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February 2010



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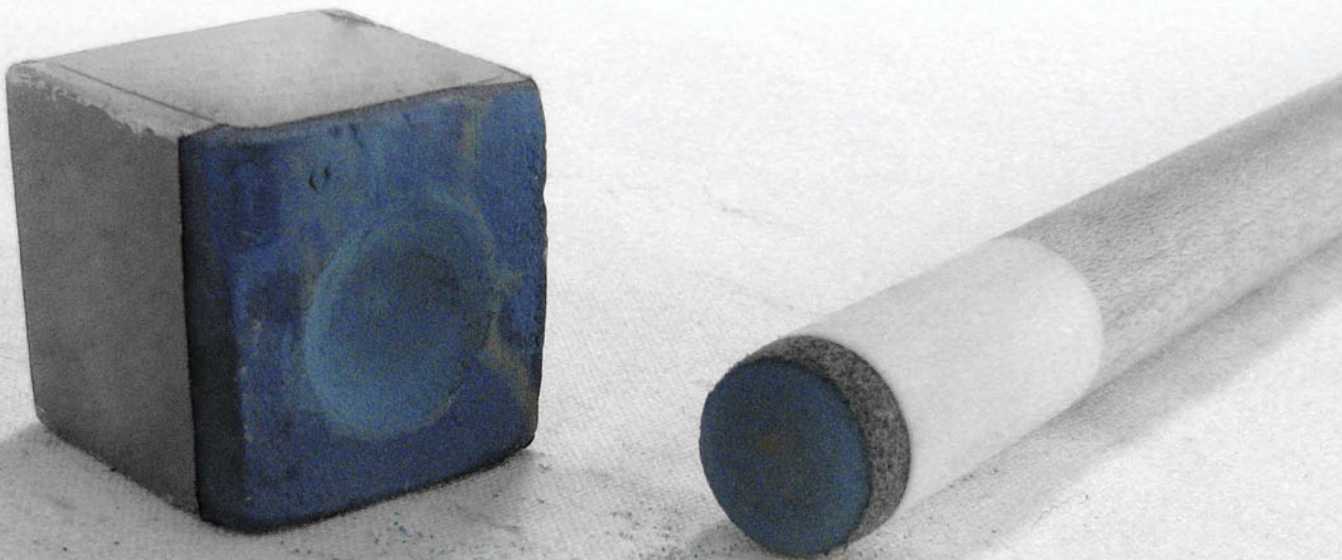
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POOL & BILLIARD MAGAZINE

Volume 28 - Number 2 - February 2010

DEPARTMENTS

6	Editor's Desk	42	Places to Play
8	Pooltown Insider	48	Box Scores
38	Made in the Trade	48	Tour Guide/Rankings
40	P&B Mall	50	Cool Pool Calendar

COVER STORY:

Jasmin Ouschan and Mika Immonen are P&B's 2009 Players of the Year!

PHOTO BY MICHAEL NEUMANN

INSTRUCTION

12	Dragon's Lair: No Easy Matches!	Charlie Williams
14	Drill Instructor: The Next Level	Dominic Esposito
16	Striking Viking: Lots of Little Tips	Ewa Mataya Laurance
18	Best Pool: Target Ball Practice	Phil Capelle
20	8-Ball Bash: The Proper Grip	Randi Givens
22	Nick's Tricks: 4 Balls With Shape	Nick Nikolaidis
22	Head Games: New Pool Pathways	Shari Stauch
25	Shark Bytes: The Pros Say...	Harold Simonsen

FEATURES

P&B PLAYER OF THE YEAR SPECIAL:

30	The Unbearable Lightness of Being Mika	Tina Hardt
34	Jasmin Ouschan: Then and Now	Tina Hardt
	Photos by	Dale Shank, Tony Fox



SNEAK PEEK: MARCH

It's one of our favorite issues of each year: the annual Cue Issue! Come back for looks at what's hot for 2010 in the cue industry...

POOL & BILLIARD MAGAZINE (ISSN 1049-2852) is published monthly, \$34.95 in the USA, US \$44.95 in Canada and Mexico, US \$74.95 in all other foreign countries per year, by Sports Publications Ltd., 115 S. Main St. Summerville, SC 29483. www.poolmag.com (843)875-5115 Periodicals postage rates paid at Summerville, SC, and additional mailing offices. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to Pool & Billiard Magazine, 115 S. Main St. Summerville, SC 29483.

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by Shari J. Stauch

February 2010

Meet Today's New Breed of "Pool Player"

Back when we were launching the women's tour and drumming up publicity from town to town, there was one question we dreaded above all other: *What's a nice girl like you...* Well, you know the rest. I can't even bear to type it.

And even though it was the 90s, years after the pool boom caused by *"The Color of Money"* and decades after the poor image depicted by *"The Hustler,"* a sticky residue of stigma continued to cling to our sport.



In one of my less fond memories I recall the sports editor of the *San Diego Union Tribune* telling me flat out that they couldn't cover our event; pool wasn't a sport. (Adding insult to injury, there wasn't much of any sport going on in San Diego that weekend; most of the sports section was devoted to fishing reports.)

But with ESPN's continued increased coverage of pool, a zillion or two books and tapes teaching pool, and our industry (especially the cue industry) picking up on the sports technology used in other sports such

as golf and tennis, pool's image evolved.

Not so coincidentally, so did pool's players. Depicted as a sport, pool drew the attention not just of the mentally tough, but the physically talented as well. As pool's tours and tournaments grew to global proportions, players who weren't fit as fiddles had a tougher time adjusting to extensive travel, new conditions and time zones. And now, as in any sport, the best, most enduring pool players are the best athletes, on the table and off.

No one exhibits that better than this year's choices for our *Player of the Year* honors. Jasmin Ouschan and Mika Immonen (pictured here in a photo by Jasmin's trainer, Michael Neumann) are today's breed of top player. When they're not playing; they're working out, enjoying other sports, and keeping their bodies (and minds) in top physical condition. It's no wonder they each grabbed a handful of pool's most coveted titles this year. And it'll be no surprise when they continue to make tracks in the sport in the months and years to come. We applaud these players for their talent and accomplishments of course, but also for helping spotlight our sport as just that — a *sport*.

We hope you enjoy a fresh new look at these athletes, brought to us in this special *Player of the Year* issue by returning writer Tina Hardt, and photographers Dale Shank, Tony Fox and Michael Neumann. We've no doubt you'll be inspired by their stories, probably enough to head straight to the gym before your next league night!

We'll be back next month for our annual Cue Issue, coverage of the Derby City Classic, and a look at all the events taking place in March's Super Billiard Expo.

'Til then, shoot straight!

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Pool & Billiard Magazine

is published by:

Sports Publications Ltd.

115 S. Main St. Summerville, SC 29483

Telephone (843) 875-5115 Fax (843) 875-5171

Web Site: www.poolmag.com

e-mail: poolmag@poolmag.com

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Pipe Dreams

This cool pic in from artisan Mark Balkovec of Pittsburgh, PA.

pipe I hand made for my stepson's 20th birthday. He is a pool player and I thought this would be a



good theme pipe to make. It is not a real 8-ball drilled out. The 8-ball was shaped by hand and the 8 was inlayed with acrylic. It is a one of a kind real

"Thought I would share a photo of an 8-ball and cue stick tobacco

smoking pipe." That it is, thanks Mark!

World Pool Masters Expands

Matchroom Sport announced that the 2010 PartyPoker.net World Pool Masters (May 12-16 at the Riviera in Vegas) will see major changes to one of the longest established tournaments in pool. The field will expand to 64 players and the tournament will take place over five days instead of the traditional three. Working in conjunction with

Barry Hearn said, "I am very excited about the future of the Masters. It did very well and was very prestigious as a 16 player invitational but now is the time to take the event to another level and then beyond."

The first two days of the event feature double elimination play on a multi-table set-up as the field reduces from 64 down to 32. The event then goes to single

Cuesports International, the Masters takes place during the annual BCA National 8-Ball Championships, which sees thousands of players and fans flock to the Riviera for a lengthy festival of pool.

The field will include 32 international stars of the game from around the world, joined by 32 qualifiers. 'The Race to Vegas' gets underway with the first qualifier in Paris on February 14th followed by qualifiers in Australia, Japan, USA, and Canada as well as most of the major European countries.

Matchroom Sport Chairman



elimination and the last 16 is played out in a single table arena setting in front of the TV cameras, culminating in the final on Sunday May 16th. TV coverage by Matchroom Sport will be seen as 15 one hour broadcasts in 14 countries around the world with more to be added to the list.

The prize fund is set at a guaranteed \$100,000 with \$20,000 going to the eventual champion.

Visit matchroompool.com for info.

US Open 10-Ball Qualifiers

In preparation for the U.S. Open 10-Ball Championship scheduled May 17-22, 2010, CueSports International (CSI) announced nine qualifiers for the event in the U.S and Canada (see this month's Tour Guide for upcoming events).

The U.S. Open 10-Ball Championship will be held at the Riviera Hotel and Casino in

Las Vegas, Nevada immediately following the World Pool Masters and in conjunction with the 34th Annual BCAPL National 8-Ball Championships. It is also a recognized BCA point event and will feature the top men and women players from the

U.S. and around the world.

Participating regional tours and a select group of independent host rooms will each send one player to the \$25,000 added national 10-Ball event. The U.S. Open 10-Ball

Championship is sponsored and additionally supported by Diamond Billiard Products, Aramith,



Simonis, The Action Report (TAR), BreakRAK and Bad Boys Billiard Productions. For more information about the U.S. Open 10-Ball Championship please contact CSI at (702) 719-7665 or email holly@playcsipool.com.

Visit playcsipool.com or more info.

Lone Star: Regional Star!

In late 2008, the national economy faltered and many independent events followed suit. Kim White, WPBA

touring professional, viewed this economic decline as both a challenge and an opportunity for 2009.

"Texas has always been a hotspot for pool," the native Houstonian says. "My

objective was to form a regional tour that would feature a low entry fee, attract players of different

calibers, and provide significant payouts to one quarter of the field."

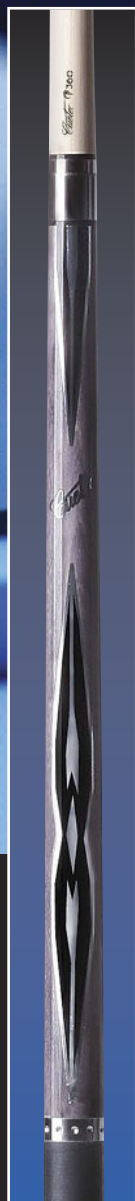
After just one year, the Lone Star Billiards Tour is now recognized



as one of the top regional tours in the nation. The ten tour stops during 2009 attracted an average of 70 players. Nearly 200 different players participated, and half of those earned money in one or more tournaments.

The total payout for the year exceeded \$90,000. See this month's Tour Guide for the 2010 schedule!

"The Cuetec R360 cue has a better feel, better aiming system and more important better control. I am happy I made the switch to Cuetec."
Shane Van Boening



13-698

It's how you play the game.

Shane Van Boening – 3 time VNEA national eight-ball champion and past "Player of the Year" has been recognized as next-in-line to being the best pool player in the United States. Shane's choice in cues... Cuetec.

