

POOL & BILLIARD MAGAZINE

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Thorsten Hohmann wins his FIFTH World Tournament of 14.1 title! Story p. 34 PHOTO BY KARL KANTROWITZ



SNEAK PEEK: OCTOBER 2018

FALL CUE SHOWCASE
and a look at some
cue sports legends

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SEPTEMBER 2018

For the Greater Good

This guest installment from P&B photographer Tony Fox, onsite with the PBIA as they demonstrated paying it forward for pool...

Ohio PBIA Members Donate Their Time

The key to continuing pool within the US rests with new players joining the sport. Nothing can be newer than getting more children involved in pool. In 2017, the Professional Billiards Instructors Association decided it would become involved in helping US junior pool by donating their time to help US juniors who participate on the US Atlantic Cup Team.

Ohio PBIA members Denny Stewart and John Harlach took that decision a step further. Stewart, a thirty five year member and Master Instructor, initiated a free

junior pool camp held over four days at Miss Cue's North located in Toledo, Ohio.

"This is part of the decision to help the BEF" said Stewart. "We have to get the kids involved."

Harlach, a fifteen year PBIA Advanced instructor, also became involved at Stewart's request. "I love kids," said Harlach. "Watching Denny with the kids is great learning experience for me."

"This is a phenomenal idea," said Tim Jennison, who brought his eight year old son, James Farnham, to the camp. "Denny has patience with the kids. It has been fun to see my son learn so quickly."

Encouraging young players has its best dividends in their resulting confidence. After a few days in the camp young Farnham noted, "I'm pretty good for a beginner."

Nathaniel Martin, an eleven year old attendee said, "This is fun. I've learned the most in the past days."

Hats off to the PBIA instructors volunteering their time and talent to the next generation of cue stars!



Above, from l-r: John Harlan, Nathaniel Martin, James Farnham, Denny Stewart



At left, instructor John Harlan with student Nathaniel Martin

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14.1 Hall of Fame Inducts Cisero Murphy and George San Souci

The 8th Annual Straight Pool Hall of Fame celebrated the inductions of Brooklyn's Cisero Murphy and Queens native George "Ginky" SanSouci.

Hosted and catered by The Spot, the room was transformed beautifully for the occasion.

Play was halted on Day 3 of the World Tournament of 14.1 for a camaraderie dinner for the players and fans. A special tribute video was played for both legends who had passed away.

Speakers included Mika Immonen, Joey Korsiak, Charlie Williams and Tony

Robles who stated, "Ginky came to me as a student to learn, but he eventually became one of my heroes."

SanSouci's wife Athena Mennis accepted the award on behalf of her late husband.

Cisero Murphy's speakers included past 14.1 Hall of Fame

inductee Pete Margo, pro tour peer Earl Herring, and Charlie Williams who said, "Any player of color, including Asians, owes a debt of gratitude to Cisero for paving the way in making pool a truly international sport."

His award was accepted by his son, Cisero Murphy Jr.



Above left, Charlie Williams presents plaque to Cicero Murphy Jr and at right, to Athena Mennis. Photos by Joe Gonzales Photography

USA Announces 2018 Team for Atlantic Challenge Cup

The 2018 team includes reigning 2018 Junior National 9-Ball Champions Kaiden Hunkins (U16), Joey Tate (U14), and Michelle Jiang (U18). These three champions will be joined by a pair of Atlantic Challenge Cup veterans: Shane Wolford and April Larson, along with longtime junior standout Justin Martin.

"To be selected as a member of Team USA is a great honor," said ACC Team USA Captain Allison Fisher. "This team was chosen for their abilities to



compete at this level, as they are all champions, and because they have demonstrated a genuine respect and passion for the game. They understand what a

great opportunity it is to compete in the Atlantic Challenge Cup as a member of Team USA. We look forward to combining their talents to form a great team to compete against Team Europe."

Members of 2018 Team U.S.A.

1. Kaiden Hunkins, age 16 (Waukesha, WI)
2. Michelle Jiang, age 18 (Harvard, MA)
3. April Larson, age 18 (Bloomington, MN)
4. Justin Martin, age 19 (Wilmington, NC)
5. Joey Tate, age 13 (Raleigh, NC)

6. Shane Wolford, age 18 (Troutville, VA)

"The Team USA Selection Committee had the difficult process of selecting six players out of more than 100 nominations," said BCA CEO Rob Johnson. "While not an easy selection process, the selection committee did their due diligence and has chosen a great team to compete against Team Europe. We are excited with how quickly this has become such a prestigious event."

Stay tuned to www.AtlanticChallengeCup.com for continuous updates on the 2018 event.



Hofstatter and Davenport to Enter BCA Hall of Fame

The Billiard Congress of America Hall of Fame welcomes two of the game's top players of the '90s to the class of 2018. The United States Billiard Media Association today announced that Austrian import Gerda Hofstatter Gregerson and "California Kim" Davenport have earned induction as the 71st and 72nd members of the sport's most prestigious club.

Hofstatter Gregerson, 47, will enter the Greatest Players wing of the BCA Hall of Fame, while Davenport, 62, will be honored in the Veteran Players category. Both will be formally inducted during ceremonies on Oct. 26, 2018, at the Norfolk Sheraton Waterside in Norfolk, VA (see ad this issue).

A native of Friesach, Austria, Hofstatter Gregerson was an accomplished athlete, competing in tennis and skiing, and winning a national junior fencing title before committing herself to pool. Hofstatter Gregerson won her first European Championship (and the first ever for Austria) at 18, and has collected 10 European Championship gold medals. In 1993, she relocated to the U.S. to join the new Women's Professional Billiard Association Classic Tour and promptly won the very first event. Over the next seven years, Hofstatter Gregerson added seven more Classic Tour titles, as well as the 1995 WPA World 9-Ball Championship, the 1997 WPBA National Championship and the 2000 BCA Open 9-Ball Championship. She added her ninth Classic Tour title in 2010 at the San Diego Classic.

Hofstatter Gregerson currently resides in Charlotte with her husband Dan and daughters Sophie and Madison. She earned a Bachelor of Science in Business from New York University, and has a pilot's license.

Gerda was named on more than 70 percent of the ballots in 2018.

"My first reaction is, 'What am

I doing in there with all those great players?'" said Gerda. "Honestly, I never expected to get in. Everyone who has gotten in is so deserving, I was just honored to be on the ballot. But I am excited, humbled and honored to be in such great company.

"It's a great thing for my kids," she continued. "They'll be so proud. And it's nice to know

that you will be remembered in the history books."

Born in Oklahoma, Davenport relocated to Modesto, CA in the early '80s. By mid-decade, Davenport was making a name for himself on the pro tour, winning events like the Bowling Green Open and Tar Heel Classic. He broke through in 1988, winning the highly regarded Japan Cup and Eastern States 9-Ball Championship. After adding three more titles in 1989, Davenport put in a Player of the Year performance in 1990, winning the Brunswick Challenge Cup in Sweden, the Sands Regency Open and the B.C. Open – all major tour titles. Davenport won eight more pro tour titles before an injury to his left eye ended his pool-playing career.

Davenport, who resides in Acworth, GA, had been recommended for consideration by the Hall of Fame Veteran Players Committee after failing to garner enough votes for election on the general ballot prior to turning 60.

"That's really good news," said Davenport. "I had started to wonder if it would ever happen, so it's hard to explain how I feel right now. To be honest, I thought my record was good enough to get in before now, but better late than never.

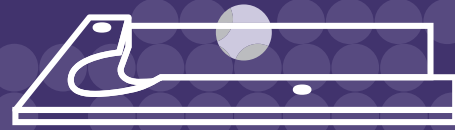
"In the end, this is what 40 years of playing pool comes down to," he added. "And 100 years from now, people will see my name next to Mosconi's, which is not a bad thing."

For more info and to order your tickets, visit www.usbma.com/halloffame2018



Above, Gerda Hofstatter Gregerson, below, Kim Davenport





Champs Take Center Stage at APA Juniors *Nationwide & PoolDawg Headline List of Event Sponsors*

A record number of aspiring young APA members from across North America made their way to St. Louis, MO in early-July for the APA Junior Championships.

