

# Professor-Q-Ball's

*National Pool & 3-Cushion News*

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[www.professorqball.com](http://www.professorqball.com)



**Mike Dechaine Wins Open 10-Ball  
Karen Corr Wins Women's Open 9-Ball**

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2018 Super Billiards Expo  
Hosted By: Allen Hopkins Productions  
April 12-15, 2018



**United States Billiard Association Newsletter**

# 26th Annual Allen Hopkins Super Billiards Expo

by Ricky Bryant

The 26th annual Allen Hopkins Super Billiards Expo, SBX, was held at the Greater Philadelphia Expo Center in The Oaks, Pennsylvania, which is in the Valley Forge area. This was the fifth time the event was at this venue, and keeps improving. The four day event was Thursday April 12th through Sunday April 15th. There were two Pro events, Open 10-Ball and Women's 9-Ball. There was one Pro Arena for these events, which was a paid venue with VIP and General seating, all of the other events were open to general admission. Again this year the Expo had over a hundred great vendors, American Cue-makers Association Show and the TAP League Rally in the Valley, plus the following Pool and Billiards events:

**Pro Pool Diamond Events: Open 10-Ball, Women's Open 9-Ball**

**Professor Q Ball 3-Cushion Qualifier for Nationals – Challenge Matches**

**Open Pro-Am Bar Box 9-Ball**

**Amateur Events: Open Amateur, Women's Division, Seniors Division, Super Seniors Division**

**Juniors 17 & Under and Juniors 12 & Under - Pennsylvania Juniors Championships**

The Pro-Am, Amateur Events and Junior events had almost 1900 entries and a waiting list of players that wanted to play. As with all SBX events a player can enter multiple events but due to time constraints if there is a conflict the player will select the match to forfeit. Missing this year from the Pro events was the 1-Pocket event which had been a fan favorite.

The Pro Events were directed by Tournament Director Doug Ennis and Frank Del Pizzo. These events were played on 9 foot Diamond tables with Simonis 860 Cloth and Aramith Tournament balls.

## ***Diamond Open 10 Ball Players Championship***

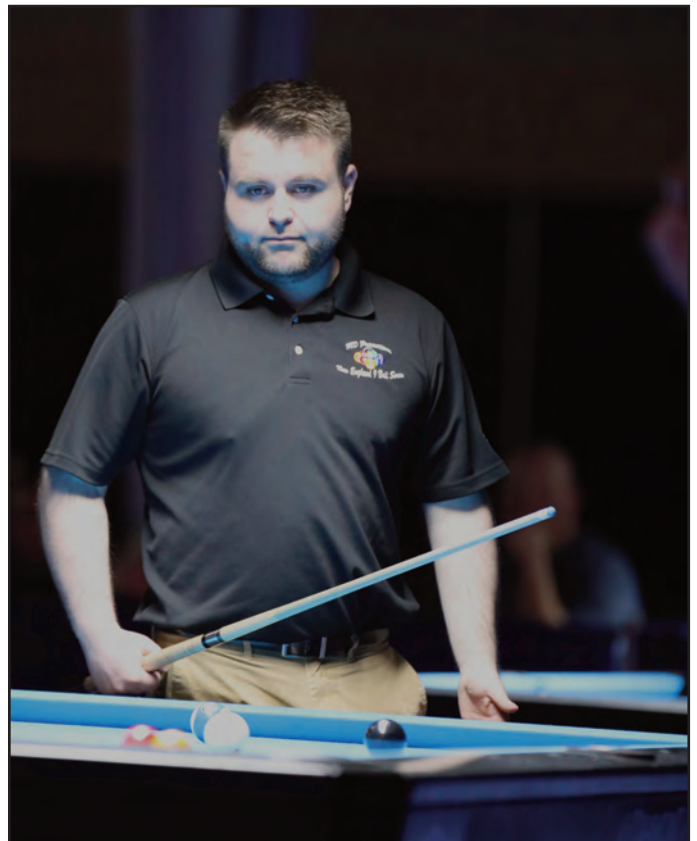
The matches for the event were scheduled over the full four days and was open to men and women. There was a full field of 64 players with a \$500 entry fee. The format was non-call shot 10 ball, lag for the break then rack your own alternating break. If the 10 is made on the break it was not a win but spotted. The race was to 10, double elimination, until the final 16 players. The final 16 would play single elimination format, race to 13. There was no redraw in the final 16, the 8 on the one-loss side and 8 on the no-loss side played out to one payer.

