



The USBA Newsletter
3-Cushion Billiard News

www.USBA.net

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**USBA/Gabriels Tour "B" Event
 Won by Jesus Quinonez**

Story Courtesy of 3cushionbilliards.com

In the first of what many hope will usher in a new era in United States billiards, Gabriels Tables and Casino Del Sol Resort bring USBA tournament play to Tucson, Arizona. Two events - a "B" tournament and an "Open" tournament - attracted the maximum 40 players in each event. The first event was won by Jesus Quinonez when he defeated Ertan Tarhan in the final match by just one carom. Picture below from L to R: Winner Jesus Quinonez, 2nd Ertan Tarhan, 3rd Raye Raskin and 4th Mercedes Gonzalez Complete charts follow.



Play was played on 5 Gabriel's tables, which began Monday January 16 and ended on the 18th for the "B" event. Immediately following from the 19th to the 21st the Open event took place. Both events are available on YouTube live-stream courtesy of POV Pool at <http://www.povpool.com/>

Prize Fund

- 1 \$1,500.00
- 2 \$1,100.00
- 3 \$800.00
- 4 \$700.00
- 5 \$600.00
- 6 \$500.00
- 7 \$400.00
- 8 \$300.00
- 9 to 16 \$200 each
- High Run \$50.00
- Total \$7,550.00

**United States Billiard Assoc.
USBA.net**

2017 USBA Gabriels Tour						
Casino Del Sol January 16 to 18, 2017						
Quarterfinals						
MATCH	NAME	PTS	INN	AVG	HR	W/L
#09	Jim Shovak	20	44	0.455	3	L
	Jesus Quinonez	25	44	0.568	3	W
MATCH	NAME	PTS	INN	AVG	HR	W/L
#10	Pete Folsom	9	23	0.391	2	L
	Raye Raskin	25	24	1.042	4	W
MATCH	NAME	PTS	INN	AVG	HR	W/L
#11	Paul Feltman SR	13	34	0.382	2	L
	Ertan Tarhan	25	35	0.714	5	W
MATCH	NAME	PTS	INN	AVG	HR	W/L
#12	Mercedes Gonzalez	25	48	0.521	5	W
	Joe DeAmato	24	48	0.500	4	L
Semifinals						
MATCH	NAME	PTS	INN	AVG	HR	W/L
#13	Jesus Quinonez	25	35	0.714	4	W
	Raye Raskin	11	35	0.314	3	L
MATCH	NAME	PTS	INN	AVG	HR	W/L
#14	Ertan Tarhan	25	25	1.000	7	W
	Mercedes Gonzalez	16	24	0.667	3	L
3rd & 4th Place						
MATCH	NAME	PTS	INN	AVG	HR	W/L
#15	Raye Raskin	25	31	0.806	8	W
	Mercedes Gonzalez	19	31	0.613	3	L
Final						
MATCH	NAME	PTS	INN	AVG	HR	W/L
#16	Jesus Quinonez	25	33	0.758	6	W
	Ertan Tarhan	24	33	0.727	4	L

President's Desk

We just returned from Casino Del Sol just outside of Tucson. Congratulations to Pedro Piedrabuena for winning the Open Tournament and Jesus Quinonez for winning the B Tournament.

I'm happy that the USBA is going back to the Casino Del Sol for the US Nationals in June. I encourage members to bring their spouses as the area has a lot to offer. Located just outside Tucson, the casino has wonderful amenities and is close to the downtown shopping area and Old Tucson, an historic movie studio.

I am extraordinarily proud to announce that our own Pedro Piedrabuena and Hugo Patino have been invited to play in the World Games in Poland this summer. Only 16 billiards players from around the world received such prestigious invitations. We will keep you posted on times, etc. on the website.

The qualifier season for the USBA National tournament is upon us. Please check the USBA website as qualifying tournaments are posted.

Good luck, and I hope to see you in Tucson in June!