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Jeanette Lee & Liquidwick Team Up on American Chopper

LiquidWick Pool Cues and billiard star Jeanette Lee "The Black Widow" were featured on the December 17th airing of the TLC TV Show "American Chopper," which featured the custom motorcycle shop, Orange County Choppers.

LiquidWick commissioned mega motorcycle brand Orange County Choppers (OCC) to build a Jeanette Lee "The Black Widow" bike. LiquidWick partners, Rich Gustin and Dan Shields, accompanied Jeanette Lee on a visit to Orange County Choppers where she was filmed playing "American Chopper" star Paul Teutul Sr. in pool and was then interviewed for the episode. OCC then went on to build the bike as part of the tv show. The chopper unveil was filmed at the



Jeanette Lee and husband George Breedlove on the "Black Widow Bike" at its unveiling in Hollywood, Florida during the WPBA National 9-Ball Championships

Seminole Hard Rock Casino in Ft. Lauderdale, FL on November 11th.

"The bike is awesome and currently in our possession in Albuquerque," said Rich Gustin, LiquidWick partner. "We plan to share it with the fans of both Jeanette Lee and OCC."

"It was great fun playing Paul Sr. in pool and hanging with all the guys at OCC," said Jeanette Lee. "The bike is beautiful."

"This bike is the hottest motorcycle ever created for the billiards industry," said Dan Shields, LiquidWick Partner. "OCC bikes can be huge draws and we plan to use this incredible new chopper, along with appearances by Jeanette Lee, for marketing and promotional events to support our retail partners."

WPA World 9-Ball in Qatar

The World Pool Association has announced that the World 9-Ball Championship will be conducted in Doha, Qatar, June 25 - July 5. Qualifiers for this event will be held in Doha from June 25 until June 27 and the main event will be conducted from June 28 until a champion is crowned on July 5.

The prize fund for this initial appearance and in 2011 in Qatar is \$250,000 and will increase to \$300,000 for both 2012 and 2013. Invitations will be done according to WPA rankings, and via the WPA members and should commence during the spring of 2010.

Visit www.wpa-pool.com for more info.

BEF Scholarships Open

The Billiard Education Foundation (BEF) has announced that they are accepting applications for the 2010 scholarship awards.

The BEF Academic Scholarship Program is administered annually under the direction and guidance of the BEF Board of Trustees. Applications must be postmarked no later than April 1, 2010 and can be downloaded by going to the BEF website at www.BilliardEducation.org.

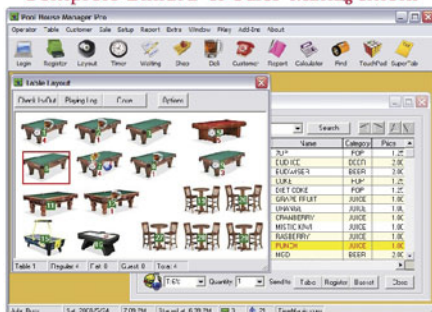
The BEF Academic Scholarship Program is divided into two categories: Excellence in Education scholarship (one \$5,000 scholarship awarded over a

two-year term) and Aiming for Higher Education scholarships (seven individual scholarships at \$1,000 each). The objective of the BEF Academic Scholarship



Program is to grant scholarships to high school seniors who have benefited from the sport of billiards and are pursuing a college education. For more information, visit www.BilliardEducation.org, phone 303.926.1039 or e-mail info@BilliardEducation.org.

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The Dragon's Lair



There Are NO Easy Matches

by Charlie Williams

Charlie Williams is one of the world's top players and personalities. Charlie won the BCA Junior Nationals at 14 and is now a 10 year veteran on the pro scene, sponsored by Predator. Founder of Dragon Promotions, he produces over 40 international events each year. He also manages and coaches pool stars Yu Ram Cha and Shanelle Loraine. Visit dragonpromotions.com or email questions to charliedragonwilliams@gmail.com

Recently I played in the Turning Stone Joss Northeast Championship along with 127 other players. Many of the top names were there including Mika Immonen, Thorsten Hohmann, Rodney Morris, Johnny Archer, and numerous other stars.

One unique aspect of this event's format is that it is the only national points event that does not seed the top pro players, so the draw becomes a huge factor as it's completely random. Understandably, many top pros don't enjoy this because of the time they put in to earn their elite ranking. Sometimes they'll get lucky, have a great draw and avoid their peers the first several rounds. Other times they can draw a champion their first match.

I've been on both sides of the fence at this event, so I've learned to accept whatever happens and play my game against whoever is next to my name.

But sometimes, even for top players, drawing easy or into an easy bracket can be almost as difficult as drawing into a tough bracket.

Why? Personal pressure! As in everything else in billiards competition, the biggest fights are internal. When you see yourself in a bracket where you are the heavy favorite, the feeling of being scared to lose increases.

You don't want to blow it!

I drew into probably the best (easiest) bracket of the event.

My first three matches would be against somewhat unknown players, if I could get there. And my fourth match on the winner's side would be a middle ranked pro, maybe top 25, which wasn't bad for the fourth round considering players like Thorsten Hohmann and Mika Immonen were playing each other in round two. I wouldn't have to play a "Top 10" pro until the fifth round, deep into the event, which would guarantee me at least a 5th place finish.

Happy and confident as that should have made me, the pressure of expectation was definitely building. Two-time world-champion Thorsten Hohmann confirmed my fears. "Every time I get an easy bracket at a tournament, I blow it. Then sometimes I get the hardest bracket and I get through. But I see Ralf (Souquet) or Archer get an easy bracket, and whoosh (waving his hand across) they go right through, fast and easy."

Yes, even the best players can succumb to the pressures of expectations and weaker opponents, but perhaps not if making themselves more aware of the potential for disaster?

Learning my lesson from past experiences, I did a little research on my first opponent. I'd never heard of him, but wanted to know how big his bite could be. Turns out, despite no major wins, he had beaten some tough guys before so I knew he would not be a walk over. I played a solid first round match, even down 2-4 and feeling the heat of blowing the easy upcoming matches. Looking over to the next tables, I could see the players that I would play next if I won and it was evident that they were much weaker than this first guy I was playing. So basically, if I won this match I would be rewarded

with two easier matches.

Wow! That's pressure when you're down 2-4 in a race to 9 against an unknown but hungry player. I dug in and forced him to make errors and eventually saw him succumb to the pressure of playing a champion that would not let him by as easily. I won 9-6. (Turned out this player, Francis Crevier from Canada, was as deadly as I thought he could be when he knocked out Mika Immonen 9-8 the next day!)

But even though I'd won and the road was looking a little easier, I decided to stay after the match and practice for another solid hour.



Even 2x world champs like Thorsten Hohmann can succumb to internal pressure!

I didn't want to take any chances of my game not being there, so I took it as serious as if I'd be playing against an Archer or Immonen,

It paid off with two wins for me. And ironically, the pro that I thought I would be playing in the fourth round was upset by an unknown! Confident with my wins I followed them up with another victory over that player. And, as planned, I played a top player in the final four of the winner's side, Rodney Morris. He played awesome and beat me 9-5, and then I was beaten soundly by Archer 9-5.

Oh, well. Better to be beaten fairly than to beat yourself. I finished 5th for the event, improved my ranking a few notches, but most importantly I did not falter to the curse of "easy pickings."

The lesson: Never underestimate any of your opponents; play every match as if it were your toughest competition.



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The Next Level: Part II

by Dominic Esposito

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Reading our online edition? Click for a video demonstration of this shot!

You should be off to a great start with your E.V.E. A.P.P.L.E. prematch preparation from last month, right? Sure. Did you have a problem keeping it up during the entire match? Did a miscue make you give up ball-in-hand? Did you have a meltdown and the last thing you could think of was enjoying visualizing awesome pool playing life experiences? Ouch! Did your mental game (70%) result in a mental breakdown and your 30% execution became the odds that the only thing to be executed was between yourself or your opponent in cold blood? With all that said I know, you don't want me to remind you that your attitude is the one thing you are in total control of.

Here's the thing: E.V.E. A.P.P.L.E. is only used as the pre match exercise to get your head in the zone to play. There are more secret steps to focusing your mind DURING the match.

Let us presume that you make a personally difficult shot and get great positioning on the next ball or two. Reward yourself for making an excellent shot by simply touching the thumb and first finger of the hand holding the end of the cue, or your bridge hand, to make the OK sign. You might also think, "Great shot," to yourself.

By executing this simple signal each time a good play is made, you are effectively conditioning the unconscious mind to perform in a similar fashion in the future. The key is repetition! You can't just make an OK sign with your fingers and/or say "great shot" to yourself a couple of times and expect this to work in the heat of fierce competition. As in all things, practice makes perfect.

By continually placing your first finger and thumb together and/or saying "Great shot" to yourself after a nicely executed shot, you are conditioning your body to perform in a similar manner whenever the OK sign and/or "Great shot" are made prior to getting into position, aiming, and stroking the next ball.

The mental component in sports burns calories just like physical exertion. You must practice to perfect this skill. And each time you make the OK sign, or say "Great shot" to yourself, believe, imagine, or pretend that this signal will be a trigger to the unconscious mind to unleash the perfect, effortless play that you desire.

There is nothing better than playing pocket billiards in "the zone of excellence." In other words, you size up the table, plan a strategy of balls to pocket, determine how to pocket the object ball and get the cue ball in position to make the next ball, and then get into your stance, aim accurately, and stroke smoothly.

Being in the "zone" is realizing that you made the shot, while feeling that another part of you coordinated the execution. The execution is effortless because the unconscious automatically carries out your intentions.

Once you have conditioned your body to perform in an "excellent way" by repeating the OK sign and/or "Great shot" every time a difficult or outstanding shot/play is made, then the next step is to use this conditioning prior to a key shot. If a low percentage shot presents itself that is a key to a run, then after determining the aim point, English, speed, and cue ball positioning, make the OK sign and/or think "Great shot." Then get into your set position (focus and clear your mind), aim (concentrate), and stroke (smoothly and confidently).

Most of the time, your unconscious mind will execute the shot flawlessly just as you have trained it to do. Remember, persistence makes

perfect. You want to not only train your body to execute the fundamentals of pool, but also to perform "in the groove of excellence" in accordance with your mental commands.



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Little Tips Equal Big Results!

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 Thomas C. Shaw.

Sometimes little things mean a lot. (And sometimes little things mean so little you wonder why anybody bothered!)

Below are some little things. None is worth a full column, some may apply to everybody but you, many you'll already know, and some may make a light bulb go off above your head, which can cause tingling in your ears. No matter. Your game will improve a little and that's what it's all about.

