

Billiard Buzz

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FROM THE Head Rail

MIKE HOWERTON

As I am typing this, I have been back from the Turning Stone Classic for almost a week now. While I love attending this particular event, the field was missing some of the top talent this time. While the weather was certainly one reason for that, there were more reasons than just the weather.

The same weekend as the Turning Stone Classic, the World Chinese 8-Ball Masters was going on in China as well as a five day \$5,000 added 9-ball and one pocket tournament in the states. This is not a rare situation either. It happens all of the time. While I understand that the kind of money that is being added in China certainly gives them the right to hold their event whenever they want, I will never understand why another room in the US would hold an event at the same time as another major event in the states. I get that there are going to be smaller, \$1000 - \$2000 added, events all over the US. That is normal. But why throw that kind of money at a tourney if you are splitting players between different events.

The kind of players you are looking for with that kind of added money need every opportunity they can get to help make their living at this game. When they have to choose which tourney to play in, both the room and the players lose out. It's not like the Turning Stone event was announced a week or so ahead of time. The dates have been out there for the better part of a year. We have a calendar on AzBilliards that lists every tourney we have info on. How much time does it take to look at that calendar?

I implore room owners who are scheduling a semi major event to look at the calendar and try to find a weekend without another big tourney that the top players might be attending. You will get a better turnout and the players will have more opportunity to make some money. That is a win/win for the pool industry. Isn't that what it is all about?



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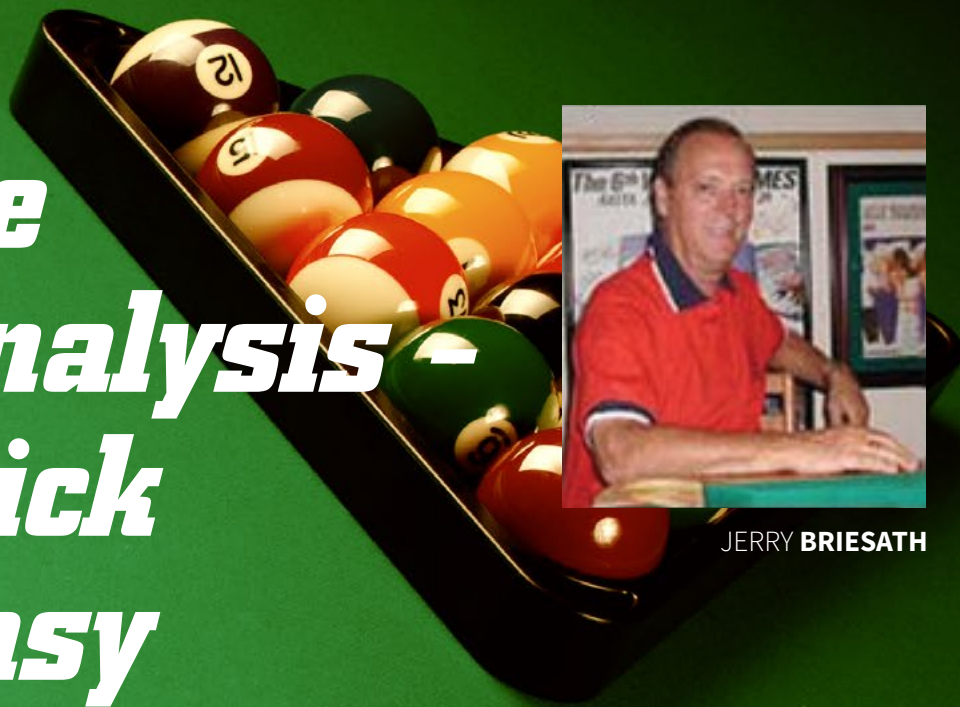
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A Little Self Analysis - It's Quick and Easy



JERRY BRIESATH

Let's start off by understanding what should happen with a proper stroke on almost any shot. We'll assume the player is right handed, has a bridge length of 8 to 10 inches and the cue is as level as possible.

After a slow backswing, the right hand accelerates the cue through the cue ball 4 to 6 inches, depending on the power. When following through, it is important that the right elbow moves up or down as little as possible. Any up-and-down movement of the right elbow during the stroke can drastically change the intended contact point between the cue tip and the cue ball.

Now, if the player is executing a follow shot, the cue tip should end up 4 to 6 inches through the cue ball and the cue tip must not go upward after striking the cue ball, which means the elbow dropped during the swing. Another sign that the elbow is dropping too much is if the right hand or the butt of the cue touches the rail or cloth during the follow through.

When shooting a draw shot, if the elbow doesn't move very much, the cue tip will travel through the bottom portion of the cue ball into the cloth

and scrape on the cloth to finish the follow through. If, when shooting a draw shot, the cue tip does not end up touching the cloth, the player has dropped his or her elbow and inconsistency will result. Remember, the stroke for follow is exactly the same as a draw stroke, except you are striking the cue ball in different places. Now test yourself.

Set up a shot by placing the cue ball on the head spot and an object ball down the table. Shoot the shot and freeze in your finished position. Now, before getting up, check to see where the cue tip is. It should be 4 to 6 inches past and directly over the head spot. Put the cue ball back on the head spot and shoot more shots, some above center and some below center, and check your performance each time. The head spot now becomes a great self-help tool.

Good luck with your game — Jerry



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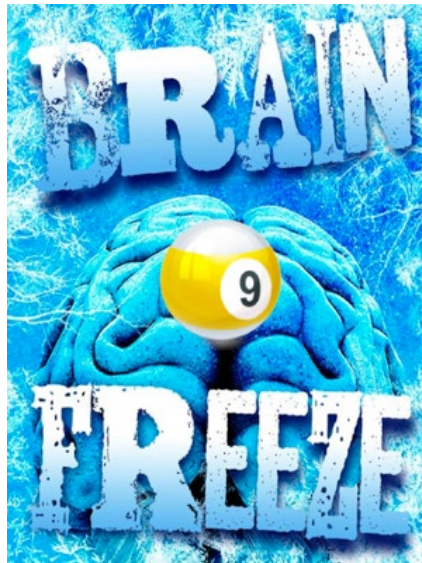
BRAIN FREEZE!

ANTHONY **BEELER**

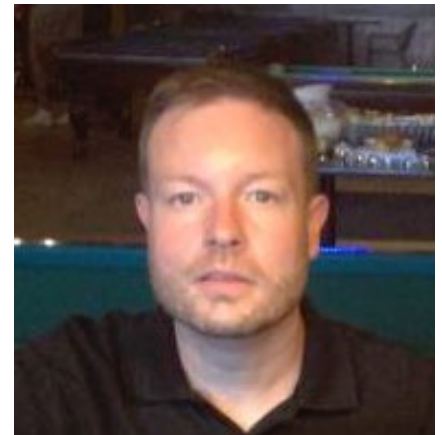
The old adage that “over-analysis leads to paralysis” is often true in the game of pool. One of the primary difficulties pool players face is the amount of time they have as they transition from one shot to the next. In reality, this is both an advantage and a problem.

The advantage is you don't have to shoot the cue ball until you are completely ready. The problem is this extra time available can be completely misused. When you use that extra time to over-analyze a shot then your brain can become frozen and send the wrong signals to your body. The mind can only process a limited amount of information at one time.

A good example of this is over-analyzing a simple layout of balls. For example, you might look at your shot and see it as a difficult cut. Then you go to the other side of table and see it as a bank shot. After an internal debate with yourself, you circle around the table another time to decide how much the slow cloth will affect the bank shot if you do in fact decide to shoot it. So far, you are doing what any pool play-



er would do, but when you start to introduce numerous factors that may effect your decision such as the cleanliness of the balls, the fact that the ta-



ble rolls off slightly, and the outcome of your last bank shot, etc. - your mind becomes overwhelmed with details.

Great players relax and let their imagination account for all the variables. Whatever a pro player initially selects, for the most part he shoots. A pro doesn't second-guess himself and certainly doesn't look for reasons to change his mind once he is down into his stance.

Another good example of this occurs when I see players get into their stance and look at a shot for a long period of time. Often they are thinking about a checklist of 5 things they want to accomplish with one stroke. This is too much information for the mind to handle at one time and this can also lead to a “brain freeze.” Try not to think about everything your pool instructor told you to do on every single shot. Simplify your approach and focus on one part of the process at a time especially when you are set up and ready pull the trigger.

A quiet mind is necessary to get into the correct flow and become immersed in the proper execution of the shot. How do you quiet your mind? First of all, stay in the present moment, don't think about past shots or matches or let them obstruct your current thinking. Be totally focused on the shot at hand, not the one you had five minutes ago. And don't become frozen trying to analyze the details

“ **A QUIET MIND IS NECESSARY TO GET INTO THE CORRECT FLOW AND BECOME IMMERSSED IN THE PROPER EXECUTION OF THE SHOT.** ”

of every missed shot or try to fix your stroke in the middle of a match.

Leading coaches often teach their students to silently repeat a mantra to quiet their mind. If negative thoughts come to mind, you're instructed to let them pass and focus back on the mantra. It isn't reasonable to believe that you will keep your mind 100% quiet, but you can focus your attention on your breathing just before each shot. If other negative thoughts come to mind let them pass and refocus on the rhythm of your breathing. You can use a simple pool-specific "mantra" to

quiet the mind or focus on the basics of your pre-shot routine such as set, pause, finish, freeze.

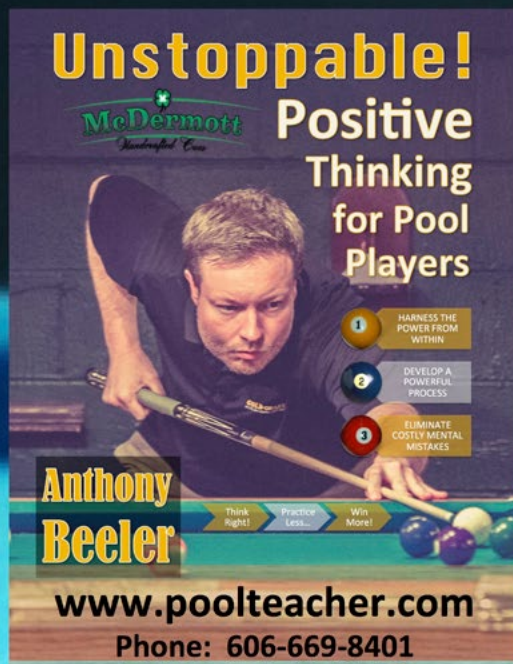
Try also to stay focused on your tempo. Visual players might want to see the shot then visualize what is going to happen next and finally let their subconscious take over. Save your concerns about your stroke mechanics for your practice sessions in between matches.

Always remember that pool is a game best played with a quiet mind. So the next time you become overwhelmed

with too many details take the time needed to thaw out your brain and you won't become frostbitten by a cluttered thought process.

ANTHONY BEELER is the 2017 Pool Instructor of the Year and is a former BCAPL National 9-Ball Champion. He has numerous top 25 national finishes and is one of only 8 ACS Master Instructors in the world. He is the primary author of the National Billiards Instructors Manual and 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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In sports we often tell ourselves to “stay focused,” but sometimes we don’t always know exactly what we should be focusing on in order to be successful.

Pool players face plenty of distractions, from missing the last shot to worrying about the next, not to mention all the time between shots when it’s easy to have your mind wander. Focus is critical to sport success, so this week I am going to break down two critical pieces to successful focus.

Attentional focus

Where you direct your attention at any given moment is what I call attentional focus – and this is a huge part of sport success. Part of attentional focus is learning the game of pool so that you know where your focus should be, and this can be rapidly improved upon by simply playing pool and leaning on mentors for important advice. For example, if your opponent only has a ball left on the table and you have many, you might not want to try a low percentage shot when a more strategic safety could extend the game and give you a better chance for a comeback. Oftentimes games are won and lost simply because focus shifts and the wrong choice is made at

the table, leaving you vulnerable to a quick defeat.

Execution focus

A second important focus after attentional focus is knowing what to do before each shot (or, how to execute the shot). Sometimes our attention is where it needs to be, but when it comes time to make the shot we momentarily lose our focus and end up shooting too soft, too hard, too much english, or not enough. These unforced errors lead to lost games, but when you dig deeper these losses are not because the opponent was better than you, but instead because you beat yourself.

One way to improve execution focus is to simply take your time, meaning

that if you are not completely locked in to step back, re-think, and then re-address the ball. Unfortunately, too many players do the exact opposite when they feel pressure – they actually speed up and miss a shot they ordinarily would drain.

Empower yourself

Remember, pool is unique in that you control the table and the game. Unlike other sports where the competition blocks, hits, and steals the ball, when you are at the table it is up to you to think about where your attention is directed, and how you can keep the table by thinking through the details of each shot. When you begin playing like this, your confidence will grow, and so will the success you experience in pool.