There was a full field of 64 players which consisted of 3 previous Champions, Johnny Archer (03 & 04, 9-Ball), Shane Van Boening ((08, 9-ball - 12, 13, 14, 17, 10-Ball) and John Morra (16, 10-Ball)

Johnny Archer was eliminated in the Double Elimination rounds losing to Mika Immonen then Danny Olson on Saturday night just missing the round of 16. John Morra lost to Jayson Shaw but rallied against Donny Mills to move to the round of 16 in the one-loss bracket. Shane Van Boening would move to the round of 16 in the no-loss bracket with wins over Nick Charette, James Keegan and Johnathan Hanessee.

The single elimination round started with the first round at 9:30 pm on Saturday night. The race was now 13. The match

ups for the one-loss bracket has **Michael Dechaine(right)** over Thorston Hohmann, Earl Strickland over Alex Pagulayan, Skyler Woodward over Mika Immonen, Jayson Shaw over Shane Van Boening. The four eliminated finished 9th-12th each receiving \$2200, The one-loss bracket was Lee Van Corteza over Roberto Gomez, Oscar Dominguez over Zion Zvi, John Morra over Johnathan Hanessee and Danny Olson over Martin Daigle. The four eliminated finished 13th-16th each receiving \$1800.





The 2pm Sunday semi-finals were Michael Dechaine vs Jayson Shaw on the no-loss side and Oscar Dominguez vs Danny Olson on the one-loss side. Dechaine was playing almost flawless defeating Shaw 13-9. The Dominguez vs Olson watch was tighter and took more time, finally being put on the shot clock. Olson survived 13 to 10 over Dominguez. Shaw finished 3rd receiving \$4000 and Dominguez finished 4th receiving \$3000.

The final was set between Michael Dechaine and Danny Olson. Dechaine had been waiting but was still in stroke. Olson was also in stroke after his win over Dominguez. The battle was a back and forth with Michael Dechain prevailing 13 to 10. Dechain was the 2018 Champion receiving \$10,000 and Olson received \$5000 for his 2nd place finish.

## ***Diamond Women's OPEN 9-Ball Professional Players Championship***

The Women's Open event was scheduled for four days, Thursday through Sunday, played in the Pro Arena. The field was extended this year to a max of 64 players and had 56 players. This is done by sanctioning the event with the NAPT, the North American Pool Tour. There was a \$300 entry fee with a guaranteed \$5,000 first prize. The event was women only, double elimination format race to 9 until the final 8, which would be single elimination race to 11. As with the 10-Ball event there would be no re-draw for the final 16, the 8 players in the no-loss bracket and the 8 players in the one-loss bracket would play to one player, with the two meeting in the finals. This was rack your own, alternating break and the 9 on the break was not a win but spotted.

The field of 56 contained 4 previous Champions, Allison Fisher (02 & 09), Dawn Hopkins (2015), **Karen Corr** (03, 14, 16) and Defending 2017 Champion Loree Jon Hasson. Loree Jon won her first 2 matches over Cheryl Pritchard and Ada Lio. Kaylin Wikoff sent her to the one-loss side on Saturday and eliminated by Rhio Anne Flores. Dawn Hopkins suffered a similar fate winning her first two matches over Tina Malm and Rhio Anne Flores. Hopkins went to the one-loss side with a loss to



Heather Cortez and eliminated by Brittany Bryant. Allison Fisher defeated Jenn Sylvester, Aryana Lynch and Bernie Store to move in the round of 16 in the no-loss bracket. Karen Corr was following a path with wins over Sonya Chbeeb, Rachel Lang and Veronique Menard to join Fisher in the round of 16 no-loss bracket.

