the US Open champion Ko Ping Chung are among the many talents returning for their second year.

Jayson Shaw said: "I know defending my title in Hanoi will be a challenge

this year, with the level of competition set to be higher than ever before. Nonetheless, I'm ready to fight for what's mine and claim the crown in Hanoi city once more."

Top cueists making their debut at this year's Hanoi Open include Joshua Filler, Eklent Kaçi and Wiktor Zielenski.

Eklent Kaçi, who was unable to compete in last year's tournament due to an injury, shared his excitement: "I've been looking forward to this event all year. Missing out last year was tough, but I'm ready to bring my best game to Hanoi. Winning the Hanoi Open this year would be the perfect way to showcase my talent and set the stage for the Reyes Cup the following week."

The Hanoi Open Pool Championship will feature 256 players battling it out for \$200,000 prize fund over the course of six thrilling days.

This year's tournament aims to build upon the overwhelming success of its inaugural event, which saw 3,000 fans in attendance for the final. With an even stronger lineup this year, the World Nineball Tour top 128 signed professionals will feature alongside the global qualifiers of 2024. Full event draw to be announced in the coming months.



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- 48th US Open Championship set for 18-23 August 2025
- Increased prize fund of \$500,000 on offer.
- Tickets available soon. Sign up for ticket alerts online

The 48th US Open Pool Championship will return to the Harrah's Resort, Atlantic City 18-23 August 2025, now with an increased prize fund of \$500,000.

2025 US Open Pool Championship marks the fifth consecutive year in Atlantic City, now with \$500,000 worth of WNT ranking points on offer across the field, with the winner set to receive a grand total of \$100,000.

PRIZE FUND BREAKDOWN

Prize Pool: \$500,000

Winner: \$100,000

Runner Up: \$50,000

- Semi-finalists: \$25,000
- Quarter-finalists: \$15,000
- Last 16: \$8,000
- Last 32: \$5,000
- Last 64: \$3,000

Barry Hearn OBE, President of Matchroom Sport, said: "Next year's prize money for the US Open is going to be \$500,000 not \$300,000. The first prize will go from \$50,000 to \$100,000. We want to send a message out that Nine-ball pool is on the growth, get on this bandwagon now, because we will take this sport to places it has never been since Nineball pool was invented. That is a guarantee."

Daniel Gallagher, Director of Sports Sales for the Atlantic City Sports Commission said: "We are honoured to be hosting the US Open Pool Tournament again for the fifth consecutive year in Atlantic City, NJ. Our seaside destination could not be better positioned to host

this glorious event in our world-class venues along with ample experiences for athletes and spectators."

Gregg Klein, Senior Vice President and General Manager, Harrah's Resort Atlantic City said: "We are excited to once again host Matchroom's US Open Pool Championships and welcome guests from all over the world to Harrah's Resort Atlantic City. With our recent hotel upgrades, new restaurant openings, and first-class amenities, we hope all US Open guests make Harrah's Resort their home away from home during the tournament."

Spectator tickets for the 2025 US Open Pool Championship will be available soon. Pool fans of the US Open can sign up to ticket alerts for the return of the prestigious tournament **here**.

For all the latest news and announcements follow Matchroom Pool on **Facebook, Twitter, YouTube** and **Instagram**.

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ANNOUNCE GROUNDBREAKING AGREEMENT

The EPBF and Predator Group proudly announce a landmark partnership, introducing Predator as the official table partner and title sponsor of all EPBF Events

The European Pocket Billiard Federation (EPBF) and Predator Group jointly announce a landmark multi-year partnership, which will see Predator taking on the role of official table partner and title sponsor for the EPBF European Championships, Youth Tour, as well as the popular EuroTour Series.

This decision comes after a series of meetings and thorough reviews of

various proposals by the EPBF Board and its commercial entity, the International Billiard Promotion Foundation (IBPF).