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C H O I C E H O T E L S I N T E R N A T I O N A L

USBA National Championship



June 6 -11, 2017



Paul Frankel Exclusive U.S. Distributor (901) 210-7251



Pedro Piedrabuena Tops at USBA Tour Open In Tucson

Story Courtesy of 3cushionbilliards.com

Following the successful USBA/Gabriels Tour B Tournament, the top players in the USA assembled at Casino Del Sol Resort in Tucson, Arizona for the USBA Tour Open event. Playing with his typical combination of consistent scoring and baffling defense Pedro Piedrabuena emerged victorious and was crowned the winner of the first USBA/Gabriels Tour Open Tournament. Pictured above Pedro Piedrabuena (L) and Mike Kim (R) who was second. Events will continue at Casino Del Sol under a 3-year sponsorship agreement.

Forty players, including Piedrabuena who was joined by current USBA and Pan-American Champion Hugo Patino, and former Champions Mazin Shooni and Sonny Cho were readied for three days of 3-cushion battle. The event ran from



Mike Kim & Pedro Piedrabuena

January 19-21 and was Live-Streamed courtesy of POVPool.com.

When the USBA A players assemble for an event you just know the fireworks are about to start. And from the first day the results were no disappointment to the players or the fans. In spite of the “newness” of the tables, the A players showed their skill and talent with some truly excellent billiards.

The format of the event followed the B tournament that had just completed. The players were divided into eight groups of five playing round robin (this time to 25 points.) Two players from each group advance to the single elimination 16-player final round playing to 30 points.

The leaders for best game and high run occurred in the qualification rounds:

Best Game: Mazin Shooni 25 in 11 innings
2.273 average

High Run: Vicky Pineda 14

In the Round of 16 the biggest upset was Gilbert Najm who notched his second win against USBA Champion Hugo Patino. In the Qualification round, Gilbert beat Hugo 25-20 in 22 innings (1.326 average.) Nonetheless

2017 USBA Gabriels Tour Open Tournament						
Casino Del Sol Resort			January 19 to 21, 2017			
Quarterfinals			Saturday 9:00 AM			
MATCH	NAME	PTS	INN	AVG	HR	W/L
#09	Pedro Piedrabuena	30	19	1.579	9	W
	Allen Castillo	18	19	0.947	5	L
MATCH	NAME	PTS	INN	AVG	HR	W/L
#10	Alberto Perez	28	29	0.966	3	L
	Mazin Shooni	30	30	1.000	3	W
MATCH	NAME	PTS	INN	AVG	HR	W/L
#11	Mike Kim	30	32	0.938	5	W
	Gilbert Najim	23	32	0.719	3	L
MATCH	NAME	PTS	INN	AVG	HR	W/L
#12	Jamil Isreal	22	38	0.579	4	L
	Sonny Cho	30	38	0.789	4	W
Semifinals						
MATCH	NAME	PTS	INN	AVG	HR	W/L
#13	Pedro Piedrabuena	30	16	1.875	6	W
	Mazin Shooni	13	15	0.867	3	L
MATCH	NAME	PTS	INN	AVG	HR	W/L
#14	Mike Kim	30	16	1.875	5	W
	Sonny Cho	12	16	0.750	3	L
3rd & 4th Place						
MATCH	NAME	PTS	INN	AVG	HR	W/L
#15	Mazin Shooni					W
	Sonny Cho	Withdrew due to illness				L
Final						
MATCH	NAME	PTS	INN	AVG	HR	W/L
#16	Pedro Piedrabuena	30	18	1.667	6	W
	Mike Kim	19	18	1.056	5	L

both players advanced from their group to the single elimination finals. As fate would have it they met again in the very first round. Patino was looking to avenge his one loss and was first to reach 29 in a 30-point game when he ended his last run. Najm was at 24 and it looked like he would fall victim to Hugo's plan. But with determination Gilbert ran 3 while Hugo missed his next try. Then Gilbert added one more and again Hugo missed. With the score 29-28 (Patino leading) Najm closed it out making two tough shots and miraculously won again, this time eliminating the USBA and Pan-American Champion from the event.

Mike Kim, an unfamiliar name to some, made it to the ultimate round where he faced Piedrabuena. Although he came up short this time we expect to see a lot more of Mr. Kim in future USBA events.