The no-loss bracket first round had Karen Corr eliminating Janet Atwell, Vivian Villareal eliminating Kaylin Wikoff, Denise Belanger eliminating Briana Miller, and Allison Fisher eliminating Heather Cortez. In the one-loss bracket Jia Li eliminated Rhio Anne Flores, Jennifer Barretta eliminated Veronique Menard, Brittany Bryant eliminated Bernie Store and April Larson eliminated Amy Yue Yu. The players eliminated in the no-loss bracket finished 9th-12th and each received \$1050. The players eliminated in the one-loss bracket finished 13th-16th and each received \$900. The quarter final round had Corr eliminating Villareal 11-9 and Fisher eliminating Belanger 11-4. The other quarter final round in the one-loss bracket had Li eliminating Barretta and Bryant eliminating Larson 11-9. Villareal and Belanger finished 5th-6th with each receiving \$1500. Larson and Barretta finished 7th-8th with each receiving \$1250.

This set the two semi-final matches where Karen Corr eliminate Allison Fisher 11-8. And on the one-loss side Brittany Bryant eliminate Jia Li 11-9. Fisher finished 3rd receiving \$2250 and Jia Li finished 4th receiving \$1800.

The final was set between three time SBX Champion Karen Corr and Brittany Bryant. Corr was in stroke and determined to add another SBX Championship to her long list of Hall of Fame wins. She took the 2018 Womens 9-Ball Championship 11-6 with a payday of \$5,000. Bryant got 2nd with a payday of \$2,800. Congratulations to Karen Corr!

# 2018 American Cuemakers Association (ACA) Awards

by Ricky Bryant

This marked the 26th year of the Super Billiards Expo and the 24rd year for the ACA (The American Cuemakers Association) event. There were four presentations at the annual member's dinner which was held on Saturday night at the Super Billiards Expo. Besides the Membership the ACA has two main sponsors from the pool community, Diamond Pool Tables and Simonis Cloth. The dinner is attended by the members who are some of the best Cuemakers in the United States and the World and their guest. The annual membership meeting following the dinner is for members only.

The first presentation was a recognition award for retiring ACA Treasurer Steve Klein of Klein Custom Cues of Trophy Club, Texas. Steve had been the treasurer for over 10 years. The second award was Cue Maker of the Year which was presented to Chris Nitti of Nitti Custom Billiard Cues, Orlando, Florida.

The third presentation was the Annual People's Choice Cue Award which is actually three awards. This is the 11th year for this award first conceived in 2008. This is presented for 1st, 2nd and 3rd place or as the emcee says Win – Place – Show or Second Runner-Up, First Runner-Up and Winner! The cue makers that enter each year make a special cue to put on display for this computation. Typically the maker of the cues is not revealed to the voting public until the voting is closed. Anyone that has entry to the show can go to the ACA booth, where the cues are on display, to cast their vote. This year there were 630 votes cast for the nineteen cues entered.

Second Runner-Up (3rd Place) – J. Pechauer Custom Cues

First Runner-Up (2nd Place) - Tonkin Custom Cues

2018 Winner (1st Place) People's Choice Cue of the Year - Jacoby Custom Cues

## About the Winner:

The Ronin is a wandering samurai without lord or master. This cue features the inlayed face of the Japanese samurai warrior. It contains more than 3,900 pieces of ebony, holly, silver, brass, copper, abalone, and blacklip mother of pearl. The Joint and butt cap are crafted from Mokume-Gane, translated wood grain metal, a tradition blended metal often used to accent the samurai sword. The forearm features bridged veneered points. This masterpiece took more than 200 hours to create. The Ronin comes with 2 Ultra



Chris Nitti of Nitti Custom Billiard Cues, Orlando, Florida.

Shafts, Matching Joint Protectors, and custom butt and shaft extensions with joint protectors.