After four days of fun, making new friends from across the country and playing their hearts out on the pool table, four new champions were crowned, one in each tier.

In the finals of the Green Tier (Skill Levels 1-2), Robert Gumm, Jr. of Independence, MO defeated Imagine Gordon of Lawton, OK. Gordon finished runner-up. Luke Jackett of Guelph, Ontario Canada and Brent Lemke of Convoy, OH tied for third in the Green Tier, which featured the largest number of competitors (172) in this year's event.

In the finals of the Red Tier (Skill Level 3), Dylan Edwards of Washington, IL defeated Lukas Sterbenz of Necedah, WI. Alex Van Valkenburgh of Schenectady, NY and Deekin Smith of Lebanon, IN tied for third. The Red Tier boasted 94 participants.

In the finals of the White Tier (Skill Levels 4-5), Paul Marshall of Wyoming, MI defeated David Parks of Maricopa, AZ. Ryan Curmi of Acton, Ontario and Elijah Wilson of Grandview, MO tied for third. Eighty-seven participants competed in the White Tier.

In the finals of the Black Tier (Skill Levels 6-9), Joseph

Hankins of San Diego, CA defeated Travis Criblez of Mantua, OH. The Black Tier, featuring the highest skilled players, included 33 competitors. Tying for third were Johnathan Portwood of Moundville, MO and Devlin Smith of Lebanon, IN.

Overall, nearly 400 players competed in one of the four 9-Ball skill level tiers July 5-8 at the Renaissance St. Louis Airport Hotel.

The four-day event also included recognition for Outstanding Academic Achievements and a special exhibition and autograph signing by "The Black Widow" Jeanette Lee.

Event sponsors included Nationwide Insurance, Aramith, PoolDawg.com, Khamsin Designs Inc., Kingery Printing, Omega Billiards Supplies and Shaftmaster.

The APA, based in Lake Saint Louis, Mo., sanctions the world's largest amateur pool league, known as the APA Pool League throughout the United States, and as the Canadian Pool League in Canada. Nearly 250,000 members compete in weekly 8-Ball and 9-Ball League play.

The APA and its championships are sponsored by Aramith, Action Cues and PoolDawg.

For more info on the American Poolplayers Association and upcoming events, visit www.poolplayers.com.



Green Tier champion Robert Gumm Jr. of Independence, MO



Red Tier champion Dylan Edwards of Washington, IL



White Tier champion Paul Marshall of Wyoming, MI



Black Tier champion Joseph Hankins of San Diego, CA

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Specialty Shots!

by Ewa Mataya Laurance

Ewa Mataya Laurance has been a top player on the WPBA tour for over twenty years and is one of the sport's most famous personalities. She is in both the BCA and WPBA Hall of Fame, is a former WPA World 9-Ball champion and the reigning women's world trick shot champion. Ewa is a player representative for Brunswick Billiards, an ESPN color commentator, and co-author of the Complete Idiot's Guide to Pool & Billiards with P&B managing editor Tom Shaw. She also serves on the board of trustees for the Billiard Education Foundation.

They're called "specialty shots" because they are only used in special situations, but many of them are special because they require special skills from you.

One of the contradictory things about specialty shots is that they draw lots of appreciation from spectators, but average players rarely bother practicing them. Really, why bother since the need for a specialty shot only pops up on the rare occasion.

For one, they're fun. It's just cool to pull a rabbit out of a hat, especially when you're in trouble, and double-especially when it helps you win, and triplely-especially when there are people standing around watching you play. Whee!

Second, they teach you new skills. A masse, a curve, a jump, or a frozen ball push all require new skills. There will never be a time in your playing life, whether in a league, in a tournament, or in a fun game, that you will be sorry that you have more skills than your opponent.

Third, knowing special shots and being good at them, gives you a sense (justified!) of confidence. Your opponent – or an odd break or ball roll off – isn't going to pull something on you that you can't handle. The leave won't send you to the chair. Instead, it will give you a chance to do a little showing off. Rather than going into a match worried about what will happen, you'll go in confident that you'll be able to handle virtually all situations.

That confidence can easily leak into the rest of your game, raising the whole thing. Confidence (not arrogance!) can produce positive results.

Specialty shots can also open up your game. You'll see opportunities rather than roadblocks. A modest little curve shot can keep you at the table, and it might also lead to thinking about the game in a grander, broader way. You'll realize that you're not as locked in to common methods and solutions as you thought you were.

Specialty shots can also enliven your practice time. Doing drills could eventually get boring. That's the time to throw in a practice routine centered on specialty shots. They're lively and fun and different from everyday shots. Just what you need when you need a pickup during a

long practice sessions.

Someone, somewhere along the way, is going to try to discourage you from practicing specialty shots. "When are you going to use that? Once every ten years?"

Ignore that type of person. They are not trying to help your game; they're expressing their worry that your game is going to get ahead of theirs. Guess what? It is!

Some people learn specialty shots simply because they like to show off. No worries, as long as you have a good attitude about it.

There's also an opportunity for you expand your idea of specialty shots. Go to a trick shot tournament or exhibition, or read a book on trick shots. These shots can also be defined as specialty shots, though there are many that would take a hundred years to spontaneously appear in any pool game you played.

Still, there are skills and concepts that can be adapted to your game. The trick shot artists spend a life time thinking about what we might call weird shots, but it's still all centered around a pool table, pool balls and a pool cue (though some shots use props). Talk about freeing up your imagination! Trick shot inventors love coming up with the unexpected while still relying on the fundamental physical behavior of the same

There will never be a time in your playing life, whether in a league, in a tournament, or in a fun game, that you will be sorry that you have more skills than your opponent.

everyday tools that you use playing the game. They love the new and creative. So should you. Be amazed at their skills and their imagination, but also watch them for ideas that you can use to develop your own specialty shots.

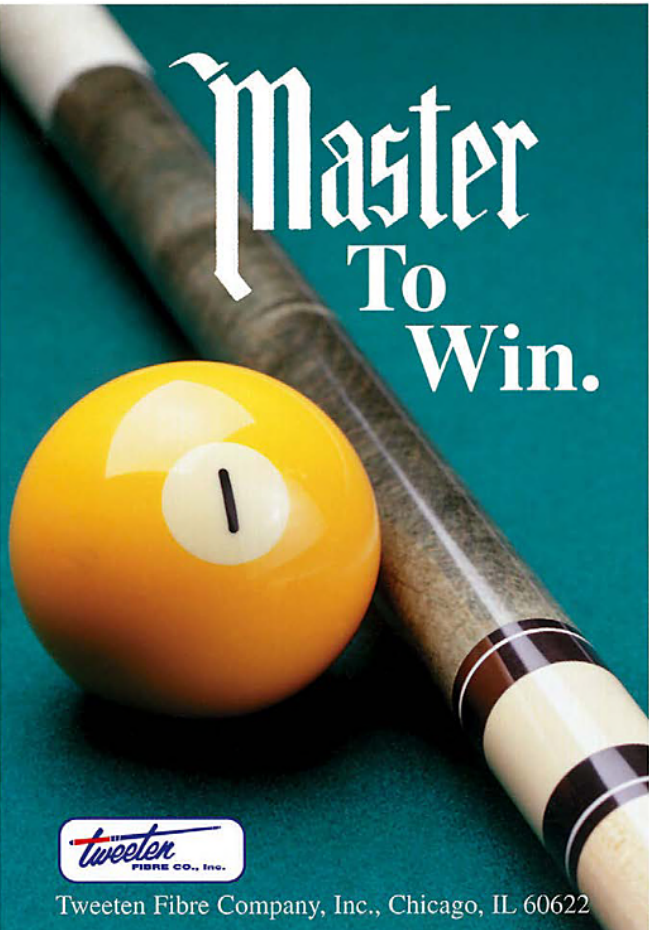
In the end, what's not to love about specialty shots? Have some fun, show off, develop confidence and skills, and win a few more games than you normally would. Those all sound like positives to me.

