

Professor-Q-Ball's



National Pool & 3-Cushion News

Issue 5 • Volume XVIII • October/November 2017

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Shane Wins Turning Stone Classic XXVIII



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CHAMPION

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Van Boening Wins Turning Stone Classic XXVIII

Courtesy of Az Staff

Over the past three years, the Turning Stone Classic has been dominated by Jayson Shaw. Aside from a 7th place finish in January of 2016, Shaw had been unstoppable at this event. Shaw's five wins were only one behind Johnny Archer's record of six wins. For the better part of four days, it looked like Shaw would be matching Archer's record at the 28th running of this event, held August 31st to September 3rd.

Shaw ran through the first days of this event unbeaten and relatively untested. Heading into his winner's side final four match with Mika Immonen, Shaw had a combined record of 45 games won and 9 games lost. Immonen put up a tougher fight than any other opponent that Shaw had faced so far, getting to six games before Shaw won the match.

Matching Shaw's run through the right side of the board, Shane Van Boening was making his way through the brackets with a tough run of matches against Danny Hewitt, Jeremy Sossei, and a red hot Donnie Mills. Van Boening came back from 8-7 down to defeat Mills 9-8 to earn his place in the hot-seat match.

The hot-seat match was typical Jayson Shaw, as he raced to an 8-0 lead before defeated Van Boening 9-3.

The loss to Shaw was only a temporary setback for Van Boening though; as he quickly dispatched Mills a second time by a score of 9-3, and the rematch between Shaw and Van Boening was set.

The final match started close with both players tied at 1-1, 2-2 and 3-3. From the 3-3 score though, Van Boening took complete control of the match. Racks 7 and 8 saw the two players engage in a safety battle and both racks were won by Van Boening. At the score



Mike Zuglan (Tourn Dir.), 2nd-Jayson Shaw, 1st-Shane Van Boening and 3rd-Donny Mills

of 5-3, Van Boening's break fell into place, and the next time Shaw came to the table he trailed 10-3. A scratch on the break in rack 14 gave Shaw the chance to run a rack and get back to 10-4 down, but he then returned the favor and scratched on his break in rack 15. From there, Shaw seemed to lose his drive and Van Boening cruised to a 13-4 win and his third Turning Stone Classic Win.

Here is the complete order of the events. Their were \$25,000 added with a total prize fund of \$41,400. There was a full field of 128 players. All players were paid in cash immediately upon their elimination from the event!

| | | |
|--------|------------|---|
| 1st | \$8,000 | Shane Van Boening |
| 2nd | \$5,000 | Jayson Shaw |
| 3rd | \$3,600 | Donny Mills |
| 4th | \$2,600 | Jeremy Sossei |
| 5/6th | \$2,000 ea | Earl Strickland, Mika Immonen |
| 7/8th | \$1,600 ea | Bucky Souvanthong, Dennis Hatch |
| 9/12th | \$1,200 ea | Rodney, Morris, Joey Cicero, Brandon Shuff, Johnny Archer |

Our Second Chance event had 28 players with a total prize fund of \$1,500.

| | | |
|-------|------------|--|
| 1st | \$400 | Brent Boemmels- |
| 2nd | \$300 | Hendrik Drost |
| 3/4th | \$200 each | Jai Li, Steve Fleming |
| 5/8th | \$100 each | Dave Mills, Ben Werblow, Rhys Chen, John Francisco |



Brent Boemmels-

photo by Erin Bechner

29th Annual BEF Junior Nationals Rolls in Las Vegas

by Earl Munson

Photos Courtesy of Tony Fox, Roy Pastor, Billiard Education Foundation,

The most respected, skilled and academically brilliant minded junior cueists from across the United States were just in Vegas competing in an action packed week of billiards. A few miles south of the Vegas strip the Billiard Education Foundation (BEF) had presented and concluded the 29th Annual Junior National 9-Ball Championships. This challenging co-event was held Wednesday-Saturday August 2nd- 5th, 2017, having returned to the family friendly South Point Hotel, Casino & Spa in Las Vegas, Nevada. Showcased at one end of the Billiard Congress of America (BCA) Billiard & Home Leisure Expo was the BEF junior national's arena. The competition area boasted 20 professional 9-foot Diamond tables. This junior event is the only opportunity for U.S. billiard student-athletes to qualify to compete at the World Pool-Billiard Association (WPA) World Junior 9-Ball Championships being held this year Oct 31st – Nov. 5th, 2017 in Moscow, Russia. **Ask Earl Who is Going**

