

Professor-Q-Ball's



Rack for February/March 2018

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2018 Derby City Classic

DCC stories by Ricky Bryant

9-Ball Bank

20TH Derby City Classic started on Friday January 19th with 9-Ball Banks. The DCC consist of three events which were played with CYCLOP pool balls on Diamond 9 foot tables covered with Simonis cloth, the three major sponsors. The event had a field of 470 players. The event is 9-Ball Banks, racked like 9-Ball, banks must be completely called and go clean, no contact with another ball or combinations. It is the first with 5 balls in a race to 3, single elimination with one buy-back option at the discretion of the player. There was a re-draw every round of the remaining players after each round.

The event spanned five days and fourteen rounds. There were six players after 11 rounds, only one had a buy back Corey Deuel. The other five players were John Brumback, Francisco Bustamante, Troy Jones, Jayson Shaw and Shane Van Boening. In round 12 Deuel eliminate Bustamante, Brumback eliminated Van Boening and Shaw eliminated Jones. Corey went into round 13 still in possession of his buy back, life line. Corey would eliminate Shaw while Brumback took a break and watched having the bye. The final was set between John Brumback, a three time DCC Banks Champion (09, 10, and 16) and Corey Deuel. Since Corey still had his buy back Brumback would have to defeat him twice to add to his title list. Brumback had added incentive having suffered his only loss at the hands of Corey in the 11th round.

Corey came out firing taking the first game 5 to 1. Brumback sporting his new 3 week old glasses, fired back in the second game 5 to 1, knotting the match at 1 all. Corey was not fazed and took the third game to get on the hill 2 – 1. Corey looked to be closing the deal in the fourth rack up 4 balls to 0. But Brumback got an opening and scored 5 balls before Corey could get that last needed ball. The match was now Hill-Hill



and Brumback had the momentum. But Corey playing like it was do or die, almost like he forgot he had a buy back, took the fifth and final game 5 to 0. Congratulations to Corey Deuel the 2018 DCC 9-Ball Banks Champion, his second DCC Championship, One Pocket 2013.

- | | | |
|---|----------------|-------------|
| 1 | Deuel, Corey | \$10,000.00 |
| 2 | Brumback, John | \$4,000.00 |
| 3 | Shaw, Jason | \$2,875.00 |

Payout was through 57 players added money \$10,000 Grand total payout \$57,000.00

One Pocket

One Pocket had 393 players in round one. The event is a race to 3 and was scheduled for 5 days. The 10th round the field was down to eleven players. Two players would be eliminated, Roberto Gomez and Josh Roberts. Two players would emerge still possessing a buy back, Justin Bergman, who had the buy for the round, and Shannon Daulton. The remaining players with one loss were Francisco Bustamante, Tony Chohan, Jeffrey DeLuna, Justin Hall, Warren Kiamco, Dennis Orcollo and 2017 One Pocket Champion Billy Thorpe. Shannon Daulton got the bye which preserved his buy back to Friday. The remaining players all with one loss moving to Friday were, Justin Bergman, Francisco Bustamante, Tony Chohan, Jeffrey DeLuna, and Warren Kiamco.

Friday would have two events scheduled, One Pocket final rounds with 6 players remaining, 9-Ball. Round 12 of the One Pocket would see the following; Bergman issuing Daulton his first loss, Bustamante eliminating DeLuna, and Chohan eliminating Kiamco. The field was now down to 4 players and no one had a buy back. Round 13 would see Bergman and Daulton in a replay of round 12. Again Bergman came out

All Around Championship aka Master of the Table

The points for the All Around Championship are earned in the three main events of the DCC. The three main events are 9-Ball Banks, One Pocket and 9-Ball, occurring in that order over 9 days. The higher you finish in each event the more points you receive. Corey Deuel took the points lead in the All Around by winning the first event, 9-ball Banks. Francisco Bustamante would move to the top when he won the One Pocket event and having finished 4th in the 9-Ball Banks. Bustamante had only finished 26th in the one pocket. Justin Bergman was in the hunt having finished 9th in 9-Ball Banks and 2nd in One Pocket. He was followed by Shannon Daulton who finished 9th in 9-Ball Banks and 3rd in One Pocket. The



**Bustamante and Greg Sullivan
owner Diamond Billiard Products,
DCC Founder**

ahead issuing back to back losses to Daulton. Bustamante eliminated Tony Chohan in the other match.