After careful deliberation, the EPBF and IBPF have agreed to make this strategic change in partnership to enhance the quality and experience of its events. Celebrating its 30th anniversary in 2024, Predator Group continues to lead the way driven by their



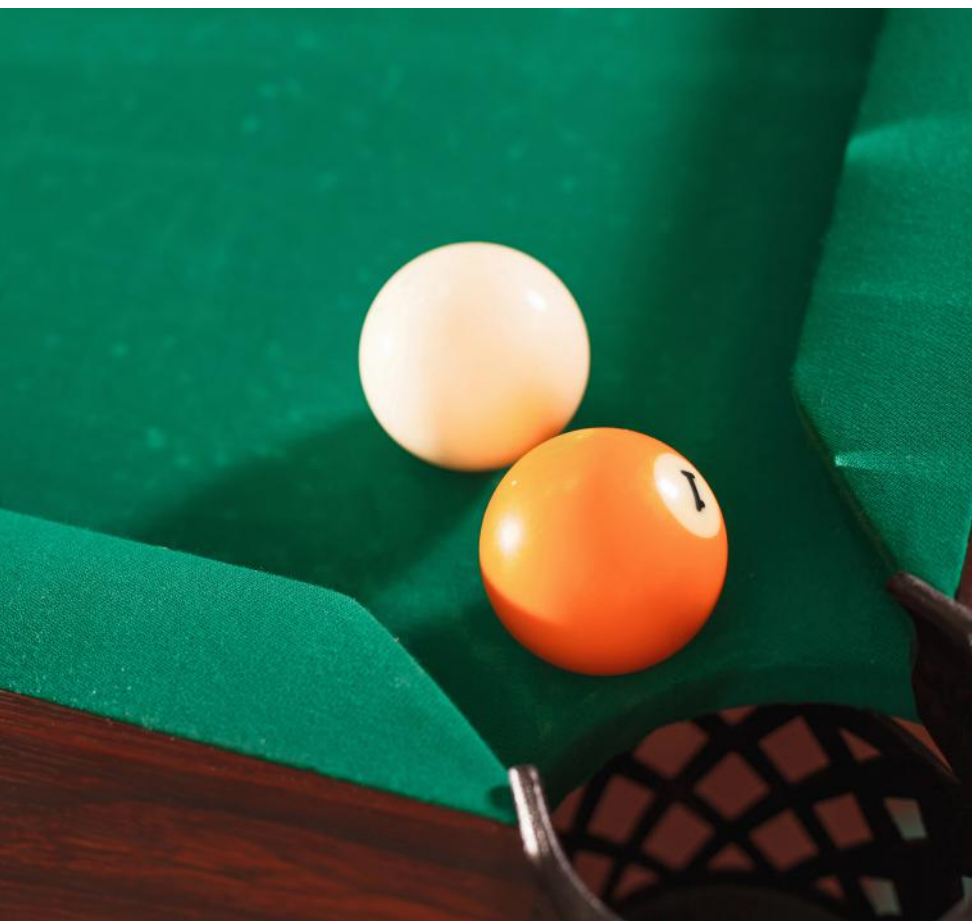
PREDATORGROUP

iconic ‘Innovate and Inspire’ slogan, well-known throughout the sports industry.

“Together, we’ll elevate Europe to new heights, connecting countries, and driving innovation on the whole continent. This partnership will inspire billiards fans and players across Europe, combining our expertise to advance the sport in every nation,” said Karim Belhaj, Owner and CEO of Predator Group.

EPBF President Gre Leenders commented, “We are pleased to welcome Predator Group as our new table partner and title sponsor. Their reputation for quality and innovation aligns perfectly with our vision for the future of the sport. We believe this partnership will greatly benefit our players and the broader billiards community.”

Starting in 2025, Predator Group will supply tables for all EPBF Championships events, ensuring that players and fans alike can enjoy the highest standards of play. This long-term strategic collaboration marks an exciting new chapter for the EPBF as it continues to grow and promote the sport of pocket billiards across Europe.



IBPF President David Morris said, “I am very excited about the future of our sport, this partnership with the Predator Group has come at a pivotal moment in our sports history. Predator’s commitment to the sport is visible globally and the EPBF’s structure is second to none, so to be able join two powerhouses of the pool world together is amazing – it can only get better!”

JP Parmentier, Sports Marketing Director of Predator Group, added: “Today’s agreement between EPBF and Predator Group marks a significant milestone for pool in Europe and globally. The unique legacy of the EPBF’s EuroTour and European Championships have produced generations of world-class players. Our mission is to build a future together where passion and innovation unite, ensuring that our sport continues to thrive and inspire everyone across all levels of competition.”

This partnership represents a significant step in the world of billiards. With shared values and a united vision, Predator Group and the EPBF

are set to create a lasting impact, nurturing talent, innovation, and growth that will inspire generations to come.