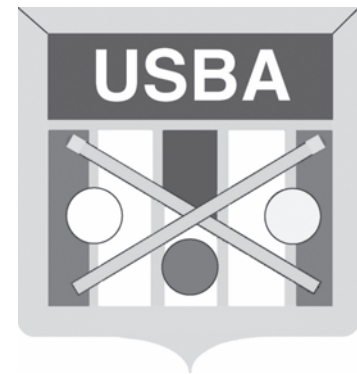
Finals Best Game: Pedro Piedrabuena 30-13 in 16 innings (1.875 average)

Finals High Run: Pedro Piedrabuena 9

Congratulations to Pedro Piedrabuena on another fine win in USBA competition.

Open Tournament Prize Fund

1	\$2,000.00
2	\$1,400.00
3	\$1,200.00
4	\$1,000.00
5	\$800.00
6	\$600.00
7	\$500.00
8	\$400.00
9 to 16	\$200 each
High Run	\$50.00
Total	\$9,550.00



The Very Enjoyable Back-to-the-Rail Shot

by Phil Panzera
Contributing Writer



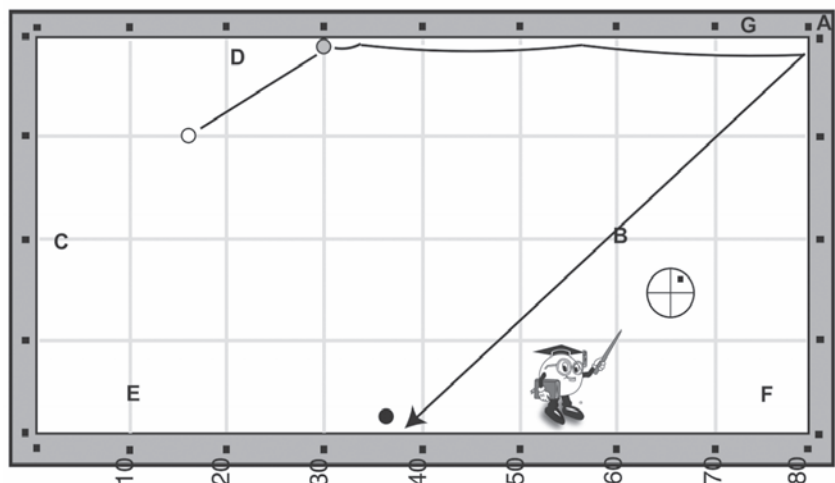
This is a shot I see players pass up all the time, but it's really the best choice. People think it needs some sort of monster stroke, but it really doesn't. All that's required is a halfway decent stroke, with a bit more than medium speed, and a good follow through.

Allen Gilbert taught me this shot with a bit of elevation. Yes, it does make the shot easier, IF you have a feel for the shot, and understand and can control how the cue ball leaves the table slightly (which is what makes the shot easier, lessening drag). I suggest learning the shot with a level cue.

The key to the shot is hitting the yellow absolutely full. If you hit even a hair to the right it won't make, but a hair to the left is actually still OK. I'd still aim absolutely dead center though, as squirt will probably make you hit left of full anyway. If you don't have a low deflection cue, you will have to aim a hair to the right of center to hit full or a bit to the left of center.

There are many playable variations of this shot. It can be played the same way if the yellow is just a bit off the rail. If the yellow is a half ball's width to a full ball's width off the rail, a more precise hit and better stroke are necessary.

If the third ball is anywhere from corner A to foot spot B the shot is rather easy. If you do have a good stroke, you can also play this shot with the red at C, or even D. If the red is around E, just use no English, or favor right depending on your cloth. Note that the yellow often goes twice-around, ending in corner F, leaving a good position. For double-fun, note that with the red at C, the shot can also be played as a double-the-rail, catching a fourth rail at G.