This set the table for a one match final between Bergman and Bustamante who had finished Thursday night playing each other. The Thursday night match was where Bergman had his loss. Bustamante had received his in the 8th round at the hands of Warren Kiamco. Bustamante's combination of shot making and improved one pocket skills were too much for Bergman to overcome this year. Congratulations to Francisco Bustamante the 2018 DCC One Pocket Champion.

1	Bustamante, Francisco	\$12,000.00
2	Bergman, Justin	\$6,000.00
3	Chohan, Tony	\$3,200.00
4	Daulton, Tony	\$3,200.00
5	De Luna, Jeffrey	\$2,400.00
6	Kiamco, Warren	\$2,400.00
7	Hall, Justin	\$1,700.00
8	Orcollo, Dennis	\$1,700.00
9	Thorpe, Billy	\$1,700.00
Payout was through 95 players - added money \$15,000 -		
Grand total payout \$64,125.00		

last event of the DCC 9-Ball would be the final decider. Shane Van Boening and Jason Shaw had shots at getting there if they won the 9-Ball. Shan would end Jason's by eliminating him from the 9-Ball in the 10th round. Shane's departure in the semifinal of the 9-Ball locked the All Around Championship for Francisco Bustamante.

The All Around Championship finished as follows:

- 1st – Francisco Bustamante - \$20,000.00
- 2nd – Justin Bergman - \$3,000.00
- 3rd – Corey Deuel - \$1,000.00
- 3rd – Shane Van Boening - \$1,000.00

Total 2018 DCC Payouts of all events was \$276,725.00



20th Derby City 9-Ball

The 9-Ball event started on the 6th day of the DCC with 364 players. The 9-Ball event was a Marconi Cup point's event as selected by Matchroom Sports. The event was a race to 9; winner breaks and rack your own. The nine on the break counts. The events at DCC were no jump cue events but jumping was allowed, with a shooting cue, in the 9 ball. This is the only winners break event at the DCC.

The 10th round started with thirteen players, Ruslan Chinakhov eliminating Tommy Tokoph, Joshua Filler eliminating Josh Roberts, Mika Immonen eliminating Warren Kiamco, Donny Mills sends Chris Melling to the buy back window, Dennis Orcollo eliminates John Schmidt, Shane VanBoening eliminates Jayson Shaw and John Morra had bye. There were no remaining buy backs for the 8 players in the 11th round. Orcollo defeated Chinakhov, Melling defeated Filler, Van Boening defeated Immonen and Morra defeated Mills. Round 12 was the semi-final round, in the Accu-Stats arena John Morra defeated Shane Van Boening and the other semifinal Melling defeated Orcollo in a long match with a lot of safety play.

The final was set for the Accu-Stats arena between John Morra and Chris Melling. The match started about 1:10 AM Sunday. Chris took the early lead at 3 to 2, but Chris, who had been playing back to back matches all day, seemed to stall at that point and Morra won the next 6 games, in the winner breaks format. Morra was on the hill breaking for the Championship, made a ball and then missed. Chris having had a nice

rest sitting in his chair most of the last 6 racks came to the table.

Game after Game went to Chris and you could feel the tension in the arena that Morra just

wanted one more chance. But the few times he came to the table Chris had left him without a shot or hooked. The match final got to Hill-Hill with Chris breaking. On a nice break, Chris ran the rack to become the 2018 DCC 9-Ball Champion. This had to be the slickest come back in a final that I have seen. Congratulations Chris Melling the first Englishman to win a major in the 20 years of the Derby City Classic.



1	Melling, Chris	\$16,000.00
2	Morra, John	\$8,000.00
3	Orcollo, Dennis	\$3,950.00
4	VanBoening, Shane	\$3,950.00
5	Chinakov, Ruslan	\$2,700.00

Payout was through 91 players - added money \$25,000 - Grand total payout \$54,600.00

2018 One Pocket Hall of Fame

The Hall of Fame doesn't just honor One Pocket it also includes Banks and Lifetime Pool in Action players. This year there were no inductees for banks just One Pocket and Lifetime Pool in Actions. The Co-Masters of Ceremonies this year were Scott Frost and Shannon Daulton.

The One Pocket inductees were **Jeremy Jones**, most people know Jeremy for winning the US Open 9 in 2003. and **Eugene "Clem" Metz** who passed in 2011 was represented by his son Tyll Donnie Metz. Numerous players and friends took to the stage to tell stories about "Clem".

The two players honored for Lifetime Pool In Action were **Charles "Country" Martin** and **Keith McCready**. "Country" passed away December 26, 2017 and was represented by his Daughter Sonya Martin. As with "Clem" numerous players told stories about "Country" that put smiles on everyone's faces. The evening finished off with one of the best known charters of pool **Keith "Earthquake" McCready**, at 61 years Keith is still spouting stories and challenges. He announced he had 18 hours to play and would take on any players, with the right game.