Dr. Chris Stankovich, known as “The Sports Doc,” is a national expert in the field of sport & performance psychology and has been featured on ESPN for his work with elite athletes. His #1 best selling pool video “Mind of Steel: Mental Toughness for Pool Success” has been used by thousands of players to improve focus, increase confidence, and eliminate anxiety. You can learn more about Dr. Stankovich and Mind of Steel by visiting drstankovich.com



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Janet Ybarra

INTERVIEW

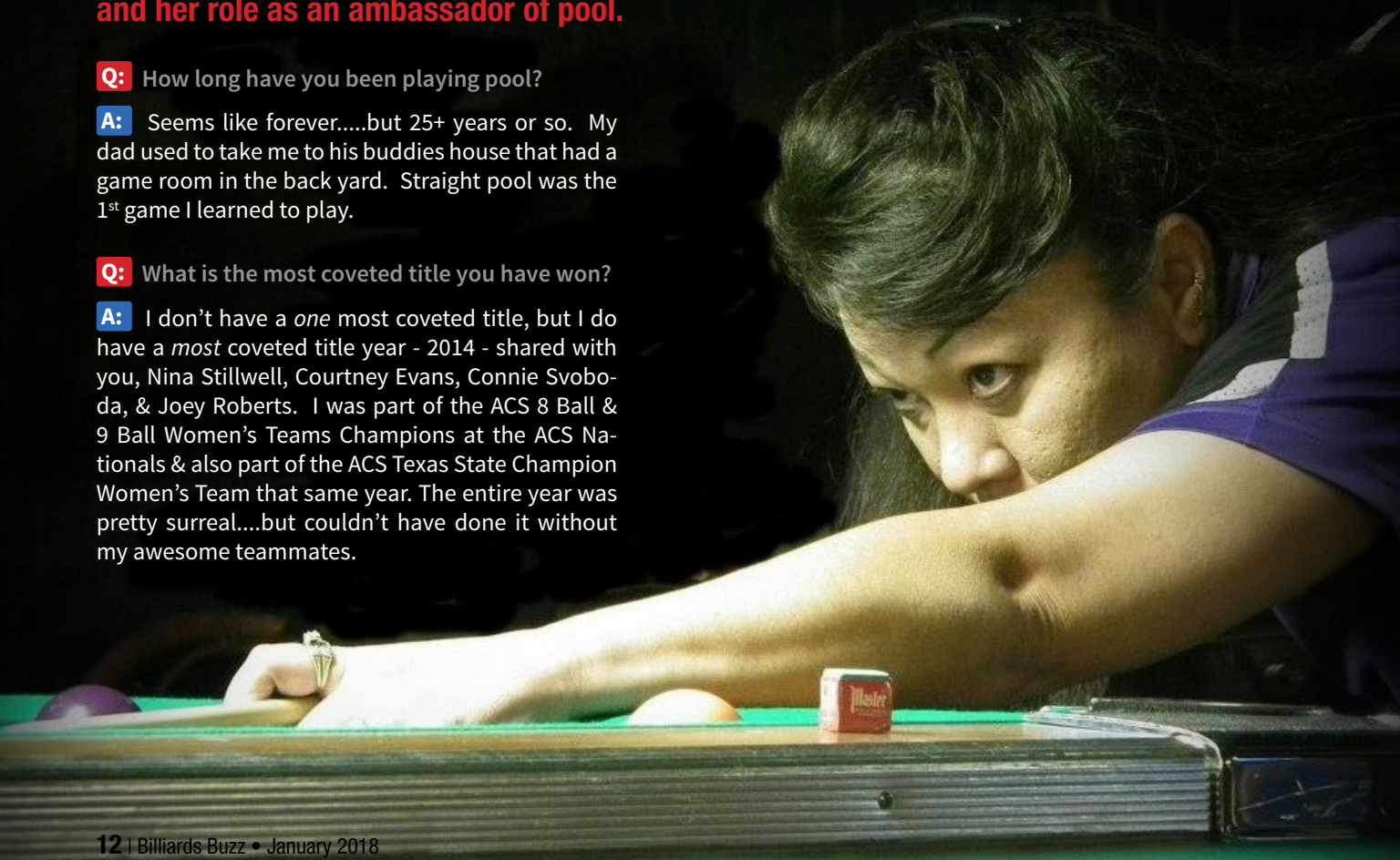
Janet Ybarra is knee-deep helping the billiard community. Not just in Texas, but nationally as well. We'll find out more details about all her organizations and roles in this interview. She also plays pool – you'll be surprised she has the time! Let's find out more about Janet and her role as an ambassador of pool.

Q: How long have you been playing pool?

A: Seems like forever....but 25+ years or so. My dad used to take me to his buddies house that had a game room in the back yard. Straight pool was the 1st game I learned to play.

Q: What is the most coveted title you have won?

A: I don't have a *one* most coveted title, but I do have a *most* coveted title year - 2014 - shared with you, Nina Stillwell, Courtney Evans, Connie Svoboda, & Joey Roberts. I was part of the ACS 8 Ball & 9 Ball Women's Teams Champions at the ACS Nationals & also part of the ACS Texas State Champion Women's Team that same year. The entire year was pretty surreal....but couldn't have done it without my awesome teammates.



Q: How many leagues do you play in?

A: I currently play in 2 leagues. Lone Star Billiard Association on Sundays and in the Women of Grand Prairie League on Thursdays.

Q: What is your day job?

A: I work for a tool company in Dallas as the Corporate Administrator... which is just a condensed term for AR/AP/HR/Payroll/Office Manager. I have been there for 22 years.

Q: And you have worked in pool rooms before, right?

A: Yes—Speed’s Billiards in Dallas (location no longer there). Started working there fresh out of high school in 1990. Became manager in 1991 and worked there through 1995. This is the period where I really got involved with the game of pool. Joined the house league and eventually became the league operator from 1997-2007.

Q: 1997? Wow, you have been helping out the pool community for years! How did you get involved in helping ACS Texas? What is your position?

A: In 2009 while attending the ACS Texas State Event, I was nominated and elected Treasurer of ACS Texas. Really wasn’t sure what my role would be, but I accepted hoping to help the association (ACS Texas) grow in any way I could. Today I still hold that position alongside Ren Roberts, President; Angelina Dean, VP; Connie Svoboda, Sec; & Shannon Benson, Tournament Director. The past 8 years have been very rewarding to the ACS Texas. With our officers and ACS Texas members support, the event steadily grows and grows each year!!

Q: How did you get involved with helping ACS nationals? What is your position?

A: In 2005 at the 1st ACS National event held in Reno, NV I was awarded with a League Operator of the Year award. As I shook John Lewis’ (Executive Director) hand accepting the award, I said “If the ACS ever needs any help with anything, give me a call.” In August 2007, I received that call.... ;) I accepted the offer of stepping into the ACS Referee Administrator position. I help interested applicants become ACS certified referees throughout the US & Canada. Included in the package is working the ACS National Event in Las Vegas each year. Pretty cool offer I thought.... working a national billiard event in one of my favorite cities. AND THEY ARE GOING TO LET ME PLAY TOO!!! I didn’t hesitate :) Just hit my 10 year mark working for the ACS Nationals!!!

Q: Sounds like you should stop offering to help ;) And how did you get involved with helping out the Lone Star Billiards Association (LSBA) in Dallas-Fort Worth? What is your position?

A: In 2007 the team I played on at the time came to a group decision to play in LSBA. Met up with friends old and

new throughout the years. In 2011, Donna Sparks, LSBA league operator passed away suddenly and unexpectedly. It was a great loss to the community. At that time I was nominated & elected the Vice President of the LSBA alongside Ren Roberts, Pres; Dell Harbuck, Sec; & DeAnn Rolens, Tres. and I still hold that position today.

Q: Both ACS State and ACS Nationals tournaments are a lot of work before, during and after the events. How do these two tournaments differ most?

A: There’s not much difference in the events themselves. Different locations of course, and ACS Nationals is comprised of players from all over the US & Canada, not just Texas. My part in the two events differs a bit. For ACS Texas, I handle more duties when it comes to the organizing the event. I handle all of the entries, payments, marketing, etc. For the ACS National event, I mainly get the referee staff organized and planned and also work each day at the main desk in Vegas. For both events, I handle Q & A or make any changes necessary. The ACS National event is choreographed





by a team lead by John Lewis, Executive Director of the ACS while the ACS Texas State Championships is a team effort of officers.....they say I do it all....but really can't do it without them. Maybe I pull on the reigns a little more....but I don't have a problem handing them over to them when needed.

Q: It's very obvious you don't want to take sole credit for a lot of what you do. I think it's very cool you mention all the teams you work with, and that they are comprised of great individuals. What, in your mind, makes a team work well together?

A: I believe "the drive" has to be there. It takes heart to do what we do. A must have is patience and making unbiased decisions. But I will say..... it's hard to come together as a team where ALL the members have these aspects. In ANY team....business or pleasure. Not everyone thinks like

the other, however the compilation of great minds big or small has always worked in the teams I work with.

Q: As a fellow Tournament Director, I understand how a lot of players can complain about all sorts of things. You always seem to remain so calm. How do you handle the complaints?

A: My first response to complaints is "what do you suggest to be done about it that will be fair to not only you, but all other players of every level out there?" :) The events I am involved with are structured by a team of people, referees, etc. Leagues are comprised of voting members. A lot of complaints can be resolved in meetings. Some are...some aren't. You know how it goes.....Can't please everyone.

Q: Besides all of these organizations you help run, you somehow also find time to play pool and trav-

el to other events. What do you love best about playing in tournaments?

A: It helps me remember that "I" still love the sport and it helps me to know that I, too, can help support these events even though I'm not running it. My motto has always been "these events can't happen without the players". I would like to be on both sides of the events for as long as I can (mentally) handle it. But I do have to have some "Me" time....it keeps me sane.

Q: I know you go to these other tournaments to compete, but it's natural to keep an eye open for opportunities of improvement, learning from other events (or things not to do). What has been a recent learning experience from another tournament?

A: I learn something new every event I go to. But the biggest aspects I have learned is that it takes a team to pull events off. And it's all about getting the work out and most of all, Player Incentive. No matter if it's for money, trophies, or to fundraise.... It's how you present it that counts. You are not always going to have the same crowd, but presentation and marketing in a timely manner will bring crowds same/different together shooting for the same goal. But most of all....HAVE A GOOD TIME!

Q: I also understand it's tough sometimes not to jump in and help an event that may need some assistance or is struggling. Do you sit back, or do you offer help?

A: I've done both. I try to always offer, but I will sit back and watch if need be. I rely on judgement of myself and the TD on when help is appropriate, needed, or wanted. Some TD's will accept the help offer, some will not. As a TD, I am still trying to learn how to accept help offers myself. Sometimes it's just not that easy to ask or accept offers of help.


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Q: What is your favorite tournament to compete in?

A: One I don't have to run. LOL ;) My favorite ones are the ones where I meet new people. But if I have to choose only one event, it would be ACS Nationals.

Q: Tell us about your famous Dad.

A: AKA-Mr. Rock & Roll. My dad has played a HUGE part in my involvement with billiards. Here's a list:

- Taught me how to play
- Played in leagues together
- Supported my competitions
- While fighting throat cancer, performed as ELVIS at my local and state events
- Now in remission and retired (from ELVIS shows), he remains one of my #1 fans when it comes to the sport. LOVE HIM!

Q: You are also a part-time caretaker of your Mom. How do you juggle so many responsibilities?

A: My parents have supported me all through my life....through my school years, the birth of my child, my beautiful marriage, and my accomplishments in the billiard world and in life in general. I feel it's only right that it's my turn to take care of them. My dad fought through throat cancer and won the battle so far and my mom is fighting through her PTSD with improvements as the days go by. I never lose hope that they will always be by my side...but I never lose sight of where my priorities lay. Family is first, and I must take care of them to help in my goal to keep them here as long as possible.

Q: Speaking of family, your husband is a huge supporter as well. How did you two meet and what do you think is the success to a long, happy marriage?

A: Joseph and I met at my day job about 18 years ago. He is a delivery driver for UPS (had an affair with the UPS guy...LOL). We have been married for 15 years. I can ALWAYS count

on his support for my love and involvement of the sport. He has been to numerous of my events throughout our marriage. I love that he lets me LOVE what I do. Every marriage has its reasons for lasting or not. Ours has lasted due to remembering that we still learn something new about each other every day. And despite our ups and downs, we always try to go to sleep not mad at each other. That sure does help make the next day easier to get up.

Q: You are very even-keeled woman and I've never seen you upset. How do you handle being so calm and why do you think you are that way?

A: Took me a while to figure out that no matter what you do, be happy doing it. Your choices may not always be right, but they are "your" choices and you either go through a rough or smooth road to happiness because of them. Life's too short to let people get to you and my life is filled with only as many worries as I let in.





Q: What are your frustrations with our sport? (if you have any)

A: I think there are too many different rules, formats, rankings, etc. The way the world is now, not sure that we will ever come together on these issues. But we could debate any issue nowadays also.