About EPBF:

The European Pocket Billiard Federation (EPBF) is the governing body for pocket billiards in Europe, dedicated to promoting and developing the sport through high-quality events and initiatives. With a rich history and a commitment to excellence, the EPBF is a cornerstone of the global billiards community.

For more information, please contact: press@epbf.com

About Predator Group:

Predator Group is a leading innovator in the billiards industry, inspiring billiard fans by providing innovative experiences and products that deliver high-performance, with unsurpassed class and style since 1994. Predator, Poison and Uni-Loc are Predator Group brands that focus on performance pool tables, cues, billiard accessories, and precision components. For more information regarding Predator Group’s products visit www.predatorcues.com, www.poisoncues.com and www.uni-loc.com

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Tourney Results

Aug 01 - Aug 04

TAOM Maxrack Nineball Helsinki Open

Biljardi 247

- Helsinki,
 1 Naoyuki Oi \$8,720
 2 Francisco Sanchez-Ruiz \$5,886
 3 Riku Romppainen \$3,815
 3 Robbie Capito \$3,815
 5 Alexandros Kazakis \$2,398
 5 David Alcaide \$2,398
 5 Jose Alberto Delgado \$2,398
 5 Ralf Souquet \$2,398
 9 Casper Matikainen \$1,308
 9 John Morra \$1,308
 9 Karl Gnadeberg \$1,308
 9 Kostas Koukiadakis \$1,308
 9 Mickey Krause \$1,308
 9 Oliver Szolnoki \$1,308
 9 Pijus Labutis \$1,308
 9 Wiktor Zielinski \$1,308
 17 Aloysius Yapp \$763
 17 Arseny Sevastyanov \$763
 17 Cliff Castelein \$763
 17 Denis Grabe \$763
 17 Dimitris Loukatos \$763
 17 Jere Virtaranta \$763
 17 Joao Grilo \$763
 17 Jonas Souto Comino \$763
 17 Lasse Alvesalo \$763
 17 Markus Leppiaho \$763
 17 Masato Yoshioka \$763
 17 Max Eberle \$763
 17 Mikko Jantti \$763
 17 Nicholas Tan Guo \$763
 17 Sullivan Clark \$763
 17 Valtteri Virtanen \$763

Aug 03 - Aug 04

2nd Annual Rack Race Event Fourteen

Rack and Grill II

- Augusta, Georgia
 1 Johnny Archer \$770
 2 Calvin Le \$410
 3 Darrel Williams \$250

- 4 Mike Champagne \$175
 5 Billy Holmes \$100
 5 George Spires \$100

Aug 03 - Aug 03

Q City 9-Ball Tour Stop

Break Time Billiards

- Winston-Salem, NC
 1 Kyle Nelson \$600
 2 Mark Bolton \$320
 3 Jas Makhni \$180
 4 Melvin Shelton \$110

Aug 03 - Aug 03

The Pool Series One Pocket Event

Smokin' Cue

- Charlotte, NC
 1 Mike Davis \$650
 2 Rob Leeper \$450
 3 Dean Welch \$280
 4 Jeff Abernathy \$160
 5 Hank Powell \$80
 5 Paul Bailey \$80
 7 Eddie Little \$40
 7 Hunter White \$40

Aug 03 - Aug 04

Brunswick East Coast Tour Stop

Borderline Billiards

- Bristol, TN
 1 Eddie Vonderau \$1,440
 2 Eric Roberts \$1,350
 3 Trystin Denny \$800
 4 Grayson Vaughan \$600
 5 Brian Eaton \$400
 5 Mike Mullins \$400
 7 Chris Stump \$250
 7 DJ Cordle \$250
 9 Carlos Morales \$110
 9 Erik Winchenbach \$110
 9 Evan Jones \$110
 9 Reid Vance \$110

Aug 03 - Aug 03

Mezz Cues LA 9-Ball Series Stop

Good Timez Billiards

- Huntsville, Alabama
 1 Darwin Bernadaz \$700
 2 Justin Boyd \$450
 3 Carlynn Sanchez \$310
 4 Isaac Pineda \$200
 5 DJ Kinnee \$130
 5 Rigoberto Morales \$130
 7 Jamal Oussi \$90
 7 Paul Vinas \$90

