

Billiards Buzz

an 

vol.4, Issue April 2019



ALCAIDE

Banks Home Masters Title

CYNERGY SVB GEN ONE



**EVERYONE LOSES.
SOME DO IT LESS THAN OTHERS.**

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Billiards Buzz

Volume 4, Issue #32

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FROM THE Head Rail

MIKE HOWERTON

What a great World Pool Masters. Matchroom (and the pool world) couldn't have asked for more from that event. David Alcaide's big come-back to hill-hill and then the final rack being both Alcaide's and Kazakis's to take, was great suspense for the many people who watched it online.

Kudos to Matchroom Multi Sport for another great event. I may have personally had my issues with the way Earl was represented at the event, but that is just my opinion and didn't take away from the overall quality of the event.

Hopefully the World Pool Masters is just a taste of the quality of event that we will see later this month at the first Matchroom US Open 9-Ball Championship.

Until next time.



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How Weather Affects Your Pool Game

Most pool leagues are played in the winter months, and maybe you have noticed that when the weather gets warm and summer arrives, it is more difficult to put backspin on the cue ball.

Also, the cue ball doesn't seem to roll as far as it did when the weather was colder. This can be especially noticeable in the spring and fall when the weather changes back and forth from hot to cold daily.

The reason these changes take place is humidity. Humidity drastically increases the friction between the ball and the cloth. This increased friction is why it is more difficult to stop or draw the cue ball back on a warm day, especially if it has been raining. This increased friction between the ball and the cloth also causes bank shots to come off the rail at a shorter angle than if the conditions were dry. This is why most players, especially in the northern half of the United States, play much better in the winter than they do in the summer.

I have been to World Tournaments where the finals were played in a room that holds 200 or 300 people. When the match started, the room was cool and dry, but as the humidity and temperature rose, because of the hundreds of spectators, the table conditions changed quickly. Professional players realize this happens and adjust their play accordingly.

Good Luck — Jerry



JERRY BRIESATH



TRYING TOO HARD CAN ACTUALLY BE COUNTERPRODUCTIVE IN POOL

The Sports Doc - Dr. CHRIS STANKOVICH
www.drstankovich.com



Sometimes in life it makes a lot of sense to try as hard as you can, like when you're helping a friend move a heavy washing machine to the basement.

In fact, there are many examples in life where it pays to psych yourself up and prime your muscles for maximum human productivity. But with pool, however, getting too “pumped up” can actually lead to below-average performances, and there are good reasons why this occurs.

Human arousal & pool

Great pool players master the game not by displaying the most physical strength, but instead by having a terrific mind-body synchrony that allows them to play with comfort and confidence. Top players flow from shot-to-shot, making the game look effortless and easy. These players are able to execute, make balls, and win games because they have learned how to control their human arousal – or simply, their human energy.

When pool players become over-aroused, a condition brought on by being overly pumped up for competition, focus becomes distracted and anxiety spikes. Pool is a game that relies on *fine motor skills*, also known

as *finesse body movements*. When players get so psyched up that they can actually feel their muscles flexing, it's usually a sign that fine motor skills will be compromised and abrupt, “herky-jerky” strokes will be experienced. While getting pumped up might help bench-pressing weights, it can be problematic making precise shots on a pool table.

The consequences of high arousal in pool

When players are too pumped up and try to play perfectly, anxiety is often an accompanying experience. By being too excited, missed shots can be felt as devastating, and our bodies respond accordingly with tense muscles, butterflies in the stomach, rapid

breathing, and increased heart rate ---- all factors that interrupt sound mind-body synchrony needed for great pool playing.

A better plan

Find your optimal arousal state by paying attention to your best days in the pool room. Notice what you did before putting your cue together, including your pre-game routine of your thoughts and warm-up plan. If you find yourself regularly feeling butterflies, learn arousal-reducing skills like deep breathing, imagery, and self-talk to help calm you down. When you find your optimal arousal zone, you'll experience sharp focus, strong motivation, and galvanized resiliency – all qualities you regularly see in great athletes.

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

DOUBLE-CROSSED

ANTHONY BEELER

It was a beautiful spring day in Lexington, Kentucky. The 2013-14 Bluegrass BCA Pool League season was in full swing and my team was in the middle of playing an 8-Ball match at Silver Cue Billiards.



My teammates Dean Lawson, Kenny Tran, Doug Pulliam and Phillip Jones were all in attendance to help our team maintain a first place ranking.

I was 4-0 on the evening when team captain, Phillip Jones, called me to the table to compete in what was scheduled to be my final game. My opponent was Charles Hackworth, a very strong local player, capable of running out from almost any position. I knew it was going to be a tough game and I couldn't afford to make any mistakes if I wanted to leave Lexington with a perfect 5-0 record.

As I broke the balls, it appeared that I was going to have an easy run-out. I calmly began plucking solid balls from the table. However, my run-out went awry as I attempted to play position on my last solid ball. I was slightly hooked behind the side of my opponents 14 and since the 8 was tied up on the opposite end of the table I knew I was in some serious trouble.

At first, I thought about trying to jump or masse around the 14 but with the 8 being tied up there was no reward in pocketing the ball. I knew I had to do something creative. The only way for me to win the game would be to play safe and hope for a miracle. My only chance would be to return to the table with a clear shot on the 6 with an opportunity to break out the 8.

The problem was how do you play safe? My opponent had 7 stripes



on the table and I had one solid ball. Clearing off all of your balls without running out is usually fatal, especially when pitted against someone as skilled as Hackworth.

As I surveyed the situation, I knew it was going to be a difficult undertaking. My only clear option was to shoot the 6 at a slow speed crossing it in

front of the cue ball (leaving it in the position of the green arrow) hoping to block Hackworth from directly contacting any of his balls. This option game me a realistic chance to return to the table with a decent shot. The key is to cut the 6 slightly to the left with the correct speed (leaving the cue ball in the position of the black arrow). If the shot was struck either



too hard or too soft then I would leave Charles with an easy shot which would most likely cost me the game.

I am happy to say that I executed the shot perfectly. After executing the shot one of my teammates said, "Anthony, you really double-crossed 'em on that shot." I had Charles blocked from hitting any of his balls directly.



When he returned to the table, he kicked at one of his stripes leaving me with a long straight in shot on the 6. This time my shot on the 6 allowed me to draw my cue ball straight back and possibly break out the 8.

Once again I stepped up to the table and executed the shot perfectly. The cue ball drew all the way back to the end rail then rebounded into the 12. I was left with an easy straight in shot for the win.

Charles then approached the table and politely conceded the game. As I walked away, I knew I was very fortunate. I had captured victory from almost certain defeat. Thoroughly weighing your options effectively can be a powerful ally. Sometimes it may seem like you don't have a chance to win. However, great players are masters at creating something from nothing. So the next time you are at

the table in what appears to be a no win scenario, don't be double-crossed look for ways to be creative. Sometimes you have to manipulate the table to turn a losing proposition into a fighting chance to win.

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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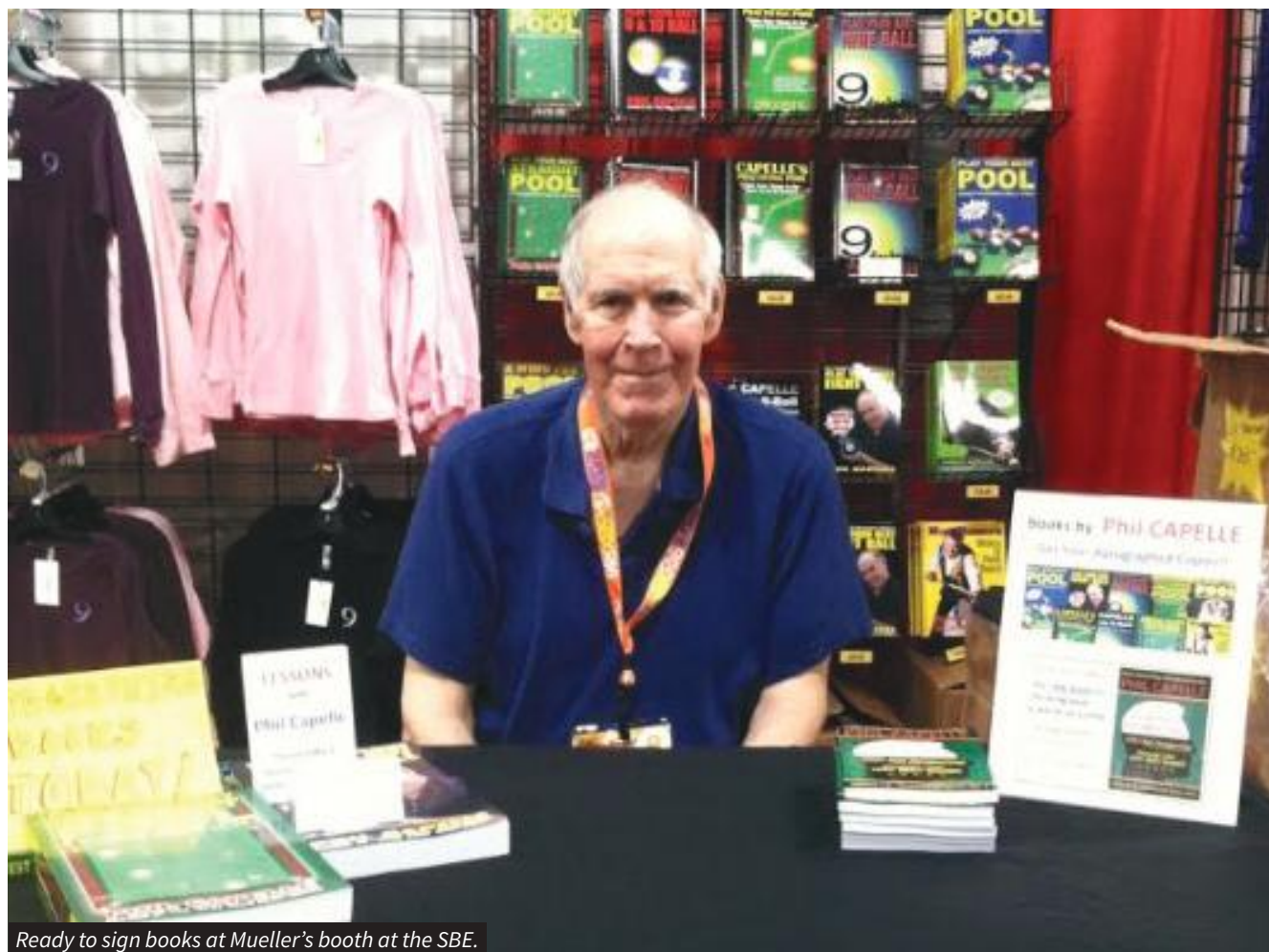


- 2018 Billiards Instructor of the Year, Anthony Beeler
- Email or Phone for current schedule and costs:

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CAPELLE UNPLUGGED

Phil Capelle is a well-known billiards author for the past quarter century. Phil was instrumental in my journey to become a pool champion, so let's discover how he can help *you!* And while we have his attention, we'll explore his background, reveal his thought process, and uncover his ideas about the future of pool, and all that he has up his sleeve to help propel the game we all love.



Ready to sign books at Mueller's booth at the SBE.

Let's get started!

Q: Where did you grow up?

A: I was born November 1947 in Needham, Massachusetts, which is about 10 miles southwest of Boston. I lived in a cool old home that is actu-

ally featured on the cover of *Needham* in the 'Images of America' series ([see the cover at this link](#)). I discovered this in 2011 when I went with my cousin to her 60th high school reunion and we sat at a table for lunch with the people who created the book. We then went on a tour of the home thanks to the

current owner, who was kind enough to show me where I spent the first two years of my life. In early 1950, my parents made a bold decision to pack up our family of five and move 3,000 miles to San Diego even though we had no family or friends there. That is where I grew up.

Q: What is your degree in and where did you go to school?

A: I went to college at the University of California at Berkeley where I earned a BS in Business Administration in 1970. Those were some interesting times as there were often demonstrations on campus – and I remember once getting tear gassed because I was in the wrong place – near the Student Union – at the wrong time. I loved the campus and made quite a few friends, many of whom played pool. Many of my courses were quite difficult, at least for me, especially Calculus, so I spent a good part of my time in the library. And many courses required papers and essay tests, so when I look back on it, going to Berkeley was a big key to developing my analytical and writing skills.

Q: Before we start talking books and pool, what did you do for a living before your first billiards book came to fruition?

A: I entered the financial services industry as a newsletter publisher, stockbroker, financial analyst, and

columnist for the *Orange County Business Journal*. I am most proud of a feature that I wrote in July 1989 where I predicted why there would be a big bull market in the 1990s – and then the Dow in that decade went up 318%. I also enjoyed doing interviews of many of the leading executives of publicly traded companies in Orange County.

Q: How and when did you start playing pool?

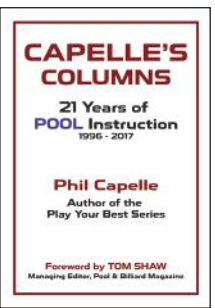
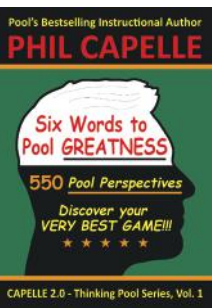
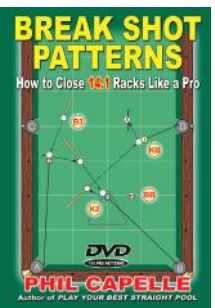
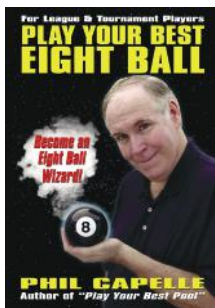
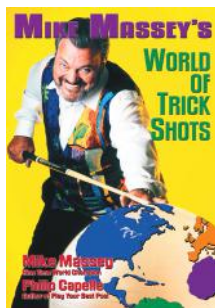
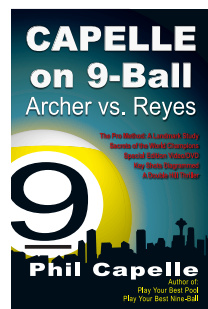
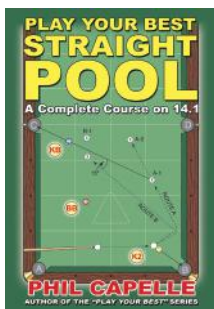
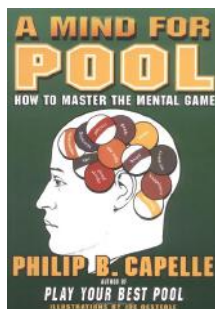
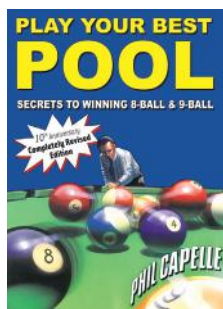
A: I will never forget that day in early October 1968 when I was standing in line at the Student Union waiting to cash a check. For some reason my gaze shifted to the right and fixated on the double glass doors leading into the campus' poolroom. After replenishing my bankroll (at the princely sum of \$25), I made a beeline for the poolroom and in a matter of moments found myself on a table with a rack of balls. *The journey had begun.* After that first practice session I knew two things: I wanted to play this sport, and I needed help.

I went to the campus bookstore and found a copy of Willie Mosconi's red

book (*Willie Mosconi on Pocket Billiards*). I went home and devoured the parts on fundamentals. I followed his advice and within three weeks, I set my first double digit high run in straight pool, a 13! I was hooked! And so for the remainder of my time at Berkeley, I would study when I got home and also on Sundays for 10 hours at the main library, but otherwise I spent my time between classes at the poolroom. When I graduated in the Spring of 1970, I left school with a degree from a prestigious university and, more importantly, a high run of 28 and a love for the sport that still burns hot 50 years later!