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Playing the Last Two Balls: Part 1

by Dominic Esposito

The Drill Instructor, Dominic Esposito, is a World Ranked PBA Master Instructor. Be sure and watch "The Clinic" LIVE on facebook.com/the-drillinstructor every Tuesday night 9 ET. Want to see it all? Visit www.thedrillinstructor.us

Nothing can be more frustrating than breaking and making a ball, running the rack, and finally, coming down to the last two balls on the table and messing up to get out. You play the key ball, only to get out of line on the winning ball.

Playing the Key Ball correctly so you can get straight in on the winning ball is a must.

This month we'll focus on playing the last two balls correctly—making the Key Ball shot so you end up dead straight in on the winning ball.

This drill is part of the "Back to the Bottom" series from the book, *The 52 Last Two Ball Drills*.

Here, the game is 9-Ball, however, you can practice this shot to end an 8-Ball or 10-Ball game as well make position during a game with any two balls.

Pocket the object ball into pocket X, then get position, so as to land the cue ball straight in on the next ball. In this case, the winning ball.

1. Apply English (Side Spin) of two tips top and two tips inside.
2. Shoot the cue ball with a Six Speed Shot Stroke. To develop the feel for this speed, shoot the cue ball three full lengths of the table starting from a half-diamond off the bottom cushion.
3. Stroke the cue ball with a level cue.
4. Shoot the key ball and land the finishing cue ball position accurately seven out of ten times from the closest starting cue ball position.
5. Move the cue ball to the next further position as shown and shoot the shot again until achieving at least seven out of ten times success cue ball finishing position.
6. Continue moving the cue ball to the next position when the minimum seven out of ten times success has been achieved.

While were at it, let's fix one more frustrating problem so many pool players struggle with, Dogging the Winning Ball. I'll tell you how to fix this problem once and for all. Ready?

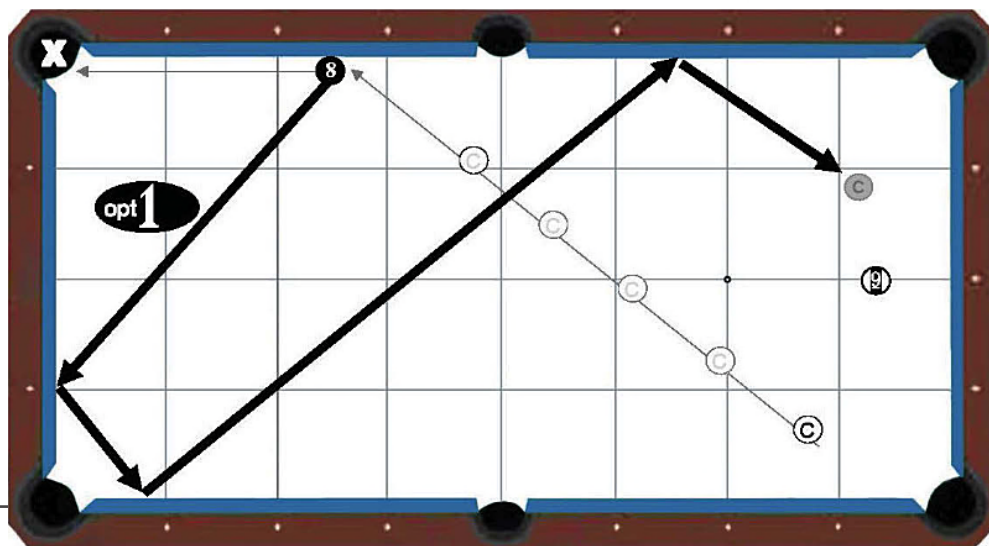
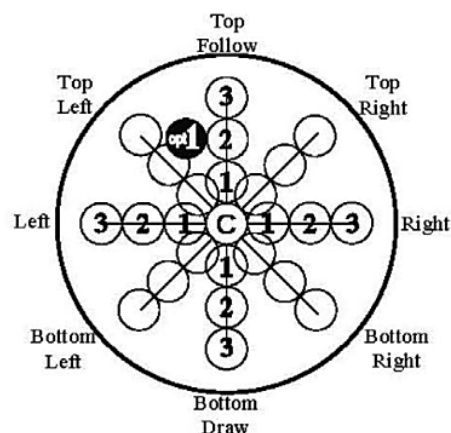
When shooting the winning ball, visualize making shape for a ghost ball to shoot next. That's the number one reason players dog the winning ball. Not shooting the winning ball with purpose—leaving the 3-S Rule part of the Pre-Shot Routine out of the process - the Spin, the Speed, and the Stop of the cue ball.

IMPORTANT SHOT NOTES:

Be sure to hit the object ball full. This will allow the cue ball to then hit the top cushion first. If the object ball frozen to the side rail is hit too thin the cue ball will come across to the opposite side cushion first.

Switch cut shot sides of the table after each successful seven out of ten cue ball positions on the winning ball before moving to the next shooting distance.

Be sure to shoot the winning ball each time making up a ghost ball for the finishing position of the cue ball.





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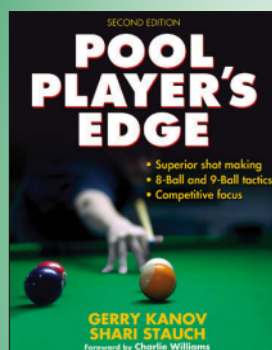


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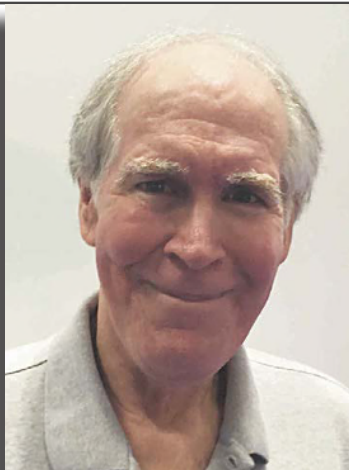
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Decisions, Good and Bad

by Phil Capelle

CAPELLE 2.0

Over the 12 months that led up to my 20-year anniversary of writing for *Pool & Billiard* (May 2016) I talked about discoveries that have resulted from a now five year research project devoted mostly to pool's fundamentals. Look for more on these in an upcoming book on the fundamentals.

PHIL CAPELLE

Phil Capelle is billiard's most prolific author with 10 books that feature more than 3,600 pages of instruction on all facets of the game. He has been involved in the sport for over 47 years. Visit Phil's site at www.billiardspress.com and on Facebook at www.facebook.com/pcapelle1

Last month we talked about the decisions that go into creating your game. This month we're going to look at the decision-making process on a trio of shots where the right choice may not be so obvious.

Our first example comes from a game of Straight Pool between two very fine players. The seated player and I were watching the other as he methodically put together a run of 129 balls. It was early in a rack and a large grouping needed to be broken. He could play a "regular" shot and possibly knock a few balls loose. But this player likes to look for dead balls in the rack, and he thought that he had found one. Meanwhile, his friend told me that his one weakness is shooting balls that "are almost dead." And sure enough, he went for the rack blasting "dead ball." It failed to go, and his opponent stepped up to an open table.

The one big takeaway is that, when given a choice between shooting a ball we know we can make and one that might go, we must not give in to our need to satisfy our curiosity. Curiosity is what drives improvement as we must try new things to elevate our game. But curiosity can also be our undoing when we have to see if a shot will go when we really don't know for sure that it will.