The fourth presentation was Cuemaker's Cue Choice Award. This was the third year for this award. The voting was done by the ACA members based on the same cues displayed in the People's Choice competition. The award went to Pete Tonkin of Tonkin Custom Cues, Willow Creek, California. This cue was named Poseidon.

Congratulations to everyone and to learn more about the ACA visit the web site [www.cuemakers.org](http://www.cuemakers.org)



People's Choice Cue of the Year - Jacoby Custom Cues





PAT FLEMING PRESENTS:

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# 2018 SBX Allen Hopkins's Players Championships

by Ricky Bryant

## SBX Amateur, Pro-Am Events and Pennsylvania Juniors Championship

The events were managed by Tournament Directory Cecilia Strain and her great team. There were seven total events; Pro-Am Bar Table (32 players), Open Amateur (1024 players), Women's Amateur (181 players), Senior Amateur (364 players) and Super Senior Amateur (173 players). The events are all 9- Ball, single elimination on Diamond 7 foot table (Bar Box). The Pro-Am was race to 6, best 2 out of 3 sets. The other four events were race to 5, best 2 out of 3 sets.

### Junior Events

The 2018 Pennsylvania Junior State 9- Ball Players Championship was partnered with the Billiard Education Foundation (BEF). There were two events 17 & Under (64 players) and 12 & Under (40 players). Entry was Free but required advance signup and each is limited to a maximum of 64 players. The winner of each event got a paid entry into the 2018 BEF Junior National 9-Ball Championship which will be in New Orleans, LA July 10 – 14, 2018 in conjunction with the BCA Expo / Trade Show ([www.BilliardEducation.org](http://www.BilliardEducation.org)). Top finishers in each event also received pool accessory prizes donated by sponsors and vendors with first through fourth getting a cash prize. The format was single elimination, race to 4, best 2 out of 3 sets.



**Kenneth Brison,  
Senior Division**



**Danny Mstermaker,  
Open Amateur**



**Stacie Bourbeau,  
Women's Division**



**Jonathan Tuvens, 12 and Under**



**Trenton White, 17 and under**



## Deocharran Goes Undefeated to Take Predator

Troy Deocharran and Matt Klein battled twice during the Predator Pro Am Tour's stop on the weekend of January 19-20. Both matches were determined by a last, single game; one in the hot seat and one again, in the finals. The \$1,000-added event drew 45 entrants to The Spot in Nanuet, NY.

They met first, once Deocharran had sent Carlos Ocheign to the loss side 7-2 in one winners' side semifinal, and Klein had defeated Marisol Palacios 8-4 in the other one. In their first of two, racing to 7, Deocharran claimed the hot seat 7-6, and waited for Klein to return from the semifinals.

On the loss side, Palacios ran into Ambi Estevez, who was facing his third straight female opponent, after downing Suzzie Wong and Erin Bechner, both 7-4. Ocheign drew Matt Harricharan, who'd eliminated Abel Rosario 7-6 and Gary O'Callaghan 7-4. That segment of the loss-side bracket was running a little long, and it would cause a few delays leading up to the quarterfinals.

In two diametrically opposite ways, Harricharan and Estevez advanced to the quarterfinals. Harricharan survived a double hill fight against Ocheign, while Estevez was chalking them up, one right after another, on his way to a shutout over Palacios; the last woman standing.



ABCD: L-R: Ambi Estevez (4th), Matt Klein (2nd), Matt Harricharan (3rd), and Troy Deocharran (1st)

Harricharan and Estevez then locked up in a double hill, quarterfinal battle, eventually won by Harricharan. Klein put a stop to Harricharan's loss-side run with an 8-5 win in the semifinals.

The Deocharran/Klein re-match was on in a battle to claim the event title. For the second time, they fought back and forth to double hill; this time, racing just a little further, to 9. Deocharran closed it out to complete his undefeated run through the field.

A Second Chance tournament drew 8 entrants, with Max Watanabe defeating Rich Hourihan 7-4 in the finals.