On Tuesday, the registration process was in full motion with the noise and bustle of last minute preparations for the tournament and expo grand openings. There, the junior players received BEF sponsor gifts and a 2017 tournament memorabilia shirt. The junior events kicked off that evening with the highly anticipated and popular annual Adult-Youth Scotch Doubles tournament, which gave parents and juniors the chance to showcase their skills for a doubles fun-filled night and prizes. Even the pros were actively seeking to be recruited to fill in and play. BEF Tournament director Earl Munson remarked, "Big grins everywhere. The pros were playing like kids and the kids were playing like pros!" BCA Hall of Famers and multi world champions Nick Varner & Loree Jon Hasson along with Mosconi team USA and doubles silver medalist in World Cup of Pool, Skyler Woodward & Shane Van Boening joined with the junior players. Former 2002 junior national champion Beau Runnigen was eagerly paired and proved he still had game, and fellow 2017 Team USA member Manny Perez matched up as well. Parent's skill levels ranged in doubles competition from yikes (Where is the instructor quick?), to wow (Did you see that parent play?!). Eventually the fun night ended with all the pros/junior teams converging to the semi-finals. 1st Place was Skyler Woodward & Trenton White, 2nd Place Nick Varner & Justin Toye, 3rd Place Loree



**2017 Brendan Crockett Character Award Recipients
Eric Roberts from Crossville, Tennessee and
Eliana Rodriguez from Brooklyn, New York**

Jon Hasson & Xavier Hultze, 4th Place Beau Runnigen & Spencer Ladin.

Wednesday, the players meeting and group photo opened the 3 pm start of the first five rounds of the 2017 BEF Junior National 9-Ball tournament. This year's tournament format incorporated the WPA World Junior style of preliminary double elimination brackets qualifying to a seeded single elimination finals bracket. The format also allows for the larger fields sizes, table and time constraints. This year's field represented: 167 players, ranging from 7 to 18 years of age, from over 30 qualifying events, more than 25 states and including the U.S. Virgin Islands. There were four participating divisions included 18 & Under Boys (18UB), 18 & Under Girls (18UG), 14 & Under Boys (14UB) and 14 & Under Girls (14UG). The divisions played in 64, 64, 32 and 32 double elimination brackets respectively. The top 25% of players from each division then moved to single elimination brackets with the winners seeded and the one-loss players listed by a blind draw. Without a doubt match play all week was exciting and intense as all players vied to make it to their respective finals single-elimination brackets.

On Friday night before the finals, the packed banquet night was held. The banquet comfortably seated all juniors, family members, pros, sponsors, and BEF staff and volunteers to enjoy a great meal, laughs, heartfelt speeches, recognitions, remembrance, awards and honors.

Each year players are nominated by their peers at the junior nationals to recognize sportsmanship on and off the table. This special award is in remembrance and recognition of one of



BEF's alumni's, Brendan Crockett, who was more than just a talented young player taken early from life. Brendan grew from an eager teen-ager to an intelligent, charming gentleman with true character and humility. His humor, willingness to work hard and ability to lead have been an important part of our programs. The 2017 Brendan Crockett Character Award Recipients were: Eric Roberts from Crossville, Tennessee and Eliana Rodriguez from Brooklyn, New York.

The Special Guest Speaker at the banquet this year was "The Colonel", Nick Varner. He humorously recounted his junior moments in the game and he jokingly had some great advice to share. "If you bet twice as much, you will learn twice as fast." Varner has long been an enthusiastic supporter of the juniors and also stated, "This event is amazing and a great showcase of our (nations) top junior players".

New BCA Hall of Famer Tom "Dr. Cue" Rossman also made his 24th appearance at the junior nationals. Dr. Cue, presented the Artistic Pool awards to this year's champions, Timmy Bly, Michelle Jiang, Joey Tate & Lana Keith.

The banquet night again amassed much of the junior field with the coveted title of "Academic All American" (AAA) when awards were presented. Of the entire 167 player field, an incredible 45% of this year's participants (75 players!) earned school GPA's of 3.5 and 31.6% of the AAA field earned 4.0 GPA's, to receive recognition! The sport of billiards is definitely attracting, developing, and maintaining academic excel-

lence! The banquet concluded with words of optimism and change from longtime BEF Trustee Tom Riccobene, "Each of us can take home what we have learned here this week and share with the people we love and meet. You all champions and we are honored to learn from you", Riccobene said.

The finals play for all divisions was held on Saturday Aug. 5th. This junior national was a year of competitive upsets. In an effort to stay more aligned with the WPA World event, the BEF awarded Gold, Silver and Bronze medals to the top four finishers of each division. All medalists in the 18UB & 18UG divisions along with the gold and silver medalists from the 14UG & 14UB divisions have been nominated for the 2017 WPA World Junior 9-Ball Championships October 31st to November 5th in Moscow, Russia.

A trio of past back-to-back champions made up of Nathan Childress (14UB from North Chesterfield, VA), April "The Grinder" Larson (18UG from Bloomington, MN), and Ricky Evans (18UB from St. Peters, MO) who were all three fellow Team USA members at the 2017 Atlantic Challenge Cup III, all sought to three-peat champions but fell short and all new gold medalists emerged.

Larson drew a bye sliding her to the winner side where she then matched up and defeated Katelin Ballou and then Abigail Reese to move her to the 18UG finals 8 bracket. In the semifinals match April was determined to move on but rival Michelle Jiang from Harvard, MA ended her bid to claim

her 3rd straight 18UG's title earning Larson a bronze medal instead for her effort. Gracie Davis from Decatur, IL with her great play also joined Larson for the bronze. Jiang battled it out in the 18UG finals match against Alex Booth from Mount Ayr, IA with Jiang excitedly getting her first 18UG gold medal win with Booth taking the very respectable silver. Jiang has been playing very strong the last few months with her now qualifying for her 4th Junior Worlds. Jiang will head to Moscow, Russia with her fellow Team USA members on Oct 31st, 2017. She is performing very well and will most likely be a strong candidate to be a member of Team USA for the Atlantic Challenge Cup next year.