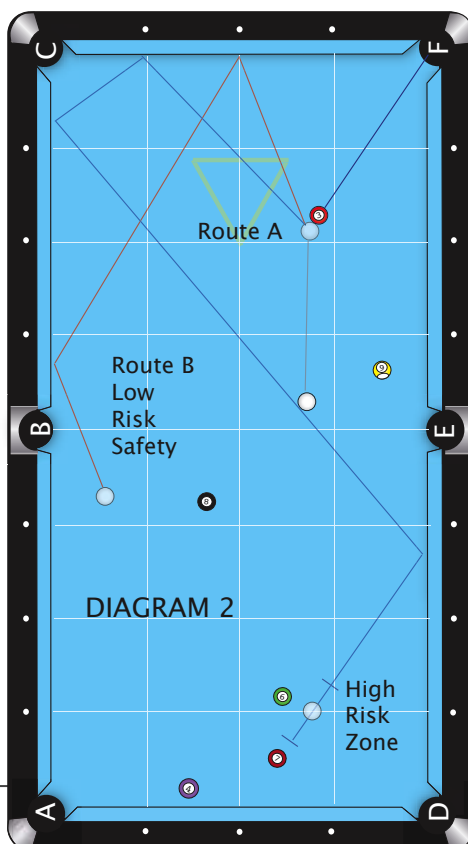
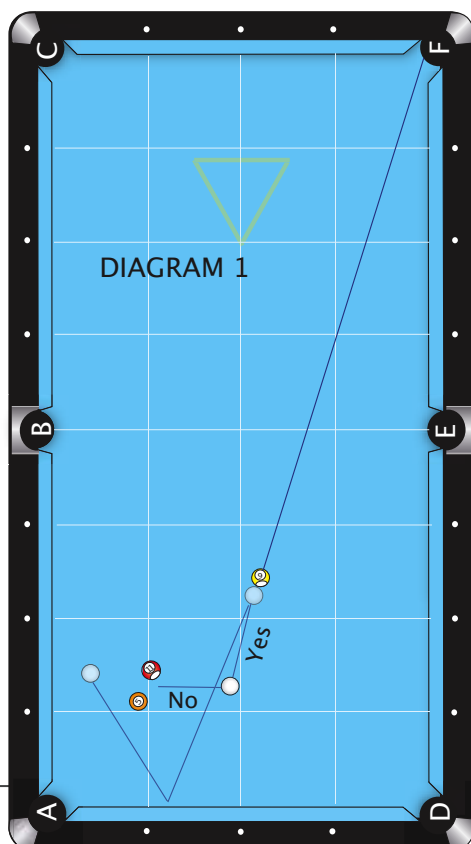
Diagram 1 shows a position that Tony Robles faced in the 2018 World 14.1 Tournament. (Note: I did not include four balls that were not relevant to this discussion – besides, I could not remember their exact positions!)

The five and eleven balls make up one of those end-of-the-rack clusters that can ruin a run. It looked like Tony might be able to sneak the cue ball into the gap between the balls and slice in the 5-ball. Pocketing the ball would be the easy solution if he could make it – IF being the operative word. Tony studied the position for quite some time before concluding that it might not go. But if it wouldn't, how could he solve the problem and continue on his run? He spied the nine ball and saw that it offered a route to the end rail and out for short side shape on either the five ball or the eleven ball.

So, while he may have still wondered if the five ball could go, Tony refused to let his curiosity get the better of him and instead played the longer but much smarter shot. He was rewarded with a chance to continue his run.

Diagram 2 shows another slant on the curiosity challenge. The game is 9-Ball and the route is from the three ball to the four ball. In this case there is no question that the shot can be played. But accessing a such a small position zone from such a long distance is no sure thing.

Again, your curiosity could get the best of you if you decide to play it because, to get on the four ball and not be hooked, you are going to have to be good and/or lucky. The odds of success might be 20% at best. Meanwhile, Route B offers a simple way to get set for a high percentage safety. Needless to say, playing position for a safety is the intelligent choice.



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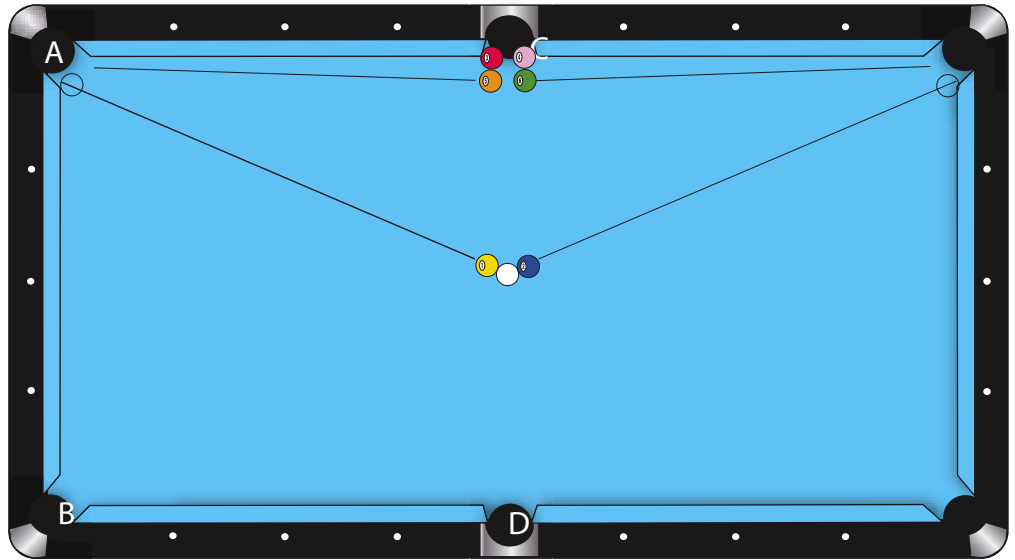


Nick's Quick Tricks

Simple Fun

by Nick Nikolaidis

Want to see how Nick makes this shot? Log on to: poolmag.com, OR watch it HERE in your Ezine! If you have a shot you'd like Nick to try, send it to Nick's attention at: Poolmag@poolmag.com.



Let's make this a fun shot! Or two... After you make each of the two parts separately, challenge yourself to merging them into an even more fun and challenging shot.

Since many league seasons begin in September, why not challenge yourself to learning and performing a few new tricks? Again, this shot comes in two parts:

The Execution:

The first part of the shot has the cue ball at the center of the table and two balls frozen to it. They are aligned to the ghost balls as indicated in the image to allow for a little throw.

Next, set up up the four balls as indicated. The gap between the five and six ball is approximately a chalk cube's width. You can freeze them to their pairings or have a small gap of about an eighth of an inch.

When shooting, as a bonus, try and also pocket the cue ball in the side pocket. Hint: Use follow on the cue ball but this needs more accuracy.

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Perks and Pockets:

As the sport continues to find new ways to grow, coffee and billiards cafes offer a clever concept to attract players.

By Sean Chaffin



It's a busy Saturday morning at Surge Coffee Bar and Billiards in Chicago. A worker behind the counter pours an espresso as patrons chit-chat at a nearby community table. This isn't your average coffee shop however. The shop boasts 14 tables as players rack it up, pocket balls, chalk their cues – and sip their mochas and lattes.

Surge may not necessarily be a trend in the pool business (yet!), but may offer a new concept to lure in more players who may be less likely to make it to a traditional pool hall and bar or one of the many arcade, bowling, and pool-type facilities that have also become popular. For those who want to see the industry grow, these coffee billiards cafes may be a way to bring even more players to the tables.

While they may not be a trend yet, these facilities are an example of the sport's growth in general. Jason Bowman, national marketing director at the American Poolplayers Association (APA), says leagues continue to thrive as the association approaches its 40th anniversary next year. APA membership continues ahead of where it was this time last year.

"We are seeing growth in players

and leagues overall, but the growth in the player category has been a little slower than we'd like, often due to external factors, like locations closing," he says. Could coffee bars provide an alternative?

New players typically account for about 30 percent of total APA membership base each year with a demographic starting to trend a bit younger, Bowman says, though with strong representation in virtually every age group. As the sport grows, perhaps the coffee and billiards concept offers a chance to bring even more into the tournaments and league scene. And certainly those looking for a nice cup of joe.

SURGE

Since opening in December 2017, Surge Coffee Bar and Billiards (3241 W. Montrose, Chicago) has carved out a nice niche with pool players and coffee drinkers alike in the Windy City. Its Facebook page spells out the cafe's goal: "Bringing communities together, playfully. Great pool, wonderful coffee, and delicious drinks!"



Above and left, Surge Coffee Bar and Billiards combines two addictive pastimes into one cool urban hangout!

Owner Wahib Merchant believes his concept has done that. After the previous pool hall at Surge's location closed up shop, Merchant saw an opportunity. The entire facility was renovated to offer a cool urban vibe – perfect for hanging out, playing a game with friends, or just sipping a great coffee confection.

"We do a full cafe in the morning and a full cocktail bar in the evening," he says. "There are people who come in the mornings to play billiards and get coffee. There are people who come in to only get coffee, and there are people who come in to only play billiards."