2nd Chance: Rich Hourihan (2nd) and Max Watanabe (1st)

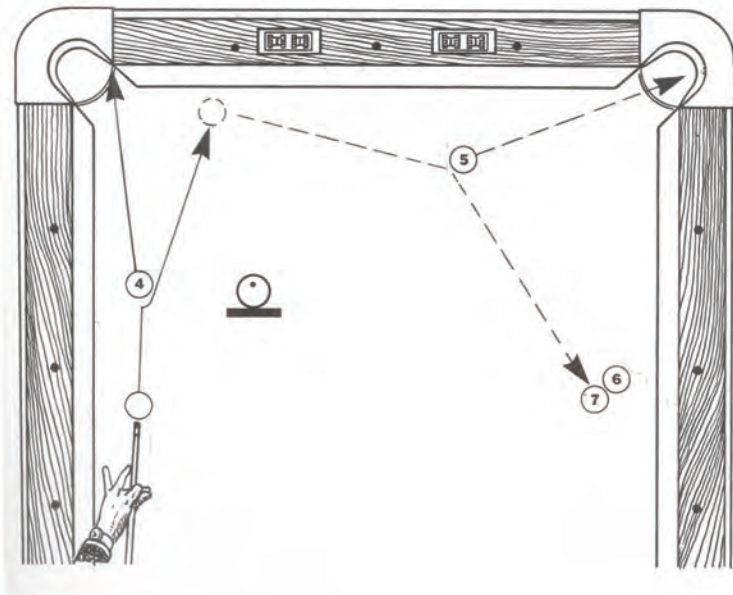
Tour director Tony Robles (and yours truly, the author of this piece) thanked Rhys and Lenore Chen, owners of The Spot and their staff for their hospitality. The next stop on the Predator Pro Am Tour will be the 8th Annual George "Ginky" Sansouci Memorial Tournament, scheduled for this coming Memorial Day weekend (May 26-28). The Predator Tour will share production responsibilities for the "Ginky" Memorial with the Tri-State and Mezz Tours. The event will feature both an Amateur and Pro Tournament, each with \$2,000-added.



# Getting an Angle

by Robert Byrne

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



One of the keys to running balls is getting an angle. Not only must you make the first ball, you must get an angle on the next ball that permits you to get the third one. In other words, you must plan three shots ahead. If there is a cluster that must be broken, the task becomes getting an angle on a ball that can be used as a break ball. In diagram, the 6-7 must be separated.

To do it, follow forward softly on the 4-ball, leaving the cueball in a position to carom onto the cluster while cutting the 5-ball into the corner. A good nine-ball player would spot the possibility at a glance even with five other balls on the table and might make the 1-, 2-, and 3-balls in a way that leaves the diagrammed position.

# Momentum

by Mike Roque

From "Build Your Game" 365 Days of Instruction, Motivation and Insights for Pool Players"

[www.bebobpublishing.com](http://www.bebobpublishing.com) - 1- 888-33-BEBOB



**"Once I get it going, I tend to keep it going... I get fired up and enjoy it."  
Tiger Woods "**

Momentum is like a runaway train, once it picks up speed, it's hard to stop. When it's on your side, it feels fantastic. When the other guy has it, you feel like you're on one of those hand trolley cars, pumping like crazy, but it's no use—that train is gonna run you down.

Momentum often turns at a crucial point in a match. Make this shot and you're on the hill—miss it and your opponent draws to within one with the break.

Bang! He snaps the nine in—now it's hill-hill and he's got the momentum. You're a little bit shell-shocked as you sit there watching him run out to win the match. Nothing left but the handshake.

Momentum can show up unannounced. By chance, you win a game you should have lost. In the next game you make a shot, brush another ball and accidentally break open a cluster that simplifies the whole rack. Boom! It's on your side.

Your best defense against momentum swings is to play smart. Be aware of situations that represent turning points in a match. Carefully weigh the risk and rewards and take the shot that gives you the best chance at success.