In the 14UG division it was also a battle to maintain the championship reign, as the 2016 14UG Champion Ashley Fullerton from Lake Park, MN tried but failed to make the 14UG's final bracket losing her first match to Tatum Cutting from Diamond, OH and her second to Vivian Liu from Harvard, MA. Liu and Cutting would eventually become opponents in the bronze medal round where Liu moved on leaving Cutting with the bronze. Gracie Davis from Decatur, IL matched up with Savanna Wolford from Troutville, VA in the other half of the semis with Davis also getting the bronze and earning Wolford a match up with Liu in the finals. The 14UG finals match played at 11am on Saturday spotlighted the two young quiet and upcoming players in Liu and Wolford. Both played well with Liu edging out the win with her first gold medal and Wolford proudly taking home the silver.

The title of 18UB champion was newly earned this year by Austin Summers from Metropolis, IL. Summers started out strong winning his first two matches only to come up short against Graham Swinson to earn a spot on the final 16 bracket winner seeded position. Needing only a single match win on the one loss side gave Summer's his spot on the Final 16 single elimination 18UB bracket. Taking down Lukas Fracasso-Verner in a rescheduled reprieve match due to a disqualification sent Summer's to play Ricky Evans in the semifinals. Evans from St. Peters, MO was last year's 18UB champion but Evans struggled to keep Summer's from finally advancing to gold earning Evans the bronze medal this year. Summers traded wins with Kaiden Hunkins from Waukesha, WI until the match was over with Austin Summers winning gold and Hunkins taking the silver medal for being runner-up in this year's 18UB division. Thomas Haas from Lancaster, PA also took the bronze medal losing in the semifinals to Hunkins.

As always the 14UB's is a very competitive division with high levels of play even for that age. As in the 18UG and 14UG, defending national champion Nathan Childress from

North Chesterfield, VA was chasing his third consecutive championship. But Childress ran into a wall this year from a veteran BEF tournament player from Crossville, TN named Eric Roberts. Roberts knocked the defending champion, in a resounding statement of 6-0, to the one loss side where they would again meet up on the blind draw of the 14UB finals bracket. Again Roberts took Childress out this time for good with another convincing 6-2 win. Roberts would go on to win again in the quarterfinals against Jayden Liu from Harvard, MA only to eventually lose to Joey Tate from Lake Villa, IL in the semifinals earning Roberts his first medal ever with the Bronze. The very skilled Gabriel Martinez from New Braunfels, TX also earned a bronze medal after Joshua Shultz from Stedman, NC defeated him. Shultz earned a finals match with Joey Tate. Tate with 2X Junior Worlds experience under his belt was at an advantage in the high-pressure match for the gold with Shultz. After the last 9-ball was pocketed for the match wins the entire five-players strong Tate family, applauded with joy as their brother was crowned the BEF 2017 14UB Gold Medal Champion and Shultz as runner-up Silver Medalist.

The future is very bright for our BEF junior program members as there are now more than ever before, so many high level competitive opportunities at the local, state, national, and international level.

Top Finishers from all Divisions

Gold Medals

| | |
|------|----------------------------------|
| 18UB | Austin Summers, (Metropolis, IL) |
| 18UG | Michelle Jiang, (Harvard, MA) |
| 14UB | Joey Tate, (Lake Villa, IL) |
| 14UG | Vivian Liu, (Harvard, MA) |

Silver Medals

| | |
|------|-----------------------------------|
| 18UB | Kaiden Hunkins, (Waukesha, WI) |
| 18UG | Alex Booth, (Mount Ayr, IA) |
| 14UB | Joshua Shultz, (Stedman, NC) |
| 14UG | Savanna Wolford, (Troutville, VA) |

Bronze Medals

| | |
|------|---------------------------------------|
| 18UB | Thomas Haas, (Lancaster, PA) |
| | Ricky Evans, (St Peters, MO) |
| 18UG | Hailey Fullerton, (Lake Park, MN) |
| | April Larson, (Bloomington, MN) |
| 14UB | Eric Roberts, (Crossville, TN) |
| | Gabriel Martinez, (New Braunfels, TX) |
| 14UG | Tatum Cutting, (Diamond, OH) |
| | Gracie Davis, (Decatur, IL) |