- You should have a separate cue for breaking in action rack games (9-Ball, 8-Ball, Rotation/61).
- The tip on that cue should be harder than normal, to handle the pressure, and be shaped flat because you'll only be using center ball strikes.
- On soft break games (14.1, One-Pocket) you can use your regular cue because you don't hit the break shot any harder than any other shot.
- One of the easiest ways to determine how accurately you struck the cue ball is to shoot a combination shot. A pocket is wide and making a ball only says your shot was either on the money or fairly close. A combination exaggerates any error in your aim, making it much easier to see how accurate you were.
- A second easy method is to place both the cue ball and the object ball at one end of the table and shoot into the far opposite corner. Distance also exaggerates error.
- When shooting a bank shot it helps to walk around to the other side of the table and look at it. The added perspective can show the angle clearer.
- In fact, do that on every shot, but only during practice unless you want to irritate the daylights out of an opponent.
- Bend low on a shot. The Greenleaf era players stood straighter; the Mosconi players bent; today's players get lower. Though the late Jimmy Caras once told me that many of the players in the 1930s and 40s didn't stand as straight as you think. Standing straight was better for pictures.
- Don't bend low before a shot. Many times, especially when balls are close to each other, it pays to take a tiptoe look at them to figure out the actual angles. This can help even when the balls are a moderate distance apart.
- Before you go out to play, whether at a friend's house, in a league match, or in a tournament, spend a little time watching an Accu-Stats DVD of top players. You'll be surprised how much you'll then shoot like them – at least for a while.
- Different table manufacturers cut their pockets and slate openings differently and

that's something to watch out for especially on a table brand you've never heard of before. A firm shot down the cushion may bobble on one and not the other and it's not your fault (unless you keep doing it!)

- Learn to automatically and quickly calculate and understand the contact point on both the cue ball and the object ball before you shoot.
- Shots with the cue ball on the cushion come up often and can be a problem, especially if you have to go past the side pocket or you have to get position off the shot that requires a lot of cue ball spin.

For many people (who swear to me they're aiming the same as a center ball hit and have a cue with little or no deflection) shooting a ball down the cushion on the right is easier with left-hand spin, and right-hand spin shooting down the cushion on you left. So practice the opposite spin on the shot.



Go ahead, bend low and get a good look at your shot!

- Over-chalking a cue tip is as bad as under-chalking it. Once the tip can't absorb any more chalk it begins to form a loose layer on the tip and can slip on the cue ball and fall off and get in the table's cloth. That makes the cloth dirty which transfers to your hand, and wears the cloth excessively – but worst of all it can ruin your shot.
- So there you have several little tips that can produce big results. I had fun doing this; there are a lot more so maybe we'll do it again some time.

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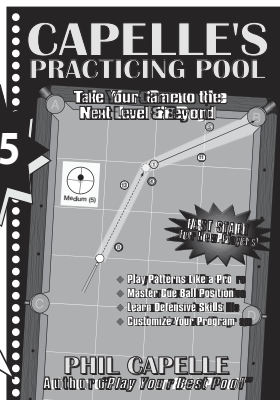
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Play Your Best Pool



Playing position boils down to two simple questions: 1. Where do you want to send the cue ball?

2. How are you going to get it there?

That seems easy enough. The problem is that pool tables, unlike dartboards, don't have readily identifiable targets. You've got to pick out a position on the table or imagine a zone and keep it fixed in your mind. Often landmarks on the table will make your job a bit easier. Your goal could be to leave the cue ball five inches off the rail opposite a specific diamond. You could try to send the cue ball within a few inches of another ball. And, in some positions, your goal could be to return the cue ball right back to the starting point.

One excellent method for practicing position eliminates the need for you to use your imagination, allowing you to concentrate on the *where* and *how* part of the position play equation. I call this practicing with target balls.

Diagram #1 shows two very basic position routes that come in handy in several games. The idea is not just to play half way decent position, but to become a genuine cue ball wizard. The goal for Shot A is to send the cue ball into the 1-ball. A perfect result on this and all target ball shots is to bump the target ball softly with a full hit. Shot B looks easy, but it requires precise speed and cuing.

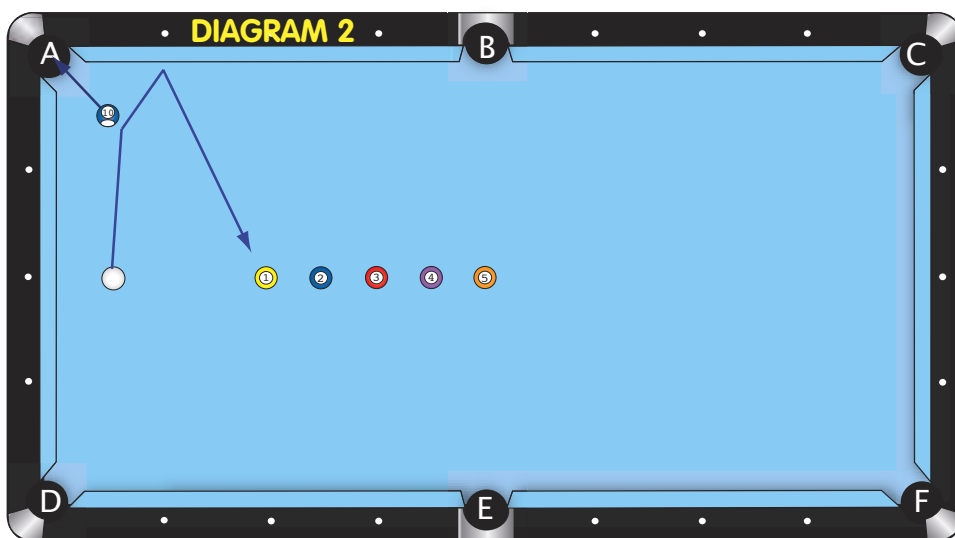
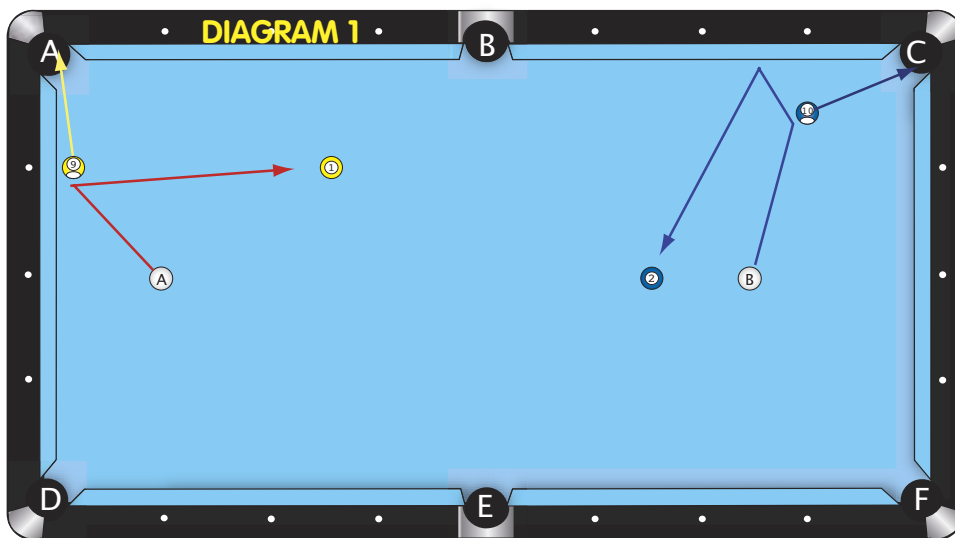
Diagram #2 shows a progressive target ball exercise. This will teach you the subtle nuances of spin, speed, and pocketing that influence the cue ball's path to the target. Work your way from the 1 through the 5 ball. If you can even hit these five balls in succession with good speed, you should be quite proud of yourself.

Practice the basic routes and those that give you trouble in competition. Let your imagination run wild as you create exercises that will broaden your arsenal of positions plays. And prepare to watch your runout percentage jump accordingly!

Practice with a Target Ball

By Phil Capelle

Author Phil Capelle is billiards' most prolific instruction author, with titles ranging from Play Your Best Pool, Play Your Best 9-Ball, Play Your Best 8-Ball, to Capelle's Practicing Pool. He has been involved in the sport for over 40 years. Visit Phil at billiardspress.com



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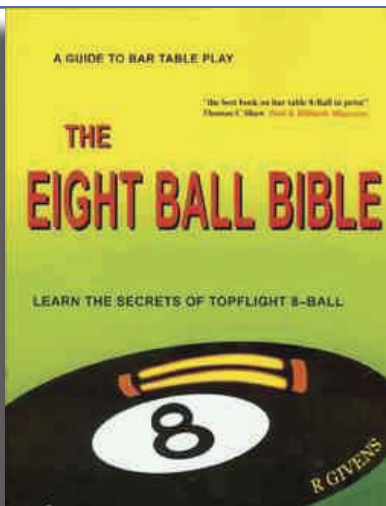
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Achieve The Proper Grip

By R. Givens

Randi Givens is the author of *The Eight Ball Bible: A Guide to Bar Table Play* and editor of *Banking with the Beard* by Freddy Bentivegna.

This month we're looking at grips that can enhance rather than detract from our pool games:

Everything Over the Line of Aim

The grip hand, elbow and shoulder of the shooting arm should always be positioned directly over the Line Of Aim. Deliberately using the Line Of Aim to take a proper stance is one of the great strengths of the Perkins method. Using the Line Of Aim as a guide and measuring the distance to stand from the cue ball reliably

puts the player in good position time after time. Keeping the shooting arm over the Line Of Aim prevents slumps caused by carelessly using a poorly aligned stroke.

Turning the grip hand in or out makes it more difficult to execute a dead straight stroke. These grips share the same flaws as sidearm shooting. Please do not write naming Hall of Fame champions who used flawed grips. My position is that they succeeded in spite of their form, not because of it. The fact that unorthodox champions are rare proves the point (I can only think of two sidearm champions). It is a serious mistake to copy idiosyncratic players, because very few people can juggle the extra problems using poor form creates

and still shoot at all-star speed. If you are looking for a player to imitate, pick someone like Willie Mosconi who stayed at the top of the pool world for decades.

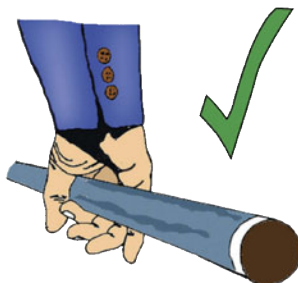
Tightness

When I was shooting my best game, I experimented with how tightly to hold the cue. I found that insofar as getting desired ball action there is very little difference between a tight grip and a loose grip. The thing that matters is the contact point on the cue ball, the speed of the cue and, of course, the Line Of Aim

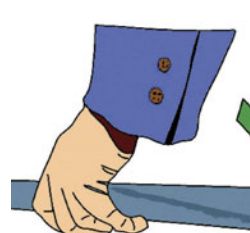
The grip must be firm enough to prevent the cue from slipping during the delivery. A fairly firm grip works fine provided you do two things. First, the palm of the hand must never touch the cue until the end of the stroke. When the palm of the hand contacts the cue during the practice swings, it makes a level stroke and smooth delivery more difficult to execute.

It is a mistake to grip the cue so tightly that the biceps bunch up, interfering with a smooth delivery. The forearm must swing freely during the stroke. Any muscle tension in the upper arm that causes a jerky or uneven stroke is bad. Exactly how tightly the cue is held is irrelevant providing that the player does not go to extremes.