**Grab the momentum early.  
Play smart and keep it.**

## ***It's Not Ours - Music Of The Spheres - Sights & Sounds***

by Tom Rossman • [drcue@artisticpool.org](mailto:drcue@artisticpool.org)  
Contributing Writer

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*"This is my Father's world,  
And to my listening ears  
All nature sings, and  
Round me rings...  
The music of the spheres"*



*Credit: "This is My Father's World" is a well-known Christian hymn written by Maltbie Davenport Babcock, a minister from New York. The piece was published after his death in 1901 at age 42.*

**M**usic Of The Spheres or Harmony Of The Spheres (1806), is an ancient philosophical concept that regards proportions in the movements of celestial bodies—the Sun, Moon, and planets—as a form of musica (the Medieval Latin term for music). Further scientific exploration has determined specific proportions in some orbital motion, described as orbital resonance.

The great mathematician Pythagoras proposed that the Sun, Moon and planets all emit their own unique hum based on their orbital revolutions and the tenor of celestial sounds are physically imperceptible to the human ear. Subsequently, Plato described astronomy and music as "twinned" studies of sensual recognition: astronomy for the eyes, music for the ears, and both requiring knowledge of numerical proportions.

There is a unique relationship to billiards with the connection between music, mathematics, and astronomy. We hit a round cue tip into a round cue ball, which hits a round object ball over the round edge of the slate toward the round backing in the pocket. All the while we are residents of a round planet called Earth spinning on its axis at approximately 1000 miles per hour. In addition, the Earth moves in its orbit around the Sun at over 65,000 miles per hour. On top of all that, we remain in the Milky Way Galaxy, which travels at over 500,000 miles per hour through the infinite expanse of creation. We should be flying right into space, except for one vital ingredient – gravity, which holds us “on the Earth” to fulfill our purpose and shoot pool by extending its pull to a dropping ball.

Analytical components of mathematics are evident both in the celestial realm and billiards – speed, axis rotations / movements, etc., plus diamond system calculations for banking, kicking, and position play. An evidence of astronomy relating to billiards exists as well – round planets / round pool balls, with gravity applications to each). And, finally, the Music Of The Spheres in space and billiards co-exist in the bigger picture of things when one listens to pool balls “clicking” against each other relating to “sharps” on a piano keyboard and pool balls hitting cushions, which relates to “flats” on the musical scale. Mozart was known to hit balls on a carom table when he was composing, which often gave him a burst of composition discovery with the “musical clicks” and compressing spheres against the cushions.

I can easily sense the creative genius within the celestial / billiard realms, especially when I think about the foundational tenets in the Music Of The Spheres concept. May you enjoy the amazing “sights and sounds” of our game and experience the “source” behind this “sport gift” in your life’s journey!

**For the latest Event News**  
**[www.professorqball.com](http://www.professorqball.com)**





# China is the World Cup Of Pool Champions!

## The Final

**China 10-3 Austria**

## Semi-Finals

**SF 1 – China A 9-7 Chinese Taipei**

**SF 2 – Austria 9-8 China B**

China is the 2018 World Cup of Pool Champions after they defeated defending champions Austria by 10-3, the biggest winning margin in the events race-to-ten era. The team of Wu Jiaqing and Liu Haitao dominated the Austrian pair of Albin Ouschan and Mario He to the delight of the crowd at the Luwan Arena, Huangpu District in Shanghai.



Wu Jiaqing and Liu Haitao China A are World Cup Of Pool champions!

The winning pair earned \$60,000 between them, two gold medals and the magnificent trophy. It was the third World Cup of Pool victory on home soil following the Philippines in 2009 and England in 2014.

The victory also equals the Philippines record of three World Cup of Pool wins following wins for China in 2007 in Rotterdam and 2010 in Manila. Commented Liu, “I have played Matchroom tournaments before but never had a good run like this. I cannot remember how I played, it is a bit of a haze, but I must thank Wu as well.”

Wu added, “I am really, really happy to win this tournament. I had never played with Liu as a doubles partner so we were working on the chemistry from day one and the first few matches we struggled but in this final it was a really brilliant performance.”