After college I continued playing pool for many years, often in money games and tournaments before getting a regular job. I considered pool my minor in college, and my years after graduating as my post-graduate work – in pool!

Q: You are an established billiards author and you wrote your first billiards book in 1995. What prompted you to write that first instructional book?





Practicing long follow-it-in shots in Hemet, CA.

A: I was in the midst of my career in finance when on a Sunday morning in June 1994 I ran into the bathroom after hearing the toilet gushing water. I slipped on the wet floor and dislocated my left shoulder. That was bad enough, but I play left handed and so that was the really bad news! But, it could have been much worse as I barely missed cracking my head open on the toilet. But, the good news was while I was recuperating at home, an idea hatched for writing a book on pool.

While there were some good ones on the market, including Byrne's *Standard Book of Pool and Billiards*, I felt that the available titles did not cover things that needed to be, like 8-Ball and 9-Ball, and that a far more in-depth treatment on topics like fundamentals, aiming, position play, and competition was needed. In short, I sensed a need and I decided that I would fill it. As time passed, I was ready, physically, to return to work. But mentally I knew I was done with the financial services industry. Soon after, a day came when I went to work and my boss and I talked about my

future. We agreed that it was time to move on, so I left that industry to become – of all things – a pool instructional book author!

Q: How many billiard books have you authored?

A: When I wrote *Play Your Best Pool* I was just thinking about doing that one book. Then one day in the summer of 1998 I began two weeks of brainstorming on my balcony. This resulted in 180 pages of notes on all aspects of the mental game, and I was off and running on writing my second book, *A Mind For Pool*. I continued to do a book a year through 2006, then added three more by 2017, bringing the total to 11. This includes a book that I co-authored with Mike Massey in 2003 titled *Mike Massey's World of Trick Shots*. I'll never forget sitting with Mike at Danny Kuykendall's poolroom while he inspected *Play Your Best Nine Ball* to decide if he wanted me to help him with a book. After carefully paging through a chapter in the book, he came to the conclusion that he wanted me to do his book. Talk about pressure!

Q: Do you have a favorite out of all your books? (I do, but what is yours?)

A: I may be partial to *Play Your Best Pool* because it was the one that got things started for me. But if a pool dictator said I could only publish one of my books going forward, it would be that one (or another one that's in the planning stages). I had such fun working on that book, especially the sessions at Chris and Shirley Donnelly's house. Chris worked for over 30 years in the *LA Times* production department, so his help was instrumental in making the book a success, especially in those days before I owned a computer.

However, while *Play Your Best Pool* is my favorite, there is something about each one that makes them special to me – whether it is the process and the people who helped me on that book, or something unique about the book itself, such as the collection of patterns that make up *Break Shot Patterns*, or the tricks and strategies that are in *Play Your Best Eight Ball*. While I am working on each one, I am immersed in a love affair with that topic and the production of that book.

Now, which is your favorite?

Q: *Play Your Best Pool* is the book that catapulted my success, so that is my favorite out of all your books. :) Btw, have you written any non-billiard books?

A: *Investing in Growth: Finding the Next Winner's on Wall Street* (1992) was my first book (it can still be [purchased on Amazon](#) for \$4). I will never forget driving home one day and thinking, "Who am I to write a book? I can't do this." But I knew that was crazy because the book was already 80% complete. I finished it on time – barely – and doing that one gave me the confidence that I could write books, so it was an important part to the start of my career as a billiards author.



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Pocketing a third straight 80 degree cut in Hemet, CA.

I also wrote a golf book. I became a big fan of Jack Nicklaus from the moment he turned pro in 1962 – so much so that I wrote my second non-billiards book, *Tiger vs. Jack*, that makes a detailed case for why he is the greatest ever, and what it takes to be the best. I recommend that all players should read this book and also, *Jack Nicklaus: My Story* because of the lessons they teach on the mental game.

Though both of these non-billiards books met with limited success, they both played a vital role in my work on pool. *Investing in Growth*, as I mentioned, gave me confidence, and it also taught me how to organize a huge project and it further developed my analytical skills. My golf book helped me develop many insights on greatness and what it takes to become one of the *best ever* players in a sport. I plan to adapt this template to pool for future writings.

Q: I don't know that much about being a book author – have you been with the same publisher for all these years or is it normal to have different publishers?

A: My investment book was published by Probus, which was later

bought by Irwin. As for my books on pool, I will never forget talking to Victor Stein, who many of you may recall produced the *Billiard Encyclopedia*. It was late in 1994 and I was debating whether to use a publisher – I had an agent who wanted to represent my first billiards book – or to self-publish it. Victor argued for the latter approach, and I followed his advice. I chose “Billiards Press” as the name of my publishing company, and all of my pool books have been published under that name. Oddly enough, I used Billiards Press to publish the golf book about Tiger and Jack!

Q: Can you tell the readers the process you go through to write a book?

A: It starts with an idea for a book. Most have seemed natural – like that book that was just waiting to be written. Usually I will have a considerable amount of research on the topic before a book begins. Then will come THE DAY when the commitment is made to do the book. The marathon starts and I am off and running, knowing that the next 8 months or so I will be working on it seven days a week, 8-10 hours a day. As I work on the various segments, one idea will lead to the next, and it just grows. I think it is

really an outpouring of so much love and knowledge that has accumulated over the years. Indeed, I believe that all of us who are serious players know a lot more that we think we do. My day usually starts at 7am and I work until that moment when a little voice says that I have had it for the day. So I veg out, watch TV or play pool, then am back at it again. Starting with *Play Your Best Straight Pool* in 2000, a significant part of my research came from watching videos from Pat Fleming at Accu-Stats. And many books feature tons of shots by the pros that were selected from his videos.

The toughest part of all is organizing a ton of information, making sense of it, and creating a flow for each book. At times I feel like I am going to go crazy as I grapple with all of this – but slowly but surely the book takes shape where I am totally satisfied with the progression from start to finish. I draw the diagrams by hand, then Janet Tedesco, my graphic artist, prepares the computerized versions, we fine tune them, and she lays out the book. We are a great team and I enjoy working with her.

Q: Your thinking process involves nearly daily brainstorming sessions of ideas. You have told me when an idea is planted in your subconscious, you will usually have an outpouring of ideas shortly thereafter. How do you handle all that and where do you put all your ideas and thoughts?

A: You have touched on what I consider to be a major asset of mine, and a major pain in the butt, haha. Over the last eight years since I moved to New York, I have conducted research almost daily. Some of it goes directly onto my computer. But tons of it is on lined paper. There is something about sitting with a pen, blank paper, and a cup of coffee that gets me going. Over the last three years I have particularly enjoyed my “Starbucks Sundays.” I arrive at my local one at

about 6:45am, get my vents, sit in the same chair, and write for about two straight hours. This always results in 12-14 pages of new material. I just sit there, drink coffee, and stuff comes pouring out of my subconscious. This is the ultimate high – in fact, these sessions are the highlight of my week! I will then go home and type my notes while adding to them and dressing them up with different fonts, colors, and sizes to emphasize the best ideas.

Q: Why did you move to New York after being in California for so long? Do you like NY better?

A: I visited New York several times and always enjoyed the city and the energy that comes with being “on the streets” of New York. I almost moved to New York in 1981 when I was offered a job on Wall Street. But I was married at the time and my wife decided she couldn’t leave Orange County where her family lives. I went back in 2002 and spent two weeks in New York and New Jersey and had such a great time that the seed was planted once again. Then, in 2008 I rented an apartment in NY for a month at Herald Square near Macy’s and spent a lot of time with Tony and Gail Robles and others in the pool community as well as with my two cousins. I think that trip sealed the deal and 28 months later, I moved to New York for good in February 2011. I remember in the months leading up to the move watching the opening four minutes of *Manhattan* over and over again to get psyched up for the move. It starts with black and white shots of the city to the tune of Gershwin’s Rhapsody in Blue. [Check it out!](#)

Q: So, why did I move? To be closer to some of my relatives, because I just love this city, and because pool is such a big deal here.

A: This move came at age 63 after living in California non-stop for 61 years. A part of me will always favor



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Tony Robles, High Run of 148 at the 2000 U.S. Open – Career Best of 268



California, particularly because of my many friends, family, and driving around in the back country, which is so gorgeous and diverse. But, all things considered, I prefer New York. I like that everything is so close and that you don’t have to spend half your life stuck in traffic. Walking is my favorite exercise and New York is the best place for the dedicated walker. I can be in Riverside Park in three minutes, I live a half mile from Central Park, and I just like the many walks I take in the neighborhood. I also enjoy Amsterdam Billiards and Steinway, though I don’t get to these rooms as often as I’d like. And I enjoy taking the train to visit my cousin in New Jersey. She lives in a comfy home on two acres, so it has a real country flavor to it. She is a superb cook and also a poet; I have been bugging her to write a poem on pool.

Q: Do you get to play pool often anymore?

A: Not very much. I could play more, I suppose, but I am so engrossed in my reading, research, writing, teaching, and covering pool that there is little time for my game! I do know if I had a table at home I would squeeze in an hour or two every day.

Q: Several years ago, your doctor told you to lose weight to extend your life. Your doctor was so impressed with your success, she suggested you write a book about it (what a compliment!). What did you do and have you kept the weight off?

A: I will never forget going to a checkup with my cardiologist in NY in February 2013. I was sweating profusely

by the time I arrived at the hospital (where his clinic was). He took one quick look at me and sent me to the ER. I spent a week having tests and it was determined that I had congestive heart failure. I was referred to a geriatric specialist across the street from the hospital. At my appointment Dr. Carmen Chitu said that she had a soft side, but that I would not see it that day. She then said that, at 262 pounds, I was “obese.” Yikes, the “O” word. I had to lose weight.

I was determined that I was going to lose those extra pounds. So I left New York and spent a year at a friend’s house in Hemet, CA. It had a pool table, so I took advantage of that and I went into serious research mode. I also took long walks every morning on a beautiful walking path. And I counted calories, keeping a record of everything I ate. I allowed myself about 1,600 calories a day, though I burned about 2,800. So the pounds gradually started falling off - I got down to 188 in about a year - and in late March 2014 I returned to New York.

Today, five years later, I weigh 189. I am happy to say that I kept the pounds from returning by following a mostly healthy plan of eating. I still have the notes for a book on how I did it, and someday I may finish it. The main thing is that you get to choose what you want to eat – but make sure you burn hundreds more calories than you consume every day.

Q: Who has been a big influence in your life?

A: There have been several, actually!



Signing a book deal with ABN's Vladimir Nikolayev of Russia.

The number one influence was my Mom. Her little sayings still stick in my mind. She was so loyal to her family, she was honest and kind, and she always had my back. Jean Suits took a chance and hired me to become a stockbroker because “I loved the stock market,” which I did before turning to pool full time. My editor at the *Orange County Business Journal* was Rick Reiff, who was previously a Pulitzer Prize winning reporter. Rick insisted that I produce a quality column, issue after issue. Chris Donnelly, who I mentioned earlier, was a huge influence with his work ethic and insistence on quality layouts.

I went with a friend to an executive seminar by Fred Kalmus in 1986. Among the many valuable lessons I learned was to look for the gift in life's adversities. This principle has saved me on countless occasions. About this time Rich Poliquin, a very successful businessman and sparring partner, told me that “Trust” is the most important thing when doing business with someone.

Tom Shaw of *Pool & Billiard Magazine* is another big one. Janet, who did the

diagrams and layouts for most of my books, taught me about deadlines, doing quality work, and teamwork. Paul Gray has been a friend for over 20 years, during which I have benefited immeasurably from his thinking and insights on a wide variety of topics. I am surely leaving out so many fine people so to those who I omitted, I want to give you a big thank you.

Q: I became your webmaster in 2000 and we were friends right away! One of the things I always appreciated about you when you are depressed over the holidays, you still reached out to me to say hello knowing I do not have family, either. Most people aren't aware of others when depressed. I definitely don't have that trait. Where do you think you learned this selflessness even when you may not be doing well yourself?

A: I am not sure I know when that happened, but it may have started after my Mom died in 1991. My Dad had passed away in 1976. I do know that nice long talks with great friends like yourself is a tonic for what ails me. This past Thanksgiving a friend called and we talked for three hours – which

made my day. So, when I am feeling low, which seems to happen during the holidays, I will reach out to someone who understands about these things – possibly because they have gone through them themselves!

Q: Important lessons right there! Let's get back to pool. Who has been a big influence in your pool game?

A: Shortly after taking up the game, Elliott Eisenberg, a friend from the campus poolroom, and I went to see Willie Mosconi in an exhibition in San Francisco. He ran a 95 despite complaining that the table was “covered in burlap.” I was impressed by his cueball control and I will never forget when he said he was going to pick up the pace, which led to that high run. Elliott and I returned to the campus poolroom and he ran a 57, which was his new high. Over the next four years I was lucky enough to see Mosconi play eight more times and in five of them he ran over 100. The last one was an unfinished run of 140. I left that exhibition and went straight to the Billiard Tavern and upped my high run from 54 to 60. This was about 2.5 years after I took up the sport.

Watching the legendary Jay Swanson was also a big part of my learning process. He was also a lefty with a super smooth stroke and his position in 9-Ball was world class. I would play him cheap sets that were more like playing lessons. My best friend in those days was Rick Lingley, who was a 100-ball runner and a super strong 9-Ball player who later on took up 1-Pocket and finished fourth in the US Open of 1-Pocket. Rick and I sparred at 14.1 and I learned from watching his awesome stroke and pinpoint position. Throughout my career, I also made a practice of going to the big pro events, such as the World 14.1 at the Elks Club, the Stardust in Las Vegas, and numerous events in Los Angeles. One thing I never did was take a les-

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play so true,

you really have to ask yourself

would you rather play against your

opponent...



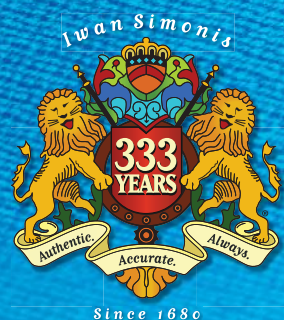
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Practicing at Amsterdam Billiards in New York City.

son, which could have likely helped a bunch. In later years, from about 2000 on, I learned a lot from watching Accu-Stats videos of the greatest players of the last 30 years.

Q: What do you think is the number one thing that helped YOUR game?

A: Understanding early on that controlling the cue ball is the big thing. I never obsessed over aiming and making the balls, I just let that come to me as I worked on my fundamentals. Next, I began to emphasize position play. I was a golfer for nine years before I took up pool, and that game places an emphasis on controlling the ball and avoiding hazards. And the shots around the green and putting required a refined sense of feel for distance, which is just what you need to play pool well.

As an adjunct to this, I was talking about grip pressure with a friend and decided to lighten mine, to essentially hold, not grip, the cue. This led to a jump in my game. I remember a conversation with Keith McCready in the early 80s in which I asked him why he played so much better than his peers and he said, "I can use inside english much better." This was an era during which the cue ball deflected a ton, but he could use it anyway, so I worked on mine, and ended up using it far more often, which added yet another new dimension to my game.

Q: I don't want to take away from the material in your books, but if you had to name three big keys to improving, what would they be?

A: Learn the components of the game in the proper sequence. Build your foundation with the fundamentals, then go from there. Don't work on spinning the cue ball three months after you've taken up the game. So many tools are available for learning today, and I advise that serious students make use of all of them – read books, watch videos of the pros, take lessons, practice alone and with a partner, and compete in tournaments and/or leagues. And finally, learn to see the game. Be able to look at the table and plan your shots and strategies, and learn as much as you can so that you just know, with little effort, what to do in most cases.