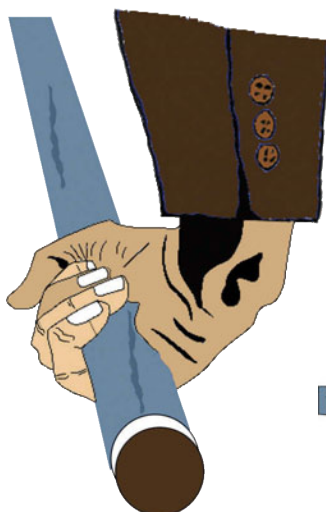
CLASSIC GRIP



CRADLE GRIP



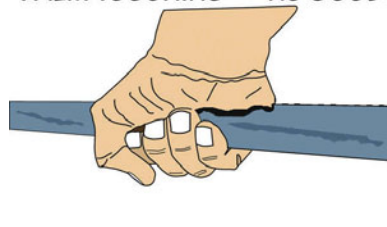
IN GRIP — NO GOOD



OUT GRIP — NO GOOD



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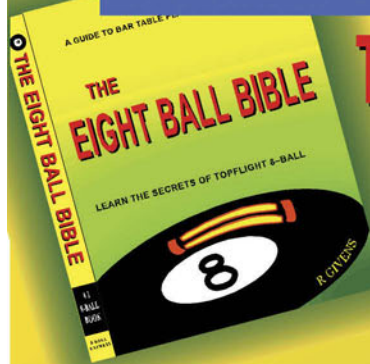


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Having fun is a priority in making Trick Shots. So remember, if you're off by an inch or two on shape, take it with a smile

THE SET UP

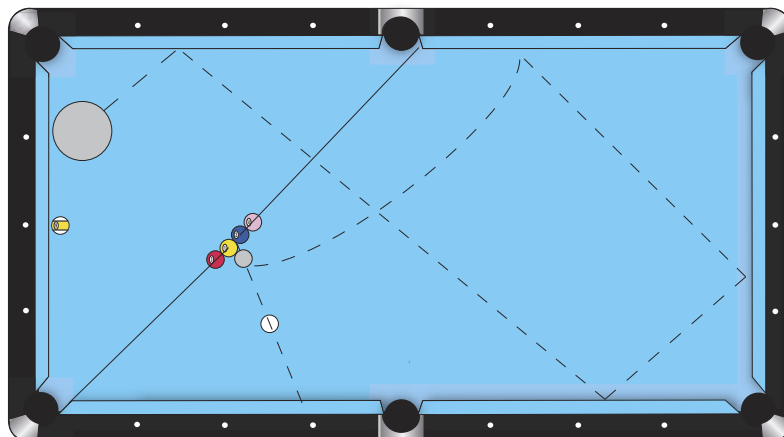
Start off with placing the 1 ball with leading edge on the Foot String and about 1 ½ inches in from the center line.

Place the 2 ball frozen to the 1 ball with its outer edge on the center line and about 1 ½ inches from the Foot String.

Position the 3 ball frozen to the 1 ball and lined up to long rail point (half ball in pocket & half ball on rail)

Now position the 4 ball frozen to 2 ball and lined up to right point of the side pocket (half ball in pocket & half ball on rail)

Create a line from the 3rd diamond on the long rail to the 1-2 split and place the cue ball in a comfortable spot along this line.



As a bonus, place the 9 ball down near the foot rail as to show your intent on shape.

THE EXECUTION:

Strike the cue ball with a little high right English. Remember to employ a smooth stroke.

Aim for what appears to be split between the 1 & 2. Seeing the 1 ball is closer, you will naturally hit it first making both the 1 & 2 in the far left corner. The 3 ball will travel to the lower right corner and the 4 will travel to the far side pocket. Best of luck!



New Pool Pathways

by Shari J. Stauch

Shari Stauch is the Executive Editor of Pool & Billiard Magazine, co-author of Precision Pool and The Pool Player's Edge, and a 20 year veteran of the Women's Pro Billiard Tour. She was inducted into the WPBA Hall of Fame in 2007.

You've heard that it takes 30 days to change a habit, right? Or is it 21 days? Theories vary, but it basically boils down to this: It takes 21 days to change a thought, 30 days to change the habit.

So how can we use this info to reprogram our pool brain? Well, our brains (including the pool brain part) rely on "pathways" between our brain cells – neurons – to communicate with each other. If the path doesn't get us where we're going, obviously we need to cut a new one!

First, we have to be aware of the bad habit (i.e., jumping up off a shot). Then, we have to substitute a new behavior for the old one. If we use the jumping up after a shot example, perhaps instead, on every shot, we have to stay down a full three seconds after follow-through (that's thousand-one, thousand-two, thousand-three). When I was a kid playing pool, I had to visualize a brick hanging over my head; if I jumped up I'd split my head wide open. (As I was changing the habit, I still did jump up on occasion, at which point my coach would rap me on the top of the head with a cue –

Head Games

presumably to make my visualization more vivid).

Once you've got the new habit you want to replace the old one with, it's all a matter of repetition, and here's why: When we first build a new path, much like blazing a trail through a dense forest, it's not very well traveled, is it? The fragile path we're building between our brain cells needs to be used, every day, so it becomes well worn and easy to travel along quickly. The more we repeat the new habit, the faster we blaze a clear trail, and the faster our pool brain cells can communicate and do it "right."

Over time, that path can become a super-highway; the new behavior will be automatic, and the old habit's path grown over with weeds until it fades completely.

Two Hints: One, this applies to both the physical and mental aspects of our pool brain. A lousy mental path (for instance, you've been telling yourself you can't make a bank shot) can be replaced just as easily. Two: Don't try and change every bad habit all at once. Pick one, stick to it and get that road built before you start on the next one!

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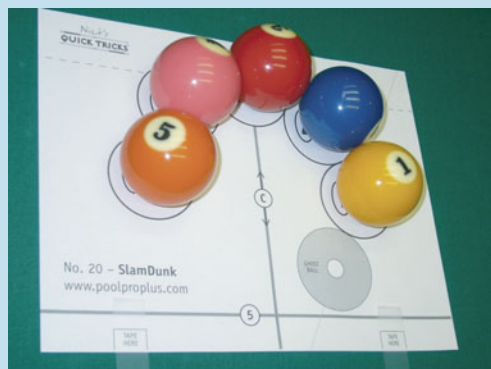
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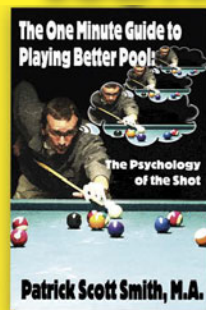
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Pool Secrets from Legendary Players...

CORY DEUEL SAYS: GET USED TO THE TABLES

When Cory Deuel took the honors as 2001 Player of the Year, he was kind enough to share one of his playing secrets with *P&B*'s readers.

"I'm really happy about the way my cue ball control has been because I've been able to get used to the tables quickly... Knowing you have the cue ball under control... resolves a lot of problems.

"I just try to figure out if a table is playing tight or loose. Sometimes you can skim the rail half a diamond up and still make the shot, other times you gotta' split the pocket...

"If it is a slick table then you know it's going to be fast and that tells you what's going to grab and when. You usually can get this all figured out within the first hour. Of course, it can change with the weather. Tables play a lot different when it rains, especially the rails."



And when we once asked Hall-Of-Famer, Jim "King James" Rempe his thoughts on teaching the use of English.

Rempe said, "I played the game for my first two years using only top and bottom, no sidespin. I think beginners should learn to make all the shots first, just staying around the center of the ball, before venturing out into the world of sidespin."



EWA SAYS: ENGLISH ADDS OBSTACLES



World 9-Ball and Trick Shot champion Ewa Mataya Laurance says, "English adds complications we would like to avoid. But avoiding english will cap your game at a certain level. But english should be used as infrequently as possible.

"One of our major goals should be consistency, and adding the variables that come with spinning the cue ball can disrupt your consistency easier than almost anything."

JIM
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Pool Secrets from Legendary Players...

PHIL CAPELLE SAYS: SIMPLE IS BEST

Columnist and instructional author, Phil Capelle, reminds us that simple is best.

"There is a tendency by many players to unnecessarily complicate matters when playing position. Often the best approach is the simplest one. No frills routes or patterns may not look impressive, but they can be very, very, very effective.

"The most important rule of the no frills, keep it simple method of pattern play is to play no position when you already have position."



CHARLIE WILLIAMS SAYS: DON'T COMPLICATE IT

Then we looked for a player to share their thoughts on aiming and Charlie Williams volunteered...

"I think people have a tendency to over-complicate this. I use the very simplest method, the one you teach beginners.

I just go over and look at the ball, look it straight into the pocket, find the point on the object ball that I have to hit to make the ball, then walk back to the cue ball and make sure I'm looking at that spot on the final stroke."

MIKA SAYS: DO WHAT IS MOST COMFORTABLE!

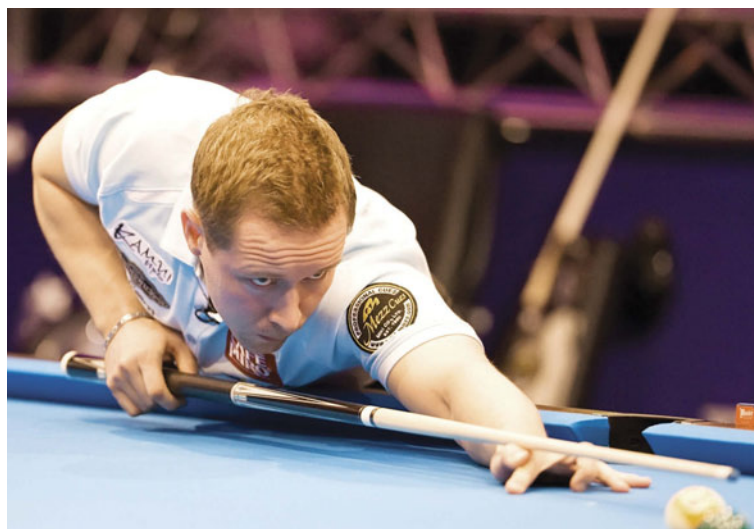
After we got advice from Charlie Williams on aiming, we asked Mika Immonen if he preferred the Open Bridge or Closed Bridge, since many players are now using both.

Mika said, "Well, obviously, on power strokes you use the closed bridge to help control

the front of the cue stick.

"But on basic shots it is just a feel thing, where you do what is most comfortable for you at the time.

"Now on a long stop shot I tend to use the open bridge because I can line up lower and can see down the line of the cue better."





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"I am extremely competitive and stubborn. I just don't settle for mediocracy. I want to excel in all of the areas of my game."

-- Mika Immonen

The Unbearable Lightness of Being Mika

by Tina Hardt

Photos by Dale Shank



"Without realizing what I did I began to dance along the road to Delphi. My feet danced and my arms moved, not in a dance that I have learned from others, but in a dance that moved and lived in me. My whole body moved in joyous ecstasy." -- Mika Walteri

Named after his grandfather's great friend, Mika Walteri, the famous Finnish author who penned epic historical novels, as it turns out, Mika Immonen can also write. It's one of his many talents which include running, yoga and Tai-Chi. Reading Mika's posts on his blog, icemanmika.blogspot.com, is like being in a car with him, riding shot-gun while listening to stories and chewed over insights as the road and good times unfold before you.