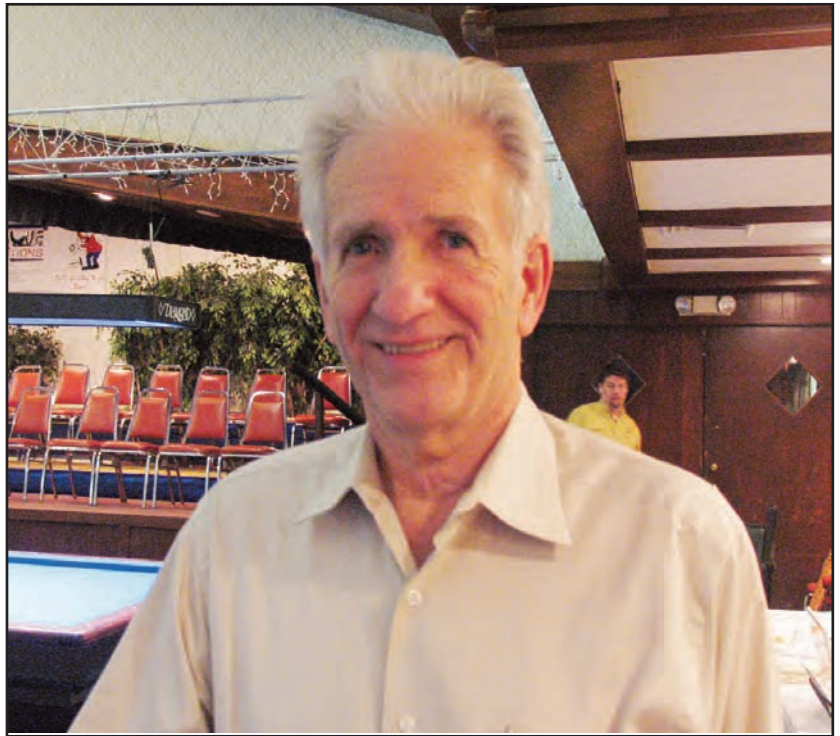


Tribute to Robert Byrne

The news spread almost immediately—as it often does—with the passing of a giant: Robert Byrne, dead at the age of 86. Most of you only knew him from his involvement in the game of billiards, either through his writings or perhaps the pleasure of competing against him in a game or two. Without question, his books on billiards, as well as his videos, are considered to be the most articulate information available regarding both pool and carom billiards.

I first met Bob in 1953 at the University of Colorado. I was a freshman and I believe Bob was in his third year there towards earning his degree in engineering. The University had just opened its new Student Recreation Center complete with two full sized carom tables and five pocket tables. Having grown up playing pool from the age of ten, I considered myself a pretty good “stick” and sauntered into the newly opened facility looking for my first conquest. Like any pool player I wanted to scope out the competition so I watched in amazement as a tall lanky kid (at my size everyone was tall) with coal black hair and a crew-cut run out a rack of balls with ease. I knew that I had not only met my match but a person with a skill and knowledge far greater than mine.

Though I can't vouch for the fact that it never happened at the local billiard room in town, I don't recall Bob ever trying to “hustle” a game in the Center. He and I mostly played fourteen-one or line-up call shot almost every day (the championship game of the time) with the only stakes being our “ego;” and, on a rare day, I would come out a winner. It was a long time ago so it is difficult to recall the timing, but to my recollection, sometime right after the first of the year (1954), Charlie Peterson (Willie Hoppe's manager and greatest billiard trick-shot artist of that era) came to the University to do a carom billiard exhibition. Both Bob and I had dabbled on the carom table from time to time (learning from Hoppe's book), but neither of us really understood the intricacies of the game. Charlie asked for volunteers and it was really only Bob and myself that had ever played on the carom tables. We literally apologized to “Mr. Peterson,” for our lack of skill regarding the game and so he agreed to show us the correct shot and how to “shoot” it. After the exhibition was over, Mr. Peterson, saying he was impressed with our skill, said that he didn't have to be at the University of Iowa for another day so he said was going to stay an extra day and teach us the game. Bob and I both cut



classes that day (along with many other days) and we were introduced to the beautiful and wondrous game of three-cushion billiards. I, for one, never had the desire to pocket another ball, but Bob continued to play both games.

I left the University in 1954 and lost track of Bob until the mid-seventies when I qualified to play in the Nationals to be held at California Billiards in Santa Clara. Bob had also qualified, and our friendship was rekindled.