Two Little Known Track Lines

by Mark Finkelstein

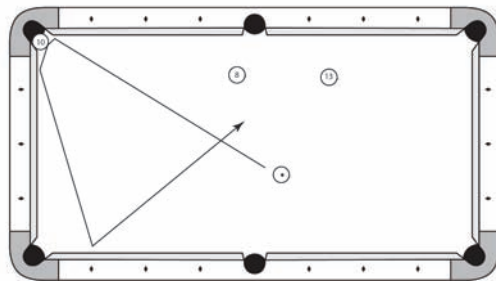
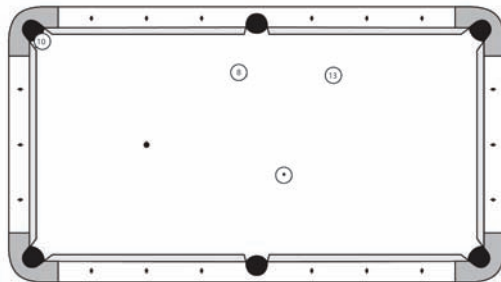
Pro at Slate and Eastside Billiards, New York City; Instructional Columnist



I saw the other day on a pool and billiards forum four pages of “discussion” on a question of how would you play a shot. It was truly amazing at the answers I saw. What I think most pool players don’t understand is how truly difficult this game really is. Planning to draw the cue ball a precise amount, or making a long cut shot with spin are real challenges that many players misunderstand. Trying low percentage shots are a certain path to defeat.

Here is the problem from a game of 8 ball Diagram-1. You have stripes and it is your shot.

Some folks wanted to cut the 13 ball in and turn the cue ball loose figuring they should get a shot on the hanger, or others thought that all you had to do is draw the cue ball two feet from the 10 ball to get on the 13. I don’t know about you but I like my money a whole lot more than taking a flyer on a very low percentage shot. Realize here that I mean not only pocketing the object ball, but also leaving the cue ball in a good spot for my next shot. Leaving



things to chance may work at some level of pool, but that approach is not for me.

Here is a shot that has been around for a while with the track line. This is a great shot to know as it comes up once in a while and solves a difficult problem.

As in the diagram-2 roll the cue ball off the right point of the pocket. The cue ball hits the object ball, the short rail, and then the long rail around the first diamond. With spin, the cue ball heads towards the center of the table. You don’t need to clobber this shot.

The only real variable is speed. By coming down the line towards the thirteen you have plenty of distance to work with and will at least be guaranteed another shot. If the ball is on the other pocket face, going off the left point sends the cue ball up table to the middle diamond on the short rail.

Try these shots for yourself to see how they work for your table and stroke. Once you have this shot in your arsenal you will have another tool to win games with.

See you on the road.

What Are You Waiting For?

The 2017 U.S. Open 9-Ball Championships

Do you plan on being a contestant? As of today, we have 83 players signed up.

We expect to fill the field of 160. Entry fees are going to come in fast, so please don’t be left out!

Do you plan on being a spectator? There are still some great TV Arena seats available, but they are going fast.

Do you plan on staying at the Sheraton Waterside Norfolk Hotel?

The hotel rooms may be sold out very soon for some of the tournament days. The \$103 special room rate is still available. Book your room now or you might end up saying “Where will I stay on Friday night?”

Are you still waiting for your Visa? If you received your formal invitation and you are still waiting for your visa, I

suggest that you pay your entry fee and book your hotel room NOW, or else it may be too late to be listed as a paid entry. Special Notice for ONE-POCKET and BANKS: We will stage two extra tournaments, one 8-player One-Pocket and one 8-player Banks event that will not interfere with the 9-Ball schedule. Interested? Call me.

How do I make these arrangements, you ask?

Become a Contestant: <http://bit.ly/entryfees>

Reserve TV Arena seats: <http://bit.ly/dailyseats>

Reserve a Hotel Room: <http://bit.ly/Sheratonrooms>

For more information about the event, go to www.accu-stats.com If you still have questions, Call Pat Fleming at 973-838-7089.

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2017 Mosconi Cup

The Five for the Mandalay Announced

TEAM USA captain Johan Ruijsink has announced the five players who will make up his side and compete in the 24th annual Mosconi Cup, which takes place from 4th to 7th December at the **Mandalay Bay Resort** in Las Vegas. With an eight-month period of qualification, Ruijsink selected five players from the top ten. They are:

Shane Van Boening (South Dakota)

Appearances: 10; Wins: 1; Matches: 60; Victories: 27.

Dennis Hatch (New York)

Appearances: 4; Wins: 1; Matches: 23; Victories: 11.

Skyler Woodward (Kentucky)

Appearances: 2; Wins: 0; Matches: 10; Victories: 5.

Oscar Dominguez (California)

Appearances: 1; Wins: 1; Matches: 6; Victories: 3

Billy Thorpe (Ohio)

Debut

Commented skipper Johan Ruijsink, "The players have been

picked so congratulations to all of them. This group now faces the huge task of trying to bring back the Mosconi Cup to the home country of pool. We will push hard to make it happen

"For now, the process of selection is behind us and we need to go forward and I am grateful for all the support we have received so far. After seven losses in a row, we can't be the favorites in this year's Cup, but we will certainly give it everything that we've got. So, to Shane, Dennis, Billy, Oscar and Sky... let's go! It's time to get into fight mode and prepare on this quest. Luctor et emergo!"

It is understood that Ruijsink will be taking the five-man squad to Russia shortly to compete in the Kremlin Cup. The tournament runs from 18th to 23rd September in Moscow and following its conclusion the team will heading to a secret location in Russia for an intensive training period.