Surge is a full-service coffee shop with espressos, Americanos, lattes, macchiatos, mochas, and also makes its own tea and specialty drinks. So far, the concept has worked.

"It's been fantastic," he says of the reaction of customers. "They appreciate that we're breaking the mold and softening up the image of pool. It's taking a little bit of that intimidation factor away from pool halls, which is good. We get people who are already into pool because our tables are great, and we also get people who are beginners because the environment is great."

Merchant also owns the more traditional Pressure Billiards, which is more of a pool hall and sports bar. He grew up in Chicago and was a regular player at Marie's Golden Cue before it closed after 48 years in business. Merchant moved in to change the concept of the pool hall, and renovated the property for nine months before opening up the 6,000-square foot cafe.

After seeing his other location sit empty much of the day, a coffee shop concept seemed like a way to get players in the building and add to revenues. Getting players in at night for cocktails and billiards was much easier.

"You're already paying for the space, and daytime pool is very weak," he says. "You can take the opportunity lost of not doing anything or open something like a cafe."

Does Merchant believe that this coffee and pool concept can work in other locations? He's not exactly sure, but says it depends on the neighborhood, design, and how the cafe is run.

METRO

Metro Coffee Bar & Billiards (3175 Kingsway, Vancouver, British Columbia), open since 2016, has been able to attract loyal customers. Coffee seemed like a nice fit for a

low-key billiards establishment, owner Joe Lazaro says. With a background in construction equipment sales and owning some other types of businesses, he was looking for a new challenge. He grew up playing pool, and coffee and billiards seemed like an open spot in the marketplace. Metro was soon open for business.

"It's been great," he says. "It's been growing ever since."

Metro offers a wide drink menu and has become a place to sip your favorite hot drink, rack up some balls, and take in some hockey, football, and other sports.

"I started with coffee," he says. "With espressos, lattes, and those kinds of drinks to just bring people in. I'm trying to make a place for all different levels of pool players."

A year later, Lazaro was able to get a liquor license and now has a full-service bar in the evenings as well. But coffee is a mainstay and part of what makes the place unique. Players looking for some morning or mid-day action can grab a mug and a cue stick. The cafe also hosts leagues and regular tournaments.

Lazaro says his coffee shop/billiards bar concept attracts players who might otherwise not think of coming into play pool. He's even added beginner tournaments to keep new players



Va-voom in Vancouver: Fancy coffee offerings at Metro Coffee Bar & Billiards



Vancouver's Metro Coffee Bar and Billiards: owner Joe Lazaro is being asked to open more to serve the market!

Perks and Pockets

Continued from p. 21



coming back, and tries to keep it as a place where families can come in and play. The business has shown major growth in just three years in operation.

"For some reason when you say 'pool hall,' not too many people just walk in," he says. "So by offering coffee and sandwiches and other knick-knacks, customers will walk in and say, 'I didn't know this was a pool hall. I didn't know I could play pool.' So it's a combination of watching sports, playing pool, coffee, and having a sandwich – a place to kind of hang out."

With a limited number of venues for playing in the Vancouver area, many have asked Lazaro to open another location. He plans to stick with one cafe right now, but thinks the concept could work in other cities both in the U.S. and Canada.

"Pool by itself doesn't seem to attract as many people anymore," he says. "Just the regulars and die-hard players will find a place to play pool. But the way I've been doing it, trying different methods to get people in and introducing pool to them, it seems to be working."

SAGEBRUSH

The Sagebrush Coffeehouse opened in 2013 in Bryson City, NC, which is located on the southern side of Great Smoky Mountains National Park. Owner Steven "Cowboy" Christian had a bit of a different vision for his establishment. The business started with the idea of being a place for teens and families.

"When I went to high school here at

Swain County, the teen pregnancy rate was the highest in the state by county, and the state was one of the highest in the union," he says. "We wanted to build an inviting place where if a teen or family wanted to make a good decision, there was one to be made. If you're looking for trouble, you'll find it every time. But if you're looking for a good clean night, there we are."

The Sagebrush closed in August after five years in business. Christian says he plans to reopen however within the next year. He still believes in the concept,



and believes the seasonal crowd and his location within the city may not have served him well. He's looking for a spot in a nearby town with more street traffic.

The Sagebrush had six pool tables, and hosted weekly house tournaments and APA league nights. The cowboy motif made it a bit different than other pool halls.

"One thing that made us unique is that we were a cowboy saloon-style coffeehouse," he says. "People were always coming in and asking to see the

beer and liquor list, but we were solely coffee. Also, no matter what walk of life people were from, all seemed to co-exist and be comfortable just sitting around talking even with complete strangers.”

He may have started with the idea of catering to teens and families, but soon noticed a diverse crowd visiting the Sagebrush.

“Tourists from all over the world would come because of our great travel site ratings – rednecks, hillbillies, yuppies, river rats, bikers, and skaters,” he says. “We had several regulars who



were recovering alcoholics who loved the atmosphere and still didn't have to worry about being tempted while they were there. You know the country song ‘I Love This Bar?’ It was like that.”

Christian is busy plotting where and when the Sagebrush will return – the coffee, the pool tables, and the unique atmosphere.

“Wherever we wind up, we hope to build a place just as accepting and different enough from any other place most people have seen,” he says. “We want all to feel like they are on neutral ground and can not only co-exist, but make friends they never would have considered getting to know otherwise.”

There are certainly more coffee and billiards cafes out there serving up hot mugs of goodness and offering a nice place to chalk up a cue. Could there be more in the future? Only time will tell. Friends, coffee, and billiards – what could be better?

Sean Chaffin is a freelance writer in Crandall, Texas, and host of the True Gambling Stories podcast. Follow him on Twitter at @PokerTraditions.

How to Open and Run a Successful Poolroom

by Tom Shaw

When you're seeking advice on how to play the guitar you don't go to a failed musician, you go to a guitar hero such as Brian May, Steve Vai, or Dick Dale.

The same is true if you've always wanted to open your own poolroom. One of the poolroom heroes is a guy called Danny K (Kuykendall). Danny K's opened almost a quarter of a century ago, in California, and has been one of the country's premier rooms over its entire life – and promises to go on that way for many more years.

Now Danny Kuykendall has decided to write a book about how he did it. (“Open Bar” softcover, 188 pgs. Bookbaby Publishing.)

Not surprisingly, there are more elements to being a success than simply choosing a good location. There are also surprises along the way, both good and bad. Most likely, you'll run into some even before you open the doors to your new venture.

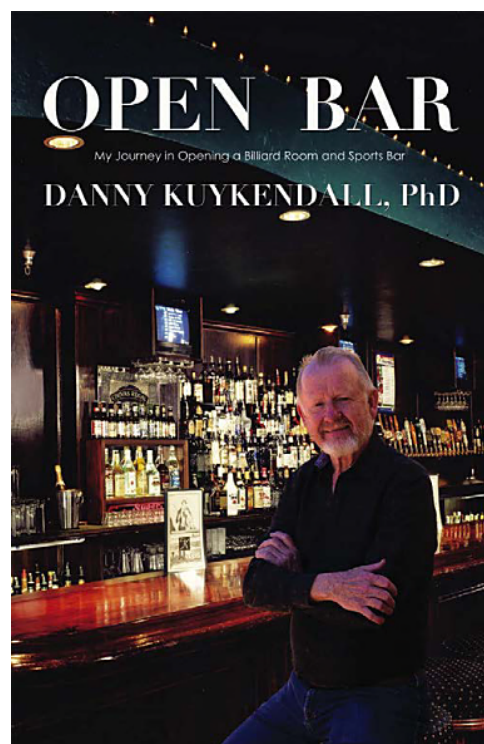
In telling the story of Danny K's the emphasis is on the practical. What steps do you have to go through? What decisions will you have to make? What challenges will you have to overcome – and how do you do it?

At times it seems as if opening and running a business is a series of questions, challenges and decisions, but there's great joy in success, too. Yes, done right, you can make a very good living, but done right you can also add a lot of smiles to your life.

Danny is here to help, from the dry and tedious building permits to the very personal area of choosing

and leading employees (many of Danny K's current employees have been working there from the first year the room was in existence.)