Q: What is your most memorable match?

A: There have been so many, but if I had to pick one, it might be a money game with a fellow named Daryl, who was probably a B+/A- player. I started out giving him the 8 and after a dozen hours I was ahead \$1,800. The next day we played again and he insisted on getting the 6, so I gave it to him – but it didn't matter because I was running out, rack after rack. I won another \$800 at \$50 a rack for a total of \$2,600 (which is about \$6,000 in to-

day's dollars). I felt so good about this win because I was able to retain my A game, my focus, and a killer instinct over 20 hours of play.

Q: What has been your most coveted title or accomplishment?

A: I won a major SoCal 8-Ball Championship around 1985, beating 63 tough players, most of whom played at the A level or better. The races were to four. I was down, 0-2, in opener to Bill Igel, a super strong player who was known as a giant killer. He gave me an opening in game three and I ran out, then won the next three to win the match. I was off and running. Over the rest of day, I beat five more players with some of my best play ever to claim the hot seat.

On the drive to the poolroom on Sunday I listened to Queen's "We Are the Champions" over and over as I was trying to psych myself up for the biggest match of my career. It evidently worked. I played Jerry Lazzereschi in the final. In the first 10 games I missed only one shot. In the final game, Jerry went for a tough run, but it stalled, leaving me with a missable shot (about a 75% shot), but an otherwise open layout. I decided to play safe. I locked him up, got ball-in-hand, and began my run. I remember a couple of shots into it hearing Keith McCready (one of 150+ spectators), tell a friend, "He should shoot a different ball." But I went with my pattern and ran out. The win felt great! And the \$1,200 first prize (\$2,800 in today's dollars) sure came in handy. And I will never forget when Frank "The Barber" Almanza, a legend in Southern California pool circles, came up to me and said I played "real smart 8-Ball."

Q: What about accomplishments in practice exercises?

A: There are three practice exercises where I am proud of my personal bests. I broke open a rack of 15 balls,

took ball in hand, and ran out without the cue ball ever hitting a rail. This teaches you so many things, including planning patterns and the value of soft strokes and small cut angles. [The “Soft Touch Increments Contest” is featured on page 251 of *Capelle’s Practicing Pool*.] On a bar table I rolled the cue ball from the head string a little further on 22 straight tries. I think this could be a world record. I would love to see a video of someone beating it! Finally, I broke and ran 14 balls into one pocket, then dogged the bank that would have made it a perfect run!

Q: Speaking of accomplishments, you have been writing a column in *Pool and Billiard Magazine* since 1996! That’s impressive! How did you get involved in writing columns for them?

A: I went to the 1995 BCA Trade Show about five months before the publication of *Play Your Best Pool* and had a total blast as I talked pool with about 60 people over three days. The seminal moment came when I stopped at *Pool & Billiard Magazine’s* (P&B) booth and met Tom Shaw, the managing editor. We talked for about 40 minutes and a bond was formed. Tom wrote a review of the book for the November issue of P&B which helped jump start my sales. Then in April 1996 about 9am one morning, he called me up and said if I could get a column to him in a couple of hours, they would run it. I jumped to it and wrote one about my “Spectrum of Speeds,” took it to the local Kinkos, and faxed it to Tom. That’s how it all began!

Q: Do you find it tough to find topics to write about every month for all these years? 270+ consecutive columns I might add!

A: I have tons of ideas that I could write about, so the toughest part is actually picking one that I really like and that I think will be especially



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**Shari Stauch – Executive Editor,
*Pool & Billiard Magazine***



valuable to readers. And, since this is a stand-alone item, unlike a book page, the spotlight is on each column, so it better be good. So, selecting the topic is *the big thing*. From then on, it just flows and I never have trouble filling my column, or more (thank you, Shari!).

Q: In 2017 you put all of those columns from *Pool and Billiard Magazine* into a book (called *Capelle’s Columns, 21 years of Pool Instruction*). What gave you that great idea to put them all in a book? It’s a fantastic resource!

A: Thank you for your praise! I wanted to do a book of all my columns after I passed what I felt was a significant milestone. I think crossing 100 in 2005 was the first time I gave it some serious thought. But time passed and the project remained on the back burner. Then for some reason I settled on 250 – but 252 columns was 21 complete years, so then that was my new target. I was debating organizing them by subject or chronologically and I decided on the later. But I did do a subject index for the appendix. I did a light edit of every column and put the key ideas in bold type. Lessons were also highlighted throughout. As this is being written, my April 2019 column will be #275, so I have 23 done for Volume II! I just need to live to 2038 to complete it!

Q: Let’s get back to your books. Many of your books start with the words “*Play Your Best...*” It’s the **perfect beginning for your titles!** (like, *Play Your Best Straight Pool*, etc). How did you decide on *Play Your Best Pool* as the first title?

A: Naming the books is a big thing. *Play Your Best Pool* came on the first try, *A Mind For Pool* was about the 100th name that I considered for it. For *Play Your Best Pool* – each word, by itself, says so much about the book and about being a pool player – something I talked about in Column #223 in 2005 – and on a Facebook post. I have since used “Play Your Best” for three more books – *Straight Pool*, *Eight Ball*, and *9&10 Ball*. I have been asked to complete the series with “Play Your Best 1-Pocket,” and maybe I will someday. With each book to date, I gambled with my time and money that they would pay off, and they did. But with 1-Pocket, I would need a mountain of pre-paid orders to be able to do it, or a sponsor or two.

Interestingly, my FB friends chose YOUR as their favorite word of the four in the title. And of course “*Play Your Best Pool*” also works well as a mantra.

Q: I’m a huge fan of mantra’s, and that really is a great one! I appreciate that your books have different output designs. Some are bound books like usual, some come with DVDs to follow along, some come in spiral bound to make it easier on the reader to flip pages, some are eBooks, others are small and handy, etc. You also know it’s essential to have a lot of diagrams. Why do you have different styles to your books?

A: To paraphrase an old saying, “I believe that a diagram is worth a thousand words.” And I like creating them, so they are a central feature in all of my books, except for a couple that are on the mental game. I insist that dia-



With Tom McGonagle at New England HOF ceremonies.

grams be as perfectly to scale and as accurate as possible so that the student can see what actually happens, and so that they can set up the balls, play the shots, and compare their results to those in the illustrations. I cannot understand when the balls in some books are so big they can't even fit into the pockets of the drawings!

Five of my books have been converted into eBook format. I think this format is perfect for pool players because they can open them up on their phone and practice at the poolroom, or study them while commuting. I am a big believer in marking up your printed books, so I have prepared a short course on how to do that. So, I think players should consider owning both versions because each format has its unique benefits.

Q: My copies are all marked up and dog-eared, so I understand for sure! How can players order your books? What is your website?

A: My books can be ordered on billiardspress.com and philcapelle.com. Naturally I prefer if people buy them from these two websites, but they can also be bought at Amazon (which

does not offer the lowest prices!), Seyberts, Mueller, Cuestix, Ozone, and other websites and dealers.

Q: So, what's next?

A: I have spent much of the last eight years immersed in a massive research project that is about to bear much fruit for the players! I have several books in various stages of completion, so I want to get those done. I would like to do a series of videos and I have some groundbreaking ideas on content, format, and presentation. And many of my readers have shown an interest in audio books, so that is something I am thinking about.

I am working on a subscription-based website that will feature new instructional ideas, tips on using my books, communities for group discussion, op-eds, pro coverage, and much more. And I have one big super exciting (but secret) idea for something that will be of huge benefit to just about any player's game.

Perhaps the thing I would like most see happen most is the re-emergence of pool in America. Most of us now realize that we must take drastic ac-

tion to save the planet. The United Nations says we have 12 years to turn it around. Well, what if we had that sense of urgency in pool in the US? As it stands, the game is declining and only 3 of the Top 50 players come from the USA.

One thing I would like to do to make this new world of US pool happen is to create a four table multi-purpose center in New York City. It would be ideal for filming videos, research, instruction and training, seminars, a streaming show, special matches, and much more. A big goal of this center would be to help re-establish the New York metropolitan area as the global capital for pool and America as pro pool's superpower!

In sum, I want to continue to work on my pool projects, to help the game grow, and to set some new standards for how pool is taught, learned, and played.

Q: That's quite a list! Speaking of players around the world, *Play Your Best Pool* was recently translated into Russian. Why are you a big advocate for global pool? Do you have any plans for additional foreign versions?

A: Yes, the Russians are also close to publishing *A Mind For Pool* in Russian and they have plans to do some of my other books as well. I love how serious they are about improving and building the sport. A Japanese version of *Play Your Best Straight Pool* is near completion. Eventually I would like to see my books in the languages of all of the major pool playing countries.

I am a huge advocate for global pool because I think everyone around the world should have the opportunity to see if it is for them. Efren Reyes was the first foreign player that I developed a strong rooting interest in, and now I have so many favorites that come from all corners of the world,

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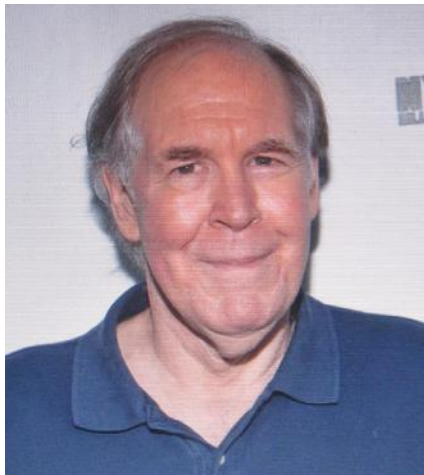
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Celebrity photographer Larry Busacca's head shot at Amsterdam Billiards.

like Shane Van Boening, Thorsten Hohmann, Dennis Orcollo, Jung-Lin Chang, and Siming Chen, Allison Fisher, and Ga Young Kim, just to name a few.

Everyone can play pool, so I see a day coming when pool is the sport of choice for building goodwill and a common ground for all nations – in effect a United Nations of Pool. As an example, players from over 40 countries will be competing in the US Open. Wouldn't it be cool to have a day of meetings with 1-2 players from every country? They could share ideas on how they are growing the game, especially with young people. As you can tell, I can go on and on about this!

Q: One of the incredible benefits of being friends with you was I could email you after tournaments and you would share advice and thoughts about what would help me. You have been instrumental in my journey and helped me improve. Ever thought about having a “Call a Coach” type of business?

A: I have so many ideas and projects on the drawing board, but I think I would enjoy adding this to my mix of activities. Here's a thought – those who are interested in this kind of coaching can send me an email at

capellepublishing@gmail.com and tell me if you would like to do this. If there is a demand for it, I will add it to my duties. Besides the book I wrote on the mental game and the many chapters on the thinking side of pool featured in several of my other books, I have conducted many unpublished studies on the subject, so I wouldn't mind adding value to others' mental game. I will say that it has been fun to work with you and have been gratified by the results you have achieved – especially that monster season you had in 2014.

Q: Aw, Thank you, Phil! Btw, I notice you cover events on your Facebook page. You provide score updates and match updates of big tournaments throughout the entirety of big events. You do this all for the love of the game. Do you find it difficult to keep wanting to do that for free?

A: I began covering events on my Facebook page in January 2013 (or earlier) which is at least six years now – so the insanity has lasted for over half a decade! LOL. I started covering events by accident - I was watching the streams and my keyboard is adjacent to the screen (obviously), and I just enjoy writing about pool, which includes the exploits of the world's best players, so covering these events seemed like a natural extension of my work.

Most of the coverage has been done pro bono, and requests for donations from FB friends has gone almost entirely unnoticed. However, I have been paid by P&B for some articles that have been adapted for the magazine. Pat Fleming paid me for coverage of a few of his “Make It Happen” events. And, most notably, Ivan Lee of Simonis/Aramith has been kind enough to sponsor several of the events I have covered, including the last few Turning Stone Classics.

Recently, I have decided to cut back a little when I am not getting paid. Going forward I am not sure what I will do – but if I get deeply into some of the things I mentioned earlier, then I will stop doing free coverage. But I would continue doing it if I saw a spike in book sales during an event.

My good friend UpState Al deserves to be well paid for the work that he does streaming so many events – and I see that he also has started asking for donations on the chat of his stream – and that some fans are contributing.

Finally, I'm thinking I may make my coverage one of the perks subscribers get when they sign up for my future website. It will be one of the great values for serious players and fans.

Q: It's tough to make a living in the pool industry – you know better than most. Share your thoughts about that with us, please.

A: I call a lot of dealers and room owners and communicate with my numerous contacts in pool, and almost all of these people, who are on the front lines, tell me that times are tough for the industry in America as a whole. So, there is little doubt that pool has been in a slump for quite some time. My experience is that books sales were great from the beginning (in late 1995) through about 2007. Then the slowdown began, in concert with the industry as a whole. The reasons include the popularity of other activities, such as poker and in 2007, the release of the smartphone. With its bigger memory and apps for video games, it drew people away from pool. And I think that America's love affair with video games has put a huge dent in pool playing. As a result, earning a living in pool has been a challenge over the last dozen years. But I am 71, pool is what I know and love, and I am totally committed to the sport, so I continue on with my work.

Since 2011 I have been largely in research mode, publishing only three books on pool – one a short book of sayings, a collection of my columns, and one on closing racks in 14.1. I am trying to gear up and get back to writing more books and produce other projects – but this is going to take a leap of faith as I just see little demand at this time. I think I can solve this problem with fund raising campaigns (maybe GoFundMe or Kickstarter). I am also optimistic that the five books now in eBook format will do well, especially worldwide.

Q: What do you think could help make pool mainstream and more positive?

A: The public at large needs to be educated on why playing serious pool can improve all aspects of your life! Pool could use some high-profile advocates, or influencers. And too many non-players think pool is too difficult, so I am working on something that is strictly for beginners.

Kids are so wrapped up in video games, that maybe we should go after 25 to 35 year-olds when they are ready to ditch the more physical sports and play one that offers the ideal blend of the body and mind! There are so many available low cost/high potential strategies on social media that if used wisely could create a high following for pool – one of the most social games of all!

Companies like Simonis, Predator, OB, Diamond, give generously to promote pool, therefore sponsorship dollars should now come from the corporate world. Right? Because pool players spend money, too. Obvious sponsors for pro pool would be beverage and snack companies. Pool rooms and taverns should offer mostly the beverages and snacks of the companies that sponsor pro pool. Other lifestyle sponsors could come from clothing, food, health products, and shoes.



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Tom Shaw, Pool & Billiard Magazine



A vibrant, big money, well-produced pro tour could do wonders in promoting the game to its three main audiences. Pool in school can teach character values, social skills, and critical thinking. Pool for adults helps them to sharpen their minds. And pool for seniors can slow down the aging process.

A big part of selling pool to the mainstream is the presentation of big events, which should include features that would help fans get to know the sport and to develop a rooting interest in the pros. Pool has several fine commentators – my favorites include Billy Incardona, John Schmidt, and Jeremy Jones – and I like many others. Still, I think this aspect of the telecasts can be improved.

I think recognizing the teachable moments that occur throughout a match and educating viewers would be a big plus in developing players! And pool could benefit from building a dedicated audience of non-players who just like watching great pool. If commissioned to do so, I would be happy to write a Fans and Players Guide to Watching Pro Pool.

Q: You have undoubtedly met and worked with many people who have helped the sport and have aided you in your journey. Who do you appreciate most for their contributions to you and to the sport?

A: On the acknowledgements page of my books I mention everyone who

has made a meaningful contribution. This typically includes Janet Tedesco, Jonathan Meltzer, my proofreader, Paul Gray, and Pat Fleming, who gives me permission to use so many examples of the pros that are on his priceless collection of videos.