Q: What do you wish for our sport?

A: I wish that even with all the differences in the sport, we could just find some common ground to enjoy playing and watching the sport grow. Again, not sure that would ever happen, but I'm not gonna stop hoping. :|

Q: What do you love BEST about playing pool and the pool community?

A: I love the sport....probably because I can & know how to play, but you have to be okay with the game WIN or LOSE. Just like life's choices or

any other sport for that matter. I will say that I love to see how strong the pool community is and how it really comes together in times of need, happiness, sorrow, or celebration. Just like "family". Not to say it's not like that in other communities/sports, but I am a little biased in the pool community :)

Q: You may not even realize this, but you are an ambassador of pool. We appreciate so much all you do for the players and the sport! What keeps you passionate about helping?

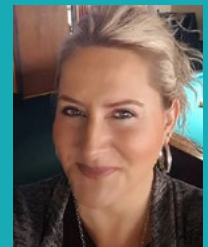
A: I don't see myself as an "ambassador" of pool, but if I can do something for my fellow players to enjoy it more and help it grow, I will. I am no expert in the sport, but all of the events and organizations that I have been a part of makes more people love the sport than hate it. So, maybe I am doing something right. But as you and I know, we can't please ev-

everyone. A fellow TD (you) said to me once....It's all about making dreams come true. Maybe those aren't the exact words, but it fits anyone who is a part of organizations that hold these events for players to play in. Without the players, you don't have events..... but without the TD's, the players would be lost. But the one thing that keeps me here is the game... I love it and I love to be around other people that love it.

Q: That was my exact quote, and that's cool you remembered it! Some great characteristics you have more than most are a sense of empathy, strong care of others, and developing deep friendships. I recognize so strongly that those attributes help you run events well and treat the players with respect. Where do you think these positive attributes come from?

A: I am a big believer in "treat others the way you would like to be treated". It's just a great feeling to do for others. With all of the selfishness in the world today, I try to remind myself and show others that giving back is rewarding not only to yourself, but to others. It's just how I have developed myself throughout the years of being around the good and bad.

Melinda "ak-trigger" Bailey has been in the pool scene as a player and ambassador for pool for over 25 years.



She is a loyal blogger (<http://pool-journey.blogspot.com/>), a top player in Texas, and holds numerous BCA/ACS Texas State and National titles (singles, doubles, and teams). She currently runs the successful Omega Billiards Tour across north Texas.

Biado Wins World 9-Ball Championship

Reyes, Pagulayan, Alcano, Bustamante. As a triumphant and overjoyed Carlo Biado stepped off the awards podium and posed for photos with his winner's trophy at the 2017 World 9-ball Championship this past December, somebody mentioned to the 34 year old that he had just joined that illustrious list of Filipino greats to have won pool's most prestigious title.

He paused for a moment, and suddenly it seemed the gravity of what he had just accomplished hit him like a large, powerful wave.

"I'm so proud to be one of them," Biado said shaking his head in disbelief. "This is the best thing that could ever happen to me. I have worked very hard for many years and now my dream has come true."

One has to know Filipino culture and pool's place in it to get an idea of just what Biado's win surely meant to him. The professional game in the Philippines is dead, with infighting and sporting politics having shoved it from its lofty perch ten years ago when huge events, massive purses and star struck fans truly made the country the epicenter of the sport.



Carlo Biado

While tournaments in the Philippines are basically non-existent these days, thousands of top quality players can still be found in every nook and cranny throughout the archipelago, playing money games over long hours in sweaty and dusty, open air pool rooms crammed with onlookers. But these world class, often A-level pros and up and comers mostly have no money, no means to get out of the country, and live a day to day, hand to mouth existence.

This is the depressing context in which one must view Biado's incredible rise to the top of the sport. With few opportunities at home, the mild mannered Filipino spent the last 12 years, and especially the last 6, doing everything he needed to do to put himself on the road to being a world champion. He dedicated countless hours in practice, money games, tournaments, and worldwide travel all in the hopes of one day reaching the top of the sport. And he also suffered plenty of heart breaking disappointments and near misses in big time events, includ-

ing in more than a few world championships.

Those hard knocks and grueling days and nights finally paid off in mid-December in Doha, Qatar, and in the biggest way possible, as Biado entered the pantheon of Filipino pool greats and captured his very first WPA World 9-ball title, after a relatively easy 13-5 victory over fellow Filipino Roland Garcia in the final.

While nothing is certain in sports, keen observers of professional pool could see this coming. Only two years ago, Biado came within a hair of winning the World 10-ball crown in the last big event to take place in the Philippines, only to lose right at the wire 11-9 to Taiwan's Ko Pin Yi. The low key Filipino kept at it, however, and doubled down on his efforts. He finally got his US travel papers and traveled the States honing his considerable skill. Earlier this year, he captured gold for his country when he won the South East Asian Games title. Then this past summer he achieved his biggest triumph to date when he won a gold medal at the World Games in Poland. It was clear all week in Doha that that his win in Poland had infused the Fili-

pino with the type of confidence that would soon take him all the way to the pool mountaintop.

That Biado met fellow Filipino Garcia in the final is another testament to just how vibrant the game remains amongst Filipinos, despite the sheer lack of any support back home. Garcia himself was a revelation to pool fans who may never have heard of the sharp shooting 36 year old. He grew up in the same Philippine town as the legend Reyes, and learned much of the game at the feet of the Hall of Famer. Those who knew Garcia knew he possessed amazing skills, and he's been a mainstay on the Philippine money game scene for years.

With lack of opportunities at home, Garcia, like millions of fellow Filipinos, has had to head overseas for work. He has spent the last two years working as a house pro in Thailand. Ironically, it was this time abroad that brought Garcia a maturity both professionally and personally. This was Garcia's first ever trip to the World 9-ball since the event came to Doha in 2010 and what a week it was for the Filipino. Up until the final Garcia produced one master class after the next, including beat downs of Niels Feijen, Ko and young gun Klenti Kaci. There's no doubt the pool world will be hearing more from this exceptionally talented Filipino.



Klenti Kaci settled for a third place finish to his amazing year of success



looked nothing short of world class. Among them were 10 Taiwanese, including WPA World number 1 Chang Jung Lin and 2015 champ Ko Pin Yi, eight Filipinos, six Poles, five Chinese and a host of Europeans. For the first time in history, the single elimination knockout rounds did not contain one single American player.

Two young players on everyone's 'must see' list were 20 year old German Joshua Filler and 18 year old Albanian Klenti Kaci. The pair were lined up for a possible quarterfinals showdown until another young up-and-comer decided there was a different story line to be told.

That two Filipinos ended up in the final of the World 9-ball Championship may have been a reason to rejoice for Pinoy fans around the world. There were, however, grumblings from fans elsewhere that the overall field at this year's Championship wasn't quite up to the standard of previous years. Indeed as play began for the eighth installment of the World 9-ball Championship hosted by the Qatar Billiards and Snooker Federation, the field definitely lacked some big names.

American Shane Van Boening, a runner up in Doha in 2015 and 2016, did not show up, citing scheduling issues too close to the recently concluded Mosconi Cup, and not enough prize money. But Van Boening's absence only served to highlight the sorry state of American pool on the international scene. Only two Americans, Hunter Lombardo and Robert Hart, joined this year's tournament;

Incredibly, not a single British player entered the 2017 World 9-ball championship. The Brits have been a mainstay in the World 9-ball Championship going back nearly 20 years, but for various reasons, none showed up in Doha. The most noticeable absences were Scotland's Jayson Shaw and 2012 World 9-ball Champion, Darren

Appleton, who had to attend to his ailing mother back in England.

There was also a glaring lack of players from rising pool playing countries such as Saudi Arabia, the UAE, Bahrain and Egypt. These countries had been making great strides in their pool development in recent years. But due to ongoing political issues between their governments and Qatar, players from those countries were not allowed to travel to Doha. Many talented overseas Filipino players, who, like Garcia in Thailand, work as house pros in pool halls in these countries, were also prevented from entering the event.

But while the lack of Americans, Brits, Middle Easterners and others, may have drained some good talent from the field, this only helped to offer opportunities to others, and highlight the fact that plenty of world class players, both veterans and newcomers, were on hand ready and willing to do battle. Former champions Mika Immonen and Pagulayan discovered this to their dismay as they got dumped out in the always treacherous group stages.

Indeed the 64 players that emerged from the 128 that started in group play

Myanmar's Maung Maung came into his round of 16 match against Filler a virtual unknown. But the 23 year old, who has lived and played snooker and pool in China for the last three years, left the race-to-eleven, alternate break match having made fans around the world.

Filler had won his round of 64 and 32 matches in dominating style, playing fast and seemingly effortless pool. Maung, it turns out, brandished his own carefree style as well, and, unlike other players before him, didn't let the German's brashness get into his head. Throughout the match, Maung rebuffed Filler at every turn and even stepped on the gas near the end for an impressive 11-6 win.

Maung would get a chance to take down the other big young gun in Kaci next. The clinical Albanian was already looking very much in stroke, having easily disposed of Czech veteran Roman Hybler, Spain's David Alcaide, and Canada's resurgent John Morra. Against Maung, however, Kaci was an impassable force and his methodical—some say slow—style frustrated Maung and took him out of his game. With an 11-7 win for a spot in the semis, the Albanian carried the air of a champion and was a favorite

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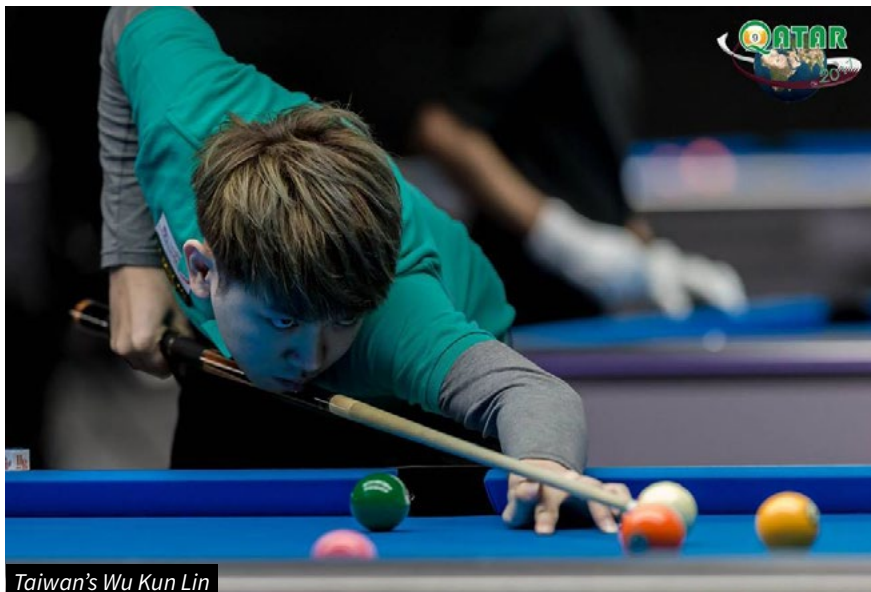
of many to take the crown on the last day.

The Philippines' Garcia, though, was building up an impressive head of steam of his own. The 36 year old Filipino literally plowed through his part of the bracket. After an easy win in the round of 64 over Bangladesh' Md Al Amin, Garcia proceeded to dominate 2014 World 9-ball Champion Niels Feijen, 11-7, and then Taiwan's Ko 11-8. In the quarter final Garcia put in a breathtaking performance against hot shooting Venezuelan-Jordanian veteran Jalal Yousef, gaining a spot in the semis with an 11-4 win to claim a semis showdown with Kaci.

Throughout 2017 Taiwan's Wu Kun Lin has quietly been making a name for himself amongst the loaded talent field that is Taiwanese professional pool. The 22 year old Taipei native notched a semis spot at the China Open in June and then reached the semi-finals at the World Pool Series in New York in October. In Doha Wu proved himself with four solid wins over Japan's Hiroshi Takenaka, the Philippines' Warren Kiamco, and then mowing down defending champion Albin Ouschan, 11-3. In the quarter-finals he poured it on against fellow Taiwanese Hsieh Chia Chen, winning easily, 11-7.

Biado's trip to the semi-finals was unlike anything ever seen in a World 9-ball Championship. After notching two comfortable wins, Biado beat fellow Filipino Jeffrey Ignacio, outlasting his younger compatriot 11-7 to advance to the final 8. After a 90 minute rest, Biado sat in his chair waiting for his opponent, China's veteran Liu Haitao, who had earlier stormed back from a 10-8 deficit to win his final 16 match, 11-10, against Taiwan's Ko Ping Chung. The veteran Liu, however, was nowhere to be found.