Tickets are available at www.mosconicup.com

2017 MOSCONI CUP is sponsored by Rasson Billiards who supplies the Official Table; the cloth is supplied by Iwan Simonis and the Official Balls are Super Aramith by Saluc. Predator is the Official Cue of the event and Ultimate Team Gear provide all Mosconi Cup apparel.

West State Billiards provides aid to a Southern California 'billiard/youth' program

by: Daniel Busch

California's largest retail/wholesale billiard and game-room distributor, West State Billiards in Fullerton, CA took the opportunity this month to donate at least \$1,000 worth inventory to a group of children who are actively learning to play pool at a San Diego County middle school program. The program which, was started in October 2016 by Steve Strange; a retired Navy Corpsman and PBIA billiard instructor conducts his 'off hours' billiard program on campus, during lunches and after school and utilizes four pool tables under the roof of one large classroom. Steve took on the project of starting this youth program at a Middle School in Bonsall, CA to offer students the chance to discover cue-sports in a classroom environment.

The contribution of brand new cues, cue tips, cue cases, racks, bridgeheads, chalk, cue holders and Tiger Products billiard towels from West State Billiards was a coordinated effort between POV Pool Media and Steve Strange to make sure that the much needed equipment was provided, free of charge. The 'hand off' of the equipment was made possible by Daniel Busch and Geraldine Thibodeau and took place at Shooters Pool Hall in Riverside, CA. In addition, West State Billiards went one step further by enlisting the services of Brian Esparza to re-cover each table at the Bonsall school with Simonis Cloth that was donated earlier this summer by Ivan Simonis at Simonis Cloth.

When asked about his program, Steve Strange states, "It is now almost one year since this youth billiard program started and they are loving and learning all about the game. Never in my life, have I witnessed up to 25 students 'run' to the class each day with excitement which, they do on a daily basis." "Expanding the youth program..."

Steve Strange is also setting his sights on expanding this program to yet another Bonsall School which, has expressed interest in adopting. That said, Steve's efforts are in constant need of help and support from anyone willing to help, in the form of professional instruction, volunteer outreach services, exhibitions, team youth programs and opportunities to



Steve teaching & Kids

compete in outside events. Steve tells us that, he has been working hard to coordinate with the non-profit, 'Billiard Education Foundation' to officially endorse and adopt his youth program to accept monetary donations and to further expand the program to other cities in the United States.

If you are interested in providing additional support/services or simply wish to send a note of thanks to Steve Strange, West State Billiards or to encourage the BEF (Billiard Education Foundation) to get involved, you can contact them directly through emails below:

Steve Strange: youthbilliardacademy@gmail.com

West State Billiards: donny@weststatebilliards.com

Billiard Education Foundation: info@billiardeducation.org

To learn a little more about this Youth Billiard Program, you can also listen to Steve Strange's interview on Amercian Billiard Radio which took place earlier this summer. Go to this link and scrub to 3:08 minutes: www.americanbilliardradio.com/listen/2017/6/2/the-strange-development

POV Pool Media would like to personally thank Donny Wessels and West State Billiards for making this contribution possible.

Attention Room Owners

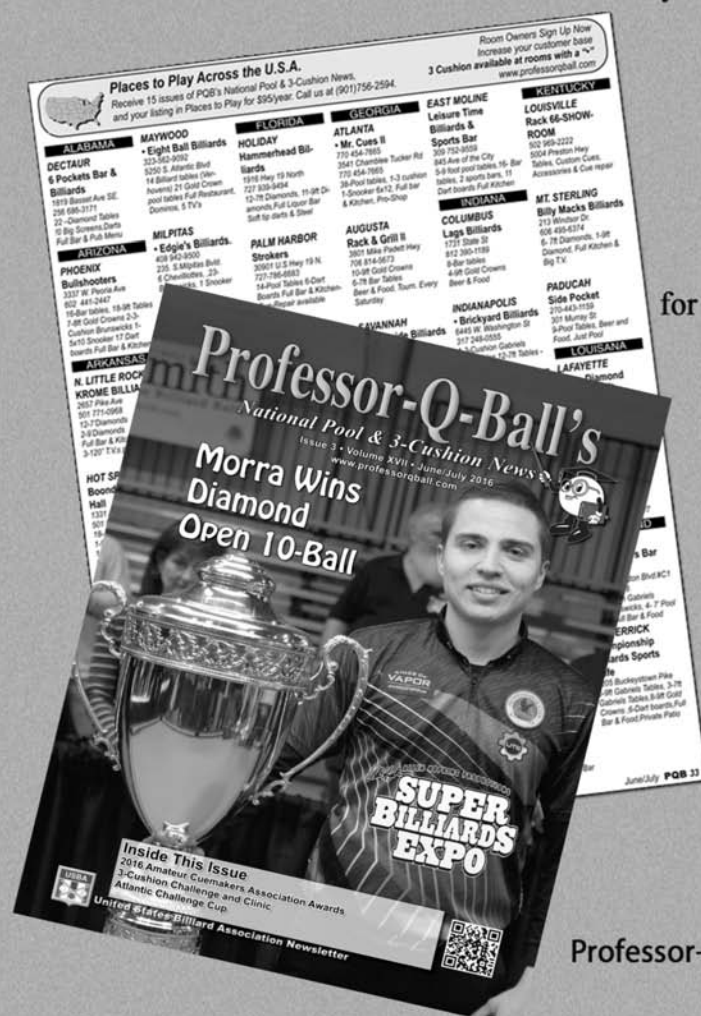
"Billiards is a Business"

Advertise your Business in our "Places to Play"

A \$95 per year subscription will list your business in our "Places to Play Across the USA" section. We will publish a description of your room, plus you will receive 15 issues bi-monthly sent to your establishment. Place these issues out for your customers and watch how fast they go.