All in all it was great to have the Hall of Fame back and everyone had a great time. To read more about the players and to see video of the HOF Dinner visit OnePocket.ORG. Thanks to Steve Booth for all he does, and hope more people lend support.



DCC Spotlight Events

The **Banks Ring Game** is always a fan favorite had a late start on Friday night due to One Pocket carrying over and finishing on Friday. But the loyal fans packed the arena. There are 6 players who pay a \$1,500 entry with Diamond adding \$3000. The standard Banks rules are in place with the following exceptions.

10 ball rack is used instead of 9.

Kicks of 3 rails or more count until play is down to 2 players

No safety play if more than 2 players

The players are given 30 chips valued at \$50 each. The ball value starts at \$50 and increases in different racks until it maxes out at \$1,000 per ball. There is a draw for shooting position and re-draws during the game. Play is continued until one player has all the chips. The winner of the ring game gets \$8,000 and second place gets \$4,000.

Due to the late start had still being in the 9-Ball and making a run for the All-Around Francisco Bustamante pulled out of the Ring Game this year. But there is always a waiting list of top players that want in the six man ring game. The six players for 2018 were: Shannon Daulton, Billy Thorpe, Skyler Woodward, Corey Deuel, Jeremy Jones and Shannon Murphy.

The first out were Skyler Woodward and Shannon Daulton followed by Corey Deuel. The ball price up to \$600 saw the chips move fast to Billy Thorpe. Billy made 3 banks which put Jones with one chip and Murphy with 6 chips all in. Billy's next bank to the side clipped the point and didn't go. Jones and Murphy were unable to score on their turns and Billy on his next turn took home first place in the ring game and Shannon Murphy got second.

The **George Fels Memorial Straight Pool Challenge** started on Sunday with a four day qualifier and was to be followed by an 8 player single elimination bracket play-off. In the qualifier a player gets 12 tries for \$100. The player starts with 14 balls racked and the 15th ball and cue ball in hand to start their run. They run until they miss. Each day the top three runs are paid \$300, \$200 and \$100 respectively. The player with the high run in the qualifier gets an additional \$1,000. There was also a bounty of \$1,000 if anyone could beat Jason Shaw's record of 227 set in 2015.

Dennis Orcollo scored the bonus \$1,000 by matching Shaws 227 run. The 8 players with top runs were Dennis Orcollo (227), John Schmidt (183), Ruslan Chinahov (182), Merek



Billy Thorpe and Shannon Murphy



Kudlink (155), Maksim Dudanets (127), Miesko Fortunski (125), Konrad Juszczyszyn (118) and Jayson Shaw (112). Due to time constraints and DCC main events running late the 8 players voted to chop the prize money and there would be no play off this year, each of the 8 players getting \$2,800. Straight Pool fans stay tuned because Greg Sullivan of Diamond Billiard Products is working on changes for 2019 so there can be some form of play off.

DCC Big Foot 10 Ball Challenge

by Ricky Bryant

This was the sixth year for the BIGFOOT 10-ball challenge which is the only Pro event at the Derby City Classic. The event started in 2013 with Dennis Orcullo taking the opening event. Shane VanBoening took the next two in 2014 and 2015. Jason Shaw won in 2016 and 2017.

The event is by invitation only, with sixteen professional players invited by Diamond Billiard Product to compete in the event. The entry for each player was \$1,000 for the single elimination event. Diamond added \$16,000 to bring the total prize fund to \$32,000. The event is played with CYCLOP balls on a Diamond 10 foot table covered with Simonis cloth. The official rack is the Outsville 10-Ball template, Outsville.com. All of the matches were live streamed from the ACCU-STATS arena and will be available later on Vimeo on Demand by Accu-Stats at accu-stats.com. The event used a standard single elimination bracket format beginning with a random draw and was a race to 11. The Tournament director was Steve McDonald and officiated by Ken Shuman.

The special rules of the tournament:

No jump sticks but you could use your shooting cue to jump.