Aug 06 - Aug 11

European Open 2024

Hotel Esperanto,

- Fulda
 1 Mickey Krause \$30,000
 2 Johann Chua \$15,000
 3 Shane Van Boening \$9,500
 3 Skyler Woodward \$9,500
 5 Daniel Maciol \$6,000
 5 Francisco Sanchez-Ruiz \$6,000
 5 Mustafa Alnar \$6,000
 5 Ping-Chung Ko \$6,000
 9 Albin Ouschan \$4,000
 9 David Alcaide \$4,000
 9 Denis Grabe \$4,000
 9 Fedor Gorst \$4,000
 9 Joshua Filler \$4,000
 9 Oliver Szolnoki \$4,000
 9 Shane Wolford \$4,000
 9 Wojciech Szewczyk \$4,000
 17 Aleksa Pecelj \$2,000
 17 Alexandros Kazakis \$2,000
 17 Aloysius Yapp \$2,000
 17 Amil Andre Gangflot \$2,000
 17 Fitim Haradinaj \$2,000
 17 Labinot Markaj \$2,000
 17 Marc Bijsterbosch \$2,000
 17 Mateusz Sniegocki \$2,000
 17 Mohammad Soufi \$2,000
 17 Niels Feijen \$2,000
 17 Pin-Yi Ko \$2,000
 17 Ping Han Ko \$2,000
 17 Ramazan Akdag \$2,000
 17 Sanjin Pehlivanovic \$2,000
 17 Szymon Kural \$2,000

17 Yu-Lung Chang \$2,000
33 Adam Stankiewicz \$1,000
33 Alex Montpellier \$1,000
33 Chris Melling \$1,000
33 Cliff Castelein \$1,000
33 Daniel Guttenberger \$1,000
33 Darren Appleton \$1,000
33 Dimitris Loukatos \$1,000
33 Elliott Sanderson \$1,000
33 Gary Wilson \$1,000
33 Hui-chan Lu \$1,000
33 Imran Majid \$1,000
33 Jani Uski \$1,000
33 Jayson Shaw \$1,000
33 John Morra \$1,000
33 Jonas Souto Comino \$1,000
33 Kledio Kaci \$1,000
33 Konrad Juszczyszyn \$1,000
33 Kun Lin Wu \$1,000
33 Li Zhi Min \$1,000
33 Lin Ta-Li \$1,000
33 Luong Duc Thien \$1,000
33 Maximilian Lechner \$1,000
33 Nick Malai \$1,000
33 Nick Van Den Berg \$1,000
33 Ralf Souquet \$1,000
33 Ricardo Gutjahr \$1,000
33 Robbie Capito \$1,000
33 Salvador Garcia \$1,000
33 Sam Henderson \$1,000
33 The Kien Do \$1,000
33 Wiktor Zielinski \$1,000
33 Yuma Dorner \$1,000

Aug 15 - Aug 18

Raxx Mhet Vergara Pro Am

Raxx Pool Room, Sports Bar & Grill

West Hempstead, NY
1 Carlo Biado \$9,000
2 Alexandros Kazakis \$5,000
3 Bernie Regaliaria \$3,000
3 Bui Truong An \$3,000
5 Jonas Souto Comino \$2,000
5 Joshua Filler \$2,000
5 Moritz Neuhausen \$2,000
5 Robbie Capito \$2,000
9 Lukas Fracasso-Verner \$1,000
9 Maximilian Lechner \$1,000
9 Mickey Krause \$1,000
9 Naoyuki Oi \$1,000
9 Patric Gonzales \$1,000
9 Pijus Labutis \$1,000
9 Tyler Styer \$1,000

9 Wiktor Zielinski \$1,000
17 Albin Ouschan \$450
17 Alvin Anggito \$450
17 David Alcaide \$450
17 Luong Duc Thien \$450
17 Michael Baoanan \$450
17 Michael Feliciano \$450
17 Ralf Souquet \$450
17 Yu-Lung Chang \$450

Aug 16 - Aug 18

2nd Annual Rack Race Season Finale

The Rack & Grill III

Aiken, SC
1 Josh Roberts \$5,900
2 Johnny Archer \$2,900
3 Eddie Wahdan \$1,900
4 Kim Davenport \$1,300
5 Barry Mashburn \$700
5 Keith Bennett \$700
7 Jason Steman \$400
7 Tommy Kennedy \$400
9 Brett Underwood \$290
9 Derek Leonard \$290
9 Mike Davis \$290
9 Scott Rabon \$290
13 Bill Fowler \$200
13 BJ Ussery \$200
13 George Spires \$200
13 Steven Gonzalo \$200