But at the top of his website, one picture shouts a thousand words. There is a rather alluring picture of a bare-chested Immonen holding a cue. He is

lean and ripped. He brandishes the physique of a super middleweight boxer. He radiates health, strength, positivity and confidence. It is the new face (and body) of billiards, one that articulates, at long last, that pool is unarguably a sport - and no longer a stigma.

Ironically, the "Iceman," Helsinki, Finland's Crown Prince of Pool, Mika Immonen, is one of the hottest players to have infused the passionate European spirit into the US men's pro pool tour; and yet, to look into those deep penetrating eyes, and feel the cool detached self-satisfaction is to know the calm before the ice storm. He has a slow, steady, patterned approach to the systematic annihilation of his opponents. This is what he does best: he wins.

You can ask Mika what it is that he's doing differently to yield back-to-back *P&B* Player of the Year titles, but he'll just shrug it off with signature humility: "I really just kept riding the same wave that I was on in 2008. To have

At right, photographer Tony Fox catches Mika milliseconds after his successful defense of his U.S. Open 9-Ball Championship in September. The exhausted but jubilant Mika had to win 14 consecutive matches from the one-loss side!

had an even more successful run over the last year was quite unexpected - but cool!"

It's that simple - and that complex. When Mika communicates, you can expect an economy of words that reveal a great wealth of wisdom. At times, a humble or diplomatic response can also expose the naivete of the question. There is always a need to aim higher and dig deeper for clues, because Mika's truth lies far above - and yet way below - the playing surface.

It would seem logical to begin looking for this answer by pouring through 2008 and 2009 tournament results. In 2007 Mika's tournament winnings were \$59,636.00. In 2008 they welled to \$149,582. 2009 sent Mika to the bank with 228,320.00 following an impressive list of results that include winning the Qatar International Open, the Mezz Classic 10-ball Event and the World 10-ball Championship. He pocketed semi-final prize honors at the Mess Classic 14.1 Event and the Seminole Pro Tour Stop.

Yet within this testimony to his escalating success, there is one event, another consecutive set of titles won in 2008 and then again in 2009 that warrants serious attention: The US Open. According to Mika's blog, he "made a US Open Record of 14 consecutive match wins to capture the title." This, perhaps, is the Iceman's Freezing Reign Advisory, the one that warns of a significant accumulation of monster momentum.

The US Open is the marathon of professional tournaments. It's like the endurance desert horse racing of 9-ball, a "sport of a million steps." There is a field of over 200 players that unravels over six grueling days of double elimination matches. It is amazing the players don't undergo veterinary inspection and mandatory rest and re-hydration breaks. It demands both mental and physical stamina, and presents the ultimate challenge: survival of the fittest. It is the one event that, at some point, ceases to be about sticks and balls, cloth and pockets. Consistent results in the US Open require a transcendence of the mechanics of pool. At some point it



The Unbearable Lightness of Being Mika

Continued from p. 31

becomes more about the man than the player. This is where all of a man's reactants, his day-to-day thoughts, rituals, attitudes, discipline and lifestyle choices are synthesized under pressure to yield the player. If one of these elements is disingenuous, the result will often reflect that weakness. It is becoming ice crystal clear that Mika is currently the sum total of the work he has done technically, mentally and physically. He is now able to confidently state that "repetition feeds confidence," and as Walteri might agree, this has become the dance that moves and lives in him.

"My physical training has always been a key factor for success. If I was sometimes lazy, it would show in my game. I think running the marathon back in 1998 gave me the confidence I needed."

Best known for his refreshing, calm controlled demeanor, Mika's success definitely lies in his attitude: "It's all about reaching further than the goal itself."

In fact, it would be safe to call Mika an "overshooter." A game ball is the just the first ball of the next rack. A win is just the first match of the next tournament. Any milestone is just the first step on the path that leads to the Hall of Fame, where the Mika as a player and Ambassador for pool



will inevitably be celebrated for technical brilliance, and his goal of maintaining a good clean image for the posterity of his sport.

A background in snooker and Russian billiards has also worked miracles. "You have to study all games in order to find things that can be applied to your pool game," says Mika. "That's why I took up 3-Cushion billiards. Anyone who is serious about their pool game and hasn't tried playing 3-Cushion is in some kind of serious denial."

He is happily involved with Mezz USA, distributing the cues that made him successful. Says Mighty Mika, "It's easy to be a spokesperson for a great product like that and the results are there. I have never sacrificed my game to play with something that I wasn't 100% comfortable with. As for my sponsors, I think for the most part, we have good synergy."

At 36, Mika is living the life that at times

seems more of a dream than reality. It's an enormous high being a professional pool player," quips Mika, "when people comment 'So, what do you really do for a living?' after you have just told them you play pool professionally. I am my own boss. I answer to myself. I get to travel, meet a lot of cool people and get to know different cultures and languages. I do have the luxury of taking vacations more often than others. Sometimes it's nice to treat yourself after a good season."

There is no doubt that the "Iceman" deserves to fly somewhere hot and sultry where he can let down his hair, and relax his killer instinct for a few lazy days. Maybe he can find some time in a demanding schedule to finally make some New Year's resolutions for 2010. Well, Mika? "I don't really believe in New Year's resolutions. I have goals that are consistent regardless of the time of year."



Mika
Immonen:
2009 *P&B*
Player of
the Year!



"A lot of people think after some time it would be boring to play Pool, but now after 13 years of playing it is more interesting than before. Of course I am proud of myself because of the titles I have won but still my goal is to be the best player in the world."
-- Jasmin Ouschan

Jasmin Ouschan: Then & Now

by Tina Hardt

Photos by Dale Shank



Hollywood, Florida (Hardrock Hotel Casino) – Jasmin sits in her chair, her full lips have temporarily settled into a petulant pout. Although, at the moment, the ESPN cameras are mainly preoccupied with her opponent strutting her stuff around the table, it's impossible to take your eyes off Jasmin. She is resplendent in black; but it's not the revealing cocktail black of her tournament rival – Jeanette Lee. It's sort of a Nike, "Just-Do-It" black. If you didn't know better, you might even think that the 24-year-old native of Klagfurt, Austria, was an Olympiad. She looks like a skier who has just schussed down the Matterhorn and is now taking a designated rest.

Her long, blonde hair is contained neatly at the nape of her neck by an elastic band. Her bangs are swept to the side and kept out of her eyes by a bobby pin. A simple, plain, inelegant double-pronged metal hairpin that does its job without any unnecessary flash or flair. It's a choice that seems to suggest that there are infinitely more important things on which to focus.

When Jasmin strides back to the table, there is no swagger; no strut; no posturing; no performance. Her athletic gait is fueled by purpose, not vanity. She pockets balls, confidently and efficiently and breaks like a machine. She defeats Jeanette Lee 7-6. After beating Xiaoting Pan 7-2 in the finals, she claimed her third

tour title of 2009, and firmly sealed her fate as 2009 *P&B* Female Player of the Year.

Like a breath of alpine air, there is something so refreshing and bracing about Jasmin Ouschan. Raised in Klagfurt, Austria in a family that owned a pool room for twenty years, she began hitting balls when she was three years old. Not unlike Allison Fisher's parents, Jasmin's loving mother and father did whatever they could to embrace her commitment and blossoming talent, and through positive reinforcement, gave her an invaluable edge.

"I never had to prove anything to my parents. They knew I was very talented and that playing pool made me happy. Even when I was a baby. They always told me that I should do what makes me happy. As long as I also made sure that I was good in school, they fully supported me."

Evelin and Albin Ouschan bought her a small home table; but inevitably when she had wanted to play on the big tables at the club, they positioned her on a box. At six, she was already playing tournaments in Klagfurt, at which point her parents made a significant contribution to her future: they secured the services of Michael Neumann, a trainer and coach who, as luck would have it, also played at the club.

"I think what helped me a lot with my confidence was my trainer, Michael Neumann. He always believes in me and consistently tells me what



Above and at right: Jasmin Ouschan exhibits, in every move at the pool table whether stretching for a shot or plowing through a power break, the athletic form and function that is fast becoming the trademark of today's top pool & billiard professionals!

I am good at, and what I am capable of. He sees me from a different perspective and can tell me things that I can't see. At one point you just have to believe in yourself because if you don't, you can never succeed at a professional level."

Fortunately some countries in Europe have an educational system that acknowledges students with a proclivity for sports. Straight out of elementary school, Jasmin attended a "Sports Gynasium", or a secondary school designed to turn out a polished academic – and athlete.

She was expected to pass exams in different sports such as swimming, acrobatics, conditioning and ball sports. Students were also schooled in the emotional side of competition. They learned how to train and were educated in sports fitness. While she excelled in virtually everything she did, in 1996 one discipline would rise to the top of her list of passions and priorities: pool. A fourth place finish behind Allison Fisher, Gerda Hoffstaetter and Franziska Stark in a Austrian tournament in 1996 was the definitive nod from the gods; At ten years old, Jasmin could clearly visualize her future as a touring pro.

Today, nothing speaks louder or more explicitly than a typical day in the life of Jasmin Ouschan. "On a normal training day, I have two pool sessions at the table and one fitness



Jasmin Ouschan: Then & Now

Continued from p. 35



workout in between. I like to do a 1-1.5 hours of cardio to work on my basic condition and then I do a special weight training session followed by stretching and coordination drills. I love challenging my body in different ways because not only does it keep me fit, but it feels great. Being a sports professional means that you travel a lot and have lots of stress and tension and no biorhythms. All of that is hard on your body so it's really important that your mind and body are fit enough to handle all of this. A fit body also recovers a lot faster, which gives you another big advantage."

Planning out a training schedule as a way of reaching specific performance goals; visualizing techniques; nutrition; designated period of rest alternated with heavy-duty work-outs; aerobic bases; heart strength and lactate tolerance – these are typically high on the list of things to do for any athlete looking to take home gold.

Allison Van Dusen, *Forbes.com* says: "It's not that most Olympians are born with a certain set of physiological gifts, although that's a big part of it. It's also their

commitment to their sport and, perhaps most importantly, the way they train."

Jasmin is well aware of the necessity of maintaining good training habits. "It is really important to always stay focused and not get sloppy because your brain absorbs everything and can't differ between good and bad shots."

While it's difficult to identify the strongest part of Jasmin's game, it's also impossible not to isolate her break shot as a distinct asset. It should come as no great surprise that Michael and Jasmin have dedicated many hours to perfecting her technique. "My trainer and I spent a lot of hours working with a video camera so that we could see everything from every angle. I also think that playing with men helped my break a lot because you are forced to have an accurate and hard break. I am also very happy with my Mezz-Predator playing cue, and would like to thank all of my sponsors – Predator, Kaernten Sport, Kelag Strom, Austria Bundesministerium Sport, Sporthilfe and Justis Cue Cases – for their support and faith in me throughout the year."

When Jasmin is finally able to temporarily table her targets and goals (kicking butt at the Asian tournaments) and enjoy some R'n'R time at home in Austria, she's just a girl. A sweet, funny, twenty-four year old that just happens to drive an Audi and dream about her ideal car, an Aston Martin DBS. She loves to cook, watch movies, particularly the epic *Lord of the Rings* (another endurance test), and hang out with friends and family. She is imminently likeable, another strength that makes her a welcome addition to the WBP Tour.