As it turned out, Liu had gone back to his nearby hotel between sessions for



Taiwan's Wu Kun Lin

a bit of a rest and had likely forgotten to wake up in time. Tournament officials at the hotel were able to roust Liu and put him in a van to try and beat the clock, where rules stated that players get a 15 minute grace period to show up for a match. But Liu arrived at the Al Arabi Sports Club ten minutes past the grace period and found himself disqualified. A shell shocked Liu couldn't believe what had just happened, and neither could Biado, who was awarded the match by an 11-0 score line without pocketing a single ball.

The incident was long forgotten by the time the semis rolled around at 10am on the final day. Biado versus the steady Wu seemed to promise a tight battle, but several racks into their match was enough to show who was boss. Biado's experience was telling and he grabbed an early lead, and played brilliant 9-ball to win going away, 11-6.

On the TV table at the same time, Garcia came into his match with the Albanian Kaci a slight underdog and justifiably so. But the Filipino didn't let a few early mistakes get him down, and once he found his rhythm, he pro-

duced another breathtaking performance that was as good as one could ever want to see. Garcia blew away Kaci in the blink of an eye, streaking to an 11-6 win and a spot in his very first world championship final.

With two Filipinos going for the title, the intensity and drama that is usually associated with a World 9-ball final seemed to be missing even before the race to 13, alternate break match began. The great Filipino players always travel together, and all of them are

Countrymen Garcia and Biado were both ecstatic.





Myanmar's Maung Maung opened many eyes in Doha

because there were so many people watching. After I won in Poland against Jayson Shaw I just felt so good and so much more confident when I entered other events. That was a really big help to my confidence and afterwards I just knew that my time was coming. I just had to stay focused and not get down on myself because losing is part of pool. I know winning that gold definitely helped me this week and today.”

For Garcia, the loss after being on the cusp of an unlikely world crown didn't seem to sting too much. He was just happy that a Filipino had taken the title. And he was sure to use the experience to achieve success in future events.

“It's still a wonderful feeling to be a part of this prestigious event,” Garcia said. “And the fact that my friend and fellow countryman Carlo wins means I'm also a winner. I'm very proud of Carlo. He deserved it more than I do.

“I had mixed emotion going into the final playing another Filipino. It's not easy. And the pressure didn't seem like it was there like in other matches. Of course I was trying to be the world champion but I started out with a few mistakes and he took advantage and that was it. Anyway, I'm really happy. This is my first time that I joined this event and I made it this far. Hopefully next year I can use this experience to have more success in future tournaments.”

For now it was Biado's time to take a bow and a place among the Filipino greats of the game. It had been a seemingly endless journey with no guarantees. But that, according to Biado, was what made it feel so much more special.

“I'm very very happy right now,” and overjoyed Biado said. “It's been a long time. I worked very hard, had many disappointments. And now finally I won the world title.”

friends. And while each dearly wanted to be crowned world champion, the match seemed to proceed as more of a sparring session.

Biado quickly established his control of the proceedings and never looked back. After taking the first two racks, Biado pounced on three straight glaring mistakes from Garcia to quickly move up 5-0. Slick shooting by Biado and another mistake by Garcia brought the score to 7-0. Garcia notched his first rack to make it 7-1, but a poor safety by Garcia led to another Biado frame and an 8-1 lead.

Garcia tried to mount a comeback and won two straight to make it 8-3. But a break and run by Biado and an inadvertent scratch on the break by Garcia put the score at 10-3. Biado then moved it to 11-3 before Garcia countered with two of his own. At this point, however, the result was just a formality and indeed Biado quickly closed the deal. He wrapped up the proceedings with a fine break and run to claim his very first World 9-ball title.

Afterwards, posing for photos and celebrating with the many overseas Filipinos who live and work in Qatar, the new World Champion couldn't help but reflect on the long, winding road that had brought him to this very moment.

“In the semis I had a bit of pressure against Wu,” Biado said, “but I got lucky in one of the racks when I missed the bank shot on the four ball but it went in the other pocket. So I got lucky.

“There was less pressure in the final because even if I don't win, at least a Filipino will get the title. I was very comfortable that's why I played well. Also the balls were always in an easy position after the break.

“When I won the world games there was a lot of pressure, more than here



MOSCONI CUP

Loss Leaves Team USA Searching For Answers

After months of hype and debate as to which side had the better roster of players and who should be coaching each team, the Mosconi Cup XXIV finally got to the Rasson pool table at the Mandalay Bay Resort in Las Vegas Nevada on December 4th, and the resulting four days of play has left Team USA with even more questions than they went into the event with. The biggest questions being “What went wrong?” and “Can it be fixed?”.



Team Europe Celebrates

Most fans in attendance, and watching on Sky Sports or ESPN3, agreed that Team USA had to get out to a strong start. That didn't happen in the first match or the first day as a whole. Things kicked off with the traditional team event, where Team Europe quickly took a 4-0 lead. Team USA clawed back to within a rack at 4-3, but couldn't get back to even before Team Europe won the match 5-3. The next three matches (Billy Thorpe & Skyler Woodward vs Jayson Shaw & David Alcaide, Dennis Hatch vs Joshua Filler and Shane Van Boening & Oscar Dominguez vs Ralf Souquet & Nick Van den Berg) all saw Team USA with an early lead, but those leads disappeared in a hurry. Match 2 saw Thorpe & Woodward's 1-0 lead turn into a 3-1 deficit on the way to a 5-3 loss. Hatch's 1-0 lead became a 2-1 deficit leading to a 5-4 loss and Van Boening & Dominguez's 2-0 lead turned into a 5-3 loss. Shane Van Boening would return from that loss to score a one sided 5-1 win over Jayson Shaw, but that was way too little, way too late.

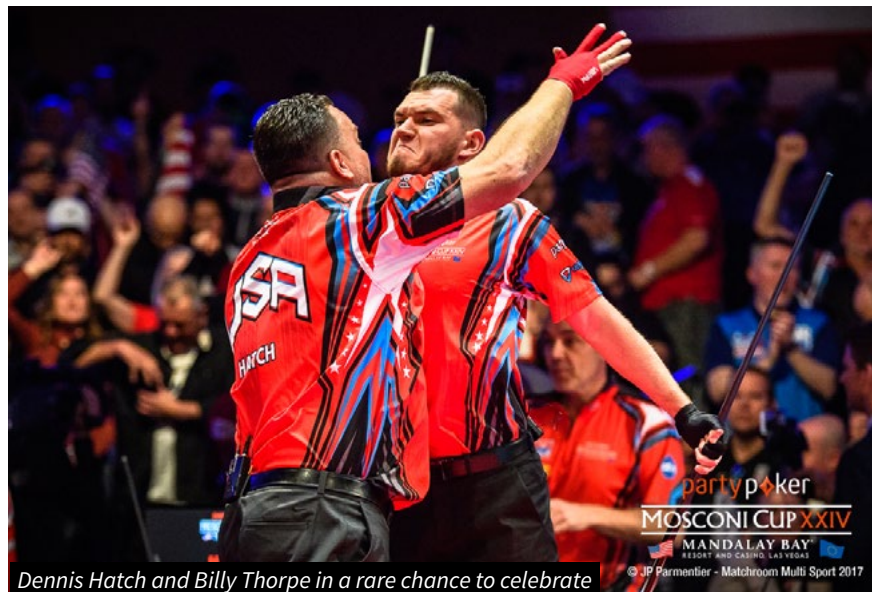
After one day of play, players and coaches were already talking about teamwork and coming together as a team. "... we ran out and didn't make



David Alcaide and Jayson Shaw on day one

mistakes. We stuck together as a team – we were having group meetings in the middle of matches, if that is even possible.” said Euro skipper Marcus Chamat. Meanwhile, Van Boening was commenting about needing a new plan. “We are going to have a different plan tomorrow. We have to work on the break and have to avoid making easy mistakes. We have to re-group tomorrow.” he said.

Although day two started with a hill-hill win by Hatch and Thorpe over Alcaide & Van den Berg, things then



Dennis Hatch and Billy Thorpe in a rare chance to celebrate



Jayson Shaw celebrates

Mosconi Cup

completely fell apart for Team USA as they dropped the next four matches of the day. Worse yet, they didn't even really challenge the Euro squad in those four matches. Team Europe pounced on any opportunity they were given and won the final four matches with a combined score of 20-5, including a 5-0 whitewash over Van Boening & Thorpe by Filler & Van den Berg.

At the end of the day, Team USA Captain Johan Ruijsink was very honest about the day's play. "We didn't look confident today (...) I really felt that we broke better but we missed balls that we shouldn't have, and that is disappointing," he said. "Even the 5-4 win was not confident - we should have beaten them 5-1, 5-2. We should have put our foot on the gas pedal but we didn't and that stayed there for the whole day."

Team USA went into day three with their backs to the wall, and performed



the best that they had yet, but it still wasn't good enough to make a dent in Team Europe's lead. A doubles win by Hatch and Thorpe and a singles win by Hatch saw them within four points at 8-4, but Team Europe closed

out the day with two wins to end day three with a 10-4 lead.

The talk of the day was a missed 8-ball by Van Boening at hill-hill against Shaw in the final match. Chamat com-





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Joshua Filler and Nick Van den Berg

mented "Everybody is still shocked; how do you see that from a player of his calibre? This is what this tournament does to you. Any other tournament, it doesn't happen." Chamat's Team USA counterpart Ruijsink com-

mented "We are 10-4 down. We made mistakes earlier in the Mosconi Cup but now everybody is in shock about a big mistake from Shane. It is a ball he would never miss again but that happens, even the best players in the

world get the tension, something happens and they don't make the ball." Ruijsink was realistic about his team's chances. "We have lost the Mosconi Cup already, obviously. We are absolutely not likely to win this one. It is like in basketball being 40 points behind and three minutes to play – it is impossible for everybody. However, we will play six singles tomorrow, six times an American guy against a European guy and if we show our A-game we can prolong it. We are very unlikely to win this one but we will try to win every single match from now on."

Team USA wasn't even able to prolong things on day four, as the first match of the day saw Joshua Filler come back from 2-0 down to defeat Dennis Hatch 5-3. Filler ended the event with a perfect 4-0 record (2 doubles wins and 2 singles wins), and was named Team Europe's MVP for the event. "This is the best team with the best team spirit. I am lucky I have this



Billy Thorpe

team, they are always supporting me and without these guys we wouldn't win the Mosconi Cup eight times in a row."

Chamat, who has now captained three straight winning Euro teams, summed things up after the event pretty easily. "The way we played, the way we came as a team and stood beside each other from the beginning, (...) In the end, hard work pays off – successful people work hard and that is what these guys did."

With the event in the books, American fans and players will have a long year of second guessing and searching for an answer to the European domination. Talk of Team Europe getting more "rolls" or adjusting to the table quicker or just coming together better as a team didn't explain how Team USA got outplayed in every category that can be tracked. Noted American billiards statistician Wayne Dar-



The Madalay Bay Resort was packed for four days straight

© JP Parmentier - Matchroom Multi Sport 2017

gus's exhaustive report on the event showed Team Europe besting Team USA in everything from games won to balls made to dry breaks to positional errors. While event organizer Matchroom Sport hasn't announced

this year's captains for Team USA, it is thought to be Ruijsink again. A couple things are for certain either way. Whoever that captain is will have a lot of work to do, and US fans will be questioning those decisions all year long.



Team Europe Celebrates

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Mosconi Cup XXV Breaks Box Office Records

Tickets for the 25th annual Mosconi Cup went on sale on Monday with record-breaking numbers recorded as fans flocked to book their seats at the Alexandra Palace for December 4-7, 2018.

Pool's annual Europe vs. USA battle will be staged in its biggest ever auditorium in 2018, with capacity for 2,300 spectators in a full circle arena at the north London venue.

With VIP, premium and standard seating available, pool fans are able to choose which area of the arena they sit in and thousands have already guaranteed their seats for next December as Europe look to make it an unprecedented nine consecutive Mosconi Cup victories over America.

Matchroom Sport Chairman Barry Hearn said: "We knew demand would be high for next year's Mosconi Cup and I'm pleased to report that once again we've broken our own box office record for this magnificent event.

"If you haven't booked your tickets yet, get them now to avoid disappointment. They're the perfect Christmas gift for pool fans on both sides of the Atlantic and we can't wait to see you in London next December."

Tickets are available now from www.mosconicup.com or by calling 0844 581 0888. Prices start from £25 per session, with season tickets available at £90. Premium seating in rows 4-7 is priced at £49 per session or £175 for a season ticket, with VIP Hospitality packages from £155 per person per session with a season ticket available at £549.

Groups of ten or more will receive a 10% discount. To receive this, select the 'groups' option when selecting your chosen seating block.

VIP Hospitality includes a seat in the front three rows, a two-course buffet dinner, private VIP bar serving unlimited beer, wine and soft drinks as well as a meet and great with a player from each team, complimentary souvenir programme and a photo opportunity with the famous Mosconi Cup.

Follow the Mosconi Cup on www.mosconicup.com and @mosconicup across social media.