Aug 17 - Aug 18

NWPA Tour 2024 Stop 4

The Pocket

Boise, Idaho
1 Molina Ortiz \$610
2 Stephanie Drakulic \$610
3 Katherine Robertson \$395
4 Debi Hollander-Haney \$260
5 Dora Valdez \$185
5 Jennifer Shumaker \$185
7 Nicole Donisi \$135
7 Tara Miller \$135
9 Kristin Norris \$90
9 Linda Massey \$90
9 Maryann McConnell \$90
9 Tylyn Holzapfel \$90
13 Angela Higgins \$65
13 Janis Ogawa \$65
13 Lona Malone \$65
13 Melinda Hoffman \$65

Aug 17 - Aug 18

2025 DFW 9-Ball Tour Stop 8

Rusty's Billiards

Arlington, TX
1 Gus Briseno \$860
2 Gavin Mathew \$580
3 Juan Parra \$415
4 Mark Johnson \$260
5 Martin Harris \$190
5 Toby Brown \$190
7 Clint Freeman \$150
7 Keith Diaz \$150
9 Daniel Intong \$100
9 Jason Gladden \$100
9 Max Sun \$100
9 Tommy Lacarbo \$100

Aug 17 - Aug 18

APT Tiger Pool Tour 2024 Stop 6 Womens Division

Q-Master Billiards

Virginia Beach, VA
1 Shannon Conrad \$100
2 Charisse Mullen \$50

Aug 17 - Aug 18

APT Tiger Pool Tour 2024 Stop 6 Division 2

Q-Master Billiards

Virginia Beach, VA
1 Sean Sheehan \$700
2 Eduardo Garcia \$400
3 Lewis Courtney \$250
4 Jeff Nixon \$150
5 Christian Esmilla \$100
5 Shannon Conrad \$100

Aug 17 - Aug 18

APT Tiger Pool Tour 2024 Stop 6 Division 1

Q-Master Billiards

Virginia Beach, VA
1 Jimmy Bird \$460
2 Nigel Francis \$250
3 Bruce Reed \$140
4 Leroy Ives \$70

Aug 17 - Aug 17

Q City 9-Ball Tour Stop

The Clubhouse

Lynchburg, Virginia

- 1 Collin Hall \$580
- 2 Reid Vance \$340
- 3 Chuck Cuneo \$180
- 4 Jordyn Worley \$115

Aug 17 - Aug 17

2024 Maryland State Ladies 9-Ball Championships

Bank Shot Bar & Grill

Laurel, MD

- 1 Briana Miller \$560
- 2 Tina Pawloski Malm \$325
- 3 Skylar Hess \$150
- 4 Kelly Wyatt \$75

Aug 17 - Aug 17

New England 9-Ball Tour 2024 Scotch Doubles

Snookers - Sports Billiards, Bar & Grill

Providence, RI

- 1 Beau Powers \$400
- 1 Billy Kamperides \$400
- 2 Jake Rickell \$225
- 2 Kerry McAuliffe \$225
- 3 Jon Leandro \$175
- 3 Matt Bonarrigo \$175
- 4 Edison Bao \$125
- 4 Evan Moreau \$125

Aug 17 - Aug 17

Predator Tri State Tour 2024 Stop

Diamond Jim's Billiards

Nanuet, NY

- 1 Hunter Sullivan \$850
- 2 Zach Almonte \$550
- 3 Brook Villa \$280
- 3 Eric Lopez \$280
- 5 Aiden Wagner \$100
- 5 Bob Toomey \$100
- 5 Eduardo Agulay \$100
- 5 Marc Lamberti \$100
- 9 Derek Burt \$80
- 9 Nilson Perez \$80
- 9 Pachon Valladares \$80
- 9 Vicki Moore \$80