Looking back on the steps and choices that led Jasmin to the title of *P&B's* 2009 Female Player of the Year, it's easy to forecast the great potential that she holds not only for herself, but for the future of pocket billiards. Again, like Allison Fisher, she is a player that arrives with the power to raise the bar and inspire others to maximize their competitive potential. By imparting this new healthy spin to what many still argue is still a game – and not a sport – pool takes one more step towards its own personal goal: the Olympics.

Jasmin
Ouschan:
2009 *P&B*
Player of
the Year!





WPA General Assembly

The World Pool Association held their General Assembly at the Heritage Hotel in Manila, Philippines in conjunction with the World Ten Ball Championships at the conclusion of 2009. Ian Anderson of Australia was re-

Treasurer (North America) and board member Ronnie Chua (Asia).

Newly elected board members include Jerry Forsyth (North America – BCA), Georgina Palacios (Central America – CPB) and Andy Chang (Asia).



elected to his post as President, Peter Hawley (South Africa) remained Vice President, along with Fran Crimi as Secretary/

Kazumi Fujima of Japan was accepted as a life and honorary member.

A major topic of discussion at the Assembly concerned

attempts being made to schedule World Championships within a close time frame in order to reduce player travel expenses.

Delta-13 & NYC Grind



Executive Billiards announced today that, "training videos are now available to help pool players achieve the tightest rack for 8-ball, 9-ball, and straight pool, using Delta-13 racks.

"We partnered with Jerry Tarantola, owner of NYC Grind, to film and edit these videos to help players understand specific ball placement for different games and to educate folks on the many unique features of the Delta-13," said Kyle Taggart, the marketing specialist for Executive Billiards.

"What really makes these videos work is the presentation by Borana 'Queen Bee' Andoni, a well known pool player from the JPNWT Women's Tour and Tony Robles' 9 Ball Tour. Her smooth delivery and professional style really helped us convey the quality and accuracy we were looking for."

According to Jerry, "the Delta-13 racks have so many unique qualities: They help the pool players achieve a tighter, more consistent rack, and can identify 'under-sized' balls. They're truly amazing!"

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C³ Sports Marketing is a collective full service sports marketing agency offering innovative and cost effective marketing solutions within the sporting industries.

In a recent press release, C³ Sports Marketing said, "C³SM is focused on the business of sports. We feel very strongly that the sporting industries need professionals who understand sound business principles.

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"Our offices are located in Burbank, Ca and Pasadena, Ca; however we do service clients worldwide."

For more information contact: Tel: 626-375-6486 Corey Harper, Promotions. Email: corey@c3sm.net, or Visit: www.c3sm.net



The 2010 edition of ATEI and IGE, amusements and gaming showcase expos was taking place at Earls Court Exhibition Centre, London as we went to print (Jan. 26-28 January).

The show was said to be on track to deliver international operators with yet another feast of amusements and gaming innovation as show organizers revealed robust levels of exhibitor participation two months ahead of the doors opening. Clarion Gaming announced that by the beginning of December, the number of amusements/low stake gaming suppliers scheduled to appear had surpassed the 150 mark.

Julian Graves, Managing Director

of Clarion Gaming Exhibitions, commented: "As more and more games developers seek out international markets to build their income, so too are operators looking further a field to source innovative products and new streams of revenue. The presence of the global industry's key originators of gaming concepts, coupled with a greater diversity of suppliers at this year's ATEI/IGE will ensure that visitors attending Earls Court will be simply spoilt for choice when it comes to planning their 2010 machine purchasing, identifying new trends, keeping abreast of peers' activities and discovering unique opportunities to gain a competitive edge over the coming 12 months."

Visit atei-exhibition.com for info.

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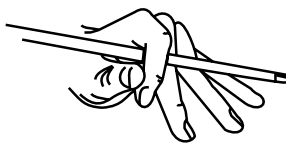
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BOX SCORES



1st Annual ACS Wisconsin State 8-Ball

The first annual ACS Wisconsin State 8-ball Tournament was held on November 5-8, 2009 at Flannagan's and Sporties Bar inside Sunset Bowl, Waukesha, WI. There was a promising turnout for the inaugural event with 38

teams, 63 singles players, and a total of \$7,100.00 in prize money.

Flannagan's and Sporties Bar were gracious hosts, providing \$750 in added money, 14 Diamond tables, great food and an excellent staff.

Players with at least two weeks of play in any ACS sanctioned league throughout Wisconsin were eligible to compete. The next major event is the ACS Midwest 8-ball Tournament held on January 21-24 at Riverside Casino, Iowa,

featuring \$10,000 in added prize money. Players will need at least four weeks of play to participate.

Contact American Cuesports Alliance at 920-662-1705 or visit americancuesports.org for info about upcoming events.



Men's Master-AA 8-Ball Singles Runnerup Ray Skenandore (L) and Champion Rico Torres



Men's A-B 8-Ball Singles Adam Jutz (L) and Champion Lee Cornelius

Men's Master/AA 8-Ball Singles

1st	Rico Torres [AA] (Dousman, WI)	\$360
2nd	Ray Skenandore [AA] (Oneida, WI)	\$200
3rd	Victor Martinez [Master] (Waukesha, WI)	\$120
4th	Mike Frisch [AA] (New Berlin, WI)	\$ 50

Men's A/B 8-Ball Singles

36 x \$30 = \$1,080 + \$200 added = \$1,280 total prize fund

1st	Lee Cornelius [A] (Oneida, WI)	\$500
2nd	Adam Jutz [B] (Waukesha, WI)	\$280
3rd	John Gonzales [A] (Wauwatosa, WI)	\$150
4th	Bud Radtke [B] (Muskego, WI)	\$100
5-6th	Keith Hunkins [B] (Waukesha, WI)	\$ 75
	Tim Quigley [B] (Waukesha, WI)	
7-8th	Greg Rintelman [A] (Ashippun, WI)	\$ 50
	John Feuerstein [A] (Milwaukee, WI)	



Women's Master- AA- A Singles Runnerup Jennifer Pedek (L) and Champion Kelly Birmingham



Women's B 8-Ball Singles Runnerup Jackie McLeod (L) and Champion Debbie Lancour

Women's Master/ AA Singles

7 x \$30 + \$200 added = \$410 total prize fund

1st	Kelly Birmingham [AA] (West Allis, WI)	\$250
2nd	Jennifer Pedek [A] (Waukesha, WI)	\$125
3rd	Bonnie Hunkins [Master] (Eagle, WI)	\$ 35

Women's B 8-Ball Singles

8 x \$120 = \$160 + \$200 added = \$360 total prize fund

1st	Debbie Lancour (West Allis)	\$200
2nd	Jackie McLeod (Muskego, WI)	\$120
3rd	Tina Zieher (Waukesha, WI)	\$ 40

BOX SCORES



Men's Upper Division Team Champs Lee Cornelius, Captain Berry Skenandore, Roy Skenandore and Ray Skenandore

Men's Upper Division Teams

5 x \$120 = \$600 + \$250 added = \$850 total prize fund

1st	O Town [80] (Oneida, WI)	\$550
2nd	JAB [110] (Waukesha, WI)	\$300



Women's Upper Division Team Champions "Travelers" Debra Kuring, Captain Kelly Birmingham and Carmen Broncatti

Women's Upper Division Teams

3 x \$90 = \$270 + \$350 added = \$620 total prize fund

1st	Travelers [70] (Southeast, WI)	\$520
2nd	Cue Club Cra-Zs [60] (Southeast, WI)	\$100

Men's Lower Division Teams

21 x \$90 = \$1,890 + \$200 added = \$2,090 total prize fund

1st	Flanagan's Pyse [55] (Waukesha, WI)	\$850
2nd	Donkey Punchers [50] (Muskego, WI)	\$540



Women's Lower Division Team Champions "Flanagan's" Captain Patti Hellman, Lori Hale and Carrie Valentine

Women's Lower Division Teams

9 x \$60 = \$540 + \$200 added = \$760 total prize fund

1st	Flanagan's #1 [50] (Waukesha, WI)	\$400
2nd	Chalk Dirty To Me [30] (Southeast, WI)	\$240

Charlie "Hillbilly" Bryant Is Lone Star Champion

Bogies Billiards & Games played host to the Lone Star Billiards Tour Championships and wrapped up a very successful 2009, the first year for the not-so-fledgling Tour. A whopping 75 players came from all over Texas to compete for almost 9k in tournament money along with a free entry into the Derby City 9-Ball Event and TWO qualifier spots for 2010's first stop on the Predator World 10-Ball Tour.

The finals came down to Charlie Bryant vs. Andy Jethwa. It was a great battle of skill, but in the end, Bryant closed out both sets by scores of 9-6 and 7-4. Congratulations to Andy Jethwa for his best finish to date. (See results in BOX SCORES below).

In the \$350 added ladies event sponsored by James Barnett, the top four finishers were Kyu Yi, Terry Petrosino, Courtney Peters, and Yvette Reyes.

For his exceptional play throughout the year, Charlie Bryant took home Top Points Honors along with a Delta-13 Rack and a

Delta-13 Elite. He also received a \$100 bonus along with the other top 3 point leaders; Sylver Ochoa, Dennis Strickland & Lanny Herrin.

Charlie Bryant also received the Derby City 9-Ball Entry along with one qualifier spot to the Predator World Tour Stop.

Raffle winners included Mike Payne who won the fabulous AR6 Poison Cue and Jeff Gardner who took home a beautiful Delta 13 Rack. Honorable mentions go out to players Blain Barcus, TJ Ortiz, and Jim Henry for their increasingly good finishes throughout the year.

The Lone Star Tour credited its success to its sponsors, which included Official Cue, Poison Cues; and the Official Rack, the Delta-13 Rack. The Billiard Factory also donated \$1000 in product for the PREDATOR 10-BALL WORLD TOUR qualifier spots and Diamond Tables' owner Greg Sullivan offered up a spot in the Derby City Classic!

For more info on the Lonestar Tour visit lonestarbilliardstour.com. 2010 events are listed in the Tour Guide.