Business theory doesn't always line up with real life business, and this book definitely comes down



on the side of real life. This is the story of a real poolroom, complete with mistakes (and how they got corrected), and the correct decisions and why they were successful. That zinger from left field may catch you flat footed, but if you're armed with the information in the book you'll at least be alert to the possibilities, and just might find an example of someone who has dealt with it in a way you can instantly apply to your own situation.

Ever wanted to open your own successful poolroom? Read the book. Visit <http://bit.ly/open-bar-dk> to order ebook or paperback.

Back to School, Back to Pool!

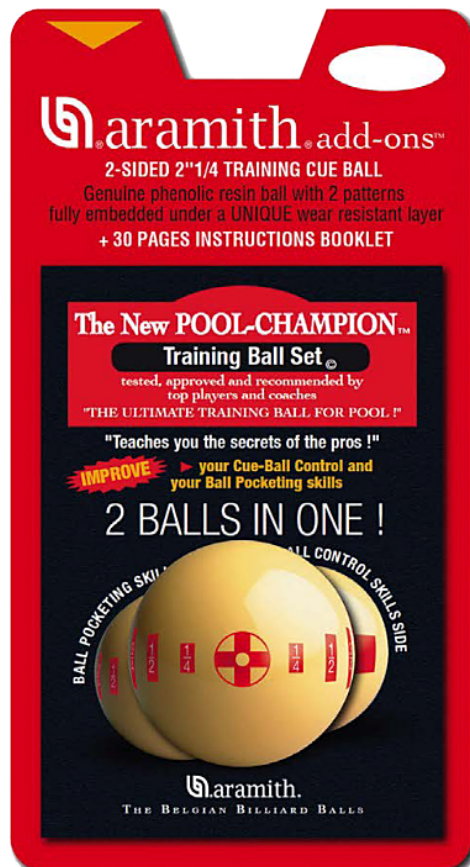
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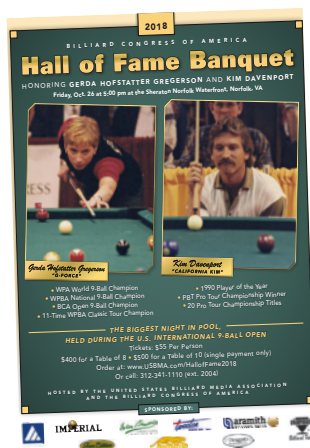
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Joss Cues and LoreeJon Hasson, two longtime champions have teamed together to create a line of Joss Cues for LoreeJon. This BCA Hall of Fame player is back on tour, using the cue pictured! Email loreemon9ball@yahoo.com or visit www.josscues.com



Looking for something really special to celebrate a return to pool season? Consider a quick and joyful trip to Norfolk, Virginia to see the U.S. International Open championship at the end of October AND attend the induction of two new members into the BCA Hall of Fame: Gerda Hofstatter and Kim Davenport. See ads this issue for both the tournament and Hall of Fame dinner tickets!



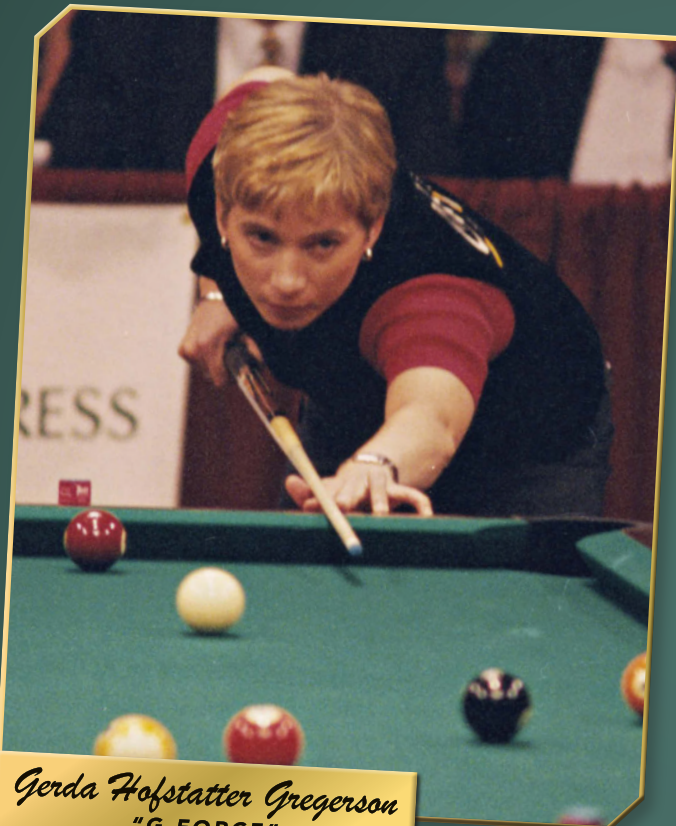
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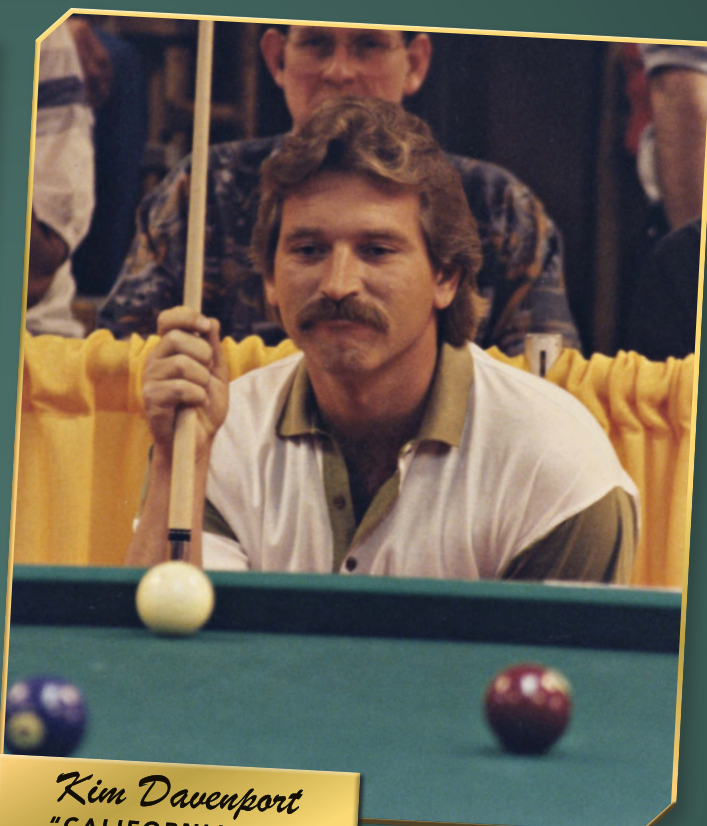
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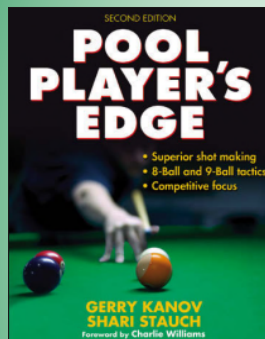
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Chasing Mosconi: Hohmann Wins His

Hot was the word of the day the WPBA's first ever Signature Tour stop at Emerald Billiards in New Iberia, LA. And the action was as hot as the weather. With 16 players left, WPBA President Dean Roeseler announced so many hill-hill matches that he started asking the audience what they thought the score might be! And this was all within 10 minutes!

They say records are made to be broken. At this year's BottleDeck.net World Tournament of 14.1, many of those records were. Germany's Thorsten Hohmann once again proved why he is considered to be the greatest 14.1 player of this millennium. Hohmann went undefeated in the three-stage tournament to make five wins in the World 14.1, now officially surpassing Luther Lassiter and tying Irving Crane for All-Time World 14.1 Championship wins. Hohmann already surpassed Mike Sigel and Ray Martin's three wins, as well as Steve Mizerak and Nick Varner's two wins apiece. In 1972, Irving Crane was the last man to win a fifth World 14.1 title. This makes Hohmann the winningest World 14.1 champion over 46 years.

Day 1: Round Robin Talent

For the first time ever, the World Tournament of 14.1 drew an Australian player in Ben Judge, an Australian snooker champion who played on the World Snooker circuit. A 200+ ball runner, he was a threat to beat anyone and would have his chance against America's #1 ranked Shane Van Boening.