The Mosconi Cup is sponsored by Rasson Billiards who supplies the Official Table; the cloth is supplied by Iwan Simonis and the Official Balls are Super Aramith by Saluc. Predator is the Official Cue of the event and Ultimate Team Gear provide all Mosconi Cup apparel.



The Alexandra Palace in 2016

US Bar Table Championship Crowns New and Returning Champions

The 24th Annual US Bar Table Championships, held December 10th - 16th at the Westgate Las Vegas Resort & Casino, saw an assortment of rookie and veteran wins across it's six division.

The event kicked off with Open and Ladies 10-Ball. In the Open Division, it was a familiar face in the finals, but in the end it was a rookie who took the title. The hot-seat was taken by Skyler Woodward, who was on a quest for his first US Bar Table Championship Title. Woodward had notable wins over Mark Tadd, Vinnie Calabrese and multi time Champion Shane Van Boening on his way to the hot-seat. Van Boening came up one rack short at 7-6 in the hot-seat match, but he wouldn't stay on the left side for long as he eliminated Australian Calabrese 7-2 in the semi-final match. Van Boening turned it on in his final match against



Shane Van Boening

THE 24th ANNUAL
US BAR TABLE
CHAMPIONSHIPS
©JP Parment

10-Ball Champion Skyler Woodward



Filipino James Aranas played in two finals, but came up short both times.



Ladies 8-Ball Winner Bernie Store



Ladies 10-Ball Winner Heather Cortez

Woodward, winning the first set of the double elimination match 7-3, but it was Woodward coming back to win the second set 7-4 for the win.

The Ladies 10-Ball Division took an unusual turn at the end when a scheduling snafu forced the final match between Arizona's Heather Cortez and California's Rae Evans to be moved to a different table and a different time. In protest, the ladies agreed to not play their final match, and Cortez was crowned with her first US Bar Table title.

The 9-Ball Divisions kicked off on December 12th and things returned to predictable ways in those two divisions. The Open Division saw Van Boening with wins over Oscar and Ernesto Dominguez as well as Vegas' Mitch Ellerman and Filipino James Aranas on his way to the hot-seat. Aranas scored a quick 9-2 win over Jesse Engel on the one loss side to earn another shot at Van Boening in the finals, but he would quickly drop the first round of the finals 9-2 to settle for second place.

The Ladies 9-Ball Division saw Cortez fighting for her second straight hot-seat, but she would drop that match 7-3 to Bar Table Veteran Jessica Frideres. Cortez righted her ship with a left side 7-4 win over California's Trinh Lu, but would still have no answer for Frideres in the finals and lost 7-3 in the first set.

In the Open 8-Ball Division, Van Boening dropped a hill-hill match to Jesse Engel in the final four on the winner's side and found himself on the one loss side for the first time all week. Engel then dropped a 5-3 decision to Aranas for the hot-seat. Van Boening made his way out of the one

loss side after wins over Ellerman, Woodward and Engel to earn his third finals appearance of the week. Van Boening scored 5-1 and 5-2 wins over Aranas in the finals to earn his second title of the week.

The Ladies 8-Ball saw Arizona's Bernie Store score a hill-hill win over Frideres on her way to the hot seat match, where she beat California's Tian Tian 4-3. Frideres made her way through the one loss side to emerge as Store's finals opponent, but a 4-1 Store win in the first set brought the event to a close with Store as Champion.



Ladies 9-Ball Winner Jessica Frideres



Rhys Chen, Brendan Traynor, Xavier Romero and Jerry Almodovar



Rhys Chen

goes undefeated to become 2017 Predator Pro Am Tour champion

By SKIP MALONEY

Rhys Chen and Xavier Romero battled twice in their effort to claim the 2017 Predator Pro Am Championship title.

Held on the weekend of December 2-3, the \$10,500-added Championship drew 89 entrants to the invitational event, hosted by Raxx Billiards in West Hempstead, NY. Chen won both battles to claim the event title.

Two, \$250-added Second Chance events for the lower and upper brackets (higher and lower-ranked players) were added to the proceedings, as well as a Third Chance event. All three entailed a double hill final. Jimmy Acosta took the 10-entrant, upper bracket Second Chance over Gene Hunt, while Danny Recinos downed Erik Carrasco to take the lower bracket

prize. Acosta also won the Third Chance event, defeating Stephen Motilal in the finals.

In the main event, Chen (an A player) advanced to a winners' side semifinal against Annie Flores (B+ winner of the tour's season finale last week), while Romero (B) faced Andrew Cleary, who was one of two C+ players among the event's final 12. Chen downed Flores 7-2, while Romero sent Cleary to the loss side 7-3 (scores take handicap differentials into account). Chen claimed the hot seat 7-3 over Romero and waited for him to get back from what would prove to be a tricky semifinal against Brendan Traynor (A++).





THE 2018 PREDATOR PRO AM TOUR SEASON WILL OPEN WITH TWO EVENTS AT STEINWAY BILLIARDS IN ASTORIA (QUEENS), NY.



Traynor was on the loss side, in the midst of a six-match run that began when Duc Lam had defeated him in the third round. He got by Eddie Kunz 8-5 and Mike Panzarella 7-4 (wins #2 and #3) to draw Flores. Cleary picked up Jay Almodovar, who'd gotten by Jose Kuilan 7-3 and Abel Rosario, double hill, to reach him.

Traynor and Almodovar advanced to the quarterfinals; Almodovar 7-3 over Cleary, and Traynor in a double hill win over Flores. Traynor advanced one more step with a 10-7 win over Almodovar, and then locked up in a semifinal, double hill fight against Romero, which eventually ended his loss-side streak.

Romero stepped right into a second, double hill match in the finals against Chen, which opened with Romero taking an early lead. Chen rallied and chalked up the racks he needed

to complete his undefeated run and claim the 2017 Predator Pro Am Tour Championship title.

In addition to the crowning of its Tour Champion, tour director Tony Robles announced Player of the Year awards in nine separate divisions, from A++ to D/D+ and a Female class. Amy Yu claimed the Female class award (with Suzzie Wong as runner-up), while Annie Flores took home the B+ Player of the Year Award. At the top of the rankings, Mike Salerno took home the A++ title, with Rob Pole as runner-up. Elvis Rodriguez won the A title, with Lidio Ramirez in second place. Max Watanabe was the A winner ahead of Brooke Meyer, while Dave Shlemperis was runner-up to Flores in the B+ division. Abel Rosario was the tour's B-class Player of the Year, ahead of Eugene Ok. Ambi Estevez took home the C+ class award, with Tony Ignomirello as runner-up. Dave Callaghan

won the C-class award, ahead of Matthias Gutzmann, while Juan Melendez claimed the D/D+ award in front of Carmine Andujar.

Tour director Tony Robles thanked the ownership and staff at Raxx Billiards for hosting the final event of the Predator Pro Am Tour's 2017 season. He extended best holiday wishes to all of the players, room owners, and tour fans, as well as all tour sponsors; Predator Cues, Ozone Billiards, Play-NAPL.com, The DeVito Team, PoolontheNet.com, Capelle Billiards Press, AZBilliards, Billiards Digest and Pool & Billiard Magazine.

The 2018 Predator Pro Am Tour season will open with two events at Steinway Billiards in Astoria (Queens), NY. The first is scheduled for the weekend of January 6-7, while the second will be held on the weekend of January 27-28. A Double Points event at Cue Bar (Feb. 10-11) will be followed by the Empire State Championships, scheduled for the weekend of February 24-25, back at Raxx Billiards.



2017 Players of the Year

Top Row L-R: Ambi Estevez, Dave Callaghan, Dave Shlemperis, Eugene Ok, Carmine Andujar, Matthias Gutzmann, Elvis Rodriguez, Mike Salerno, and Brooke Meyer; **Bottom Row L-R:** Abel Rosario, Annie Flores, Juan Melendez, Suzzie Wong, Tony Ignomirello, Amy Yu and Max Watanabe; **Not pictured:** Rob Pole and Lidio Ramirez



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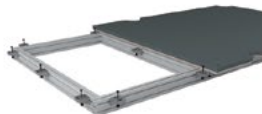
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Rasson Renews Contract With Darren Appleton

RASSON BILLIARDS are delighted to announce that RASSON BILLIARDS has renewed the contract with world top player Darren Appleton. From 2018 until the end of 2020, RASSON will be the primary sponsor of Darren Appleton and the official table supplier of all World Pool Series events over the next three years.

RASSON BILLIARDS is well known as the biggest billiard table manufacturer and exporter in the world. Apart from supplying top quality tables, Rasson also always endeavors to promote the sport of billiards by sponsoring international billiard tournaments including the Mosconi Cup. Early in 2017 Darren Appleton expressed his wish to use the Rasson table as the official match table for the WPS events that he's operating since he had tried the Rasson Victory tables at some tournaments and he felt very pleased with the look and playability of Rasson tables. The contract was then initiated. After all WPS events of 2017, both parties were very happy with the cooperation and renewed the contract for another three years.

Darren is so excited with the renewing of the contract, "I am delighted Rasson has chosen me to be a player representative for the next 3 years. It's an honor to represent them the best I can and I look forward to working with them closely to keep pushing the product forward and billiards in general. Rasson are expanding their products to worldwide and it's exciting times to be part of the journey".

Rasson also is very happy with the cooperation and we hold enormous respect for Darren. Junny Song, the general manager of Rasson said, "Appleton is not only a great player, he

has lots of achievements as a pro player and we're so proud of him for being inducted into the BCA Hall of Fame this December. We enjoy working with him and look forward to hearing more constructive advice concerning the ta-

bles from Darren to build better tables for the market. He's also doing quite well on organizing the WPS events and we'd like to continue the cooperation to further promote the billiards sport".





Danny Smith

Smith Lights Up SPACE CITY OPEN VI

Danny “The Shredder” Smith captured his first-ever Space City Open 9-Ball title, plowing through an 83-player field, undefeated, besting Roberto “Superman” Gomez in the first set of the true double elimination final, 9-3.

Josh Roberts went undefeated in the 40-player, one pocket division, ousting John Morra in the first set, 3-2, taking home his first Space City Open One Pocket title. Jeremy “Double J” Jones went undefeated in the 9-ball banks division, taking down Tommy Tokoph in the first set, 3-2, earning himself a whopping fourth, banks division title. Wrapping up four long days of match play, the ladies 9-ball concluded on Sunday, with Gail “Virginia Slim” Eaton defeating Ming “The Empress” Ng, to capture her second, Space City Open title.

In its sixth year, the four-day, four-division, \$6,000 added Space City Open VI (SCO) was held at Bogies Billiards and Sports Bar in Houston, Texas, November 30th – December 3rd, 2017, featuring top players from across America. This year’s line-up featured a cast of new talent, including Danny Smith, Roberto Gomez, John Morra, Jason Brown, and Kelly Isaac, along with numerous others. Admission was free, and fans enjoyed four days of top-notch pool, provided by world-class players.

In the 9-ball division, Danny Smith obliterated the field with wins over

Marlin Griffith, 9-4, J.C. Torres, 9-3, Jeremy Jones, 9-7, and Alex Calderone, 9-4, while Jason “Jaybird” Brown took down Taylor Hobbs, 9-8, Curt Sheldon, Josh Roberts, 9-8, and James Davis, Jr., 9-2. Two-time Space City Open 9-Ball Champion, Charlie “Hillbilly” Bryant, made his way to the final four with victories over Mike Wilson, 9-2, David Twitty, 9-6, Kevin Guimond, 9-0, and Cesar Arechiga, 9-2, while Roberto “Superman” Gomez overcame Kenneth Price, 9-6, Randy Nickerson, 9-3, Chase Rudder, 9-5, and John Morra, 9-2. On the one loss side, Tommy Tokoph took out Roberts, 7-3, and Jones eliminated former

pro C.J. Wiley, 7-1, while Yovani Salvia ousted Rudder, 7-4, and Jeff Chauncey destroyed Guimond, 7-1. Back on the east side, Gomez bested Bryant, 9-6, while Smith overwhelmed Brown, 9-4. Smith ran away with the hot seat match, defeating Gomez, 9-2. The one loss side witnessed Morra overpower Tokoph, 7-1, and Jones handily defeat Arechiga, 7-0. Davis, Jr. ended Rudder, 7-6, while Guimond dusted off Calderone, 7-4. Morra went on to eliminate Jones, 7-4, and Brown, 7-1, while Guimond overcame Davis, Jr., 7-3. Bryant squeezed by Guimond, 7-6, rounding out the final four players in the division. Morra was on a role, taking out Bryant, 7-2, to win his fourth match on the one loss side. He was stopped short by Gomez, 7-1,

finishing in a respectable, third place. Gomez earned himself a rematch with Smith, and “The Shredder” was ready. With his spot-on break, it was a short-lived set for Gomez, much like the first. Smith shot out of the gate and never looked back, capturing the first set, 9-3, and his first, Space City Open 9-Ball title.