The purpose of the "PLACES TO PLAY" directory is to heighten the awareness of your room in your own geographic area and around the country.

Thousands of pool players travel the continent for business or pleasure each week. "PLACES TO PLAY" becomes a ready reference of places they can go to find a game or entertainment when they're away from home.



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44th Annual Texas Open 9-Ball Championships

Skinny Bob's Billiards, Round Rock, Tx August 31 – September 4

Texas Open 9-Ball Championship: 12-player Open Division; \$125 entry; \$8,000 added; Mosconi Cup Qualifier. Although John Morra was striving to repeat as champion, the strong competition wasn't going to make it easy. Devin Poteet earned the hot seat by spiritedly winning the hill-hill match against John Morra. After winning against James Davis, John came back to a rematch with Devin for the finals. John double-dipped Devin to win his second consecutive championship title.

Champion: John Morra \$6100

2nd: Devin Poteet \$3400

3rd: James Davis, Sr. \$2080

4th: Jeremy Jones \$1240

5-6th: Sharik Sayed & Ryan Lane \$780

7-8th: Shane McMinn & Kevin Guimond \$570

9-12th: Skyler Woodward, Manny Chau, Alex Calderon & Jeff Melton \$360.each

13-16th: Justin Bergman, Vivian Villarreal, Al Mason & Justin Espinosa \$260.each

25-32nd: Manny Perez, Hanni Alhowri, Jude Rosenstock, Lean Contreras, Marko Clarke, Rodney Stewart, Rudy Sanchez & Steve Sheppard \$150.each

Texas Open 9-Ball Championship: 32-player Women's Division; \$75 entry; \$2,000 added. After missing last year's tournament, Vivian Villarreal returned focused on taking back



Devin Poteet 2nd, & John Morra 1st

the championship. Vivian dominated the competition throughout the winners bracket to win her fifth Texas Open 9-Ball Championship title.

Champion: Vivian Villarreal \$1170

2nd: Jennifer Yo \$780

3rd: Autumn Duncan \$590

4th: Jennifer Kraber \$390

5-6th: Ricki Casper & Michelle Abernathy \$295

7-8th: Teresa Garland & Tam Trinh \$200

Scotch Doubles 9-Ball Championship: 16 teams; \$125 entry; \$1000 added.

Champions: James Davis, Sr. & Jennifer Kraber \$1040

2nd: Omar Alshaheen & Ricki Casper \$780

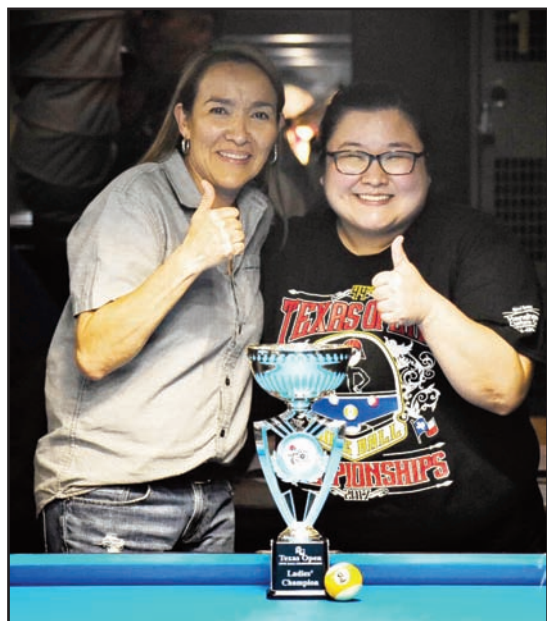
3rd: David Henson & Vivian Villarreal \$520

4th: Benny Conway & Autumn Duncan \$260

Throughout the event weekend, our thoughts and prayers were with those that were affected by Hurricane Harvey. PoolActionTv sponsored a raffle that generated \$550. Hanshew Custom Cues brought a trailer that is being filled with donations of all kinds. Thank you to all who generously contributed.

Special thanks to the sponsors & vendors that support this prestigious event: Honest Air Conditioning, Hanshew Custom Cues, Mints Amusements, Connoisseur of Custom Cues, PoolActionTv & Bryant Billiards.

Thank you to the players, volunteers and spectators. You all helped make this a successful and memorable event.