Van Boening was in form however, running 225 balls in practice just the night before. Shane won 100-60 over Judge in Group 4. Judge then lost a 100-93 heartbreaker to 74-year-old Earl Herring. The Aussie did however manage to come back and qualify by the third day in the round robin.

Hohmann cruised through as the #1 seed with a 100-2 win over Jamaica's Rhys Chen in Group 1. Tony Robles of NYC was in form in Group 2,

defeating a rusty Mika Immonen 100 to 35, with Mika coming in cold after a six-week pool sabbatical. John "Mr. 400" Schmidt ran a 98 and out opener over Michael Badstuebner in a 100-7 win in Group 3. And Group 5's Warren Kiamco of the Philippines won three straight games over Sean Morgan, Jerry Tarantola, and Jonathan Smith.

Day 2: Upset or Divine Intervention?

The first big upset: Van Boening was up 98 to 70 needing two balls for the win. After his break shot he didn't have a clear opening and played safe up table. Earl Herring took his chance and fired in a length of table shot and proceeded to run the set out! At age 74, Herring becomes the oldest player to defeat the young five-time US Open Champion.

"I took him lightly I didn't know who he was. But now it's fueled me up with motivation," said Shane after the match.

"It seems God is giving me just enough to squeak by with a win each match," smiled Herring, who is also the Senior Pastor of Mt. Carmel Church of Christ Disciples of Christ. Herring is a David to pool's Goliaths; he also gave Hohmann his only loss at the 2013 World 14.1 Championship.

Day 3: Judgement Day

The round robin stage concluded with twenty players advancing to the second stage of the event. The top two in each group took first round byes and the undefeated players were:

#1 Thorsten Hohmann, with only 87 total balls against him.

#2 John Schmidt, with only 98 total balls against him.

#3 Tony Robles, with 204 total balls against him.

#4 Warren Kiamco, with 236 total balls against him.

#5 Earl Herring, with 299 total balls against him.

Day 4: Double Elim Trouble

Hohmann defeated Michael

Badstuebner 150-83 to advance to the quarter-finals, receiving a bye. Hall of Famer Johnny Archer defeated Joey Korsiak 150-53. Van Boening re-matched with Judge with the same outcome of a win at 150-37. Mika Immonen won the battle of the Finns with a 150-53 win over Olli Turkulainen. Herring ran out of gas and got the 1-2 punch by Finland's Petri Makkonen and Rhys Chen.

Day 5 Single Elimination

In the final stage of the tournament, every match counted. Single elimination meant a loss would send you home. Twelve players remained, and remarkably three of the four qualifier winners made it, including Rhys Chen who qualified at The Spot, Holden Chin who also qualified at The Spot, and Mike Badstuebner who qualified in New Jersey at Sandcastle Billiards.

Makkonen defeated Judge 200-151.



Van Boening defeated Chin 200-69. Immonen defeated Chen 200-26. And Badstuebner pulled off the biggest win of his life with a 200-143 win over the Scorpion, Johnny Archer.

Day 6: Cutting Down to Two

New York's Tony Robles pulled off back-to-back wins over Immonen in a 200-44 rout. Badstuebner again pulled a huge upset with a 200-158 win, avenging his loss in the round robin to John Schmidt. The win put Mike in his first ever semi-finals in a pro event.

s 5th World Tournament of 14.1 Title!



Above left: Thorsten bags another 14.1 title. Above right, Hometown fave Tony Robles finishes runner-up. PHOTOS BY KARL KANTROWITZ

On the other side of the chart, Kiamco pulled off a minor upset against the in-form Van Boening 200-112 to enter his first World 14.1 semi-finals. Previously he had a 5th place finish.

Hohmann won big with a 150-and-out against Makkonen to win 200-4.

The first semi-finals saw Robles and Badstuebner stay neck and neck, until Robles pulled away when Badstuebner looked out of gas and winded. It was also his 50th birthday, and his \$100 qualifier entry had already paid many dividends. Robles won 200-97, and Mike was left with a thrilling third place tie.

The second semi-finals saw Hohmann in top form once again with a 95-and-out to finish off Kiamco 200-63 and enter his sixth World Tournament of 14.1 finals.

Day 7: The Final Battle

"The World 14.1 title is worth more to me than any other title," Said

Robles, as a huge NYC crowd came to support the beloved champion.

"If I had to lose to someone, it would be you Tony," said Hohmann in an interview on camera. "But I'll give you a really hard time!"

Aside from money, a lot was at stake for different reasons for both men. For Robles, it would be fulfilling a lifelong dream to win the biggest 14.1 title in his favorite game. For Hohmann, it would be a date with destiny to further cement his dominance in the modern era of 14.1, and come a step closer in tying Willie Mosconi's record of seven wins.

The finals saw Hohmann take a small 30 ball early lead, but Robles had early chances. Hohmann extended the lead further but Robles couldn't capitalize.

Then Hohmann went on a roll during his fourth inning with a 130 ball run, giving him a sizable lead. Robles could not find his game and was only able to put up 30 and 40 ball runs.

Hohmann was too much to handle on his A game. At 299 however, Hohmann missed a long shot, leaving Robles a sliver of hope and a cheering crowd.

"Oh man, come on!" Robles exclaimed when Hohmann returned from the table after the miss to the laughter of the crowd.

Robles was able to stay at the table another 15 minutes, but he finally succumbed and Hohmann made the final shot down the length of the table to clinch his fifth win.

"I promise to everyone in New York that I will win this," said Robles in his concession speech. "Not just for me, but for all of you, because you deserve it."

In the meantime, Europe maintains the World 14.1 Cup that will have the inscription of Thorsten Hohmann's name on it once more. Without a doubt, Hohmann has etched his mark as a once in a generation player in the art of straight pool.

Allison Fisher on Fire in Chicago!



Clockwise from top left: Molly Bontrager proves again she's as adept on the 9 ft. table as the bar box; Allison Fisher, with more titles to her credit than any woman player, is back in the winner circle; Veteran Helena Thornfeldt cracks the final four; Mary Rakin returns to competition after a seven year sabbatical.

Story and Photos By Tony Fox

Fifty-two players from coast to coast in the US and Canada gathered at Shooter's Billiards in Grayslake, Illinois to compete in stop one of three of the North American Pool Tour's (NAPT) pro level events. Stops two and three will be in Las Vegas, Nevada and and Montreal, Canada.

Hall of Famer Allison Fisher went through the field undefeated, sending a clear statement that she's back. "It feels good to win again," said the BCA Hall of Fame player and winner of virtually every major title available to women pros in the past two decades. "I enjoy practicing and playing again. It's good to get out and play on different equipment.

Each table here was slightly different. It makes you think and adjust."

Molly Bontrager, last year's third place winner managed to move up one spot to runner up. "That means I'll win next year," said Bontrager.

Said Fisher of her finals opponent, "Molly plays very well. When you consider she plays on seven foot tables, she's remarkable." The bar box player again showed she can play on the nine foot tables. Last year she lost the hot seat match to veteran Karen Corr. But this year Bontrager defeated Mary Rakin who came out her seven year absence from pool competition. "It's a lot different than when I left," said Rakin. "There are all these new players I don't know...and they can play. I had no idea I would do this well."

Rakin finished in third place after defeating veteran Helena Thornfeldt. Earlier in the tournament she lost to Thornfeldt. "Mary is really playing well," said Thornfeldt. "I have more fun now. I still like winning, but I don't feel compelled to win every time I step to the table." said Helena. "Somedays I play like a champ, others like a chump, but it's fun."

Top 8 Finishers

1 Allison Fisher	\$ 3,250
2 Molly Bontrager	\$ 2,250
3 Mary Rankin	\$ 1,700
4 Helena Thornfeldt	\$ 1,300
5 Jia Li	\$ 950
5 Brittany Bryant	\$ 950
7 April Larson	\$ 800
7 Eleanor Callado	\$ 800

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ATLANTIC CITY

Eddy Merckx Crowned Verhoeven Open 3-Cushion Champ

Photos by Karl Kantrowitz

August saw the world's greatest 3-Cushion players converge in New York for the Verhoeven Open, staged at Flushing's Carom Café. The world's number two ranked player, Eddy Merckx of Belgium, took the title and \$9,000 first place purse.