Last year, Josh Roberts finished runner-up in the one pocket division, but this year he came out on top. Roberts ran through a 40-player field, undefeated, booking wins over Jim McCary, Adam Cooper, and Ted Reeves, 3-1, while John Morra overcame Gabe Owen, Marvin Diaz, 3-0, and Sylver Ochoa, 3-1. Houston’s Ernesto Bayaua made his way to the final four with

wins over Cliff Joyner, Dallas’ Gerardo Perez, 3-0, and Roberto Gomez, 3-1, while Justin Whitehead overwhelmed Curt Sheldon, 3-0, Corey Flud, 3-0, and Kent Berthelot, 3-1. On the one loss side, Davis, Jr. eliminated Ochoa, 3-1, Brown defeated Reeves, 3-0, and Diaz ended Berthelot, 3-1. Following an early hit at the hands of Roberts, Jeremy Jones won four matches, including victories over Jeff Bramblet, 3-0, Jeff Chauncey, 3-1, and Gomez, 3-1. As the final eight took shape, winners’ side matches witnessed Roberts edge out Morra, 3-2, and Whitehead dust off Bayaua, 3-1. Roberts wasted little time with Whitehead, capturing the hot seat, 3-0. Back on the west side, Brown denied Ochoa, 3-0, and Bayaua, 3-2, while Jones squeezed by Diaz, 3-2, falling in turn to Morra, by the same score. Morra made quick work of Whitehead, 3-0, moving on to Roberts, and the finals. In the first set, players were neck and neck. Tied at two a piece, an unforced error by Morra sealed his fate, and Roberts ended the set to secure his first, Space City Open One Pocket title.

Kicking off the four-day, billiard extravaganza, was the 26-player, 9-ball banks division, witnessing former Mosconi Cup MVP and former U.S. Open Champion, Jeremy Jones, capture his fourth Space City Open Banks title. Jones blazed a path through Kent Berthelot, 3-0, Gail Eaton, 3-0, and Roberto Gomez, 3-1, while Tommy Tokoph handled Ricki Casper, 3-0, former U.S. Open runner-up, Tan Hoa, 3-2, and Scotty Evans, 3-1. Former U.S. Open Champion, Gabe Owen, checked off Alfred Flores, 3-0, Richie Richeson, 3-0, and Jason “Jaybird” Brown, 3-1, while Cliff Joyner overwhelmed Beaumont’s Carl Honey, 3-0, Will Felder, 3-1, and Alan Myers, 3-1. On the one loss side, John Morra took out Berthelot, while Roberto Gomez ousted James Davis, Jr., 3-1. Canadian Alex Olinger ended Alan Myers, 3-2, while Josh Roberts handled Jason



Josh Roberts

Space City Open

Brown, 3-1. Down to the final eight, on the east side, Jones defeated Tokoph, 3-1, and Owen slid by Joyner, 3-1. In a speedy, hot seat match, Jones crushed Owen, 3-0. Back on the west side, Gomez eliminated Morra, but fell to Joyner, 3-1, while Roberts took out Myers, 3-0, falling to Tokoph in the next round, 3-0. Tokoph was on the war path, sending home Joyner, 3-2, and Owen, 3-2, reaching Jones, and the finals. Players teed off, both keeping pace as the set progressed. Tied at two a piece, Jones inched ahead in the final game, closing out the set to defend his 2016 title and secure his fourth banks title.

Wrapping up Space City, 24 women battled it out on Sunday for over \$2,400 in cash in the ladies 9-ball division. Gail “Virginia Slim” Eaton came out firing, ousting Terry “The Terrorizer” Petrosino, Calaia Jackson, 7-1, and Toledo’s Kelly Isaac, 7-6, while Ming “The Empress” Ng made her way to the final four with wins over Cindy Ferry, Nayla Hoak, and Joyce Davis. Angleton’s Brandi Booth came out firing, securing victories over Ricki Casper, 7-3, and Robyn Petrosino, 7-6, while Teresa “The Princess of Pool” Garland took down Alicia Huff, 7-5, and Yvonne Asher, 7-1. On the west side, Isaac eliminated Denton’s Amy Jones, 5-2, and T. Petrosino reined in Davis, 5-3. Natalie Mans squeezed by Asher, 5-4, and R. Petrosino extinguished Yvonne Ramirez, 5-2. Down to the final eight, east side action saw Isaac eliminate T. Petrosino, 5-3, and Garland, 5-4, while Mans dusted off R. Petrosino, 5-1, in turn, falling to Ng, by the same score. Ng went on to eliminate Isaac, 5-4, and Booth, 5-1, earning herself a rematch with Eaton. In the first set of the true, double elimination final, Ng served Eaton her first loss, 7-6, and the finals ventured into overtime. Players displayed poise and composure in the late hour, but only one player could wear the crown. Players fought for every game, but it



Gail Eaton

“ PLAYERS FOUGHT FOR EVERY GAME, BUT IT WAS EATON WHO PULLED AHEAD TO END THE SECOND SET, 5-3, CAPTURING HER SECOND, SPACE CITY OPEN 9-BALL TITLE. ”

was Eaton who pulled ahead to end the second set, 5-3, capturing her second, Space City Open 9-ball title.

The Space City Open extends a heartfelt “thank you” to everyone who supported this event; Bogies Billiards and Sports Bar, along with owners David and Shannon Richardson, the entire Bogies’ staff, assistant tournament director, John Newsome, Simplified Electronics, APA of North Harris County, Gulf War Veteran Mike McDonald, Ozone Billiards, and Outsville Billiards. “Special Supporters”

of this event included Mark Stubbs, Glen Benton, Ted Reeves, Adam Cooper, Richard Holstein, Richard “Black Diamond” Stuart, and Art Politte. This year’s event featured booths by Jerry Olivier Cues and Cue Repair, Joe Salazar Connoisseur of Custom Cues, Champions Cues, Bryant Billiards, and Q-Xtender.com.

Space City Open VII is set for December 6th-9th, 2018. For sponsorship information, please contact Kim Newsome at 713.825.1411, or email lonestartour@gmail.com.

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TOP 8

Places to Play Pool 365 Days a Year

Kristin Butterfield, Delta-13

Christmas Day was so last year. Your new fantasy, after having turned over the Christmas Tree this year, is to spend Christmas next year just playing pool. The great news is that you can! We have solved your dilemma and came up with a list of the top bars and pool halls where you can play pool on Christmas! Our list includes bars and pool halls in New York, Kentucky, Chicago, California, Kansas and Florida.

Let us know if you have a favorite local pool hall or bar you can play at 365 days a year, (even on Christmas) and we might add it to our list!



1. **SOCIETY BILLIARDS**

- New York, NY
- Open **11am-3am** on Christmas
- 19 Diamond Pool Tables, Ping Pong and Darts



2. DIAMOND PUB AND BILLIARDS



- Louisville, KY
- (2 Locations open 365 days)
- Open **11am-4am** on Christmas
- Club, Concert Hall, Pool Hall, Bar & Restaurant

3. AMSTERDAM BILLIARDS

- New York, NY
- Open **11am-3am** on Christmas
- 25 Pool Tables, Ping Pong Tables, Darts, Foosball and Beer Pong
- Lots of Professionals Play Here; Tony Robles, Mika Immonen, Jennifer Barretta, Emily Duddy and more!



4. MR. LUCKY'S BILLIARDS



- Torrance, CA
- Open **12pm-2am** on Christmas
- 11 Pool tables (6 Triple Crown Brunswick regulation return tables all with Simonis Cloth and 5 Diamond quarter tables also with Simonis Cloth)

5. BLEECKER STREET BAR NYC

- **NOHO, NYC**
- Open **11:30am-4am** on Christmas
- 2 Pool Tables and 3 Dart Boards



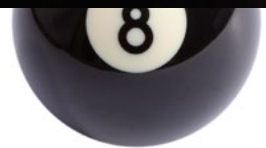
6. POOR PAUL'S POURHOUSE

- **Tallahassee, FL**
- Open **3pm-2am** on Christmas
- Local bar since 1976 across from Florida State University
- 20 Board Games, Pool Tables and Dart Lanes



8. LAWRENCE BILLIARDS

- **Lawrence, KS**
- Open **9am-2am**
- 18 Pool Tables
- Local family owned pool hall



7. TIMOTHY O TOOLES

- **Chicago, IL**
- Open **11am-3am** on Christmas
- 2 Pool Tables, 70 Flat Screen Tv's, 2 Gold Tee Live Machines and Wednesday Comedy Night!



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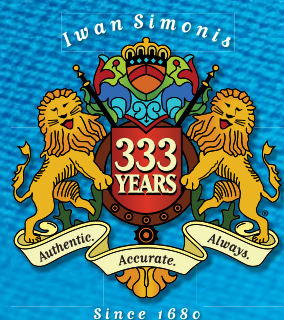


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THE BUZZ SPOTLIGHT

AZB Staff

We begin 2018 with a look back at the Derby City Classic of 2007. Eleven years ago the event was still held at the Executive West Hotel and this edition had competitions in Three-Cushion as well as the standard fare of Banks, One-Hole and 9-Ball. The following text was written about the event while we were in attendance there. We give our hearty thanks to Dianna Hoppe for all of the photos in this article.



Figure 2: Jason Miller



Figure 1: Truman Hogue and Buddy Hall

After the first day of play round one of the Bank Pool Event was complete with a few notable surprises. Players taking their first losses included Fred Bentivegna, Nick Varner, Francisco Bustamante and Scott Frost. The big winner on day one was Jason Miller, who won the six-man bank ring game. Miller defeated Brian Gregg, George Breedlove, Tony Coleman, Richie Richeson and Truman Hogue for the first prize of \$12,000. Hogue finished second and pocketed \$6000.

When Saturday play wound down it was Shannon Daulton who was the big winner for the day. Daulton outlasted Danny Harriman, Ike Runnels, Neil Jacobs, Tony Coleman and Glenn Rogers in the Saturday night bank pool ring game. Daulton claimed \$12,000 while Harriman took second place and \$6,000 in the ring game. In the 'what a difference a day makes' category, Friday night's Bank Pool Ring Game winner found himself eliminated from the Bank Pool main event after a round

three loss to Arizona's Ed Scott. Other top players dropping matches in the 2nd of 3rd rounds included Ralf Souquet, Dennis Orcollo, Francisco Bustamante and Scott Frost.

Day 2 of Three Cushion competition started right on schedule with audience numbers growing to watch close matches all day long. Paul Frankel



Figure 3: Francisco Bustamante and Shannon Daulton



Figure 4: Bunny Rogof, AKA "Pots and Pans"

After eleven rounds of play in the Banks Event the original field of 470 players was down to just three. Efen Reyes, Rodolfo Luat and Stevie Moore still had hopes of winning this event and taking an early lead in the Master of the Table competition. Reyes was the only player who still had a buyback available. The matches were drawn for round 12 and Rodolfo Luat got the bye. Efen would play Stevie Moore in round 12.

The TV table would be the site for a ring game featuring Jose Parica, Johnny Archer, Corey Deuel, Francisco Bustamante and Dennis Orcollo. Orcollo was the man on Sunday night as he competed in a ring game with

edged out Dan Kolacz 25 to 24, and George Theobald nipped Gary Eake 25 to 23. A real nail biter took place between BCA Hall of Famer Robert Byrne and 2006 WPA World Artistic Pool Champion Tom "Dr. Cue" Rossman. With Dr. Cue taking an early lead 14 to 5, Byrne scored 14 unanswered points with two 5 - point runs in the process. Rossman made a valiant comeback and moved into the lead at 23 to 21.



Figure 5: Stevie Moore Took the Banks Crown

Byrne scored again with the audience on the edge of their seats. Dr. Cue scored the final 2 points to win the match.

To date Rossman had the high run of 6, but several players had scored 5 and just barely missed the 6 barrier. The top 2 players from each of 3 round robin preliminary brackets would start the final round robin play on Sunday with the champion receiving paid entry to the USBA National Championships in CA in February.

Jon Hennessee, Sparky Ferrell, Richie Orem and Corey Deuel. Orcollo broke and ran five racks and that was the end of the ring game.

Stevie Moore became the Derby City Classic Bank Pool Winner. The final three players were Moore, Efen Reyes and Rodolfo Luat with Efen the only player who still had a buyback option. While Banks may not be Efen's best game, this situation certainly led to most fans in attendance picking Reyes to win the event.





Figure 6: Santos Sambajon

“ THE NINE-BALL PORTION OF THE DERBY CITY CLASSIC GOT STARTED ON WEDNESDAY WITH 398 PLAYERS COMPETING IN THE EVENT. ”

In that round, Luat drew the bye which led to Reyes playing Moore. Moore took complete control of that match and beat Reyes 3-0. Reyes used his buyback option and drew the bye in the next round to leave Moore playing Luat. The match between Moore and Luat went to hill-hill with Luat missing the game ball three times before Moore was able to win the game 3-2.