Austria, whose epic semi-final against China B had ended just an hour earlier, took the opener but a lucky safety from the Chinese forced a scratch from Ouschan and the Chinese levelled it. They then grabbed the bull by the horns with two straight break and runs to go into a 3-1 lead. A missed 6 in the next rack from Liu gifted it to Austria but in the next Mario He missed the 2 ball with an open table and that allowed

China to go to 4-2.

China had the initial chance in rack seven but a rare misjudgment from Wu with an over hit positional shot placed his teammate in a snooker. Austria took advantage to go 4-3 and should have drawn level but for a positional error from 8 to 9 in the next. He tried to bank the 9 ball and left it on the rail with the cue ball close.

Wu stepped up to the plate and made a magnificent table-length bank shot to make it 5-3. There was more misery for Austria in the next as Wu fluked a snooker to give them the advantage and leave Austria looking at a 6-3 deficit. That was the Austrian’s last contribution to the match as the Chinese duo broke and ran the next four games to take the title.

After glory in London last year, Austria came so close to being the first team ever to retain the World Cup of Pool title.

Ouschan said, “They played great the whole match. We had seen their semi-final and they played well so we knew they were in good shape and in their comfort zone. We were hoping for a chance, we had one and didn’t use it and that was it.”

The \$250,000 tournament originated in 2006 and has since



I-r above  
 Runner ups - Albin Ouschan, Austria &  
 Mario He, Austria  
 Winners - Wu Jiaqing China & Liu Haitao  
 China B



left, Final 8 line up.  
 1 Kong Dejing China B  
 2 Wang Ming China B  
 3 Albin Ouschan Austria  
 4 Mario He Austria  
 5 Wu Jiaqing China A  
 6 Liu Haitao China A  
 7 Cheng Yu Hsuan Chinese Taipei  
 8 Chang Jung Lin Chinese Taipei

moved around the world before touching down in Shanghai. The World Cup features 32 pairs from across the globe including two from host nation China. Running from 15th to 20th May, the event is on live TV in over 100 countries around the world.

In the afternoon's semi-final matches there was high drama as Wang Ming of China B missed match ball to present the tie to Austria. The match had been a thriller with China B taking it to the Austrians as they reached the hill at 8-5.

The super-calm Austrians played within themselves to claw the racks back and they managed to tie things up at 8-8. A dry break from Mario He gave the Chinese their chance but when Kong Dejing pocketed the 8 ball, he left cue ball tight on the

rail. Wang wasted no time sizing the shot up but missed an absolute sitter to hand a spot in the final to the Europeans.

China A had looked in top form as they disposed of Chinese Taipei in the first semi-final. Wu Jiaqing led the team from the front as they kept one step ahead of the opposition to

2018 World Cup of Pool sponsored by Iwan Simonis who supply the Official Cloth; the Official Balls are Super Aramith by Saluc, and Predator is the Official Cue of the event.



# Casino Del Sol Resort

Hosts

## 3rd Amateur B-Classic USBA 3-Cushion Tournament



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# The USBA Newsletter 3-Cushion Billiard News

www.USBA.net

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## 13th Annual Mike Kelley Memorial

From all around the Midwest, 16 players came to Marshalltown, Iowa, for a chance to play in one of the best tournaments of the year. Top players came from Minnesota, Wisconsin and Kansas, along with some cuemen from around central Iowa. The two flights of 8 games were played to 20 points, with the top three advancing to the final bracket of 6.

Advancing out of the Clubs flight were Craig Powers (7-0), Lupe Cruz (6-1) and Travis Gallup (4-3), leaving behind John Logan, James Richards, Gary Eake, Omar Ramirez and Mickey Campbell.

The Diamonds flight was won by Fred Lamers (7-0), followed by Jose Jimenez (6-1) and Bob Jacobson (5-2). Also in this flight were Matt Lind, Russ Rosenberger, Edgar Perez, Rob Dalton and Alejandro Andreotti.