This was not a call shot event

Alternating Brakes

There was a 40 second shot clock with one automatic extension per rack. Also if down on the shot before the clock expired was not a foul unless you didn't shoot. This was an all ball foul event

The first match Friday had fellow countrymen Roberto Gomez defeating Ronnie Alcano in a hill-hill match. The second match pitted Mosconi team mates Jason Shaw against Joshua Filler. Filler, the MVP of the 2017 Mosconi Cup, won handily 11-7 over Shaw. The third match had Mika Immonen defeating Dennis Orcullo 11 – 7. The fourth and final match of day had USA Mosconi team mates Dennis Hatch against Shane Van Boening. Dennis took an early lead 6 to 2 but Shane came back to get on the hill at 10 to 8. Dennis kept grinding and took the match to hill – hill but Shane won the match 11 – 10. Saturday, day 2, and the other half of round one started with Jeffrey De Luna of the Philippines defeating Konrad Juszczyszyn of Poland, 11 – 7. The second match of the day was 17 year old Fedor Grost of Russia defeating Alex “The Lion” Pagulayan of Canada 11 – 7. The third match had John Morra of Canada defeating Lee Vann Corteza of the Philippines 11 – 8. The fourth match of the day and the last of the first round was a hill-hill win for Ruslan Chinahov of Russia

10 PQB February/March



over Corey Deuel of the USA, 11 – 10.

Day 3, was the second round of play in the Bigfoot event. All players advancing out of round 2 were in the money and guaranteed a minimum of \$4,000 pay day. Roberto Gomez cooled off hot player Joshua Filler 11 – 6. The second match was a tense one with Mika Immonen edging out Shane Van Boening 11 – 9. This eliminate the last of the previous BigFoot champions, guaranteeing there would be a new champion for 2018. The third match again highlighted the 17 year old Fedor Gorst over Jeffrey De Luna 11 – 4. The fourth match had John Morra eliminating Ruslan Chinahov 11 – 8.

Monday the final day of the BigFoot event consisted of 2 semi-final matches and a final. The first semi-final went to hill-hill with Roberto Gomez eliminating Mika Immonen (\$4,000) 11-10. The second semi-final had the straight shooting Fedor Grost routing John Morra (\$4,000) 11 – 5.

The final was set up with 17 year old Fedor Grost of Russia against Roberto Gomez of the Philippines. Grost won the lag but broke dry in the first game. The match was a back and forth battle until Gomez took a 6 to 4 lead. Grost showing a lot of heart and shooting ability took the next 4 games for a 8 to 6 lead. Gomez showed a lot of heart and won 3 of the next 4 games to tie the match at 9 to 9. Grost was the first on the hill but Gomez took the next game to take the match to hill-hill. Grost broke dry in the final rack which started another safety battle. The back and forth safety battle ended with Grost fouling on a kick shot. Gomez with ball in hand ran 8 balls to win the game and the match. The 2018 BigFoot Champion Roberto Gomez won \$16,000 and Fedor Gorst's second won him \$8,000. Congratulations to Roberto Gomez the 2018 BigFoot Champion. But we are seeing a rising star in Fedor Gorst who will just turn 18 later this year.