The final match between Reyes and Moore also went to hill-hill and the final game came down to 2 balls with Reyes needing two balls and Moore needing one. Moore fired in a two rail bank as the game winner.

The Nine-Ball portion of the Derby City Classic got started on Wednesday with 398 players competing in the event.

After five rounds of play, the one pocket division was down to just 35 players, including Efren Reyes, Scott Frost, Jason Miller, Francisco Bustamante, Ralf Souquet, Fabio Petroni, Mike Davis, Luc Salvas, Shawn Putnam, Santos Sambajon, George Breedlove, Rodolfo Luat, Thorsten Hohmann, Jose Parica and Neils Feijen. Bank Pool winner Stevie Moore was eliminated early in the one pocket event after losses to Steve Lomako and Rodolfo Luat. Moore's early elimination left Reyes as the frontrunner for the Master of the Table award at that time. Professor Q Ball's first 3 Cushion qualifier was won by Dan Kolacz from Buffalo, NY. Kolacz defeated Tom Rossman 25-18 in the final match to win the qualifier.

As Wednesday play wound down in the One Pocket division, the field was

narrowed to just eighteen players. The remaining players competing in the ninth round were Niels Feijen, Ike Runnels, Scott Rabon, Jeff Abernathy, Francisco Bustamante, John Macias, Kim Bennett, Mike Davis, Jose Parica, Jason Miller, Cliff Joyner, Thorsten Hohmann, Shawn Putnam, JR Jueco, Mike Surber, Tony Ferguson, David Gutierrez and Efren Reyes. Reyes, Bustamante, Parica and Gutierrez are the final players who have buybacks available.

Bob Jewett's Straight Pool event was in full swing Wednesday with Mika Immonen turning in the day's top run at 127 balls. Immonen also had a 99 ball run and Fabio Petroni had an 83 ball run on Wednesday. The top runs then were 151 for Mike Davis, 137 for Ralf Souquet and 129 for Johnny Archer.

After 11 rounds of play, the One Pocket Event was down to three players. Cliff Joyner defeated Michael Surber and Efren Reyes defeated Francisco Bustamante. The finals of the One Pocket featured three time reigning champion Efren Reyes vs Cliff Joyner. And Joyner would have to beat Reyes twice, since Reyes still had a buy-back option.

Joyner got to the finals via a win over Michael Surber in a marathon match that lasted well over two hours. By contrast, Reyes took roughly 25 minutes to eliminate Francisco Bustamante 3-0. Game scores in the match were 8 to -1, 8 to 0 and 8 to 5.

After thirteen rounds of one pocket play, we had a winner. And it was the same winner we had the last year, and the year before, and the year before. Efren Reyes capped off an undefeated run with a 3-1 win over Cliff Joyner in the finals to win his fourth straight Derby City One Pocket Title. With Reyes' runner up finish in the Bank Pool event, he became the heavy favorite for the Master of the Table bonus prize.



Figure 7: Jose Parica

Figure 8: Reyes Wins Again!

“ LUAT DEFEATED FEIJEN IN ROUND FOURTEEN FORCING ANOTHER MATCH BETWEEN THE TWO PLAYERS TO DETERMINE A WINNER. AND THAT MATCH CAME DOWN TO ONE GAME AND ONE BALL. ”

Bob Jewett's Straight Pool competition finished up and the big winner was Mika Immonen with a top run of 160 balls. Mika earned \$3600 in prize money. John Schmidt finished with a run of 71 and earned \$2000 in prize money.

Five rounds of play were then complete in the 9-Ball event and while the usual suspects were making their way through the rounds, it was Billy Bailey who was making some waves in the recent rounds. Bailey had wins over Earl Strickland and Tony Crosby in the last 2 rounds of play, and was still undefeated in the event.

It took a while, but after six rounds of play in the 9-Ball Division, someone was finally able to eliminate Efen Reyes from an event. Buddy Hall handed Reyes his second loss of the event in round six and sent him to the action tables to wait and see if anyone was able to catch him in the Master of the Table competition. Hall's celebration was short-lived though, as he lost his second match in round seven against Shannon Murphy.

When round eleven of the 9-Ball Event kicked off the field was down to just five players. Gabe Owen was the first player to be eliminated in this round and Thorsten Hohmann would join him if he lost to Rodolfo Luat. John-

ny Archer was playing Niels Feijen with both players having buyback options. Feijen would go on to win the 9-Ball. He was undefeated in the first eleven rounds including wins over Earl Strickland, Thorsten Hohmann, Gandy Valle, Larry Nevel and Wade Crane. A run of opponents like that should earn someone a break and Feijen got one. He won the coin toss in

round twelve and again in round thirteen for the bye and was able to move into the finals against Rodolfo Luat still holding a buyback option.

Luat defeated Feijen in round fourteen forcing another match between the two players to determine a winner. And that match came down to one game and one ball. With the score tied at hill-hill, the players engaged in a safety battle for the 2-ball. Feijen won that battle when Luat failed to contact the 2-ball on a kick attempt. Feijen sized up a 2-9 combo for a good three minutes before firing it into the hole for the win.

Feijen earned \$16,800 for first place, while Luat settled for \$8,400. Luat also earned \$3,000 in bonus money for taking second place in the Master of the Table bonus fund. Reyes took first place in the Master of the Table bonus and pocketed \$20,000. Francisco Bustamante took third and earned \$2,000.

Figure 9: Niels Feijen

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.

NOVEMBER 30 - JANUARY 21

2018 CSI Arizona State 8-Ball Championships

01/09 - 01/14

Casino Del Sol Resort
Tucson, Arizona
Website: <http://www.playcsipool.com>

Music City Classic 2018

01/10 - 01/14

JOB Billiards
Madison, TN

WPBA Regional Tour Championship 2018

01/11 - 01/14

Zingales Billiards
Tallahassee, Florida
Website: <http://www.wpba.com/>

Joss Tour 2017-2018 Stop 7

01/13 - 01/14

Brickhouse Billiards
N. Syracuse, New York
Website: <http://www.joss9balltour.com/>

Sunshine State Pro Am Tour 2018 Stop

01/13 - 01/13

Stroker's Billiards
Palm Harbor, FL
Website: <http://www.sunshinestateproamtour.com/>

Action Pool Tour 2018 Stop 1 Open Division

01/13 - 01/14

Q-Master Billiards
Virginia Beach, VA
Website: <http://www.actionpooltour.com>

Sunshine State Pro Am Tour 2018 Stop (10 Ball Invitational)

01/14 - 01/14

Stroker's Billiards
Palm Harbor, FL
Website: <http://www.sunshinestateproamtour.com/>

Derby City Classic 2018

01/19 - 01/27

Horseshoe Southern Indiana
Elizabeth, IN
Website: <http://www.dcctickets.com/>

West Coast Women's Tour 2017 Stop 8

01/20 - 01/21

Billiard Palacade
San Francisco, CA
Website: <http://www.twcwt.com/>

SE Open 9-Ball Tour 2018 Stop

01/20 - 01/20

Park Avenue Billiards
Orange Park, FL
Website: <http://www.southeastopen.com/>

SE Open 9-Ball Tour 2018 Stop

01/27 - 01/27

Uncle Waldo's Billiards
Daytona Beach, FL
Website: <http://www.southeastopen.com/>

West Coast Women's Tour 2017 Stop 9

02/10 - 02/11

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

Sunshine State Pro Am Tour 2018 Stop

02/10 - 02/10

Uncle Waldo's Billiards
Daytona Beach, FL
Website: <http://www.sunshinestateproamtour.com/>

Georgia State One Pocket Classic

02/16 - 02/18

Mr Cues 2
Atlanta, GA
Website: <https://www.facebook.com/thecarolinabilliardstour>

Northeast 9-Ball Open XXX

02/17 - 02/18

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

2018 NAPT Women's Division II Championship

02/22 - 02/25

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



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Tourney Results

11/30 - 12/03

Space City Open VI Open 9-Ball

Bogies Billiards & Games

Houston, TX

1 Danny Smith	\$2,400
2 Roberto Gomez	\$1,600
3 John Morra	\$1,000
4 Charlie Bryant	\$760
5 Jason Brown	\$520
5 Kevin Guimond	\$520
7 James Davis Jr.	\$280
7 Jeremy Jones	\$280
9 Tommy Tokoph	\$140
9 Cesar Arechiga	\$140
9 Chase Rudder	\$140
9 Alejandro Calderon	\$140
13 Jeff Chauncy	\$80
13 Yovani Salvia	\$80
13 CJ Wiley	\$80
13 Josh Roberts	\$80
17 Kenny Price	\$60
17 Alex Olinger	\$60
17 Gabe Owen	\$60
17 Ernesto Bayaua	\$60
17 Mark Cardenas	\$60
17 Joey Torres	\$60
17 Derek Fontenot	\$60
17 Ted Reeves	\$60

11/30 - 12/03

Space City Open VI Open One Pocket

Bogies Billiards & Games

Houston, TX

1 Josh Roberts	\$1,500
2 John Morra	\$900
3 Justin Whitehead	\$600
4 Jason Brown	\$400
5 Ernesto Bayaua	\$200
5 Jeremy Jones	\$200
7 Marvin Diaz	\$100

7 Sylver Ochoa	\$100
9 James Davis Jr.	\$50
9 Ted Reeves	\$50
9 Roberto Gomez	\$50
9 Kent Bevelot	\$50

11/30 - 12/03

Space City Open VI Open 9-Ball Banks

Bogies Billiards & Games

Houston, TX

1 Jeremy Jones	\$1,220
2 Tommy Tokoph	\$760
3 Gabe Owen	\$500
4 Cliff Joyner	\$300
5 Josh Roberts	\$150
5 Roberto Gomez	\$150

11/30 - 12/03

Space City Open VI Ladies 9-Ball

Bogies Billiards & Games

Houston, TX

1 Gail Eaton	\$500
2 Ming Ng	\$375
3 Brandi Booth	\$250
4 Kelly Isaac	\$125
5 Theresa Garland	\$45
5 Natalie Mans	\$45

12/02 - 12/03

Q City 9-Ball Tour Stop

Gate City Billiards Club

Greensboro, NC

1 JT Ringgold	\$550
2 Zack Leonard	\$350
3 Josh Williams	\$250
4 Mike McPherson	\$150
5 Jim Lewis	\$75
5 Jose Irizarry	\$75

12/02 - 12/02

New England 9-Ball Series 2017-2018 Stop 8

World Championship Billiards

Manchester, Connecticut

1 Raymond Ortiz	\$400
2 Kajone Ky	\$200
3 Ryan Cullen	\$150
4 Lukas Fracasso-Verner	\$100
5 Sal Modolo	\$80
5 Frank Porto	\$80
7 Ian McKelvey	\$40
7 Dan Novak	\$40

12/02 - 12/03

Predator Pro-Am Tour 2017 Tour Championships

Raxx Pool Room, Sports Bar & Grill

West Hempstead, NY

1 Rhys Chen	\$7,000
2 Xavier Romero	\$4,000
3 Brendan Traynor	\$2,000
4 Jerry Almodovar	\$1,000
5 Andrew Cleary	\$500
5 Annie Flores	\$500
7 Mike Panzarella	\$300
7 Abel Rosario	\$300
9 Jose Kuilan	\$200
9 Thomas Schreiber	\$200
9 Duc Lam	\$200
9 Eddie Kunz	\$200
13 Miguel Laboy	\$150
13 Eugene Ok	\$150
13 Chris Tiru	\$150
13 Ernesto Gomez	\$150
17 Pascal Dufresne	\$100
17 Paul Carpenter	\$100
17 Lidio Ramirez	\$100
17 Corey Avallone	\$100
17 Tony Ignomirello	\$100

Monthly Results

17 Yusuf Khan	\$100
17 Raphael Dabreo	\$100
17 Jimmy Acosta	\$100

12/02 - 12/02

Falcon Cues Quebec Tour Stop

Billard Le Patriote

Saint-Eustache, Quebec

1 Alain Martel	\$1,000
2 Joey Cicero	\$800
3 Martin Daigle	\$625
4 Dany Nguyen	\$460
5 Mike Patrowicz	\$330
5 Luc Salvas	\$330
7 Jeff Blais	\$200
7 Daniel Gagne	\$200
9 Martin Sears	\$70
9 Danny Hewitt	\$70
9 David Deschenes	\$70
9 Mehdi Bahloul	\$70

12/04 - 12/07

Mosconi Cup XXIV

Mandalay Bay

Las Vegas, NV

1 MC Team EUROPE	\$100,000
2 MC Team USA	\$50,000
1 Joshua Filler	\$20,000
1 David Alcaide	\$20,000
1 Jayson Shaw	\$20,000
1 Nick Van Den Berg	\$20,000
1 Ralf Souquet	\$20,000
2 Oscar Dominguez	\$10,000
2 Shane Van Boening	\$10,000
2 Billy Thorpe	\$10,000
2 Skyler Woodward	\$10,000
2 Dennis Hatch	\$10,000