I enjoy talking with Todd Fleitman, a world class instructor who sees patterns in straight pool and other games as well as anyone. Wayne Norcross offered some useful ideas for my first book on 14.1, and Roy Yamane helped with my research on the table. He also introduced me to using the donuts! And Ted Mazac and I played hundreds of games of Eight Ball while I worked on *Play Your Best Eight Ball*.

A host of fine people who are working so hard to keep the pro game alive in America. I will name a few who richly deserve recognition, though this list is not at all complete. When you see these people, tell them how much you appreciate what they do for the sport.

Pat Fleming streams and tapes events such as the Derby City Classic and his new International 9-Ball Open. I talk frequently with Jim Fredericks, who handles the stream and fan requests for Pat. Mike Zuglan has produced 31 Turning Stone Classics, which run like a Swiss watch. Greg Sullivan of Diamond Billiards has produced 21 Derby City Classics and is a sponsor at so many other events. Mark Griffin and Ozzy Reynolds of CSI produce numerous major championships in Las Vegas. And Barry Hearn, who pro-



Filming an instructional tip at Amsterdam Billiards.

duces the World Pool Masters and the Mosconi Cup, has added the US Open to his portfolio. Tony Robles runs tons of events in the NYC area and is a real force for good things in the sport. And UpState Al works tirelessly streaming so many events. Ray Hansen and Daniel Busch are also prominent in the world of streaming pro pool.

In Straight Pool, my first love, Charlie Williams revived the World 14.1 Tournament. Peter Burrows has produced the American 14.1 Championship since 2005. And super 14.1 fans Dennis Walsh and Bill Maropulos run the Straight Pool Challenge at Derby City.

I appreciate the efforts of the media. This would include Tom Shaw and Shari Stauch at *Pool & Billiard*. Mike Howerton and the now retired Jerry Forsyth do a fabulous job at AZBilliards – which of course includes *Billiard Buzz*! Mike Panozzo also does a great job with *Billiards Digest*, as does Paul Frankel at *Professor Q-Ball*.

Women are becoming a bigger force in pool, participating in all things pool. I mentioned Janet, my designer, and you all know Melinda, who produces this interview every month, in addition frequently adds to her blog. I have enjoyed exchanging ideas with instructor Fran Crimi, and Angel Levine, who is working on her “Rais-

ing the Hustler” documentary. And Francine Massey has been a longtime friend and supporter of my work.

Special thank you goes to Dr. Vincent Amato and to Dr. Michael Fedak for their generous support. And, I want to acknowledge the fans who visit my FB page and who support their games by purchasing my books.

Q: Based on all that you have done for pool, a strong case can be made for your induction into the BCA Hall of Fame.

A: Wow, thank you! I admit it'd be a great honor. I am at the same age as Robert Byrne, my fellow instructional author, when he was admitted to the Hall of Fame in 2001 at age 71. Comparing his work and mine, I think it makes sense to be inducted based on my body of work. But I also have not done the behind-the-scenes politicking that I hear might be part of the process. While I suppose I could start campaigning for the HOF, I prefer to concentrate on my work. Someday it may happen and if it does, I will be overjoyed!

Q: What's your favorite quote or words you live by?

A: If I am limited to one, it would be the aforementioned lesson that I

learned from Fred Kalmus, which is to, “Look for the gift in life's adversities.” Another biggie comes from mindfulness leader Jon Kabat-Zinn. He asks, “Is it possible for you to contemplate that in a very real way, this may actually be the best season, the best moment of your life? If this was so, what would it mean for you?” And finally, this excerpt from Teddy Roosevelt's famous speech at the Sorbonne in 1910: “The credit belongs to the man in the arena ... who at the best, knows in the end the triumph of high achievement...”

Thank you again, Phil, for agreeing to this interview!

Well, Melinda, thank you for asking me! I have enjoyed responding to your questions as they have stimulated my thinking on so many aspects of my work, the sport, and the people who play it. I hope the readers of *Billiard Buzz* discover some ideas that are of value to them and their games, and possibly to the growth and betterment of our great sport.

Those of you who would like to discuss anything I have talked about, including business, growing the game, and lessons, you can write me at capellepublishing@gmail.com.

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



Additionally, she was a Tournament Director for two large tours in Texas for over 15 years. She is a loyal blogger (<http://pooljourney.blogspot.com/>) and holds numerous BCA/ACS Texas State and National titles (singles, doubles, and teams).

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Alexander Kazakis 8 – 1 Skyler Woodward

DAVID ALCAIDE is the 2019 Dafabet World Pool Masters Champion as he won an absolute belter of a final as he came from behind to beat Alexander Kazakis 9-8 in front of a packed crowd at the Tercentenary Hall at the Victoria Stadium in Gibraltar.

Both players put their hearts and souls into the final and left nothing out there but it was Alcaide, a winner

here in 2017, who won the dramatic deciding rack to send his battery of fans into a frenzy.

Having clawed his way back from a losing position, at 0-5 and then 5-8, Alcaide broke in the decider. He ran out of position though with the five ball on the rail and attempted to swerve the cue ball and flick it down the cushion. It failed and left a great opportunity for Kazakis.

The Greek, under huge pressure, cleared the table down to the 8 and 9 balls but completely fluffed the positional shot after pocketing the 8 and left himself with either a bank into the centre pocket for the win or a safety.

He chose safety and left the cue ball and object balls at opposite ends of

the table. However, seizing the opportunity, Alcaide banked the 9 ball down table and it rolled straight into the heart of the pocket for a magnificent victory.

“This is unbelievable,” said jubilant Alcaide immediately after the match. “I played that final for all the fans and my daughter, Daniella. Every ball I was thinking it was for her and I played to win

“I only thought please Alex give me one more chance. I tried to make every rack but this is 9-ball, it is a tough way for Alex to lose, he played a really good tournament. Now I want to celebrate this tournament!”

In front of a sold-out crowd, Kazakis opened the proceedings with an 8/9



combo and then ran out the second for a two-nil lead in the race to nine final. There was no stopping the Greek star as he took the next as his opponent waited for some table time.

Alcaide had that chance in the sixth game as Kazakis left the 3-ball over the side pocket. He swerved to pot it and then cleared the table for his first rack. The Spaniard came with some clutch pots in the next after he lost position and managed to bring the score back to 5-2.

He took the next to close the gap but there was drama in the ninth game as Alcaide missed a cut on the 9 ball but left it semi-safe. Kazakis took on the bank shot back up the table but missed by some distance only to see the nine creep back down the table and drop into the pocket for a 6-3 lead.

Kazakis reasserted himself in the next to increase his lead before Alcaide took the 12th rack much to the delight of his fans in the audience as the score moved to 7-4. There was more in the next as Alcaide ran out from the break to close in on Kazakis.

There was disaster for Alcaide in the 13th game as the cue ball received a



last-minute kick following the break off to see it fall into the middle pocket. With ball-in-hand, the Greek made no mistakes as he ran the table to get to the hill at 8-5.

Alcaide had a chance in the next as Kazakis hooked himself travelling from the one to the two-ball. The safety wasn't tight enough and Alcaide made a nervy run out to get to 6-8. After a couple of safeties, the

2017 champion had an opportunity and ran through the balls to leave him one behind Kazakis and two from victory.

From 8-5 down, Alcaide took the next to level it at 8-8 and go favourite with the break in the deciding rack.

A dejected Kazakis said, "I didn't win. I was lucky in the whole match; I didn't play that well. I won some racks with a good roll and David fought really, really hard. From 5-0 down he was running out everything and he really deserved it. But I had my chance and I dogged it.

"I don't want to see that final again. I played really well in the other three matches but right now I am really disappointed."

2019 Dafabet World Pool Masters is sponsored by Rason 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, Kamui are the Official Chalk and Tip and Ultimate Team Gear provide all World Pool Masters apparel.



David Alcaide and Alex Kazakis

CHINA'S SIMING CHEN GETS BY BRITAIN'S KELLY FISHER TWICE TO WIN 2019 WPBA MASTERS

In what proved to be her best recorded earnings year, to date (2017), China's 24-year-old Siming Chen won five major events between March and November, opening with a win at the Amway Cup in Chinese Tapei, followed by victories in the China Open (June), the Dynamic Klagenfurt (part of the Euro Tour in Austria; Oct.) and a week apart in November, the Women's World 9-Ball Championships (Nov. 8-11) and the All-Japan Women's Championship (Nov. 16-26).

In the Women's World 9-Ball Championships that year, there was only one competitor among the top eight finishers who was not from China or Chinese Taipei. That lone competitor, who finished in the four-way tie for 5th place was Britain's Kelly Fisher. Five months earlier, Fisher had finished in the four-way tie for 5th place at the China Open, sharing the spot with Chihiro Kawahara (Japan), Rubilen Amit (Philippines) and Xiao-Ting Pan (China).

And this is just that one year, her best recorded earnings year, to date. Chen's been winning money on the international pool scene since 2009, when she was 16. All this, by way of an introduction to who she is – the #1-ranked female pool player in the world right now – and why, to no one's surprise, she went undefeated through a field of 64 entrants to win the 2019 WPBA Masters, held from February 27-March 3 at the Soaring Eagle Casino & Resort in Mount Pleasant, MI. Also to no one's surprise, Kelly Fisher recovered from an early round loss to Chen and fought back though nine matches on the loss side to face her a second time in the finals.

It's not unusual for fans of the billiard sports to be more keenly attuned to players from their own countries and/or players who compete regularly in their country. We here in the US of A

are aware of many female competitors who are not native to this country, but are well-known by virtue of their presence competing (and in some cases, living) here. Allison Fisher (Britain), Karen Corr (Ireland), Kelly Fisher (England), Ga Young Kim (South Korea), and Jasmin Ouschan (Austria), as just a few examples of those who competed at this year's WPBA Masters. The home-grown female talent on hand was larger and made its presence known, just not for as long, as the visiting competitors flexed their considerable muscle and advanced toward the finals.

Jennifer Baretta made it to a winners' side semifinal (right after defeating Janet Atwell), and made it to the quarterfinals before giving way to Kelly Fisher. Gerda (Hoffstater) Gregerson, a member of the WPBA Hall of Fame, originally from Austria, later from Sweden and currently residing in Charlotte, NC made it to a winners' side quarterfinal against Siming Chen.

Siming Chen's trip started with the proverbial bang, as she shut out Indiana's Tonya Wiser and then ran right into Kelly Fisher for the first, though not the last time. Chen gave up only a



Kelly Fisher and Si Ming Chen (Photo courtesy of WPBA)

single rack to Fisher in their first meeting and then defeated Billie Billing 9-1 to arrive at her winners' side quarter-final match against Gregerson. A 9-3 victory over Gregerson gave Chen a 36-5 game winning record moving into her winners' side semifinal match against Jennifer Baretta.

Chinese Tapei's Tzu Chien Wei, in the meantime, who'd cashed in three of the four events won by Siming Chen back in 2017, worked her way through a slightly more resistant field of competitors, downing Caroline Pao 9-2 in her opening match, and Jessica Barnes 9-3 in her second. She then survived a double hill battle against 20-year-old Russian Kristina Tkach to sport a 27-13 game record, going into her winners' side semifinal match against Allison Fisher.

Chen advanced to the hot seat match with a 9-2 win over Baretta, as Wei defeated Fisher 9-5 to join her. Chen claimed the hot seat 9-7 over Wei and

waited for what turned out to be the return of Kelly Fisher.

Fisher, over on the loss side, was working on a nine-match winning streak that would carry her all the way back to a finals rematch against Chen. She started that trip with three victories in which she gave up only a single rack each to Ewa Mataya Laurance, Caroline Pao and Kaylin Wykoff. Jenna Bishoff put up a bit of a fight in the following round, chalking up more racks against Fisher (5) than her first three loss-side opponents combined. Fisher returned to form with a 9-1 victory over Janet Atwell and then gave up three to Kristina Tkach. This put Kelly Fisher into a match against Allison Fisher, fresh from the winners' side semifinal.

Jennifer Baretta drew Jasmin Ouschan, who'd been defeated by Allison Fisher 9-7 in a winners' side quarterfinal and then defeated Helena Thornfeldt 9-4 and Line Kjorsvik 9-7 to face Baretta.

Everybody got caught up in a double hill fight for advancement to the quarterfinals. Baretta eventually defeated Ouschan, and Fisher eliminated Fisher (that's Kelly over Allison). Kelly Fisher ended Jennifer Baretta's run 9-5 in those quarterfinals and then got wrapped up in another double hill fight, which she won, against Tzu Chie Wen in the semifinals.

As she'd describe it later from an airport in Detroit, awaiting a flight to Newark, and eventually, home to England, three matches in a row on that last Sunday just about did Kelly Fisher in, and "the wheels sort of came off." Siming Chen completed her undefeated run at the 2019 WPBA Masters with an 11-2 victory over Kelly in the finals.

WPBA representatives thanked the Soaring Eagle Resort & Casino for their hospitality, as well as sponsors Outsville AccuRack, Aramith, PoolActionTV, Simonis Cloth and Diamond Billiard Products.

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ARANAS GOES UNDEFEATED

to win Diamond 10-Ball Pro Players Championship at 27th SBE

With just a touch of exaggeration, in about as much time as it takes to state the official tournament name – The 27th Annual Allen Hopkins' Super Billiards Expo's Diamond Open 10-Ball Pro Players Championships (or, AHSBEDO10-BPPC), held on the last weekend in March at the Greater Philadelphia Expo Center in Oaks, PA - Zoren "James" Aranas from the Philippines went undefeated through a full field of 64 entrants to capture the event title, its \$10,000 first-place prize and the Waterford Crystal trophy that went along with it.

Aranas had won last year's SBE ProAm Bar Box Championships. The trek to the winners' circle entailed seven matches for Aranas; the first three, in a double elimination bracket that advanced him to a single-elimination, final round of 16 that featured four matches. He faced Oscar Dominguez in the finals, who played

one extra loss-side match, which advanced him to the final 16, and eventually, after winning three, earned his slot in the finals against Aranas.

With some overlap (players in multiple events), the 2019 SBE drew over 3,000 entrants to its 11 events, which included a warm-up event, a Second

Chance event and two junior events. A separate report will be posted regarding the results of the Ladies Open Event (47 entrants), the ProAm Bar Box Championships (32), the Open Amateur (1,024 entrants), Open Seniors (384), Super Seniors (192) and Women Amateurs (188). According to Allen Hopkins, it was the highest at-



James Aranas

tendance figure in the event's 27-year history.

There were, this year, a number of pro players, who were conspicuous by their absence, including (in the 10-Ball Open) the defending champion, Mike Dechaine, who, after registering, had to bow out for personal reasons. As a random example of those among the missing, of the 10 players who competed in the 2018 Mosconi Cup for the European and American teams, only three (all Americans) competed in this year's SBE. All five of the European 2018 Mosconi Cup team members (as well as recent German 'phenom,' Joshua Filler) and two of the Americans (Shane Van Boening & Skyler Woodward) spent the same weekend in close proximity to the Rock of Gibraltar, competing in the 27th annual Dafabet World Pool Masters Championship, which featured a total prize fund (\$100,000) that was over twice the total prize fund (\$48,000) for the SBE's marquee event - the Diamond Open 10-Ball Pro Players Championship - and featured less than half the players (24) of the SBE event (64). Last year's World Pool Masters event was

held in the first week of March and there is little or no information as to why that date was changed in a way that conflicted with the (scheduled way ahead of time) SBE.