Cheating the Pocket

by Robert Byrne

From "Byrne's Complete Book of Pool Shots" with permission

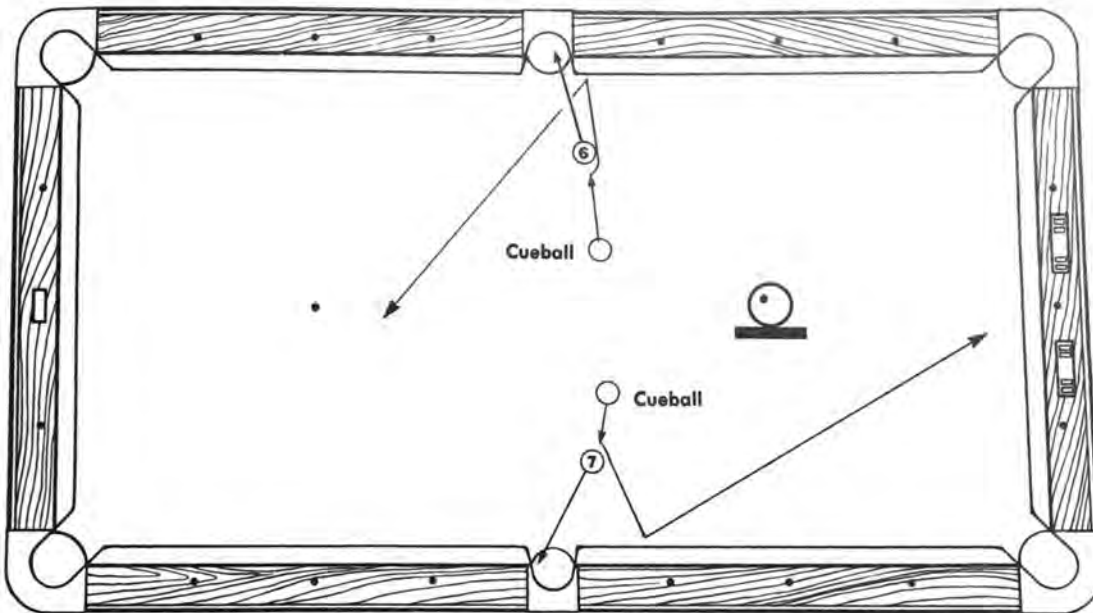


The two positions diagrammed here are identical and are designed to illustrate what can be done to control the cue ball by combining topspin, sidespin, and cheating the pocket.

At the top, by using high left English and hitting the 6-ball as fully as possible, the cue ball can be made to follow the indicated path. Use minimum speed so that the cue ball doesn't jump too far to the right before curving forward.

At the bottom, a completely different cue ball path results when the cue ball is struck with high left and the 7-ball is driven into the far side of the pocket.

The longer the shot, of course, the riskier it is to try to drive a ball into one side of the pocket or the other.



Chico Billiards Academy

by Jacqueline Karol

House Pro at Oais Bar & Grill Chico Ca., League Operator & Tournament Director .



"Bar Rules" vs. "League Rules"

People always ask me what the right rules are for 8-ball. The answer is that there are many different rules that you can play by and even many variations of bar rules and league rules within themselves. It's a matter of agreeing with your opponent ahead of time. This is especially hard to do if one or both players are not familiar with at least 1 complete set of any rules like the Billiard Congress of America (BCA) league rules, for example. Being familiar with 1 specific set of rules makes things easier because it will encompass so many variables, details and exceptions that can cover 40+ pages worth of text. And even when both players ARE familiar with a set of rules, arguments and misunderstandings

can still happen. Hopefully, a referee is there to make a call for you, but unfortunately, that is not always the case. If you don't know your opponent, I recommend playing a couple practice games with him/her first to see what types of things may come up and how easily it is or is not to come to an agreement with them.

The purpose of this article is to give you the main, basic differences between bar and league rules, so you can enjoy a game with a friend. You might expect league rules to be more strict or complicated, but surprisingly, there are some parts of bar rules that are stricter than league rules. Many league rules were created to help avoid arguments and simplify things and prevent a game from lasting an unreasonably long time.

Jam Billiards Hosts Dr. Cue

On December 9, 2017 Jim Lee, owner at JAM Billiards in Memphis TN, hosted World Trick Shot Artist Tom “Dr. Cue” Rossman. This special event was done in conjunction with the APA Scotch Doubles tournament.

An enthusiastic audience responded with appreciation to the artistic pool skills, coupled with a “twist of humor” of this BCA Hall Of Fame showman. A short instructional presentation of “kicking techniques” and magnetic challenge matches also took place. Autographed photos were given out to all in attendance. A great time was experienced by all!



Dr. Cue special shot for a special lady



APA Scotch Doubles tournament winners.

I-r, 2nd place team \$415
 Austin Martin and
 Michael Lewis
 1st place team \$500
 Ross Holcomb and Bob Smith



Pool Cue Winners - Left to Right
 Adam Mathis, Randi Larson, Lisa Baker, Austin Lott



A Coors cooler was won by Kathy Dion-Tyree

Being Sharked

by Mike Roque

From "Build Your Game" 365 Days of Instruction, Motivation and Insights for Pool Players"
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"...my eyes come back for one last quick look at the cue ball."
Joe Davis

The Best Players hit the cue ball exactly where they intend. Although consistent play is dependent on many things, insuring that the tip contacts the cue ball at the intended point is the number one secret for great cue ball control.

Hitting the cue ball exactly where you want not only requires a straight stroke, but a level one as well. It doesn't do any good to have it all lined up and then accidentally add a half tip of draw because your stick dipped in the delivery!

You'll also need to focus on the tip placement. As you go through your warm up strokes keep coming back to that spot on the cue ball. Prior to the last backstroke, pause the cue tip on this spot. This is your last chance to check your body alignment in relation to the stroke line, but the main goal here is to see the tip on the cue ball at the spot you want to hit.

Lock in that image, before you take the final backswing, and then shift your eyes to the object ball target. During the final delivery, anticipate the feel and hit of the cue tip moving through that spot.

Consistently hitting the cue ball where you intend is a game changer. Master it and good things start to happen!

Hit the cue ball exactly where you intend.