12/05 - 12/15

WPA World 9-Ball Championship 2017

Doha

Doha,

1 Carlo Biado	\$40,000
2 Roland Garcia	\$20,000
3 Eklent Kaci	\$8,000
3 Kun Lin Wu	\$8,000
5 Maung Maung	\$5,000

5 Jalal Yousef	\$5,000
5 Haitao Liu	\$5,000
5 Chia-Chen Hsieh	\$5,000
9 John Morra	\$3,000
9 Joshua Filler	\$3,000
9 Ping-Chung Ko	\$3,000
9 Jin-Hu Dang	\$3,000
9 Pin-Yi Ko	\$3,000
9 Jeffrey Ignacio	\$3,000
9 Thorsten Hohmann	\$3,000
9 Albin Ouschan	\$3,000
17 Niels Feijen	\$2,000
17 Quoc Hoang Duong	\$2,000
17 Li Wen Lo	\$2,000
17 Jeffrey De Luna	\$2,000
17 Mateusz Sniegocki	\$2,000
17 David Alcaide	\$2,000
17 Konstantin Stepanov	\$2,000
17 Rong-Chih Nien	\$2,000
17 Radoslaw Babica	\$2,000
17 Seung Woo Ryu	\$2,000
17 Warren Kiamco	\$2,000
17 Bader Al Awadi	\$2,000
17 Yu-Lung Chang	\$2,000
17 Tomasz Kaplan	\$2,000
17 Francisco Felicilda	\$2,000
17 Francisco Sanchez-Ruiz	\$2,000

33 Ang Tuan Nguyen	\$1,000
33 Cheng-Chieh Liu	\$1,000
33 Ruslan Chinakhov	\$1,000
33 MD Almin	\$1,000
33 Keng Kwang Chan	\$1,000
33 Hayato Hijikata	\$1,000
33 Christian Sparrenloev - Fischer	\$1,000
33 Maksim Dudanets	\$1,000
33 Bing Jie Chu	\$1,000
33 Nick Malai	\$1,000
33 Roman Hybler	\$1,000
33 Wiktor Zielinski	\$1,000
33 Marco Teutscher	\$1,000
33 Jung-Lin Chang	\$1,000
33 Ahmad Naiemi	\$1,000
33 Maximilian Lechner	\$1,000
33 Pijus Labutis	\$1,000
33 Samuel Santos	\$1,000
33 De Jing Kong	\$1,000
33 Hiroshi Takenaka	\$1,000

33 Alexandros Kazakis	\$1,000
33 Martin Daigle	\$1,000
33 Mieszko Fortunski	\$1,000
33 Xu Xiao Cong	\$1,000
33 Daniel Tangudd	\$1,000
33 Wojciech Szewczyk	\$1,000
33 Lo Ho Sum	\$1,000
33 Naoyuki Oi	\$1,000
33 Martinez Gerson	\$1,000
33 Israel Rota	\$1,000
33 Li Si Yu	\$1,000
33 Abdullah Alyousef	\$1,000

12/09 - 12/10

Action Pool Tour 2017 Stop 12 Open Division

Q-Master Billiards

Virginia Beach, VA

1 Reymart Lim	\$800
2 Eric Moore	\$450
3 JT Ringgold	\$250
4 Tuan Chau	\$125
5 Christopher Wilburn	\$80
5 Kenny Miller	\$80
7 Mac Harrell	\$50
7 Nil Lim	\$50

12/09 - 12/10

Q City 9-Ball Tour Stop

Randolph's Billiards

Hickory, NC

1 Ikey Maynard	\$600
2 Eric Chumbley	\$400
3 Jason Potts	\$250
4 Bobby Jack Connor	\$175
5 Dustin Coe	\$100
5 Scott Howard	\$100
7 Sam Patel	\$50
7 Alex Boles	\$50

12/10 - 12/10

Action Pool Tour 2017 Stop 12 Ladies Division

Q-Master Billiards

Virginia Beach, VA

1 Tina Pawloski Malm	\$160
2 Gwen Townsend	\$80

12/10 - 12/10

New England 9-Ball Series Stop #9 (Partners)

Crow's Nest

Plaistow, New Hampshire

1 Alex Gurevich	\$300
1 Lazar Gurevich	\$300
2 Ryan Hemingway	\$150
2 Matt Rezendes	\$150
3 Paul Coorey	\$125
3 John Collier	\$125
4 Dan Simoneau	\$100
4 Rick Bergevin	\$100
5 Peter Copland	\$50
5 Josh Grzasko	\$50
5 Heidi Rezendes	\$50
5 Mike Dechaine	\$50
7 Jay Cunningham	\$35
7 Justin Cunningham	\$35
7 George Morgan	\$35
7 Bill Phillips	\$35

12/10 - 12/16

US Bar Box Championship 2017 Open 10-Ball

Westgate Las Vegas Resort & Casino

Las Vegas, Nevada

1 Skyler Woodward	\$3,200
2 Shane Van Boening	\$2,000
3 Vinnie Calabrese	\$1,300
4 Jason Klatt	\$800
5 Shaun Wilkie	\$450
5 Mitch Ellerman	\$450
7 Oscar Dominguez	\$300
7 Mark Tademy	\$300
9 Amar Kang	\$200
9 James Blackburn	\$200
9 Ian Costello	\$200
9 Jesse Engel	\$200
13 Gary Lutman	\$150
13 Jerrod Frideres	\$150
13 Don Branson	\$150
13 Jimmy Gestwicki	\$150

12/10 - 12/16

US Bar Box Championship 2017 Ladies 10-Ball

Westgate Las Vegas Resort & Casino

Las Vegas, Nevada

1 Heather Cortez	\$800
2 Rae Evans	\$400
3 Trinh Lu	\$250

12/10 - 12/10

Tri State Tour 2017-2018 Stop

CueBar Billiards

Bayside, NY

1 Miguel Laboy	\$660
2 Kapriel Delimelkonoglu	\$390
3 Juan Melendez	\$255
4 Luis LaPuente	\$155
5 Jimmy Martinez	\$95
5 Matt Klein	\$95

12/10 - 12/16

US Bar Box Championship 2017 Open 9-Ball

Westgate Las Vegas Resort & Casino

Las Vegas, Nevada

1 Shane Van Boening	\$3,500
2 Zoren James Aranas	\$2,100
3 Jesse Engel	\$1,400
4 Amar Kang	\$900
5 Shaun Wilkie	\$600
5 Mitch Ellerman	\$600
7 Josh Smith	\$400
7 Skyler Woodward	\$400
9 Abrin Schaad	\$225
9 Demitrios Jelatis	\$225
9 Bill Stephen	\$225
9 Ernesto Dominguez	\$225
13 Mark Wissman	\$150
13 Vinnie Calabrese	\$150
13 Oscar Dominguez	\$150
13 David Strachan	\$150

12/10 - 12/16

US Bar Box Championship 2017 Ladies 9-Ball

Westgate Las Vegas Resort & Casino

Las Vegas, Nevada

1 Jessica Frideres	\$825
2 Heather Cortez	\$425
3 Trinh Lu	\$250

12/10 - 12/16

US Bar Box Championship 2017 Open 8-Ball

Westgate Las Vegas Resort & Casino

Las Vegas, Nevada

1 Shane Van Boening	\$4,000
2 Zoren James Aranas	\$2,300
3 Jesse Engel	\$1,500
4 Skyler Woodward	\$1,000
5 Mitch Ellerman	\$700
5 Max Eberle	\$700
7 Jason Klatt	\$450
7 Dennis Orcollo	\$450
9 Oscar Dominguez	\$300
9 Shaun Wilkie	\$300
9 Demitrios Jelatis	\$300
9 Jeremy Edwards	\$300
13 Josh Smith	\$200
13 Matt Hill	\$200
13 George Walters	\$200
13 Amar Kang	\$200
17 Ace Brown	\$150
17 Marshall Hill	\$150
17 Sean Lewis	\$150
17 Zhou Zhou	\$150
17 Vinnie Calabrese	\$150
17 Mark Tademy	\$150
17 Vilmos Foldes	\$150
17 James Blackburn	\$150

12/10 - 12/16

US Bar Box Championship 2017

Ladies 8-Ball

Westgate Las Vegas Resort & Casino

Las Vegas, Nevada

1 Bernie Store	\$850
2 Jessica Frideres	\$500
3 Tian Tian	\$300
4 Rachel Lang	\$200

12/15 - 12/16

Omega Billiards Tour 2017

Stop 12

Rusty's Billiards

Arlington, TX

1 Paul Guernsey	\$1,750
2 Tony Sulsar	\$900
3 Mike Rountree	\$750
4 Roman Bayda	\$650
5 Luis Lopez	\$440
5 Rick Stanley	\$440
7 Mike Nagaki	\$340
7 Gerardo Perez	\$340
9 Justin Whitehead	\$200
9 Doug Winnett	\$200
9 Robbie Cleland	\$200
9 Phillip Palmer	\$200
13 Dario Gomez	\$120
13 Donnie Gregory	\$120
13 Kiengchay Phoutthavong	\$120
13 Jarry Pelayo	\$120
17 Aram Hasan	\$100
17 Steve Sheppard	\$100
17 Tony Matthew	\$100
17 Jeff Georges	\$100
17 Robert Clark	\$100
17 Ruben Juarez	\$100
17 Chris Rickman	\$100
17 Jay Murillo	\$100
25 Highway Sigadi	\$40
25 Curtis Cardwell	\$40
25 Oscar Araujo	\$40
25 Juan Batista	\$40
25 Vince Tovar	\$40
25 Jeff Turney	\$40

25 Rob Lovelace	\$40
25 Jesse Wilcoxson	\$40

12/16 - 12/17

Sunshine State Pro Am Tour 2017

Season Finale - Pro event

Park Avenue Billiards

Orange Park, FL

1 Josh Roberts	\$1,250
2 Randy Jordan	\$845
3 Anthony Meglino	\$600
4 Michael Delawder	\$450
5 Bobby Garza	\$300
5 OB Cirillo	\$300
7 Tim Parisian	\$225
7 David Grossman	\$225
9 Pedro Botta	\$150
9 Jimmy Garza	\$150
9 Tony Vicari	\$150
9 Mike Davis	\$150
13 Mike Griffin	\$70
13 Peter Ghostine	\$70
13 John Fouders	\$70
13 Pierre Palmieri	\$70

12/16 - 12/16

New England 9-Ball Series Stop

#10 Robert Marcotte Memorial

Buster's Billiards

Somerset, NH

1 Sam Khiev	\$400
2 Eddie Bissonnette	\$200
3 Kassie Lam	\$150
4 Geoff James	\$100
5 Warren Basch	\$60
5 Don Roy	\$60
7 Ben Benson	\$40
7 Joan Fraser	\$40

12/16 - 12/16

Q City 9-Ball Tour Stop 2017 Tour

Championships

Randolph's Billiards

Hickory, NC

1 Steve Reece	\$1,300
2 Steve Hughes	\$875
3 Bernie Kirby	\$625

4 Chris Walsh	\$450
5 Rick Roper	\$250
5 Jeff Abernathy	\$250
7 Daniel Gambill	\$150
7 Mackie Lowery	\$150
9 Dalton Messer	\$80
9 Avery Reece	\$80
9 Scott Roberts	\$80
9 Joey Tate	\$80
13 Zack Leonard	\$50
13 Marcio Smith	\$50
13 Peter Abatangelo	\$50
13 Greg Burke	\$50

12/17 - 12/17

Tri State Tour 2016-2017 Stop

Steinway Billiards

Astoria, NY

1 Miguel Laboy	\$800
2 Ray Lee	\$510
3 Michelle Brotons	\$310
4 Jaydev Zaveri	\$200
5 Tony Liang	\$130
7 Pashk Gjini	\$90
7 Shivan Gupta	\$90
7 Pashk Gjini	\$90
9 Duc Lam	\$70
9 Ray Feliciano	\$70
9 Akiko Taniyama	\$70
9 Erick Carrasco	\$70

12/17 - 12/17

Sunshine State Pro Am Tour 2017

Season Finale - Amateur event

Park Avenue Billiards

Orange Park, FL

1 Jeff Jordan	\$600
2 Josh Williams	\$400
3 Peter Ghostine	\$280
4 David Grossman	\$180
5 Ted Kershey	\$115
5 Trenton White	\$115
7 Pierre Palmieri	\$75
7 Jack Smith	\$75
9 Sam Kantar	\$30
9 Estel Walton	\$30
9 Thomas White	\$30
9 Allen Taylor	\$30



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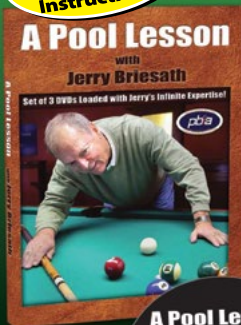
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- Jeanette "The Black Widow" Lee



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