1st Vivian Villarreal, 2nd Jenniniger Yo

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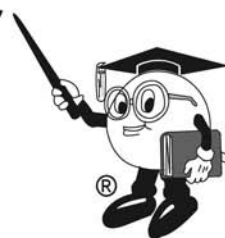
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President's Desk

Three-cushion billiards is very important to me and always will be. Allow me to tell you briefly what is on my mind.

Growing the 3 cushion fraternity and exposing and enjoying this beautiful game to its fullest. This is my hope.

I also hope most of you will go to the USBA website and see what we have planned for January. A beautiful tournament for the vast majority of our membership. Open to all players who average below .850. More on this tournament later.

Equally as important, we MUST start planning for our 2018 National Championship. It might seem like it's far off but to do it right, it takes a lot of planning. I believe most, if not all of you agree.

My goal with regard to the Nationals:

1. To provide an elegant, safe, convenient and accommodating venue.
2. To provide the largest prize fund ever.

3. To have the largest field we can accommodate.
4. To provide a challenging and competitive format.
5. To do the best we can to keep player's costs down.

These goals are lofty and difficult but if we all band together, the entire membership, or at least ALL the players who have it in their plans for 2018, I believe we can attain most if not all of these.

Room owners; please contact me with your thoughts about hosting the Nationals. We do NOT have a venue as yet and we obviously and desperately NEED your input here.

Some time in October I'll post the 'requirements' for being the host of a National Championship. Until then please feel free to call me, email me or contact any one of your regional USBA Directors, even if there's a 'chance' you'd consider this.

I hope to hear from some room owners and as many of you 3 cushion aficionados who'd like to converse. Thanks for your time and thanks in advance for your cooperation and participation.

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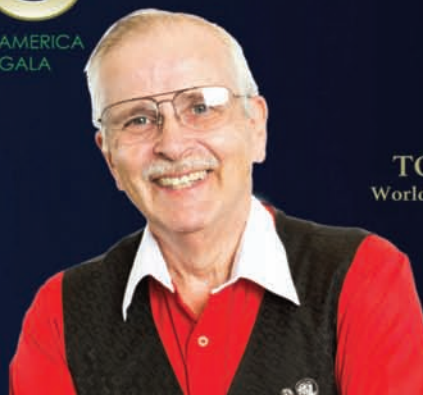
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Dancing Angels and Gospel Trick Shots

On Wednesday July 19th something very unusual happened on the Gospel Trick Shot (GTS) portable pool table while Tom “Dr. Cue” Rossman and Steve Lillis (pictured right) were performing for 250 inner city young people at Inspire Sports Camps at the Taconic Retreat Center in Upstate New York. Little did Tom and Steve know at the time that 12 more shows would follow in Canada with the usual expected results on that portable pool table! With 113 years of combined billiard experience there was no apparent explanation for the events of that night!

It all started at lunch time as the camp director had to scold the 250 campers about the toilets being stopped up as it appeared to be “no” accident. After threatening to close down the bathrooms the campers were told to put both hands in the air and clap on the count of three if they agree to report any suspicious activities in the bathrooms for the rest of the week. And on the count of three all 250 young people were in agreement for obvious reasons.

That same evening the portable pool table was set up with one hour to spare, however there was one big problem! The trick shots for no apparent reason would not go in! As a matter of fact the balls came off the rails at different angles even after hitting the balls in the same direction with the same spin and at the same speed. There seemed to be no way to adjust!

Two hundred and fifty enthusiastic young campers filed in and after the camp director announced, “2017 BCA Hall of Famer Tom “Dr. Cue” Rossman and World Renown Gospel Trick Shot Artist Steve Lillis are both here tonight just for you”, the show started. Tom as usual led off with his fantastic array of shots but many were not falling! As a matter of fact he used one of his famous lines that almost never fails, “if this shot does not go in this time I will buy everybody pizza”. The shot did not fall and 250 inner city kids began chanting “PIZZA, PIZZA”. Tom decided to not shoot his last shot and left his props of big pool balls, medium pool balls, and small pool balls on the table and said, “Now Steve will come out and explain how God took care of a big problem in his life”.

Steve then came to the table wondering if his shots would fall. He pressed on with his real life story of the death of his granddaughter Ella in 2014 and how God worked everything out for good in the life of his family. The shots were not falling but the story pressed on! Then Steve realized that the 250 campers were no longer interested in two pool players with many accolades who could not fully execute all the trick shots. So Steve proceeded to bring the story to a close!

The camp director sensing the moment asked Tom and

Steve to pray for the 250 campers with Tom on one side and Steve on the other. Steve led and Tom followed in leading the campers in a prayer of commitment to God. Remembering lunch time and the com-

mitment the campers made concerning the bathrooms, Steve and Tom asked the campers to raise two hands over their heads and on the count of three clap their hands together to make a commitment to Jesus and give their lives and problems over to God. And on the count of three about 100 campers responded! The campers came forward in two lines to share with Tom and Steve how the message encouraged them. Many had lost love ones, struggled with gang violence, wrestled with addictions, contemplated suicide, and been overwhelmed with feelings of hopelessness.