The end result more or less allowed Aranas to navigate his way through a field that, for him, did not feature anyone with a higher FargoRate and no one closer than 20 points on that scale. With a FargoRate of 805 (going in), Aranas' average opponent (of the seven he faced) had a FargoRate of 740. His closest competitor in that regard was Mika Immonen (785) and Aranas opened his seven-match run against a competitor (Matt Krah) with a 677 rating. It should be noted that pool has something of an "Any Given Sunday" rule, which dictates that at the upper levels of competition, with players sporting wide disparities in FargoRates, anything can and often does happen. This is not to say that Aranas wasn't challenged in his seven-match march to the finish line, because he was, primarily in the single elimination phase of the event.

Though he would enter the finals with a 66.3% game-winning average (69-

35), Aranas' average over the three matches in the single elimination phase of the event was 59% (39-27). Once Aranas had sent Matt Krah to the loss side 10-1 in the double-elimination opening round, he went on to defeat Hunter Lombardo 10-5 and Jeremy Sossei 10-2, which moved him among the winners' side final eight for advancement to single elimination. Joining him on the winners' side final eight were 'young gun' Chris Robinson, Mika Immonen, Martin Dagle, Roberto Gomez, Jason Klatt, Ralf Souquet and Raymund Faraon, who'd just sent Oscar Dominguez to the loss side 10-7.

Dominguez opened his runner-up campaign by defeating Tommy Tokoph 10-8, and then, downing Jeremy Seaman 10-7. Raymund Faraon then sent him to the loss side 10-7, where he defeated Mahmut Sami Koylu 10-2 to qualify for the losers' bracket final eight. Joining him from the loss side of the bracket among the Final 16 were John Morra, Thorsten Hohmann, Mosconi Cup USA team member Tyler Styer, Zion Zvi, another Mosconi Cup team member Billy Thorpe, Shaun Wilkie and Omar Alshaheen.

The final 16 featured two former US Open 9-Ball Champions - two-time champion Mika Immonen ('08/'09) and Ralf Souquet (2002). Among those who competed, and conspicuous by their absence from the event's final 16, were four other US Open champions; Johnny Archer (1999), Tommy Kennedy (1992), Corey Deuel (2001) and Gabe Owen (2004). Also MIA from the final 16 were Tony Robles, and Billy Thorpe. Former two-time US Open champion Darren Appleton ('10/'11) was among the original 64 competitors, but after winning his opening round 10-8 over Robert Casanzio, he learned that his mother had passed away and went home to be with his family.

The first four to drop from the winners' side final eight were Chris Rob-

Oscar Dominguez



Diamond 10-Ball Pro Player's Championship

inson (to Aranas 13-11), Martin Daigle (to Immonen 13-9), Jason Klatt (to Gomez 13-7) and Ralf Souquet (to Faraon 13-5). This set up a winners' side bracket set of semifinals that saw Aranas down Immonen 13-5, as Faraon eliminated Gomez 13-7. In the winners' side final, Aranas defeated Faraon 13-11.

To the best of our knowledge, linked to the accuracy of SBE's published brackets, there were only 12 matches in this entire event that went to double hill. As it turned out, Thorsten Hohmann was involved in three of them. Two of those three occurred during his three-match run among the final 16. He was one of the four who advanced to the losers' bracket semifinal, defeating John Morra, double hill (the SBE Web site has this match result wrong). It was Hohmann's second, double hill match; his first was in the event's opening round against

Chris Robinson. Hohmann's losers' bracket, semifinal opponent was Tyler Styer, who'd defeated Zion Zvi 13-16. Oscar Dominguez, in the meantime, bound for the event finals, had gotten by Billy Thorpe 13-9 and in his losers' side semifinal, faced Omar Alshaheen, who'd eliminated Shaun Wilkie 13-6.

Dominguez downed Alshaheen 13-6 and in the twelfth and final double hill match of this Pro Players Championship, Oscar Dominguez eliminated Hohmann in a true, nail-biting, double hill match that never for a moment seemed in complete control by either of them.

For those seeking further information about the match specifics of any individual players or a more thorough understanding of the overall progress of the event toward its eventual outcome, you can visit the Super Billiards Expo Web site (superbilliardsexpo.com). You should be made aware,

however, that while it features a preliminary, double elimination bracket that shows the final 16 that advanced to single-elimination play, and the winners' and losers' side brackets of that single-elimination play, it does not indicate that a final match between Aranas and Dominguez ever happened.

It did. Aranas completed his undefeated run with 13-10 victory over Dominguez (another very entertaining match) to claim the 2019 AHSBE-DO10-BPPC.

Allen Hopkins thanked the management staff of the Greater Philadelphia Convention center, as well as his two tournament directors; Doug Ennis for the two Pro events and C.C. Strain for the Pro Am Bar Box and all Amateur events. Sponsors for this 27th Annual SBE were Tiger Products, Diamond Billiards Products, Simonis Cloth, TAP League and Run Out Sportswear.



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Tkach Downs Defending Champ Corr, Wins SBE Women's 9-Ball Pro Players Championship

The first time that Russia's Kristina Tkach showed up on the AZBilliards' database radar was almost exactly five years ago (April 12, 2014) when she finished as runner-up to Austria's Jasmin Ouschan at a stop on the EuroTour; the Dynamic Billiard North Cyprus Open.

Ouschan played the proverbial 'lights out' at that tournament, giving up only seven racks over six matches and none at all to Tkach in the finals. At the time, Tkach was 15 years old. Later that same year, Tkach won the European Girls Championship in 8-ball. Two years later, she came back to that North Cyprus Open and came from the loss side to win

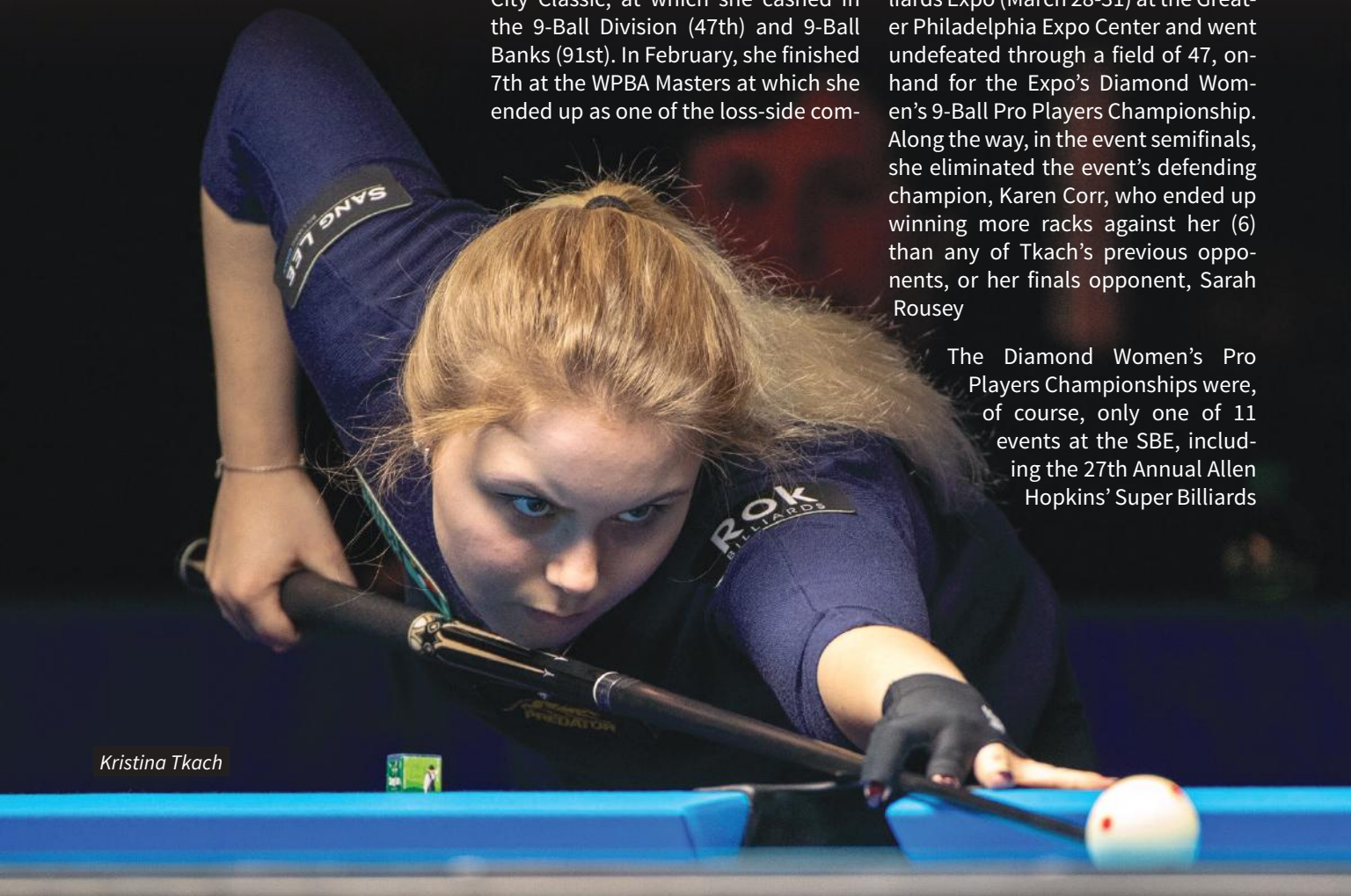
it. She also went on that year to win all three disciplines of the European Girls Championships (10-ball, 9-ball & 8-ball), all on the same weekend. In her best recorded earnings year, to date (2018), she chalked up three wins on the EuroTour.

This year, she showed up on US payout lists, with an appearance at the Derby City Classic, at which she cashed in the 9-Ball Division (47th) and 9-Ball Banks (91st). In February, she finished 7th at the WPBA Masters at which she ended up as one of the loss-side com-

petitors to fall victim to Kelly Fisher, who, at the time, was working on a nine-match, loss-side winning streak that would eventually put her into the finals for an unsuccessful rematch against Siming Chen.

In the 'what have you done for me lately' department of the pool world, Tkach came to the 2019 Super Billiards Expo (March 28-31) at the Greater Philadelphia Expo Center and went undefeated through a field of 47, on-hand for the Expo's Diamond Women's 9-Ball Pro Players Championship. Along the way, in the event semifinals, she eliminated the event's defending champion, Karen Corr, who ended up winning more racks against her (6) than any of Tkach's previous opponents, or her finals opponent, Sarah Rousey

The Diamond Women's Pro Players Championships were, of course, only one of 11 events at the SBE, including the 27th Annual Allen Hopkins' Super Billiards



Kristina Tkach

Expo's Diamond Open 10-Ball Pro Players Championships, the results of which have been posted in a separate article. Details about the ProAm Bar Box Championships and highlights of the varied Amateur events will be posted here in a third report

Starting at the end, so to speak, it should be noted that while Tkach pocketed (pursed?) \$5,000 and, like James Aranas in the 10-Ball Pro Players event, a Waterford crystal trophy, valued somewhere in the vicinity of \$500, the trophy never made it to Tkach's transportation out of the Expo Center. According to reports, the trophy came in two pieces; a base and its crystal bowl. As it was being carried out to a vehicle in preparation for Tkach's exit from the Expo Center, the box it was in, was dropped, shattering the bowl into the proverbial 'million pieces.' The box was being carried by a member of Ms. Tkach's entourage, who, according to varied reports initiated immediate plans to have the bowl replaced.

Tkach's trip to the winners' circle was handled with much more dexterity. As with the 10-Ball Pro Players, the 47 women were organized into an original, double elimination bracket, out of which emerged a final group of 16 (8 from the winners' side and 8 from the loss side). The final 16 moved into two winners' and losers' side, single elimination brackets.

Tkach was not afforded the luxury of 'easy going' in her opening rounds. She first drew J. Pechauer Northeast Womens Tour director and always-dangerous Linda Shea. A 9-4 win in that opening round led to a match against Dawn Fox, who'd been awarded a bye in the opening round. Tkach downed Fox by the same 9-4 score, and then defeated Stacie Bourbeau 9-3 to become one of the eight winners' side's Final 8. Also advancing to the Final 16 from the winners' side were Karen Corr, Kim Shaw, Kelly Wy-



Sarah Rousey

att, April Larson, Dawn Hopkins, Briana Miller and Kelly Isaac

Meanwhile, on the loss side, Tkach's eventual opponent in the finals, Sarah Rousey, earned her spot on the losers' side's final 8, when she defeated Kim Whitman 9-4. Rousey, who fell ill, temporarily, before her final winners' side match against Kelly Wyatt, was forced to forfeit that winners' side match. Joining Rousey from the losers' side were Dawn Fox, Veronique Menard, Lai Li, Stacie Bourbeau, Tara Williams, Nathalie Chabot and Kaylin Wikoff

The winners' side single elimination bracket set Tkach and Corr onto a collision course that would end in the winners' side final. Tkach downed Kelly Isaac 11-4 and Briana Miller 11-3 to draw Corr in those semifinals. Corr eliminated Kim Shaw 11-7 and April Larson 11-8 to face Tkach

In the winners' side finals that followed, Tkach chalked up more racks against Corr than all of Corr's first three opponents combined; Tkach 11, Corr's first three 8. Corr had won just over 77% of the games she played in three double elimination matches, (27-8), but entering the finals, only 59% of the two games she'd played in the single elimination phase. Tkach,

by comparison, had a lower winning percentage than Corr in her double elimination matches (71%; 27-11), but in her two single-elimination matches, prior to meeting Corr, she'd won just under 76% of the games (22-7). When the winners' side final (event semifinal) was over, won by Tkach 11-6, Tkach advanced to the finals with a 71% game-winning percentage. Corr was eliminated, having won 62% of her games

On to Sarah Rousey, who, on the loss side, had defeated Dawn Fox, Veronique Menard and in the loss-side bracket final, Tara Williams 11-5. She came into the finals having won 65% of her games, overall (60-32). That percentage was 71% through the first two matches (she'd forfeited the third match) and 61% in the three loss-side matches

As happened in the 10-Ball Pro Players event, the SBE's Web site failed to record the fact that a match between Kristina Tkach and Sarah Rousey happened at all. As noted in the earlier 10-Ball Pro Player report, a final did, in fact occur. Tkach gave up only four games in the race-to-11 finals to claim the event title, which, according to our records is her first major event victory here in the US.

APA President *Renee Lyle* to Retire

After serving as the leader of the World's Largest Pool League for nearly a quarter-century, Renee Lyle has retired from her post as APA President. Lyle joined the organization in 1987. After serving in various roles at APA over her first eight years, she was named President in 1995 by Founders Terry Bell and Larry Hubbart.

Lyle will remain on indefinitely as a consultant for APA, but will no longer oversee day-to-day operations of the organization.

"I've dedicated the better part of my life to helping build APA into what it is today, and now I'm ready to step away and enjoy my retirement. I'm happy, healthy and I look forward to having the time to focus on other passions that I've simply never been able to pursue," said Lyle.



Renee Lyle

As Lyle transitions into retirement, APA Founder and new President Terry Bell will oversee APA, along with long-time Vice-President Pam Aston, who has served as VP throughout the past 24 years alongside Lyle.

"We're happy to see Renee move into the next phase of her life, and we're grateful for the contributions she's made. To her credit, Renee has assembled a very capable team that will continue to build upon the success we've achieved," said new President Terry Bell. "With an average tenure of 15-plus years of leadership in key areas of the company like our Tournament Productions, Franchise Operations and Marketing departments, we are well positioned to make this a seamless transition," he added.

While it may be "business as usual" moving forward as an organization, it will no doubt be an emotional goodbye to the woman who has guided the organization for so many years.

This year's annual APA League Operator Convention in late April in Las

Vegas, originally slated to celebrate APA's 40th Anniversary, will now double as a celebration of Lyle's tenure as President and as her farewell.