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CELEBRATING OUR 20th ANNIVERSARY

Makes a great gift

Congratulations to Gerda Hofstaatter Gregerson 2018 WPBA Hall of Fame Inductee

photo By- Patrick Peters



The Women's Professional Billiards Association is proud to announce that Gerda Hofstaatter Gregerson, affectionately known as the "G-Force", was inducted into the WPBA Hall of Fame on January 5, 2018 at the 2018 WPBA Grand Slam, held at the Soaring Eagle Casino and Resort in Mount Pleasant, Michigan.

Gerda has demonstrated throughout her career, her athleticism, dedication, and passion for billiards.

Gerda Hofstaatter, known as the "G-Force" to her colleagues and fans, was one of the perennial stars of the WPBA, the globally recognized association of the world's best female professional pool players.

In her youth, Gerda was a competitive tennis player, skier, and fencer, and won the Austrian and International Junior Fencing Championships before deciding to focus exclusively on pool.

Born in 1971 to a family of four sisters and merchant parents, Gerda's love for pocket billiards took hold at age 15 when she joined a hometown team in Althofen, Austria. Inspired by the beauty of the sport, Gerda made the leap to individual tournaments a year later, then quickly became the Austrian National Champion. At age 18, she brought home Austria's first European Championships Gold Medal.

Those early accomplishments were recognized when her hometown awarded her an Honorary Gold Medal and "Key to the City." One of Gerda's fondest memories is of the time-off children were granted from school so they could participate in

the mayoral-sponsored festivities.

In 1990, after finishing her secondary education, Gerda moved to Sweden to study and compete. After garnering

Europe's top player ranking for two consecutive years, Gerda moved to the United States in 1993 to compete in the newly formed WPBA Classic Tour. To the surprise of many, including herself, Gerda won her first event and remains the only person to have done so in WPBA history. That year, Gerda was voted Austria's Athlete of the Year for her state of Carinthia—besting both male and female

athletes, including Olympic alpine skiers. Gerda's WPBA tour wins span nearly two decades:

- 1993 Creative Inventions San Francisco Classic
- 1993 Brunswick Billiards Atlantic Classic
- 1994 Leisure Bay Billiards Orlando Classic
- 1995 Huebler Cues Seattle Classic
- 1995 WPA World 9-Ball Championship
- 1996 McDermott Cues Austin Classic
- 1997 Brunswick Billiards WPBA National Championship
- 1999 Discovery Huther-Doyle Rochester Classic
- 1999 Brunswick Billiards New York Classic
- 2000 BCA Open 9-Ball Championship
- 2010 San Diego Classic

In addition to her titles, Gerda has over 20 second-place finishes at WPBA sponsored events. In Europe, she took home 11 European Championships and 17 Austrian National Championships before retiring from the sport.



2018 Music City Open 9-Ball Championships

31st annual Music City Open at JOB Billiards Club in Nashville, TN, January 11 thru 14, 2018

Sponsors

Budweiser, Alex Brick Custom Cues, Diamond Billiard Products (new CR1 Rack) Streamed by Poolactiontv.com

Tournament Directors: Steve McDonald and Bob Hunt
Played on 7-foot Diamond Smart Tables.

Open Division 9-Ball, Race to 11, double elimination.

Ladies Division 9-Ball, Race to 7, double elimination.

Alex Brick Original Dymondwood Break-Jump Cue was raffled.

Tournament Results:

Open Division – 121 Players – \$6000 Added

1st	James Aranas	\$4,300
2nd	Roberto Gomez	\$2,500
3rd	Omar Alshaheen	\$1,500
4th	Johnathan Hennessee	\$1,025
5/6th	Justin Hall / Skyler Woodward	\$760 ea
7/8th	John Gabriel / Randy Jordon	\$455 ea
	Robert Frost / James Blackburn	
	Jeff Jordon / Josh Roberts	\$300 ea
	Scott Roberts / Ron Frank	
	John Morra / Jerry Clayman	\$230 ea
17-24	Brad Sullivan / Tim Wotherspoon	
	Bud Cash / Chris Crawford	
	Rusty Jackson / Evan Lunda	
	Joey Sanson / Jalal Alsarisi	\$150 ea

Ladies Division – 41 Players – \$1000 Added

1st	Brittany Bryant	\$1,000
2nd	Kelly Isaac	\$700
3rd	Kim Dodd	\$380
4th	Janeen Lee	\$270
5/6th	April Dobbins / Heather Middleton	\$200 ea
7/8th	Jessica Mollinet / Christy McDonald	\$175 ea
9-12th	Allison Hardwick / Rebecca Mehling	
	Brenda Anderson / Beverly Cook	\$90 ea