Before leaving for Canada the next day, Tom wanted to give the camp director a copy of his new training manual “Student of the Game and Life” which talks about his trademark philosophy that “a miss is a make in disguise”. It became obvious to Tom, Steve, and the camp director that the misses that seemingly defied billiard physics served to get Tom and Steve out of the way so that the message could be fully received by the campers. Furthermore even the bathrooms clogging up were part of a bigger plan to touch those young lives. Two days later Tom and Steve met with a pastor in Canada who remarked after hearing the story, the Lord placed “dancing angels” on the pool table to prevent the shots from going in so the campers could focus on the message. Indeed all that happened that day was beyond natural understanding and only something that God could do!



Morra Takes Houston Open

by Mary Kenniston

Even a battering by Hurricane Harvey couldn't keep the 27th Annual Houston 9-Ball Open down! Legends Billiards owners Craig and Mindy Cohen were determined to host their event. 82 players came to League City, TX for the last Mosconi Cup points event.

On a roll as of late, John Morra was in the mix along with other stars of the game such as Josh Roberts, Corey Deuel, Jeremy Jones, Richie Richeson, Cliff Joyner, Omar Al-Shaheen and Roberto Gomez. Others including regional favorites like James Davis Jr., Tommy Tokoph, Ernesto Bayaua, Manny Perez, Dennis Strickland, Chase Rudder and Manny Chau joined the fray as well.

Second round action saw one pocket specialist Richie Richeson take on One Pocket Hall of Famer Cliff Joyner with the always-in-action Richie taking the match. Third round action pitted Omar Al Shaheen against James Davis Jr. with Omar marking the win. Young gun Tommy Tokoph ran into a buzz saw named John Morra – John sent Tommy west. More third round action saw Filipino star Roberto Gomez duke it out with local Houston favorite, Manny Chau. Manny sent Superman packing too. Next match for Manny – former US Open champ, Jeremy Jones. Manny was a man on a mission as he dispatched JJ west too.

Meanwhile, local favorite Richeson was quietly dismantling his opponents to arrive in the final four on the winner's side. However, Chau sent him to the other side also - locking Manny into a berth in the hot seat match. The other match saw the very tough Morra take out another Houston favorite, Ernesto Bayaua.

The hot seat match began with Morra arriving at the hill first – 8-6. Chau's determination paid off as he ticked off three straight to emerge from the match undefeated. A very disappointed Morra was forced to await his opponent for a seat in the finals.



I-r, Robyn Petrosino 1st, Gail Eaton 2nd, & Mindy Cohen Owner/Tournament Director.

After losing to Bayaua in the fifth round & knocking off a few tough opponents on the west side like Tokoph, Omar Al Shaheen and Richeson, Kenneth Price found himself against another tough one Roberto

I-r, Roberto Gomez 3rd, Manny Chau 2nd, John Morra 1st

Gomez. Price's march to the title was ended there as Roberto moved on to face Morra in a fight for the other slot in the finals. Kenneth finished in the fourth place spot.

The match started out as a close one but as time wore on, John started pulling away and closed out the match leaving Roberto in third place.

As this was a true double elimination event, John Morra would have to defeat Manny Chau twice for the title. The first match saw John win 9-2 forcing a final race to 7 for the title. The second match was all John as he smoked a disappointed Manny 7-0. Great job, Manny for a fine event! Congratulations to John for a stellar performance!

Many thanks to Jerry Olivier Custom Cues for being the title sponsor for this event! Thanks again to Mindy & Craig Cohen and their outstanding staff for taking such good care of all the players and fans. Mindy was also the Tournament Director, ably assisted by Ted Dean – great job! PoolActionTV.com, as always, would like to thank our fans and sponsors for another top-notch event. Our sponsors include Lomax Custom Cues, JB Cases, Hanshew Custom Cues, Durbin Custom Cues, Simonis, Aramith, GoPlayPool.com, Kamui and Club Billiards of Wichita, KS.



Open Division

| | | |
|-----|-----------------|------------|
| 1st | John Morra | \$3,300.00 |
| 2nd | Manny Chou | \$2,185.00 |
| 3rd | Roberto Gomez | \$1,500.00 |
| 4th | Kenneth Price | \$1,095.00 |
| 5th | Ernesto Bayaua | \$685.00 |
| 6th | Richie Richeson | \$685.00 |
| 7th | Josh Roberts | \$545.00 |
| 8th | Omar Al Shahee | \$545.00 |

Ladies Division

| | | |
|-------|------------------|----------|
| 1st | Robyn Petrosino | \$660.00 |
| 2nd | Gail Eaton | \$495.00 |
| 3rd | Kim Pierce | \$330.00 |
| 4th | Mercedes Vasquez | \$165.00 |
| 5th Y | Vonne Asher | \$125.00 |
| 6th | Natalie Manns | \$125.00 |

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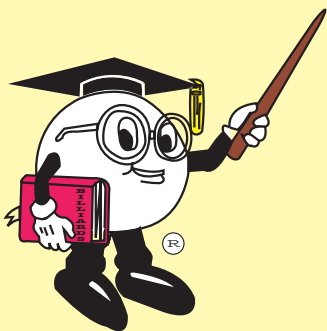
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