The APA, based in Lake Saint Louis, Mo., sanctions the world's largest amateur pool league, with leagues throughout the United States, Canada and Japan. Nearly 250,000 members compete in weekly 8-Ball and 9-Ball League play. The APA is generally recognized as the Governing Body of Amateur Pool, having established the official rules, championships, formats and handicap systems for the sport of amateur billiards.

The APA produces four major tournaments each year—the APA World Pool Championships, the APA Poolplayer Championships, the APA Junior Championships and the U.S. Amateur Championship—that, together, pay out more than \$2 Million in cash and prizes annually!

The APA and its championships are sponsored by Aramith, Action Cues, Pool Dawg and Valley-Dynamo.

For more information on the American Poolplayers Association, visit <https://poolplayers.com/>.



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Ruijsink Returns As Coach

Van Boening & Woodward Confirmed For Team USA

Kyle will coach Team USA for a third time at this year's partypoker Mosconi Cup and will have Shane Van Boening and Skyler Woodward on his team at Mandalay Bay Resort, Las Vegas this November 25-28.

Ruijsink guided USA to their 12th partypoker Mosconi Cup title and first in nine years when they shocked Team EUROPE with an 11-9 success at Alexandra Palace, London last December. Woodward collected the MVP award, while it was Van Boening who made the winning 9-ball for a famous victory.

Both players will return to the team in 2019 and will be joined by three further players to be selected by Ruijsink. As in 2018, Coach Ruijsink will run a series of training camps for players under consideration for selection, before choosing his final squad in the autumn.

"I am really happy that Matchroom decided to hire me again for this year's Mosconi Cup," said Ruijsink, who will have Jeremy Jones as his Vice Coach for a second time at this year's Cup.

"Jeremy and I decided that last year's team was really tight, put in a good performance so we thought that most players should be in and the two grand masters of last year's Mosconi Cup we decided to give a spot for this year, so Shane and Skyler will definitely be in the team for the Mosconi Cup 2019.

"It is always difficult to find the best-case scenario. I do think the Europeans will be warned by last year and will be ready. Filler, who didn't make the team, two weeks later become World Champion so they will have a strong team again, probably better, so



Shane Van Boening, Johan Ruijsink and Skyler Woodward

we need to be better. Our programme will be quite intensive to make sure we are ready for this year. We will definitely need the supporters from America and we count on them to be there and cheer us on."

Van Boening, who will play his 13th partypoker Mosconi Cup this year, added: "I work hard every year and I am pleased that I will play the Mosconi Cup again this year. Making the winning shot last year is a moment that will be top for a long time, for my whole career. It was a tremendous amount of pressure and making the last shot is a great feeling to remember."

Woodward, the 2018 MVP, said: "Being picked for the Mosconi Cup is unbelievable, it is what every pool player wants to play in. There is no atmosphere like it, it is crazy."

Tickets for the 2019 partypoker Mosconi Cup are available now at www.mosconicup.com. Prices start at \$48 per session with season tickets at \$161 silver. Gold seating is now sold out. VIP Platinum packages are available priced \$225 per day or \$950 for all four days and include a breakfast buffet, unlimited drinks, VIP seating in the front three rows and much more.

Cuescore Announced As Official Scoring Partner Of Matchroom Pool

Matchroom Multi Sport is pleased to announce that CueScore are the new Official Scoring Partner of Matchroom Pool events.

Beginning with the World Pool Masters in Gibraltar from March 29-31, CueScore.com will provide live scoring from all Matchroom Pool events. The CueScore team will work alongside Matchroom Multi Sport at the 43rd US Open 9-Ball Championship in Las Vegas to make live scoring available from all 33 tables.

Emily Frazer, COO of Matchroom Multi Sport, said: "We are thrilled to be working with CueScore as our Official Scoring Partner across all Matchroom Pool tournaments. This is an exciting time for us and for the sport as we prepare for the biggest US Open 9-Ball Championship ever. We will have 256 players competing and live scoring of every match will be available via Matchroom-Pool.com and CueScore.com

"We have been working closely with CueScore to ensure we can bring fans around the world the latest scores live from every match during the US Open. This is a big operation but together with the brilliant team at CueScore we have been working to ensure we can



provide this great service to what we expect could be the largest audience recorded for a pool event on a live scoring site.

"In addition to this year's US Open we will be providing live online scoring via CueScore at the World Pool Masters, World Cup of Pool and Mosconi Cup, so you can always keep up with the action."

Thomas Stavang Pedersen, CEO and Founder of CueScore International AS: "We're very proud and happy to become the Official Scoring Partner for Matchroom Pool events. Already in our first meeting it was clear that our visions and ideas for the sport matches one another perfectly.

"To us, Matchroom events are like the gold standard for arrangements, thus

becoming the Official Scoring Partner is proud moment for us. We're super excited to start working together and bring information and live scores to fans around the world."

The draw for the US Open 9-Ball Championship will be made at the start of April and shown on the US Open 9-Ball Facebook page. The brackets will then be available at matchroompool.com and cuescore.com shortly afterwards.

Tickets for the 43rd US Open 9-Ball Championship are available now at www.matchroompool.com from as little as \$10 with VIP packages also available for the final three days of the tournament.

The tournament will be split into two stages with the full field playing double elimination down to the final 16 from Sunday April 21st until Tuesday April 23rd across multiple tables. From Wednesday April 24th until Friday April 26th the final 16 players will play straight knockout in the TV Arena in front of a global television audience.



The International 9-Ball Open Norfolk, Virginia USA October 28 - November 2, 2019

Pat Fleming will be staging his second International 9-Ball Open once again at the Sheraton Waterside Hotel in Norfolk, Virginia USA.

This will be the fifth straight year that the Sheraton will be hosting a major global 9-Ball event. As in the past, the Sheraton will provide all of the creature comforts that you would expect from a world class hotel. Discounted rates on hotel rooms are offered for spectators as well as for contestants. An assortment of meal options will be available including food stations in the ballroom and full course menus in their City Dock Norfolk restaurant.

Quick International 9-Ball Open Details

- Play Dates: October 28-November 2, 2019 (Monday thru Saturday: only six days)
- Size of Field: 128 players maximum
- Added Money: \$50,000. Entry Fee: \$1,000
- First Prize: \$30,000. Pays 32 places.
- Format: Double Elimination, Race to 11. Finals to 13.
- Site: Sheraton Norfolk Waterside Hotel
- Discounted Hotel Room Rate: \$109.00 plus tax for a single or double
- Vendor Booths on site for your billiard supply needs
- Sanctioned by: World Pool Association (WPA)
- Mosconi Cup points awarded
- Pay-Per-View by Accu-Stats Video Productions
- Fox Sports International for TV exposure
- Live Scoring by AZ Billiards
- Diamond Pool Tables, Simonis Cloth, and Aramith Balls
- Tournament Websites: www.international9ballopen.com and www.accu-stats.com

- TV Arena Seat Reservations available.

SOME IMPROVEMENTS OVER 2018:

- The event will be six days long instead of seven. It saves everybody money.
- \$250 entry fee deposits will be accepted. Last year, you had to pay once in full.
- The Mosconi points will be the first event for 2020. Everyone starts at zero.
- \$40,000 more spread for 3rd thru 23rd place. More money for twenty-one players.
- Sixteen qualifying tournaments around the world. More chances to win entry.
- With a full field, \$178,000 purse versus \$162,000 last year. You'll win more money.
- See the money distribution below:
1st \$30,000 7-8th \$6,000 2nd \$22,000 9-12th \$4,500 3rd \$15,000 13-16th \$3,500 4th \$11,000 17-24th \$2,750 5-6th \$8,000 25-32nd \$2,250

The \$50,000 in added money insures that the event will be sanctioned by the WPA as a Tier 3 event awarding WPA points to the high finishers. The projected \$178,000 in prize money will be deposited into a Bank of America account in Norfolk, VA. This Bank of America (walking distance) will gladly cash prize money checks provided proper identification is presented.

The Behrman's Q-Master Billiards is a short distance away and will accom-



modate attendees with yet another option for pool tables and restaurants.

ENTER AS A CONTESTANT NOW:
<http://bit.ly/2019entryfees>

There are several ways to pay your \$1,000 entry fee. They are:

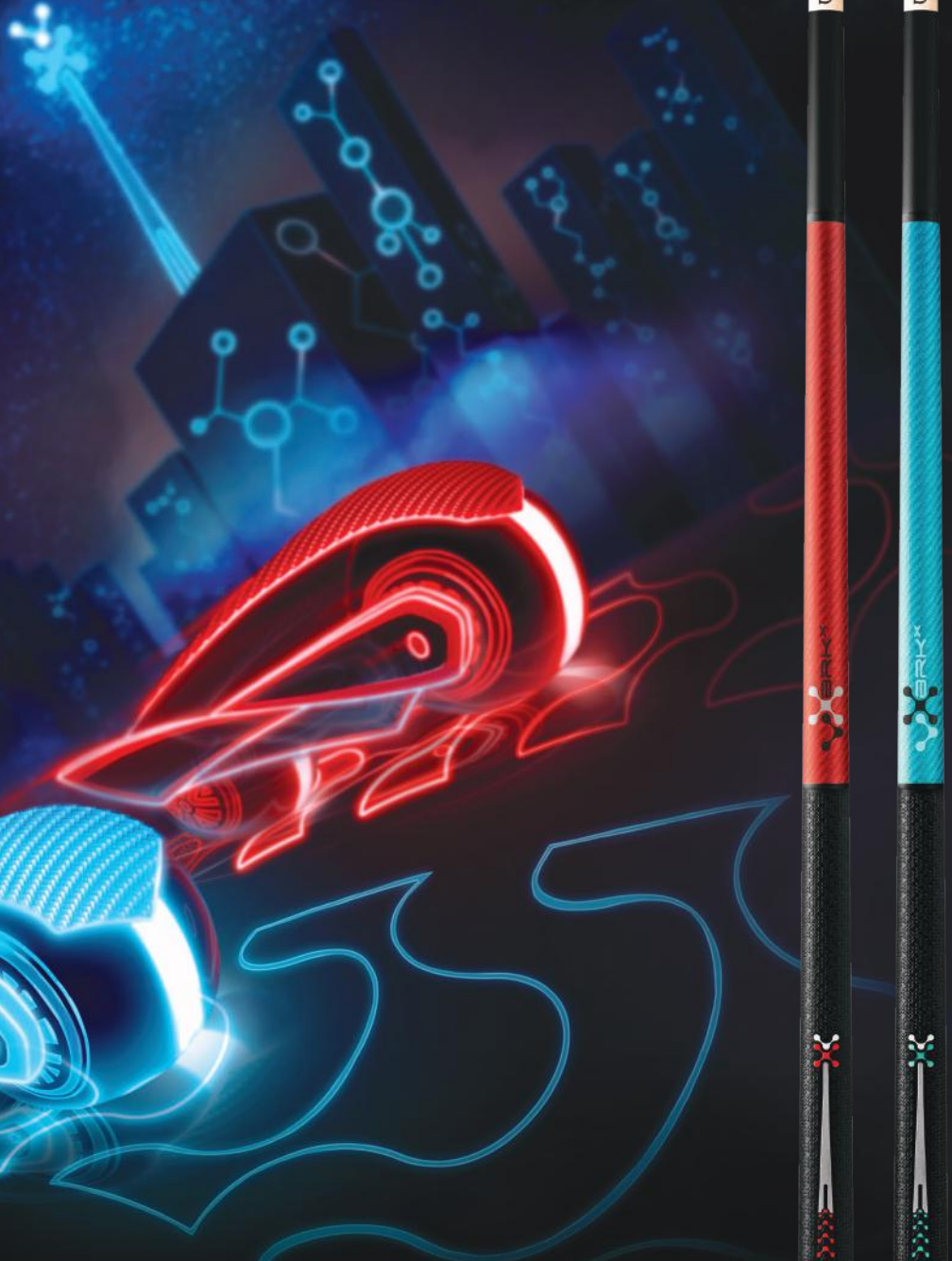
- Mail check or money order payable to: The International 9-Ball Open and mail to: The International 9-Ball Open, PO Box 299, Bloomingdale, New Jersey 07403
- Pay online with a debit/credit card or PayPal.
- Pay at the tournament site with money order or cash (only if the field is not full).
- OR you may pay a non-refundable entry fee deposit of \$250: <http://bit.ly/Entrydeposit>

RESERVE YOUR HOTEL ROOM NOW (\$109 Discount Rate, single/double):
<http://bit.ly/Sheraton2019>

RESERVE TV ARENA SEATS:
<http://bit.ly/IO9Bseating>

Any Questions? Contact: Pat Fleming International 9-Ball Open
PO Box 299 Bloomingdale, NJ 07403 973-838-7089
pat.fleming@international9ballopen.com

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CP POI VX5 BRK JMP RED

CP POI VX5 BRK JMP BLU

WPA Player Allocations Set for WPA Players Championship in Las Vegas

The player allocations for the \$50,000 added 2019 WPA Players Championship have been finalized. The following 48 players have been invited based on the WPA rankings and member federations.

The WPA Players Championship will be staged at Griff's Billiards in Las Vegas, April 16-19, ahead of the US Open 9-Ball Championship, which will be held April 21-26 at Mandalay Bay Resort & Casino in Las Vegas. This WPA Category 3 Ranking event, with \$50,000 added prize money, will provide players, especially those competing in the US Open 9-Ball Championship, even more opportunity in Las Vegas.

The event will be 9-ball and limited to 64 players in a single elimination format with a 32-player consolation event for those eliminated in the first round. The main event will be a race to seven with the semi-final and final being a race to nine. The consolation

event will be a race to five with the semi-final and final being a race to seven. 48 of the 64 players are chosen by the WPA rankings and WPA member federations. A single \$250 entry fee will cover the main event and the consolation tournament.

WPA Player Allocations

1. KAZAKIS, Alex (GRE)
2. FEIJEN, Niels (NED)
3. BIADO, Carlo (PHI)
4. CHANG, Jung Lin (TPE)
5. KO, Pin Yi (TPE)
6. Van BOENING, Shane (USA)
7. GORST, Fedor (RUS)
8. SHAW, Jayson (GBR)
9. MELLING, Chris (GBR)
10. GRABE, Denis (EST)
11. KACI, Eklent (ALB)
12. KO, Ping Chun (TPE)
13. WU, Kun Lin (TPE)
14. HOHMANN, Thorsten (GER)
15. SOUQUET, Ralf (GER)
16. CHENG, Yu Hsuan (TPE)
17. CHUA, Johann (PHI)
18. APPLETON, Darren (GBR)
19. THERON, Jason (RSA)



20. HALLIDAY, Richard (RSA)
21. HALLIDAY, Vincent (RSA)
22. YIP, Kin Ling (HKG)
23. CAPITO, Robbie (HKG)
24. OI, Naoyuki (JPN)
25. WALEED, Majid (QAT)
26. ALFAWAL, Abdulatif (QAT)
27. DO, The Kien (VIE)
28. KURIBAYASHI, Toru (JPN)
29. PAGULAYAN, Alex (CAN)
30. MORRA, John (CAN)
31. THORPE, Billy (USA)
32. WOODWARD, Skyler (USA)
33. BERGMAN, Justin (USA)
34. HATCH, Dennis (USA)
35. SHUFF, Brandon (USA)
36. DEUEL, Corey (USA)
37. TOKOPH, Tommy (USA)
38. WILKIE, Shaun (USA)
39. LOMBARDO, Hunter (USA)
40. TEVEZ, Christopher (PER)
41. MARTINEZ, Gerson (PER)
42. BAUTISTA, Ruben (MEX)
43. BIJSTERBOSCH, Marc (NED)
44. SZEWCZYK, Wojciech (POL)
45. BABICA, Radoslaw (POL)
46. DUDANETS, Maksim (RUS)
47. EDWARDS, Matt (NZL)
48. IMMONEN, Mika (FIN)

Anyone can register for Stage 1.