Eddy Merckx seems to be in the best form of his life and is at his best when it's not only about honor, but even more about big prize money. The stoic Belgian showed again what makes him so feared at the world level: cold-blooded and effective scoring under pressure.

Dani Sánchez of Spain, the other finalist, was a silent witness in that final, which seemed to turn into a one-man show for a long time (24-1 in 5 innings), but thanks to a short comeback from the Spaniard, from 27-3 to 31-23, offered a fascinating end. The final shot then again was for Merckx, who finished with six and three for 40-27 in 13/12 innings.

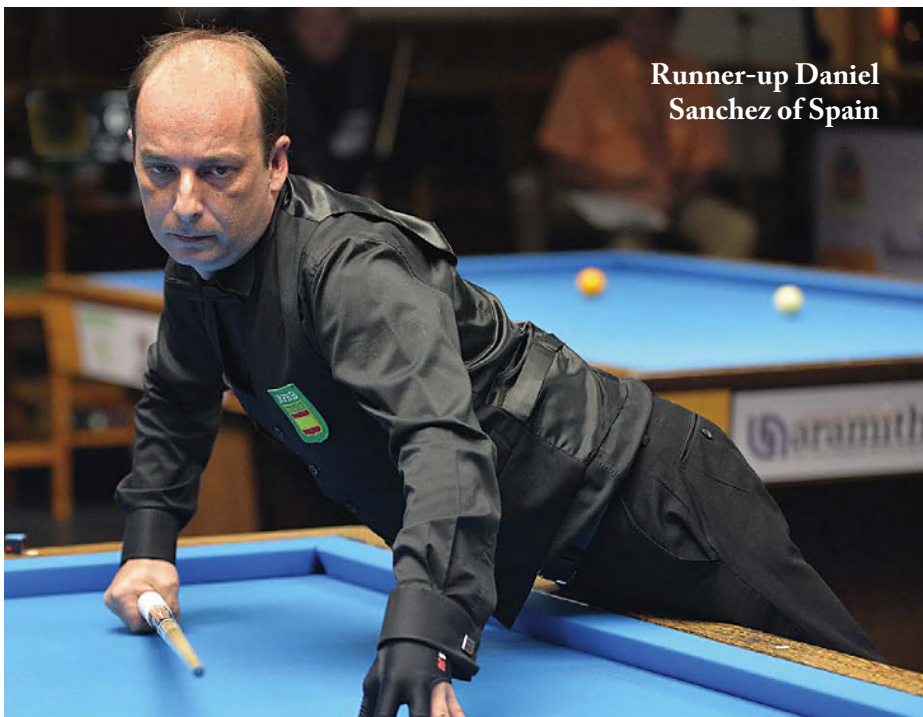
With three 40-point matches in 16, 16 and 13 innings, Merckx averaged 2.666 in his last performances. Sánchez was overwhelmed by Merckx' fantastic start with 2-9-4-0-9 and could only strike back with 12 in the 12th inning. It was too late to threaten the superior Belgian.

Eddy Merckx first won the clash with Forthomme in the quarters in 16 (2.500) and in then went along Horn in the semi-final also in only 16 innings. Dani Sánchez needed 16 innings to beat famed Semi Sayginer in the quarters and against Leppens, last year's finalist, 19 in the semi-finals.

For results of all the matches, including scores, visit www.kozoom.com/en/billiard-carom/results/23487/matches.html.



Eddy Merckx of Belgium,
Verhoeven Open
3-Cushion Champion



Runner-up Daniel
Sanchez of Spain



Third place finisher
Eddy Leppens of Belgium

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Stroker's Sports Bar & Grill
Palm Harbor, FL 727-786-6683

Nov. 9-11

U.S. Amateur Championship
Las Vegas, NV
Stroker's Sports Bar & Grill
Palm Harbor, FL 727-786-6683



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Oct. 8-14

Western BCA 9-Ball
Championship
Lincoln City, OR

Oct. 13-14

New England Regional
9-Ball Champ Ayer, MA



www.GulfCoastWomensTour.com
713-825-1411

Oct. 13-14

Bogies Billiards West
Houston, TX \$1,000 added

Nov. 10-11

Fat Rack's Billiards & Sports Lounge
San Antonio, TX \$1,000 added

Jerry Olivier Ladies Tour

www.joladiestour.com

Sep 15-16

Slick Willie's, Austin, TX
\$2,000 added

Nov 3-4, 2018

Legend's Billiards
League City, TX \$2,000 added

Joss NE 9-Ball Tour

518-356-7163 for details
or visit www.joss9balltour.com

Sep. 22-23

T.J.'s Classic Billiards
Waterville ME
207-877-7665

Oct. 6-7

The Spot Billiards-Café
Nanuet, NY
845-623-7768

Oct. 20-21

Brick House Billiards
N. Syracuse, NY
315-455-1979

Oct. 27-28

Utica Billiards on the Boulevard
Utica, NY 315-732-3000



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lonestarbiliardstour.com

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Oct. 27-28

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www.predatorproamtour.com

Sep. 1-3

Eastern States Championship
Steinway Billiards, Astoria, NY
718-472-2124

Sep. 15-16

Cue Bar, Bayside, NY
718-631-2646

Oct. 13-14

Steinway Billiards Astoria, NY
718-472-2124

Oct. 20-21

The Spot, Nanuet, NY

Oct. 27-28

Spin City. Woodside, NY

The Tri-State Tour

www.thetristatetour.com

Sep. 9

Cue Bar, Bayside, NY
718-631-2646

Sep. 16

Clifton Billiards, Clifton, NJ
973-928-6622

Oct. 7

Steinway Billiards
Astoria, NY
718-472-2124

Oct. 21

Cue Bar
Bayside, NY
718-631-2646

Oct. 28

Shooters Family Billiards
Wayne, NJ
973-2487-0800

PRO EVENTS



Oct. 21-27, 2018

U.S. International 9-Ball Open
Sheraton Norfolk Waterside Hotel
Norfolk, VA

www.accu-stats.com



Oct. 29 - Nov. 2

Grand Final New York, NY
www.worldpoolseries.com



Sep. 13-16, 2018

WPBA Ho-Chunk Classic
Ho Chunk Casino, Wisconsin Dells
www.wpba.com



Nov. 7-11

Tornado Open
Hardrock Casino, Atlantic City, NJ
www.thetornadoopen.com

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with your event dates
and details - we'll
do the rest!

PRO RANKINGS



WOMEN'S PRO TOUR (WPBA Rankings)

Rank/Name	Points
1 Line Kjorsvik	70500
2 Monica Webb	69000
3 Jennifer Barretta	52000
4 Helena Thornfeldt	46000
5 Ewa Laurance	46000
6 Brittany Bryant	45000
7 Melissa Little	45000
8 Kim Newsome	42000
9 Jessica Barnes	37000
10 Siming Chen	33500
11 Emily Duddy	33000
12 Laura Smith	30000
13 Sara Miller	29500
14 Teruko Cucculelli	28500
15 Joanne Ashton	28000
16 June Maiers	27500



MEN'S PRO TOUR (BCA Rankings)

Rank/Name	Points
1 Shane Van Boening	482
2 Jayson Shaw	467
3 Jeremy Sossel	436
4 Dennis Orcollo	400
5 Rodney Morris	396
6 Warren Kiamco	392
7 Carlo Biado	379
8 John Morra	374
9 Lee Vann Corteza	333
10 Mike Dechaine	313
11 Mika Immomen	284
12 Jason Klatt	265
13 Shaun Wilkie	252
14 Rob Saez	240
15 Thorsten Hohmann	232
16 Earl Strickland	231

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15
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Chao



24
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Cranfield
Born 1915



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Player
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Boy" Floyd
Mataya



26
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WPA Pro
Konstantin
Stepanov



22
Happy B-Day
WPA Pro
Tony
Drago

27
Legend
Frank
McGowan
Born 1933

29
Legendary
Players
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Louis Louis"
Roberts
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and
Harold Worst
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