Aug 19 - Aug 24

2024 U.S. Open 9-Ball Championship

Harrah's Resort Atlantic City

Atlantic City, NJ

- 1 Fedor Gorst \$50,000
- 2 Shane Van Boening \$25,000
- 3 Joshua Filler \$13,000
- 3 Niels Feijen \$13,000
- 5 David Alcaide \$6,750
- 5 Jefrey Consigna Roda \$6,750
- 5 Pin-Yi Ko \$6,750
- 5 Vitaliy Patsura \$6,750
- 9 Albin Ouschan \$4,500
- 9 Jani Uski \$4,500
- 9 Jayson Shaw \$4,500
- 9 Johann Chua \$4,500
- 9 Marc Bijsterbosch \$4,500
- 9 Maximilian Lechner \$4,500
- 9 Michael Baoanan \$4,500
- 9 Skyler Woodward \$4,500
- 17 Aleksa Pecelj \$3,000
- 17 Alex Pagulayan \$3,000
- 17 Bernie Regaliaria \$3,000
- 17 Carlo Biado \$3,000
- 17 Chia-Chen Hsieh \$3,000
- 17 Imran Majid \$3,000
- 17 Jan Van Lierop \$3,000
- 17 Jeffrey Ignacio \$3,000
- 17 Jeremy Jones \$3,000
- 17 Konrad Juszczyszyn \$3,000
- 17 Kun Lin Wu \$3,000
- 17 Lee Vann Corteza \$3,000
- 17 Moritz Neuhausen \$3,000
- 17 Oscar Dominguez \$3,000
- 17 Ping Han Ko \$3,000
- 17 Quoc Hoang Duong \$3,000
- 33 Alexandros Kazakis \$1,750
- 33 Aloysius Yapp \$1,750
- 33 Babken Melkonyan \$1,750
- 33 Bader Al Awadi \$1,750
- 33 BJ Ussey \$1,750
- 33 Chris McDaniel \$1,750
- 33 Chris Melling \$1,750
- 33 Chris Reinhold \$1,750
- 33 Denis Grabe \$1,750
- 33 Elliott Sanderson \$1,750
- 33 Francesco Candela \$1,750
- 33 Francisco Sanchez-Ruiz \$1,750
- 33 Joao Grilo \$1,750
- 33 John Morra \$1,750
- 33 Jonas Souto Comino \$1,750
- 33 Jonathan Pinegar \$1,750
- 33 Karl Gnadeberg \$1,750
- 33 Mario He \$1,750
- 33 Marvin Asis \$1,750
- 33 Michael Feliciano \$1,750
- 33 Mickey Krause \$1,750

- 33 Naoyuki Oi \$1,750
- 33 Nick Malai \$1,750
- 33 Pijus Labutis \$1,750
- 33 Ping Han Ko \$1,750
- 33 Ralf Souquet \$1,750
- 33 Ri Teng Liu \$1,750
- 33 Robbie Capito \$1,750
- 33 Sullivan Clark \$1,750
- 33 The Kien Do \$1,750
- 33 Wiktor Zielinski \$1,750
- 33 Yannick Pongers \$1,750

Aug 22 - Aug 25

WPBA Palmetto Billiards Invitational

Palmetto Billiards Academy

Charleston, SC

- 1 Allison Fisher \$10,000
- 2 Kristina Zlateva \$6,500
- 3 Kristina Tkach \$4,500
- 4 Kelly Fisher \$3,000
- 5 Marharyta Fefilava \$2,400
- 5 Melissa Herndon \$2,400
- 7 April Larson \$1,800
- 7 Kaylee McIntosh \$1,800
- 9 Ashley Rice \$1,400
- 9 Brittany Bryant \$1,400
- 9 Savannah Easton \$1,400
- 9 Sofia Mast \$1,400
- 13 Caroline Pao \$900
- 13 Kennedy Meyman \$900
- 13 Loree Jon Hasson \$900
- 13 Susan Williams \$900
- 17 Ashley Benoit \$500
- 17 Janet Atwell \$500
- 17 Kim Housman \$500
- 17 Monica Webb \$500
- 17 Rachel Lang \$500
- 17 Teruko Cucculelli \$500
- 17 Tina Larsen \$500
- 17 Veronique Menard \$500

Aug 24 - Aug 24

TOP Tour Stop

Borderline Billiards

Bristol, TN

- 1 Gage Smith \$650
- 2 Jayce Little \$360
- 3 Brett Underwood \$250
- 4 Robert Wilkerson \$120
- 5 Bryan Toman \$110
- 5 Mike Skeens \$110

Aug 24 - Aug 25

2024 Empire State Raxx Classic

Raxx Pool Room, Sports Bar & Grill

- West Hempstead, NY
 1 George Gavin \$1,300
 2 John Messina \$900
 3 Ifzaal Mohammad \$600
 3 Rick Miller \$600
 5 Alex Guerrero \$400
 5 Duc Lam \$400
 5 Eduardo Cardova \$400
 5 Kapriel Delimelkonoglu \$400
 9 Chris Lazaravitch \$250
 9 John Francisco \$250
 9 Niko Berdzeni \$250
 9 Pat Byrne \$250
 9 Paul Wrangpetch \$250
 9 PJ Puma \$250
 9 Steve Kalloo \$250
 9 Tony Meo \$250