The remaining 16 spots will be filled by four Stage 1 qualifier tournaments, one per day, held at Griff's Billiards April 12-15. The top four finishers from each qualifier will receive a paid spot in the main event. A single *\$250 qualifier entry fee allows players to compete in all four qualifiers and will also gain free entry into the main event for those who qualify. Qualifiers will be single elimination, race to five and open to anyone not already entered in the main event. The field is limited to 96 players each day on a first come basis.

* a daily entry fee of \$100 is also an option.

INFO & REGISTRATION:
www.playcsipool.com/2019-wpa-players-championship

This event is made possible by the following sponsors:

Andy Billiard Cloth • CueSports International • Cyclop Balls • Diamond • Griff's Billiards • Predator • Master Billiard Chalk

The World Pool-Billiard Association (WPA) is the international governing

body for pocket billiards and is comprised of six member federations representing North America, South America, Europe, Asia, Africa and Australia. The WPA is the world-recognized body for sanctioning World Championship events. It is also one of the three member organizations of the World Confederation of Billiards Sports (WCBS), representing the billiard disciplines of pool, snooker and carom. For more information about the WPA, visit www.wpapool.com.

CueSports International (CSI) is an international pool league and event leader and is currently comprised of three divisions: CSI leagues, CSI events and CSI media. CSI leagues manages the BCA Pool League and USA Pool League, CSI events produces numerous amateur and professional events around the globe and CSI media creates live streaming and digital content. Through its vision and strategic alliances, CSI is "shaping the future of pool." For more information about CSI or any of its divisions, visit www.playcsipool.com or find CueSports International on Facebook, YouTube, Instagram and Twitter.



Tyler Styer Joins Cuetec Team of Professional Players and Brand Ambassadors.

Hasbrouck Heights, NJ, March 7, 2019 – Cuetec and Imperial are proud to announce that Tyler Styer has joined the Cuetec Team of Professional Players and Brand Ambassadors.

“We’re very excited to have Tyler join our team. His game has really progressed over the past year and his performance at the Mosconi Cup not only showcased his talent, but his impeccable character and nerve. He checks all of the boxes for Cuetec. We demand more from our pro’s than just playing like a champion, our pros need to live like Champions and Tyler certainly is doing that. We believe he has an extremely bright and promising future,” said Kyle Nolan, Cuetec Brand & Communications Manager.

“Since I started playing at the age of 13, I’ve always looked to Shane Van Boening as a role model. To be able to follow in his foot-steps and join him and my good friend Fedor Gorst on the Cuetec team is really exciting for me. At the Mosconi Cup, I was able to try some of Shane’s new gear, and I really liked the hit and feel, so when Cuetec approached me about joining the team, it felt like the right fit,” said Tyler Styer when asked about joining team Cuetec.

Look for Tyler at Super Billiards Expo and around the world as he competes against the world’s best.

About Cuetec

Cuetec burst onto the billiard scene in 1989, developing the composite cue. Today, Cuetec prides itself on offering the most technologically advanced wood and composite constructed cues and shafts, providing players with high-performance playing equip-



ment at affordable prices. For more information, please visit www.cuetec.com. Follow us on Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/CuetecUSA>

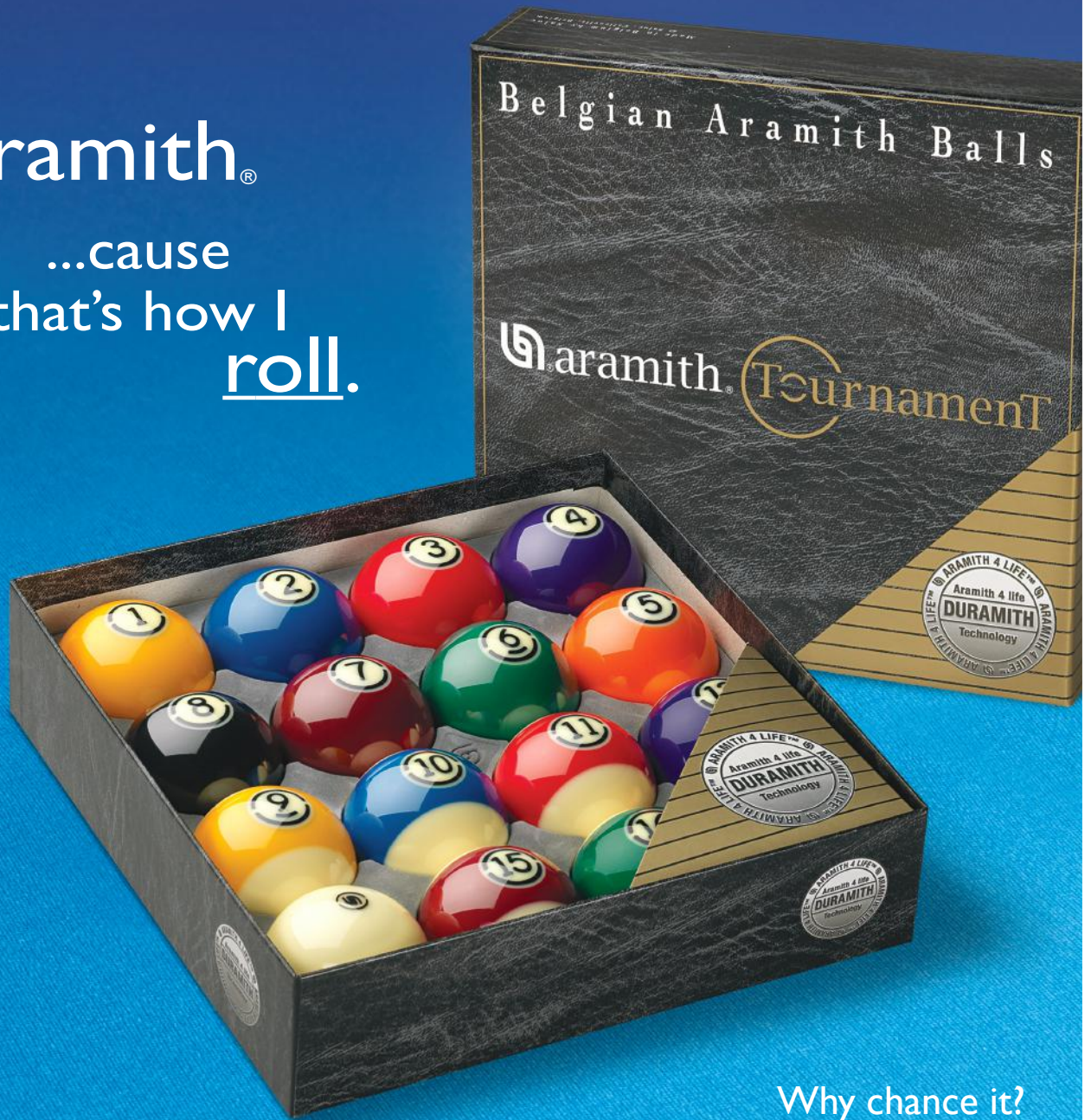
About Imperial

Imperial is the exclusive distributor for Cuetec in the United States. Imperial and Cuetec work together to maintain that professional quality players and cherish. Imperial International is the premier distributor of billiards equipment and licensed products from the NFL, MLB, NHL and several high-pro-

file colleges and universities. With over 60 years of experience, Imperial has made a name in the industry with some of the most well-crafted pool tables and accessories on the market with price ranges to fit any budget. Add a huge assortment of licensed product and there is no other company that you will need to look to for your game room, dorm room and man cave needs. For more information, visit <http://www.imperialusa.com>. Follow Imperial on Twitter, Facebook and Instagram @imperial_usa.

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Contact your Aramith Distributor for more information

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.

APRIL - MAY

Liberty Games Open

04/05 - 04/07

Players Pool and Snooker Lounge
Newcastle, UK

Joss Tour 2018-2019 Stop 13

04/06 - 04/07

Utica Billiards On The Boulevard
Utica, New York
Website: <http://www.joss9balltour.com/>

3rd Annual Barry Behrman Memorial

04/06 - 04/07

Q-Master Billiards
Virginia Beach, VA

Predator Pro-Am Tour 2019 Stop Amateur

04/06 - 04/07

Steinway Billiards
Astoria, NY
Website: <http://www.predatorproam-tour.com/index.asp>

2019 WPA Players Championship

04/12 - 04/19

Griff's
Las Vegas, Nevada

13th Bob Stocks Memorial 9-Ball

04/13 - 04/14

First Break Cafe
Sterling, VA
Website: <http://www.actionpooltour.com>

Jerry Olivier Ladies Tour 2019 Stop 3

04/13 - 04/14

Diamond Sports Bar
Port Arthur, Texas
Website: <http://www.obcuestour.com/>

Long Island UPA Scotch Doubles

04/13 - 04/13

The Big Kahuna
Huntington, New York
Website: <http://www.upatour.com/>

Northern Virginia Amateur Tour Stop

04/20 - 04/21

Breakers Sky Lounge
Herndon, Va
Website: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/267290537455630>

U.S. Open 9-Ball Championship

04/21 - 04/26

Mandalay Bay
Las Vegas, NV
Website: <http://www.usopen9ball-championships.com/>

Joss Tour 2018-2019 Stop 14

04/27 - 04/28

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

Joss Tour 2018-2019 Stop 15

05/04 - 05/05

Raxx Pool Room, Sports Bar & Grill
West Hempstead, NY
Website: <http://www.joss9balltour.com/>

Northern Virginia Amateur Tour Stop

05/18 - 05/19

First Break Cafe
Sterling, VA
Website: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/267290537455630>

Action Pool Tour Back To The Beach

05/18 - 05/19

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

2019 US Open Bank Pool

05/24 - 05/26

Griff's
Las Vegas, Nevada

US Open Straight Pool Championship 2019

05/27 - 05/29

Griff's
Las Vegas, Nevada

Tourney Results

02/27 - 03/03

WPBA Masters 2019

Soaring Eagle Casino & Resort

- Mt. Pleasant, MI
- 1 Siming Chen \$10,000
 - 2 Kelly Fisher \$7,000
 - 3 Tzu-Chien Wei \$5,500
 - 4 Jennifer Barretta \$4,500
 - 5 Allison Fisher \$3,500
 - 5 Jasmin Ouschan \$3,500
 - 7 Kristina Tkach \$2,800
 - 7 Line Kjoersvik \$2,800
 - 9 Janet Atwell \$2,200
 - 9 Helena Thornfeldt \$2,200
 - 9 Gerda Hofstatter Gregerson \$2,200
 - 9 Ga-Young Kim \$2,200
 - 13 Kyoko Sone \$1,500
 - 13 Liz Cole \$1,500
 - 13 Loree Jon Hasson \$1,500
 - 13 Jenna Bishoff \$1,500
 - 17 Kim White-Newsome \$1,200
 - 17 Kaylin Wikoff \$1,200
 - 17 Jia Li \$1,200
 - 17 Emily Duddy \$1,200
 - 17 Cathy Metzinger \$1,200
 - 17 Brittany Bryant \$1,200
 - 17 Billie Billings \$1,200
 - 17 Ashley Burrows \$1,200
 - 25 Naomi Williams \$750
 - 25 Monica Webb \$750
 - 25 Melissa Little \$750
 - 25 Eugenia Gyftopoulos \$750
 - 25 Caroline Pao \$750
 - 25 Beth Fondell \$750
 - 25 Autumn Duncan \$750
 - 25 Sara Miller \$750

03/02 - 03/03

10th N.E. Pool & Billiard Hall of Fame 9-Ball Open

Snookers - Sports Billiards, Bar & Grill

- Providence, RI
- 1 Raphael Dabreo \$1,450

- 2 Tom D'Alfonso \$950
- 3 Ivaylo Petrov \$700
- 4 Zion Zvi \$550
- 5 Austin Ross \$400
- 5 Kevin Bauccio \$400
- 7 Steve Mack \$250
- 7 Samoth Sam \$250
- 9 Dave Grau \$150
- 9 Kyle Pepin \$150
- 9 Marko Clarke \$150
- 9 Pat Fleming \$150
- 13 Qais Kolee \$100
- 13 Joe Dupuis \$100
- 13 Steve Sutton \$100
- 13 Ron Casanzio \$100

03/02 - 03/03

Predator Pro-Am Tour 2019 Stop Amateur

The Spot

- Nanuet, New York
- 1 Pascal Dufresne \$1,200
 - 2 Dave Shlemperis \$800
 - 3 Nick Croce \$500
 - 4 Tony Ignomirello \$325
 - 5 Thomas Schreiber \$250
 - 5 Naoko Saiki \$250
 - 7 Juan Melendez \$200
 - 7 James Stevens \$200
 - 9 Mac Jankov \$140
 - 9 Jon McConnell \$140
 - 9 Ocheign Carlos \$140
 - 9 Carlos Duque \$140
 - 13 Naldo Troncoso \$80
 - 13 Bud Robideau \$80
 - 13 Erick Carrasco \$80
 - 13 Peggy McKenna \$80

03/02 - 03/03

Q City 9-Ball Tour Stop

The Clubhouse

- Lynchburg, Virginia
- 1 Hank Powell \$575
 - 2 Andy Bowden \$375

- 3 Trey Frank \$200
- 4 Jordyn Worley \$100
- 5 Sean McGrady \$75
- 5 Scott Roberts \$75

03/02 - 03/03

10th N.E. Pool & Billiard Hall of Fame 9-Ball Second Chance

Snookers - Sports Billiards, Bar & Grill

- Providence, RI
- 1 Ben Werblow \$300
 - 2 Joe Darigis \$200
 - 3 Nick Coppola \$150
 - 4 Steve Sutton \$90
 - 5 Josh Gormly \$40
 - 5 Jim Prather \$40

03/03 - 03/04

JPNEWT Tour 2019 Stop #1

Triple 9 Bar & Billiards

- Elkridge, MD
- 1 Kim Whitman \$600
 - 2 Lisa Cossette \$320
 - 3 Cheryl Sporleder \$240
 - 4 Ada Lio \$100
 - 5 Nicole Christ \$60
 - 5 Lai Li \$60

03/09 - 03/10

Kevin Ketz Memorial

Trick Shot Billiards

- Clifton Park, NY
- 1 Danny Hewitt \$1,000
 - 2 Jeremy Sossei \$750
 - 3 Bucky Souvanthong \$600
 - 4 Greg Antonakos \$450
 - 5 Dave Grau \$325
 - 5 Mark Creamer \$325
 - 7 Ron Casanzio \$200
 - 7 Zion Zvi \$200
 - 9 Dave Varano \$100
 - 9 Nick Antonakis \$100

9 Nicolas Charette \$100
9 Ben Werblow \$100

03/09 - 03/10

Sunshine State Pro Am Tour 2019 Stop #3

Boulevard Billiards

Ocala, Fl

1 Anthony Meglino \$1,000
2 Anthony Fisher \$600
3 Marvin Llamas \$460
4 Che Mrvos \$350
5 David Grossman \$250
5 Tommy Kennedy \$250
7 Justin McNulty \$170
7 Steve Foster \$170
9 Les Duffy \$120
9 Daniel Waskom \$120
9 Evan Huynh \$120
9 Robert Noon \$120
13 Bobby Garza \$80
13 Darrin Wasiewicz \$80
13 Mike Griffin \$80
13 Marcus Murillo \$80

03/09 - 03/10

Jerry Olivier Ladies Tour 2019 Stop 2

Skinny Bob's Billiards

Round Rock, Texas

1 Kim Sanders \$800
2 Kim Pierce \$600
3 Alicia Stanley \$425
4 Jennifer Kraber \$315
5 Angie Payne \$170
5 Audrey Araceli \$170
7 Belinda Lee \$100
7 Michelle Cortez \$100
9 Veronica Perez \$55
9 Nicole McDaniel \$55
9 Yvonne Asher \$55
9 Natalie Mans \$55