Mini Tournament – 64 players

1st	Roberto Gomez	\$550
2nd	Skyler Woodward	\$350
3rd/4th	Josh Roberts / John Gabriel	\$190 ea
5-8	John Morra / Jason Krisle	
	Lee Uhles / Josh Oneal	\$80 ea

Midnight Madness – 8 players Winner-take-all

1st	John Morra	\$4000
2nd	James Aranas	\$0



James Aranas, Roy Francisco, and Roberto Gomez



Brittany Bryant and Kelly Isaac



2nd Skyler Woodward, Ray Hansen, and 1st Roberto Gomez



CASINO DEL SOL RESORT - TUCSON, AZ

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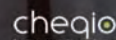
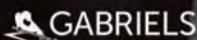
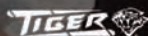
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Concentration

by Mark Finkelstein

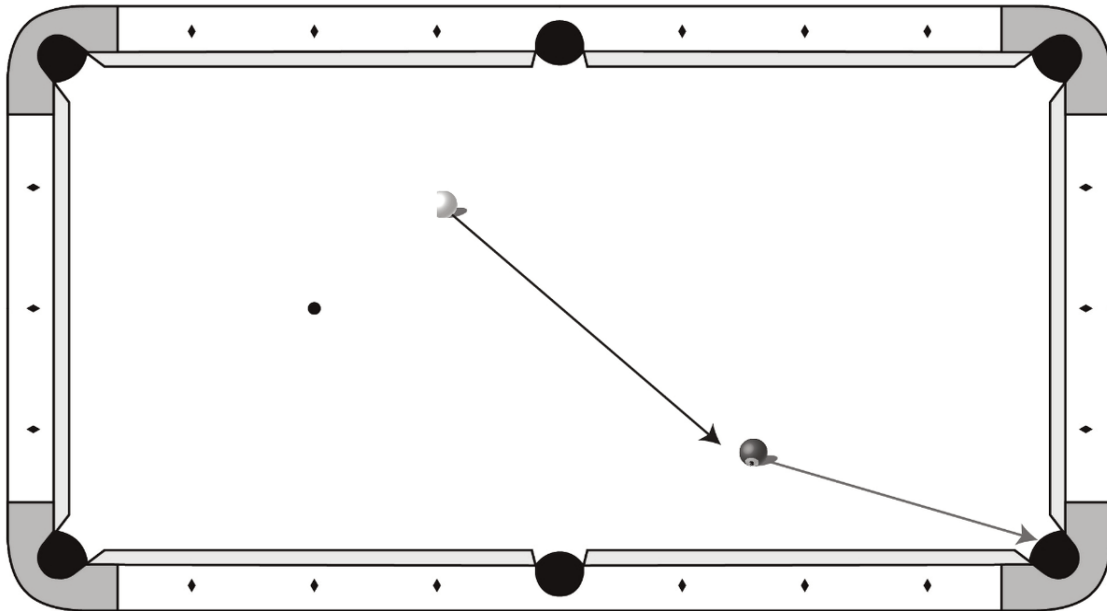
Pro at Slate and Eastside Billiards, New York City; Instructional Columnist



You hear this all the time in pool rooms, concentrate, focus on what you are doing, be present, think only about the now, etc., etc. But did you ever wonder just exactly what are we supposed to concentrate on? What do we focus on that will magically elevate our game?

Concentrating on what we are doing with our cue stick gets us in the right mental place to play better. We are focusing on something we are doing and have control of. Move you stick better and you will play better. You have control of this. Making a ball,

beating so and so, etc., are all things you don't control.



To practice this better cue movement use a video camera and see what your stick does on long, straight shots. Does the back come up on the pull back and the tip go down? Is your stick really level? Does the tip go straight through down the line if the shot or is it up in the air or off

to the side? Do you pull your stick back smoothly and far enough for the speed you want?

I've got a few thoughts about this and I wanted to share them with you. The best place to start is to think about what we are doing when we play pool. Do we try to win? Perhaps we play position. We might even try to make a ball or two. But is that what we are doing? Not really! At our most basic level we are moving the cue stick. Let's take a quick look at the 2017 recent Mosconi Cup. Which team moved their stick in a straighter line, pulled their cue stick back slower and smoother, and stayed down longer on their shots. Yes, the Europeans!