Charlie Bryant (1st), Kyu Yi (1st, Ladies 9-Ball), Kim White (Tour Rep.) Andy Jethwa (2nd)

BOX SCORES



Lone Star

Billiards Tour

Bogies Billiards & Games Tour Championship

Houston, TX (December)

1. Charlie Bryant	\$ 860
2. Andy Jethwa	\$ 560
3. Mike Alonza	\$ 390
4. Sylver Ochoa	\$ 300
Ladies 9-Ball	
1. Kyu Ki	\$ 275
2. Terry Petrosino	\$ 175
3. Courtney Peters	\$ 100

Lucas Hybrid All American Tour

Produced by American Cue Sports Alliance Varsity Club

Oshkosh, WI (December)

1. Dave Coles Jr.	\$1,500
2. John Fields	\$1,505
3. Jeff Carter	\$ 650
4. Duncan Kaufman	\$ 375
5. Bobby Hunter	\$ 205
Tom McCluskey	\$ 205

Billiards on Main

Galesburg, IL (December)

1. Jesse Bowman	\$ 400
2. Bob Nodine	\$ 300
3. Ryan Murphy	\$ 200
4. Randy Tenley	\$ 150

Weston Cue Club

Wausau, WI (December)

1. Duncan Kaufman	\$ 400
2. Rob Hovick	\$ 260
3. Andy Nikolai	\$ 160
4. John Lewis	\$ 100

Ride the Nine

Bloomington, IL (December)

1. Mike Dunklin	\$ 400
2. Scott Boyd	\$ 200
3. Jim Osbourne	\$ 100

Smokies

Virginia Beach, VA (January)

1. Dave Perry	\$ 550
2. Joe Hughes	\$ 350
3. Bob Staech	\$ 250
4. Neal Lim	\$ 200

Pockets Billiards

Crestwood, IL (January)

1. Ike Runnels	\$ 440
2. Tony Zierman	\$ 295
3. John Plate	\$ 210
4. Tony Gong	\$ 160

Predator 9-Ball Tour

Raxx Pool Room

Tour Finale

West Hempsted, NY (December)

1. Shaun Wilkie	\$2,500
2. Frankie Hernandez	\$1,500
3. George SanSouci	\$1,000
4. Scott Tollefson	\$ 750



L-R: Jeff Carter, Dave Coles Jr. and John Fields



L-R: Andy Nikolai, Rob Hovick and Duncan Kaufman

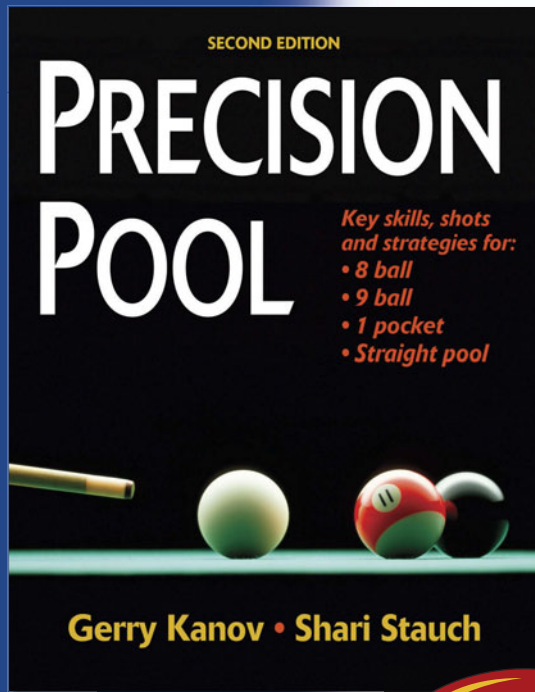


L-R: 2nd Place Frankie Hernandez, Raxx Pool Room owner Holden Chin and 1st Place Winner Shaun Wilkie
Shaun Wilkie Grinds Back to Win the Predator 9-ball Tour's Finale



L-R: Bob Staech (3rd), Dave Perry (1st) and Joe Hughes (2nd)

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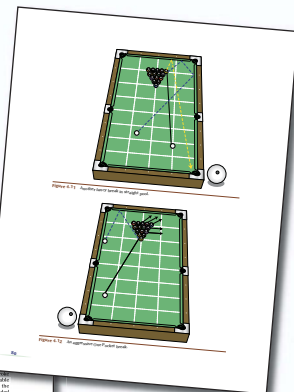
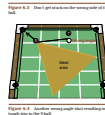
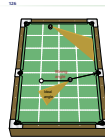
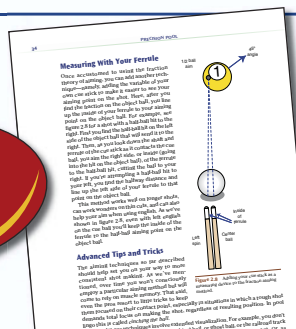
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TOUR GUIDE

REGIONAL/AMATEUR TOUR EVENTS



American Cuesports Alliance

www.americancuesports.org
info@americancuesports.org

Mar. 16-20

2010 CCS Nationals
 Toronto, Ont. Canada
Cnsqsport.com

June 6-12

ACS National Championship
 Riviera Hotel & Casino
 Las Vegas, NV



American Poolplayers Association

call 636-625-8611 for details
 or visit www.poolplayers.com



Arizona Women's Billiard Tour

Presented By J. Pechauer Custom Cues
 call Dawn Anderson: 480-272-2016
 Kristie Ortega: 623-556-7640
 or email awbt@cox.net



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 Artistic Pool Tour
 For info visit:
artisticpool.org or
 call 765.760.7665



Bay Area Amateur Tour
www.baatur.com



Canadian Women's Pool Tour
 visit www.cwpt.ca for more info

3rd Brickyard Bar Table Classic

Mar. 27-28

Brickyard Billiards. Indianapolis, IN
 317-248-0555. 317-858-0637
 Entry \$75, \$1,500 Added



CueSports International

www.playcspool.com
 702-719-7665

Feb. 6-7

Qualifier U.S. Open 10-Ball Champ's
 Arizona (Desert Classic Tour Stop)
 Bullshooters, Phoenix, AZ
 (602) 441-2447. \$1000 Added
 Entry: Handicapped scale
 \$70(A+), \$50 (A), \$35 (B), \$25 (C)
 Contact: Dennis Orender
info@desertclassictour.com
www.desertclassictour.com

Feb. 13-14

14th Annual Jay Swanson
 Memorial 9-Ball Tournament
 Hollywood Billiards, Los Angeles, CA
Feb. 20

Qualifier U.S. Open 10-Ball Champ's
 *Special 1 day 16 player limited field
 Butera's. Moorpark, CA
 (805) 523-3088
 \$75 pre-register (\$100 if day of event)
 Contact: Sal Butera buterasbilliards.com

Feb. 22-28

17th Annual U.S. Bar Table
 Championships
 Terribles Sands Regency Hotel
 and Casino, Reno, NV

Mar. 27-28

Qualifier U.S. Open 10-Ball Champ's
 Virginia State 10-Ball Championship
 First Break Café. Sterling, VA
 (703) 444-2551 \$1000 Added Entry: \$65
 Contact: Anthony Luong

Apr. 3-4

Qualifier U.S. Open 10-Ball Champ's
 Pool Sharks. Las Vegas, NV
 (702) 222-1011 \$300 Added Entry: \$55
 Contact: John Kutcher
www.poolsharks.net

Apr. 10-11

Qualifier U.S. Open 10-Ball Champ's
 The Golden Fleece. Kenmore, WA
 (425) 908-7332
 \$1000 Added (based on 64 field)
 Entry: \$50 Contact: Askar or Sam
www.goldenfleecebilliards.net

Apr. 17-18

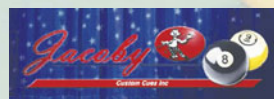
Qualifier U.S. Open 10-Ball Champ's
 The Wynkoop, Denver, CO
 (303) 297-2700 Entry: \$50
 Contact: Melissa Little wynkoop.com

May 14-22

BCAPL National 8-Ball Championships
 Riviera Hotel & Casino, Las Vegas

May 18-22, 2010

Predator 2010 U.S. Open
 10-Ball Championships
 Riviera Hotel and Casino
 Las Vegas, NV



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www.rockcitypromotions.com



J. Pechauer NE Women's Tour
 856-829-8063
tourcoordinator@newt9ball.com
www.newt9ball.com



J. Pechauer SE Open 9-Ball Tour
 call 765.676.5471 for details
 or visit www.southeastopen.com

Feb. 20-21

\$1000.00 Guaranteed Added *Open
 Pockets Billiards, Dothan, Alabama
 334-793-9644

Entry \$65 Includes \$15 Registration

*Note: All open events require \$10
 Tour Card or a 5.00 One Time Play

Joss NE 9-Ball Tour

The Joss Northeast 9-Ball Tour
 518-356-7163 for details
 or visit www.joss9balltour.com

Feb. 20-21

Main Street Billiards, Amsterdam, NY
 \$2,000 Added, \$100 Entry 518-705-1173

Feb. 27-28

Silver Cue Billiards, Woburn, MA
 \$2,000 Added \$100 Entry 781-933-9771

Mar. 6-7

Cap's Cue Club, Syracuse, NY
 \$1,500 Added \$100 Entry 315-701-0101

Mar. 13-14

Trick Shot Billiards & Sports Pub
 Clifton, Parkl, NY 518-383-8771
 \$2,000 Added \$100 Entry

Mar. 27-28

Classic Billiards, Rochester, NY
 \$2,000 Added \$100 Entry
 585-227-7400

April 10-11

Raxx Pool Room & Grill
 W. Hempstead, NY 516-538-9896
 \$2,000 Added, \$100 Entry

April 17-18

Northeast 9-Ball Open XXIII
 Golden Cue Billiards
 Albany, NY 518-459-9442
 \$2,000 Added \$100 Entry

May 1-2

Raxx Pool Room & Grill
 W. Hempstead, NY
 516-538-9896 \$2,000 Added \$100 Entry

June 12-13

Snookers Billiards Bar & Grill
 Providence, RI 401-351-7665
 \$2,000 Added \$100 Entry

Aug. 19-22

(Season Finale)
 Turning Stone Classic XV
 Turning Stone Resort & Casino
 800-771-7711
 Mike Zuglan 518-356-7163
 \$25,000 Added
 \$150 Entry Tour Members
 \$200 Entry Non-Members

KwikFire Tour

(704) 780-1536 / kcarter@carolinabilliardtour.com
www.kwikfireinc.com



Ladies Spirit Tour

561-262-6110
www.ladiespiritour.com

Lone Star Billiards Tour

9-Ball--\$40 Entry All Events
 Coordinator: Kim White 713.825.1411
 or kim@kimwhitebilliards.com

Feb. 13-14

Bogies Billiards & Games Houston, TX
 9-Ball \$1,000 Added Ladies \$350 Added

Mar. 27-28

The Green Room Temple, TX
 9-Ball \$1,000 Added Ladies \$350 Added

Apr. 10-11

Bogies Billiards & Games Houston, TX
 9-Ball \$1,000 Added Ladies \$350 Added

Apr. 24-25

Casper's Billiards San Leon, TX
 9-Ball \$1,000 Added Ladies \$350 Added

June 19-20

Q-Stix Billiards Houston, TX
 10-Ball \$1,000 Added Ladies \$350 Added

July 10-11

Bogies Billiards & Games Houston, TX
 1 Pocket \$200 Added, 9-Ball \$1,000
 Added. Ladies 9-Ball \$350 Added

July 24-25

Casper's Billiards San Leon, TX
 9-Ball \$1,000 Added Ladies \$350 Added



Lucasi Hybrid All American Tour

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americancuesports.org 888-662-1705

Feb. 6

Leisure Time Billiards East Moline, IL
\$500 Added 8-Ball 309-752-9559
\$30 Entry (No Masters)

Feb. 20

Hammerheads Pool Bar, Dundee, IL
\$500 Added 8-Ball \$30 Entry
630-688-1719

March 6

Leisure Time Billiards, East Moline, IL
\$500 Added 8-Ball \$30 Entry
(No Masters) 309-752-9559