Most everyone knows of Bob's contribution to the sport, especially to the carom discipline. Bob helped launch the Billiard Federation of the United States (BFUSA), currently the United States Billiard Association (USBA)—the official organization of carom billiards in the United States—and used his writing skills in promoting the game he loved so much. You would be hard pressed to find a person who ever heard Bob complain about anything—not about the politics of the game, the leaves or luck of his opponent, or about life itself. In the billiard game he was as gracious in defeat as he was in victory—just as he was in the game of life. That is why my reference to the “passing of a giant” has little to do with billiards—it is a reference to Bob as a person. Our condolences go out to his wife Cindy, his family, and to all of his friends. We will miss him.

Jerry Karsh
“Robert Byrne is to billiards as Shakespeare is to theater”

Casino Del Sol

Submitted by Mazin Shooni

The USBA/Gabriels Tour got off to a great start. Held at the luxurious Casino Del Sol Resort in Tucson, the two tour events were enrolled to the maximum – a great sign of enthusiasm on the part of our members. I met some new players - many from the southwest – and saw many old friends, including a few that have not played in tournaments for a while. Many players brought their wives, which always adds a nice touch to tournaments.

There was a tremendous amount of hard work that went into planning this event. I would like to thank Paul Frankel and Tom Paley for their help with logistics, Charlie Brown for another superbly run event, Cliff Dubay for his back-breaking work setting up and taking down the tables and of course Boston's own "Jo-Jo" Chiasson who kept the tables clean for the players. As a result of our work, the USBA is now the proud owner of Gabriels tables.

Many thanks also to our sponsors: Gabriels, Simonis, Aramith, Tiger, Professor Q-Ball, Cheqio and most importantly Casino Del Sol. We have a three-year contract with the Casino and will be going back to Tucson for the US Nationals in June. Do not miss out. The Resort is truly a great destina-



Mazin Shooni and Paul Frankel

tion. The rooms, staff, restaurants, bars, pool and entertainment were all fabulous.

Upcoming USBA Tournaments

March 3-5

Ken Higgins Memorial USBA National Qualifier
Tacoma Elks - Tacoma Washington, Entry Fee: \$125
Contact Ed Brasfield (253) 468-9839 Bfasteddie41@aol.com

March 5 Sunday

Europa Billiards
Boynton Beach, FL
Contact: Carlos Ramos, 561 735-7802
One day Qualifier event, Entry Fee: \$120

March 19, Sunday

Amazin Billiards-248 910-4466
Entry Fee: \$120 Format: Round Robin
Field Limit: 20 players
One player for every 5 entered will receive entry fee and expense money to the Nationals.

March 30 (Thursday) to April 2 (Sunday)

Professor-Q-Ball presents at the Super Billiard Expo a USBA National Qualifier.
Entry \$185 Field Limit: 12 Players
Sending 4 players to the USBA National
Also Open 3-Cushion events in the evenings - Contact Paul Frankel (901) 210 7251

June 6-11 USBA 2017 National Championships

To be held at the Del Sol Casino, Tucson, Az. Any room that wants to hold a 3-Cushion National Qualifier Contact Mazin Shooni right away at: (248) 910-4466

Other Events

March 9-12th

The Rushville Spring Professor-Q-Ball 3-Cushion
First 32 Players - Entry Fee is \$150.00. Contact: Gary Eake
(920) 420-1304

March 31-April 2nd

Hood River Spring USBA Tournament
Hood River Elks Club, Hood River, OR
Contact Harvey Wixman 541-386-1507
Or hwixman@hoodriverelectric.net

May 5-7th

Parker Hess Memorial Tournament
Ashland Elks Club, Ashland, OR
Contact Mark Williams mark.b.williams@charter.net
I am also extraordinarily proud to announce that Pedro Piedrabuena and Hugo Patino have been invited to play in the World Games in Poland this summer. Only 16 billiards players from around the world received such prestigious invitations.

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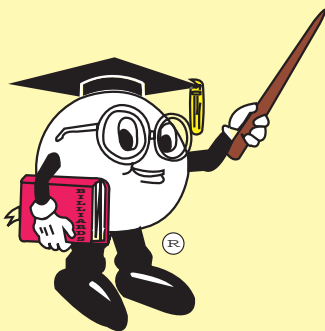
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