Once you become aware of your cue stick movements, you can then stop at the cue ball before your final swing (the set position) and determine if you hit the cue ball where you are aiming will the shot work? If yes, pull back slowly, pause and finish. If no, re-aim or reset.

What we can learn from this is that concentrating on what we are doing with our cue stick is the key to playing better pool. Do we have a truly level as can be stick? Do we pull our stick back in a straight line slowly and smoothly? Do we move our stick straight through the cue ball on the line we have chosen? Do we stay down and finish our stroke?

Focusing on what you do and your cuing action will help you become a much better player.

Good luck and see you on the road.

2017 Mosconi Cup

More Mosconi Glory for Europe Europe 11–4 USA

Josh Filler 5–3 Dennis Hatch

It was MVP Josh Filler who delivered the final blow as Team Europe wrapped up a comfortable 11-4 win to retain the **partypoker Mosconi Cup** for a record-breaking seventh time. Needing just one point after dominating the opening two days of the tournament, it was 20-year-old Filler who beat rival Dennis Hatch to seal the deal for Europe.

Despite an ominous feel about the arena, the fans turned out in their droves to the Mandalay Bay Convention Centre to witness a glorious celebration as the European team revelled in their magnificent victory.

For European captain Marcus Chamat it was win No.3 after taking the helm in 2015 and he seems to have the magic touch.

“I am overwhelmed! The way we played, the way we came as a team and stood beside each other from the beginning,” said an emotional Chamat.

“The American team tried hard and did good. It was a battle and things could have gone the other way in the middle of yesterday.

“In the end, hard work pays off, successful people work hard and that is what these guys did.”

For Joshua Filler it was a dream end to a dream debut as his captain presented him with the Most Valuable Player Award.

Josh Filler, who ran undefeated through the tournament, winning two doubles and two singles matches, was delighted; “It couldn’t get better than this. This is the best team with the best team spirit. I am lucky I have this team, they are always supporting me and without these guys we wouldn’t win the Mosconi Cup eight times in a row.”

For the American side, it was another humbling defeat. Captain Johan Ruijsink it was a bitter blow after putting in so



much preparation with the team over the preceding months.

He said, “We took a different approach as to how we prepare and we did well but when we came out there we didn’t bring enough quality to beat Europe.”

Follow the partypoker Mosconi Cup on www.mosconicup.com and @mosconicup across social media.

2017 partypoker Mosconi Cup is also sponsored by Rason Billiards who supplies the Official Table; the cloth is supplied by Iwan Simonis and the Official Balls are Super Aramith by Saluc. Predator is the Official Cue of the event and Ultimate Team Gear provide all Mosconi Cup apparel. APA are the Official Team Sponsor of Team USA.



MVP, Josh Filler

Hall of Fame Inductees

On the evening of the 1st day of the partypoker Mosconi Cup a special event took place – the 2017 BCA Hall Of Fame banquet / induction ceremony. During this gala affair, Darrel Appleton and Tom “Dr. Cue” Rossman were inducted. Photo’s by Ricky Bryant - In addition, over 20 living Hall Of Famers were in attendance, providing over 300 attendees with a very special moment in billiard history.



Darrel Appleton



Tom “Dr. Cue” Rossman

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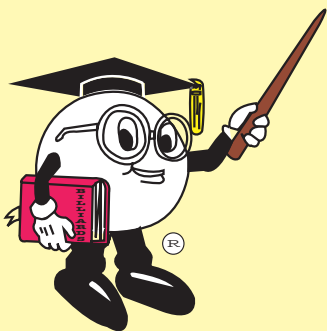
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Event was streamed by Poolactiontv.com

A \$2,000 Steve Lomax Custom Cue was raffled off

Tournament Results

Open Pocket Division – 18 Players – \$5000 Added

Tournament		Player Auction
1st	Dennis Orcollo	\$4200 \$8100
2nd	Josh Roberts	\$3200 \$6060
3rd	Danny Smith	\$2000 \$4000
4th	Roberto Gomez	\$1000 \$2000

9-Ball Division – 53 Players – \$2000 Added

Tournament		Player Auction
1st	Roberto Gomez	\$1750 \$4800
2nd	Alex Calderon	\$1000 \$2500
3rd	Jonathan Hennessee	\$700 \$1500
4th	Jamie Farrell	\$500 \$1000
5th/6th	Brandon Thomas/CJ Wiley	\$200 \$ 720
7 th /8th	Kid Chris / Ronnie Alcano	\$150



One Pocket - Dennis Orcollo and Josh Roberts



**9-Ball
Kelly Isaac, Roberto Gomez and Alex Calderon**

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