March 6

TBD Tampa, FL 561-714-6430
\$250 Added \$50 Entry Women 9-Ball
March 20

Greenfields Pool & Sports Bar
Lakewood, CO
\$500 Added 8-Ball \$35 Entry
303-989-9820

March 20

Legends Sports Bar, Clinton, IA
\$500 Added 9-Ball, \$40 Entry
563-243-4266

April 9-11

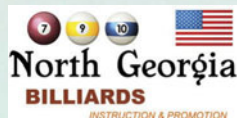
Nite Hawk, Portland, OR
\$1,500 Added 9-Ball, \$50 Entry
503-285-7177

May 9

TBD, W. Palm Beach, FL
\$500 Added 8-Ball, TBD Entry
503-285-7177

June 19-20

Slick Willie's, Houston, TX
\$500 Added 8-Ball, \$30 Entry
713-303-8111



NGB Amateur Tour

Contact Mike Bidwell 770-380-6290
mike@northgeorgiabilliards.com
www.northgeorgiebilliards.com

Feb. 6

Mr. Cues II, Atlanta, GA
770-454-7665 7-Ball
\$1,000 Added, Entry: \$25



Predator 9-Ball Tour

917-202-2750
www.predator9balltour.com

Rockford Billiard Café 10-Ball Series

tylerv@rockfordbilliardcafe.com
www.rockfordbilliardcafe.com

Feb. 13, Mar. 13*, Apr. 10

Rockford, IL 815-962-0957

\$30 Entry Handicapped *9-Foot
Gold Crown, All Others 7-Ft Valley

Southeast Open 9-Ball Tour

Mar. 6-7

Skeeters Billiards Gulfport, MS
228-897-1234 \$1,000 Added Open
\$ 500 Added Am/Semi Pro

USSA National Snooker Tour

920-662-1705 John Lewis - Secretary
jlewis@americancuesports.org

Feb. 13-14

Master Billiards Long Island City, NY
John Lewis 920-662-1705

Feb. 16-19

Embassy Club San Gabriel, CA
Richard Hamm 626-616-2666

Feb. 27-28

Prince Snooker Club New York, NY
alanmorris@snookerusa.com

Mar. 13-14

California Billiard Club
Mountain View, CA
Bob Jewett 408-615-7479

Mar. 20-21

New York Athletic Club New York, NY
Tom Kollins 847-740-6296

May 8-9

Shoreline Billiards Mountain View, CA
Ajeya Prabhakar 408-203-6721



Viking Cue 9-Ball Tour

call 800-200-7665 for details or
visit www.viking9balltour.com

Mar. 27-28, 2010

Blue Fox Billiards Bar Grill
Winchester, VA 540-665-2114
\$1,500 Added Open (Two Day Event)
\$1,000 Added Amateur (Sun. Only)

Apr. 10-11

Fast Eddie's Sports Bar & Grill
919-759-0071 \$1,500 Added Amateur
Plus Nitely Mini's

PRO TOUR EVENTS

2010 WOMEN'S PRO BILLIARD TOUR CALENDAR

Dates	Event Title	City/State / Champion
Feb. 19-21	WPBA Regional Tour Championships Hard Times Billiards, hardtimesbellflower.com	Bellflower, CA
Mar. 10-14	San Diego Classic, Viejas Casino 800-847-6527, www.viejas.com	Alpine, CA
May 17-22	US Open 10-Ball Championships Riviera Hotel & Casino, playcspool.com	Las Vegas, NV
Jul 28- 8/1	US Open 9-Ball Championships Riverwind Casino, www.riverwind.com	Norman, OK
Oct. TBA	BI Tournament of Champions Mohegan Sun Casino Hotel, 888-226-7711	Uncasville, CT
Nov. TBA	WPBA National Championship	TBA

2010 MEN'S PRO BILLIARD TOUR CALENDAR

Dates	Event Title	City/State/Champion
Jan. 22-30	Derby City Classic, Horseshoe Casino	Elizabeth, IN
Mar. 18-21	Diamond 10-Ball Players Championship Valley Forge Expo Center	Valley Forge, PA
May 12-16	PartyPoker.net World Pool Masters www.matchroomsport.com	Las Vegas, NV
May 17-22	US Open 10-Ball Championships Riviera Hotel & Casino, playcspool.com	Las Vegas, NV
Aug. 19-22	Joss NE Turning Stone Summer Classic 518-356-7163 or mike@joss9balltour.com	Verona, NY/
Oct. TBA	International Challenge of Champions Mohegan Sun Casino Hotel, 888-226-7711	Uncasville, CT
Oct. TBA	World Cup of Trick Shots Mohegan Sun Casino Hotel, 888-226-7711	Uncasville, CT
Oct. 17-23	US Open 9-Ball Championships 757-499-8900	Chesapeake/VA
Nov. 29- Dec 6	Reno Open, Sands Regency Casino (also Reno Invitational)	Reno, NV
Dec. TBA	Seminole Tour Finale, Hard Rock Casino www.seminolehardrockhollywood.com	Hollywood, FL

PRO RANKINGS

WOMEN'S PRO BILLIARD TOUR

Rank/Name	Points	Move
1 Ga Young Kim	26400	↔
2 Jasmin Ouschan	26000	↑
3 Xiaoting Pan	25875	↑
4 Karen Corr	23750	↓
5 Kelly Fisher	23375	↑
6 Allison Fisher	23000	↓
7 Vivian Villarreal	20750	↑
8 Gerda Hofstatter	19875	↓
9 Jeanette Lee	19125	↔
10 Monica Webb	18375	↓
11 Kim Shaw	16500	↑
12 Line Kjørsvik	16250	↑
13 Tracie Hines	15875	↑
14 Helena Thornfeldt	14500	↓
15 Yu Ram Cha	14500	↓
16 Kyoko Sone	13725	↑
17 Sarah Rousey	12400	↑
18 Iris Ranola	12250	↓
19 Kim White	11500	↓
20 Melissa Little	11150	↑
21 Laura Smith	10375	↑
22 Melissa Herndon	4000	↑
23 Megan Smith	9150	↑
24 Jennifer Barretta	3875	↑
25 Angel Paglia	9000	↑
26 Julie Kelly	9000	↑
27 Liz Ford	8975	↑
28 My Hahn Lac	8375	↔
29 Brittany Bryant	8375	↓
30 Tamara Rademakers	8350	↑
31 Miyuki Sakai	8000	↓
32 Ewa Laurance	7875	↑

MEN'S PRO BILLIARD TOUR

Rank/Name	Points	Move
1 Johnny Archer	561.25	↑
2 Ralf Soquet	503.00	↓
3 Corey Deuel	487.50	↑
4 Rodney Morris	451.10	↑
5 Shane Van Boening	238.50	↔
6 Oscar Dominguez	384.00	↓
7 John Schmidt	356.00	↑
8 Mika Immonen	348.50	↑
9 Charlie Williams	333.40	↓
10 Shawn Putnam	313.20	↑
11 Stevie Moore	305.85	↓
12 Kim Davenport	284.75	↑
13 Charlie Bryant	273.00	↓
14 Dennis Hatch	262.50	↔
15 Thorsten Hohmann	259.00	↓
16 Mike Davis	243.30	↑
17 Mike Dechaine	211.25	↑
18 Donnie Mills	205.00	↑
19 Jeremy Sossei	172.00	↑
20 Rafael Martinez	169.90	↑
21 Zion Zvi	161.00	↑
22 Dave Grau	158.50	↑
23 Karl Boyes	155.00	↓
24 Dennis Orcullo	154.00	↓
25 Imran Majid	142.00	↓
26 Robb Saez	116.00	↔
27 Gabe Owen	138.15	↑
28 Warren Kiamco	136.00	↑
29 Mark Vidal	135.75	↔
30 Darren Appleton	132.75	↓
31 Lee Van Cortez	131.50	↓
32 Hunter Lombardo	129.75	↑

FEBRUARY's Cool Pool News

Swan Simonis
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SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
	1	2 BCA Hall of Famer Jake Schaeffer Born 1855	3 Happy B-Day WPA Pro Niels Fiejen	4 	5	6 Legendary Player Glenn "Eufaula Kid" Womack Born 1919
	7	8 	9 Happy B-Day WPBA Player Gerda Hofstatter Legendary Player Marshall Carpenter Born 1928	10	11 	12
13	14 Happy Valentine's Day! 	15	16 	17	18 	19 Happy B-Day Legendary Player Danny DiLiberto
20 Happy B-Day Legendary Player Wade Crane 	21 	22 Happy B-Day Legendary Players Larry "The Iceman" Hubbard and Mike Lebron	23 	24 Happy B-Day WPBA Pro Sarah Ellerby and BCA Hall of Famer Allison Fisher	25 	26 Happy Birthday BCA Hall of Famers Ray Martin and Ewa Mataya Laurance
27 	28 	February's Pool-O-Scope Guided by the sign of the TWO BALL? Pool is a game best played by two. TIP: Practicing alone? Pretend there's "two" of you! Break, shoot 'til you miss, then be your own opponent. Pros call this, "Playing the Ghost." And if you haven't found a nickname yet - this may be the month to do it - just look at all the February born players on this page with TWO names... They must know something!				

Thanks to Terry Ardeno and the Women's Pro Billiard Tour for supplying numerous player birthdays!



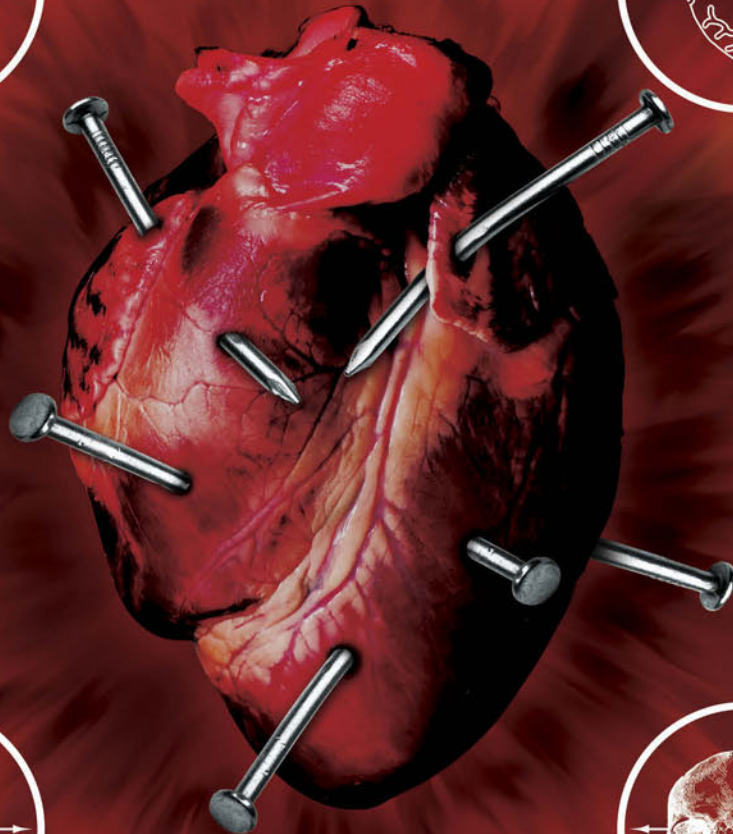
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