03/09 - 03/09

New England 9-Ball Tour Stop #15

Buster's Billiards

Somersworth, NH

1 Tom D'Alfonso \$500
2 Dave Morrison \$300
3 Mike Verducci \$200

4 Jason Seavey \$140
5 Fred White \$110
5 Fred Gillis \$110
7 Ben LeBlanc \$70
7 Walt Kelly \$70

03/09 - 03/10

Q City 9-Ball Tour Stop Amateur Division

Wolf's Den Billiards

Roanoke, Virginia

1 Shane Wolford \$700
2 Derek Leonard \$480
3 Matthew Siple \$300
4 Ron Frank \$200
5 Jason Evans \$100
5 Jonathan Caldwell \$100
7 Trevor Stanley \$60
7 Jonathan Ailstock \$60

03/09 - 03/10

Kevin Ketz Memorial Second Chance

Trick Shot Billiards

Clifton Park, NY

1 Tom Acciavatti \$340
2 Spencer Auigbelle \$240
3 Keith Lauer \$160
4 Ben Werblow \$100
5 Greg Bombard \$50
5 Jordan Turner \$50

03/10 - 03/10

Tri State Tour 2018-2019 Stop

Steinway Billiards

Astoria, NY

1 Michael De Lara Inoa \$780
2 Annie Flores \$505
3 Russell Masciotti \$310
4 Noah Vogelmann \$190
5 Jimmy Acosta \$120
5 Ron Bernardo \$120
7 Patrick Meyers \$90
7 Bianca Martinez \$90

03/10 - 03/10

Maryland State 9-Ball Bar Table Championship 2019

Brews & Cues

Glen Burnie, Maryland

1 Brandon Sluzalis \$1,350

2 Shaun Wilkie \$875
3 James Aranas \$625
4 Brett Stottlemeyer \$410
5 Max Schlothauer \$300
5 Del Sim \$300
7 Andy Lincoln \$250
7 Steve Fleming \$250
9 Joe Wright \$190
9 Tony Long \$190
9 Kenny Rutman \$190
9 David Zecena \$190
13 Jeremy Wyatt \$120
13 Clinton Clayton \$120
13 Rob Metz \$120
13 Tom Zippler \$120
17 Loye Bolyard \$80
17 Thomas Haas \$80
17 Mike Weller \$80
17 Norman Day \$80
17 Roland Freolo \$80
17 Travis Manning \$80
17 Justin Veronick \$80
17 Mark Nanashee \$80

03/15 - 03/17

Andy Mercer Memorial 9-Ball Tournament 2018

Rum Runner

Las Vegas, NV

1 Vilmos Foldes \$5,000
2 Shane Van Boening \$2,500
3 Mitch Ellerman \$1,600
4 Kings Santy \$1,100
5 Ian Costello \$850
5 Jenrick Buensuceos \$850
7 Blake Baker \$600
7 Max Eberle \$600
9 Lance Salazar \$425
9 Ed Scott \$425
9 Tim Kovacs \$425
9 Gary Lutman \$425
13 Paul Juarez \$300
13 Trick Sixty \$300
13 Butch Barba \$300
13 Billy Thorpe \$300

03/15 - 03/21

2019 Scotty Townsend Memorial Open 9-Ball

Arena Billiards

West Monroe, LA

1 Alex Pagulayan \$3,350

- 2 Roberto Gomez \$2,000
- 3 CJ Wiley \$1,200
- 4 Johnny Archer \$800
- 5 Corey Deuel \$450
- 5 Alex Olinger \$450
- 7 Skyler Woodward \$250
- 7 Kevin Guimond \$250
- 9 Shane McMinn \$150
- 9 Jimmy Majors \$150
- 9 Raymund Faroan \$150
- 9 Jonathan Hennessee \$150
- 13 Sergio Rivas \$75
- 13 Alejandro Calderon \$75
- 13 AJ Jones \$75
- 13 Ernesto Bayaua \$75

03/15 - 03/21

2019 Scotty Townsend Memorial 10-Ball Ring Game

Arena Billiards

- West Monroe, LA
- 1 Jonathan Hennessee \$1,350
 - 2 Skyler Woodward \$850
 - 3 Justin Hall \$550
 - 4 Roberto Gomez \$350
 - 5 John Morra \$200
 - 5 Johnny Archer \$200
 - 7 Alex Olinger \$100
 - 7 Evan Lunda \$100

03/15 - 03/21

2019 Scotty Townsend Memorial One Pocket Division

Arena Billiards

- West Monroe, LA
- 1 Alex Pagulayan \$9,500
 - 2 Corey Deuel \$5,500
 - 3 Chip Compton \$2,500
 - 4 Josh Roberts \$1,500

03/15 - 03/21

2019 Scotty Townsend Memorial Ladies Division

Arena Billiards

- West Monroe, LA
- 1 Emily Sumrall \$1,000
 - 2 Kelly Isaac \$700
 - 3 Tasha Green \$400
 - 4 Keeley Tatum \$200
 - 5 Robyn Petrosino \$100
 - 5 Tam Trinh \$100

- 7 Brandy Sealy \$50
- 7 Stacie Knight \$50

03/16 - 03/16

Tiger Florida Tour 2019 Stop 2

Shooters Billiards

- Port St. Lucie, Florida
- 1 Jessica Barnes \$425
 - 2 Asia Cycak \$300
 - 3 Roe Guarnero \$200
 - 3 Vanessa Seaver \$200
 - 5 Jessica Karacia-Human \$90
 - 5 Cassie Howell \$90

03/16 - 03/17

Predator Pro-Am Tour 2019 Stop Amateur

CueBar Billiards

- Bayside, NY
- 1 Rikki Ragoonanan \$1,400
 - 2 Carlos Duque \$1,000
 - 3 Matt Klein \$750
 - 4 Joe Morace \$550
 - 5 Greg Matos \$320
 - 5 Pascal Dufresne \$320
 - 7 Miguel Laboy \$220
 - 7 Darrin Schmidt \$220
 - 9 Thomas Schreiber \$170
 - 9 Tony Ignomirello \$170
 - 9 Monika Callaghan \$170
 - 9 Annie Flores \$170
 - 13 Jim Gutierrez \$120
 - 13 Jun Yu Huang \$120
 - 13 Erick Carrasco \$120
 - 13 Julie Ha \$120

03/16 - 03/17

Predator Pro-Am Tour 2019 Stop Open/Pro Division

CueBar Billiards

- Bayside, NY
- 1 Frankie Hernandez \$600
 - 2 Joe Korsiak \$400
 - 3 Sami Erkan Koylu \$100

03/16 - 03/17

Q City 9-Ball Tour Stop

Borderline Billiards

- Bristol, TN
- 1 Jeff Abernathy \$725

- 2 Stevie McClinton \$500
- 3 Matt Shaw \$320
- 4 Trevor Stanley \$200
- 5 Keith Young \$120
- 5 Hank Powell \$120
- 7 Dustin Booth \$50
- 7 Ricky Bingham \$50

03/16 - 03/17

New England 9-Ball Tour Stop #16 Players Championship

Yale Billiards

- Wallingford, Connecticut
- 1 Ryan Cullen \$900
 - 2 Lukas Fracasso-Verner \$500
 - 3 Tyler Boudreau \$275
 - 4 Jimmy Gonzalez \$150
 - 5 Mike Hurley \$125
 - 5 John Porto \$125
 - 7 Mario Argentino \$90
 - 7 Tim Nieves \$90

03/17 - 03/17

Tri State Tour 2018-2019 Stop

Clifton Billiards

- Clifton, New Jersey
- 1 Marc Lamberti \$600
 - 2 Luis Jimenez \$385
 - 3 Daniel Alaimo \$240
 - 4 Jaydev Zaveri \$145
 - 5 Desi DeRado \$100
 - 5 Jowen Pichardo \$100
 - 7 Mike Mele \$60
 - 7 Allison LaFleur \$60

03/22 - 03/24

Mezz Bucharest Open

Club IDM

- Bucharest
- 1 Fedor Gorst \$4,492
 - 2 Jayson Shaw \$2,246
 - 3 Damianos Giallourakis \$1,403
 - 5 Wojciech Szewczyk \$842
 - 5 Mark Gray \$842
 - 5 Eklent Kaci \$842
 - 5 Shane Van Boening \$842
 - 9 Marcus Chamat \$561
 - 9 Ralf Souquet \$561
 - 9 Petri Makkonen \$561
 - 9 Mario He \$561
 - 9 Daniel Maciol \$561

9 Albin Ouschan \$561
9 Niels Feijen \$561
9 Wiktor Zielinski \$561
17 Gabriel Cindac Ciprian/702 \$336
17 Denis Grabe \$336
17 Nick Ekonomopoulos \$336
17 Ivar Saris \$336
17 Marc Bijsterbosch \$336
17 Oliver Szolnoki \$336
17 Dimitris Loukatos \$336
17 Imran Majid \$336
17 Babken Melkonyan \$336
17 Arjan Matrizi \$336
17 Ioan Ladanyi \$336
17 Chris Alexander \$336
17 Mehmet Bahceci \$336
17 Sanjin Pehlivanovic \$336
17 Michal Muklewicz \$336
17 Nick Malai \$336

03/23 - 03/24

Joss Tour 2018-2019 Stop 12

Union Station Billiards

Portland, Maine
1 Kyle Pepin \$1,000
2 Ben Savoie \$700
3 Tyler Dunbar \$500
4 Jerry Guitard \$350
5 Samoth Sam \$225
5 Matt Gagne \$225
7 Cody Porter \$150
7 Josh Lerner \$150
9 Dave Hall \$100
9 Patricia Stevens \$100
9 Mike Verducci \$100
9 Lida Mullendore \$100

03/23 - 03/24

Action Pool Tour Bar Box Bash

Peninsula Billiards

Newport News, Virginia
1 Reymart Lim \$650
2 R.J. Carmona \$400
3 Liz Bernier-Taylor \$250
4 Bill Duggan \$150
5 Steve Fleming \$100
5 Trent Parrish \$100
7 JT Ringgold \$50
7 Greg Sabins \$50

03/23 - 03/24

Q City 9-Ball Tour Stop (handi-capped)

Rack and Grill II

Augusta, Georgia
1 Jeff Abernathy \$575
2 BJ Ussery \$400
3 Dustin Byrd \$200
4 Robert Stampley \$50

03/23 - 03/24

Q City 9-Ball Tour (handicapped)

Rack and Grill II

Augusta, Georgia
1 Jeff Abernathy \$575
2 BJ Ussery \$400
3 Dustin Byrd \$200
4 Robert Stampley \$50

03/23 - 03/24

Joss Tour 2018-2019 Stop 12 Second Chance

Union Station Billiards

Portland, Maine
1 Jim Hayden \$300
2 Lindsey Monto \$200
3 Chad Bazinet \$140
4 Steven Smith \$80

03/24 - 03/24

Tri State Tour 2018-2019 Stop

CueBar Billiards

Bayside, NY
1 Thomas Schreiber \$670
2 Mike Mele \$425
3 Mike Strassberg \$260
4 David Leggat \$160
5 John Durr \$100
5 Amanda Andries \$100
7 Fernando Anderson \$70
7 Tri Chau \$70

03/24 - 03/24

Q City 9-Ball Tour (Open)

Rack and Grill II

Augusta, Georgia
1 Jeff Abernathy \$300
2 BJ Ussery \$200
3 Corey Morphew \$50

03/28 - 03/31

Super Billiards Expo 2019 Dia- mond Open 10-Ball Pro Players Championship

Greater Philadelphia Expo Cen- ter at Oaks

Oaks, PA
1 James Aranas \$10,000
2 Oscar Dominguez \$5,000
3 Raymund Faraon \$4,000
4 Thorsten Hohmann \$3,000
5 Roberto Gomez \$2,750
5 Mika Immonen \$2,750
7 Tyler Styer \$2,250
7 Omar Alshaheen \$2,250
9 Ralf Souquet \$2,200
9 Jason Klatt \$2,200
9 Martin Daigle \$2,200
9 Chris Robinson \$2,200
13 John Morra \$1,800
13 Zion Zvi \$1,800
13 Billy Thorpe \$1,800
13 Shaun Wilkie \$1,800

03/28 - 03/31

Super Billiards Expo 2019 Women 9-Ball Pro Players Championship

Greater Philadelphia Expo Cen- ter at Oaks

Oaks, PA
1 Kristina Tkach \$5,000
2 Sarah Rousey \$2,000
3 Karen Corr \$1,650
4 Tara Williams \$1,350
5 April Larson \$1,100
5 Briana Miller \$1,100
7 Kaylin Wikoff \$900
7 Veronique Menard \$900
9 Kelly Isaac \$800
9 Dawn Hopkins \$800
9 Kelly Wyatt \$800
9 Kim Shaw \$800
13 Dawn Fox \$700
13 Lai Li \$700
13 Stacie Bourbeau \$700
13 Nathalie Chabot \$700

03/28 - 03/31

Super Billiards Expo 2019 Pro-Am Barbox Championship

Greater Philadelphia Expo Center at Oaks

Oaks, PA

- 1 Jonathan Pinegar \$4,000
- 2 Demitrios Jelatis \$2,000
- 3 Justin Espinosa \$1,000
- 3 Jorge Rodriguez \$1,000
- 5 Ryan McCreesh \$500
- 5 Matt Krah \$500
- 5 Scott Haas \$500
- 5 Eric Heiland \$500

03/29 - 03/31

World Pool Masters 2019

Tercentenary Sports Hall, Victoria Stadium

Gibraltar, Gibraltar

- 1 David Alcaide \$25,000
- 2 Alexandros Kazakis \$13,000
- 3 Skyler Woodward \$7,500
- 3 Eklent Kaci \$7,500

- 5 Albin Ouschan \$3,750
- 5 Matt Edwards \$3,750
- 5 Alex Pagulayan \$3,750
- 5 Shane Van Boening \$3,750
- 9 Fedor Gorst \$2,250
- 9 Joshua Filler \$2,250
- 9 Konrad Juszczyszyn \$2,250
- 9 Jayson Shaw \$2,250
- 9 Justin Sajich \$2,250
- 9 Pin-Yi Ko \$2,250
- 9 Han Yu \$2,250
- 9 Niels Feijen \$2,250
- 17 Petri Makkonen \$1,750
- 17 Kelly Fisher \$1,750
- 17 Earl Strickland \$1,750
- 17 Francisco Sanchez-Ruiz \$1,750
- 17 Jeffrey De Luna \$1,750
- 17 Naoyuki Oi \$1,750
- 17 Jia-Qing Wu \$1,750
- 17 Chris Melling \$1,750

03/30 - 03/31

Midwest 9-Ball Tour 2019

Magoo's Billiards

Tulsa, OK

- 1 Joey Gray \$950
- 2 Shane McMinn \$570
- 3 Ryan Robinson \$400
- 4 Cody Pratt \$250
- 5 Marshall Roney \$150
- 5 Jack Melton \$150
- 7 Tony Vue \$100
- 7 Jonathan Kitchen \$100
- 9 Neil Drews \$70
- 9 Christian Young \$70
- 9 John Gabriel \$70
- 9 Chao Vang \$70

03/30 - 03/30

Q City 9-Ball Tour Stop

Buck's Billiards

Raleigh, North Carolina

- 1 Daniel Mobley \$400
- 2 Zac Leonard \$250
- 3 JT Ringgold \$150
- 4 Ricky Dixon \$50



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- Jeanette "The Black Widow" Lee

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