Aug 24 - Aug 24

The Pool Series One Pocket Event

Cornelius, NC

- 1 Mike Davis \$650
 2 Hunter White \$450
 3 Javier Oliu \$280
 4 Jeff Abernathy \$160
 5 Eddie Little \$80
 5 Jason Blackwell \$80
 7 Clay Davis \$40
 7 Runal Bhatt \$40

Aug 29 - Sep 01

Turning Stone Classic XXXIX

Turning Stone Casino

- Verona, NY
 1 Moritz Neuhausen \$10,000
 2 Mika Immonen \$6,500
 3 Michael Baoanan \$4,000
 4 Christoph Neumayer \$2,700
 5 Jeremy Sossei \$2,000
 5 Mustafa Alnar \$2,000
 7 Bucky Souvanthong \$1,600

- 7 Jayson Shaw \$1,600
 9 Aaron Greenwood \$1,200
 9 Bryzen Manipula \$1,200
 9 Lukas Fracasso-Verner \$1,200
 9 Mhet Vergara \$1,200
 13 Alex Bausch \$950
 13 Erik Hjorleifson \$950
 13 Jonas Souto Comino \$950
 13 Rob Hart \$950
 17 Chris Szuter \$599
 17 Danny Hewitt \$599
 17 Georgi Georgiev \$599
 17 Jeff Kennedy \$599
 17 Jonathan Smith \$599
 17 Rick Miller \$599
 17 Ron Casanzio \$599
 17 Tommy Cayer \$599
 25 Caroline Pao \$400
 25 Grayson Vaughan \$400
 25 Jimmy Rivera \$400
 25 Kevin Clark \$400
 25 Marco Kam \$400
 25 Rodney Morris \$400
 25 Steve Mack \$400
 25 Yesid Garibello \$400

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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.

SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER

WPA Predator World 8-Ball Championship 2024

Sep 02 - Sep 08
New Zealand

2024 Masse Women's World 9-Ball Championship

Sep 02 - Sep 08
New Zealand

2024 WPA Predator World Junior Championships

Sep 02 - Sep 08
New Zealand

New Zealand Open 2024

Sep 02 - Sep 08
New Zealand

7th Annual Dennis Dieckman Memorial 3 Cushion

Sep 05 - Sep 08
Amazin Billiards
Malden, Ma

West Coast Women's Tour 2024 Stop 5

Sep 14 - Sep 14
The Jointed Cue
Sacramento, CA

Joss Tour 2024-2025 Stop 1

Sep 14 - Sep 15
Winnie Bar and Billiards
Laconia, NH

NWPA Tour 2024 Stop 5

Sep 21 - Sep 22
Legacy Billiards Bar & Grill
Spokane, Washington

Joss Tour 2024-2025 Stop 2

Sep 21 - Sep 22
Yale Billiards
Wallingford, Connecticut

The Maine Event XVI

Sep 28 - Sep 29
TJ's Classic Billiards
Waterville, Maine

Madison 3 Cushion International Open

Oct 09 - Oct 13
Madison, WI

WPBA Railyard Invitational

Oct 10 - Oct 13
Railyard Billiards
Louisville, KY

Women's World 10-Ball Championship 2024

Oct 12 - Oct 20
Puerto Rico,

Joss Tour 2024-2025 Stop 5

Oct 12 - Oct 13
Brickhouse Billiards
N. Syracuse, New York

OTH Tournaments 599 & Under Split Bracket 9-Ball

Oct 12 - Oct 13
Cambridge, Maryland

Reyes Cup

Oct 15 - Oct 18
Manila, Philippines

West Coast Women's Tour 2024 Stop 6

Oct 19 - Oct 19
Family Billiards
San Francisco, CA

Joss Tour 2024-2025 Stop 6

Oct 19 - Oct 20
Forest City Billiards
Portland, ME

2024 Maryland State Bar Table 8-Ball Championships

Oct 19 - Oct 20
Brews & Cues on the Boulevard
Glen Burnie, Maryland

NWPA Tour 2024 Stop 6

Oct 26 - Oct 27
Ox Billiards
Seattle, Washington

Joss Tour 2024-2025 Stop 7

Oct 26 - Oct 27
The Golden Cue Billiard Lounge
Albany, NY

1050 & Under 9-Ball Partners

Oct 26 - Oct 26
Bank Shot Bar & Grill
Laurel, MD

AZBILLIARDS MONEY LIST

	NAME	COUNTRY	\$ AMOUNT	
	Fedor Gorst	 USA	453.013,00 US\$	
	Shane Van Boening	 USA	171.938,00 US\$	↑
	Joshua Filler	 GER	170.413,00 US\$	↓
	Carlo Biado	 PHI	128.550,00 US\$	↑
	Eklent Kaci	 ALB	128.007,00 US\$	↓
	Mickey Krause	 DEN	81.468,00 US\$	↑
	Johann Chua	 PHI	76.250,00 US\$	↑
	Francisco Sanchez-Ruiz	 ESP	72.513,00 US\$	↑
	Denis Grabe	 EST	71.991,00 US\$	↓
	Naoyuki Oi	 JAP	70.632,00 US\$	

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Authorized Dealer of: Shelby Williams, Larry Vigus, Mike Bender, Josh Treadway, Pete Tonkin, Jim Pierce, Ariel Carmelli in addition to Predator, Pechauer, Viking, Meucci, and Jacoby.

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Dealer

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Nov. 18th - 26th 2024

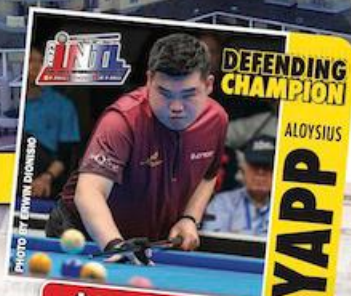
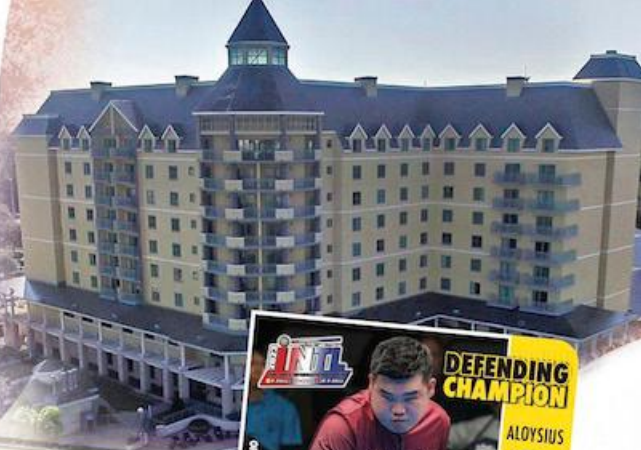
2024



INTL

THE 2024 INTERNATIONAL OPEN

9 9-BALL 10 10-BALL 14.1



AT THE RENAISSANCE RESORT IN ST. AUGUSTINE, FLORIDA

Mon. Nov. 18 - Fri., Nov. 22

9 2024 INTERNATIONAL 9-BALL OPEN

128 Player Field — \$750 Entry — \$40,000 First Prize

TOTAL PRIZE FUND \$171,000, PAID TO THE TOP 32 PLAYERS — DOUBLE ELIMINATION (SINGLE ELIMINATION FINAL 16)

\$75,000 added

9 INTERNATIONAL 9-BALL SEMI-PRO OPEN

200 Player Field — \$125 Entry — \$6,000 First Prize

SINGLE ELIMINATION WITH A \$50 BUY-BACK

\$10,000 added

Sat. Nov. 23 - Sun. Nov. 24



BIG FOOT INVITATIONAL 10-BALL

8 Professional Players — \$500 Entry — \$4,000 First Prize

SINGLE ELIMINATION — 10-FOOT DIAMOND TABLE — TOP FOUR FINISHERS SHARE IN THE \$8,000 PURSE

\$4,000 added

Sat. Nov. 23 - Tues., Nov. 26

14 INTERNATIONAL STRAIGHT POOL OPEN

Formerly Peter Burrows' American 14.1 Straight Pool Championship

48 - 64 Players — \$400 Entry

ROUND ROBIN FORMAT — FINAL 16 WILL ADVANCE TO SINGLE ELIMINATION — FIRST PRIZE \$10,000

\$30,000 added

Wed. Nov. 20 - Fri., Nov. 22

JR 2024 JUNIOR 9-BALL INTERNATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP JR

16-PLAYER JUNIOR MEN'S and 8-PLAYER JUNIOR WOMEN'S DIVISIONS

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