Lupe Cruz goes undefeated in the finals with a best game of 25 points in 13 innings. 3 people had a 3-2 record with Fred having most points in his losses, then Travis and Craig. Jose gets the 5th prize, edging out Bob in their final game.

Overall high run was an 8 by Lupe and won him \$75. Out of the money high run was 6 from Russ for \$75. This tournament always has random ways to pay more players and this year 8th place prize of \$150 was given to Matt Lind. The person that vacuumed the most tables (most losses) won \$75 and the You Suck Award! Alejandro Andreotti will have his name engraved on the trophy.

Huge Thanks! to all our sponsors, including all the Kelley family, the Hunt family, Kelcey at Ben's Tire, Bob and Ruth at Jake's Game Room, Rod Bailey at The Old Timer Tavern, Mic Jeffries and, of course, the USBA.



l-r, Travis Gallup (3rd), Fred Lamers (2nd), Jose Jimenez (5th), Bob Jacobson (6th & host), Lupe Cruz (1st), Craig Powers (4th)

	Lamers	Powers	Cruz	Jimenez	Jacobson	Gallup	WHEEL LOSS	TOTAL POINTS	TOTAL INNINGS	GRAND AVERAGE	HIGH RUN	BEST GAME	FINAL RANKING	
Mike Kelley Final														
Fred Lamers	28	11	25	21	10	25	3	110	170	0.647	5	0.893	2ND	\$745
Craig Powers	28	11	13	14	10	25	2	99	169	0.586	7	0.833	4TH	\$400
Lupe Cruz	26	25	25	25	25	25	0	125	146	0.856	8	1.923	1ST	\$940
Jose Jimenez	50	21	14	19	20	20	1	99	229	0.432	6	0.521	5TH	\$280
Bob Jacobson	38	10	8	20	21	21	0	69	192	0.359		0.000	6TH	\$185
Travis Gallup	28	25	13	25	25	25	3	104	171	0.608	6	0.893	3RD	\$550
TOURNAMENT AVERAGE:												0.563		



# Professor-Q-Ball Qualifier at SBE Sends 4 To Nationals

Once again 3-Cushion Billiards was prominently featured at the 2018 Allen Hopkins Super Billiards Expo. Held in Oaks, Pennsylvania from April 11th through April 15th. Professor-Q-ball Promotions (Paul Frankel) presented a series of events all centered around 3-Cushion Billiards, culminating in a USBA National Qualifier tournament.

Twelve players entered the event at the SBE with the hope of winning one of four entries to the USBA 3-Cushion National Championship to be held May 28-June 1st at the Casino Del Resort in Tucson, Arizona.

The players were divided into two flights of six to play in round robin format. The top two players from each flight were awarded the free entry into the National Championships. In addition, the third place finishers in each flight received \$100, and each flight awarded the player making the high run, \$50.

Besides the tournament, this year's event once again featured an introduction to the new carom game of 'Five Ball' which attracted many new players to the beautiful Gabriels tables that were brought in for the event.

A Special 3-Cushion Promotion each evening for three nights with National Champion Mazin Shooni. For \$10, play a National Champion in a race to 5 (you break) and if you win, you'll be awarded a new cue and case. If you happen to run 5 points off the beak, you'll get an additional \$50 as well.

Many thanks to Simonis Cloth, Tiger Cues, Gabriel's Table, McDermott Cues, Ultimate Gear, Delta Cue, Bob Jewett, Ivan Lee, George Hart, Jo Jo (Helping Clean Tables and balls), John Stauffer, Al Metzinger, Mazin Shooni, Yura Kyong H. Ra, Charlie Brown, and all the players.



**A Group**  
top, Joe DeAmato and James Richardson won free entry in the USBA Nationals.  
3rd place \$100 -Ken Holstrom  
**B Group**  
bottom, Paul Frankel (Professor-Q-ball) & Christian Portilla won free entry in the USBA Nationals.  
3rd place \$100- Cleiton Rocha

Group A	Keskin	DeAmato	Richards	Campbell	Rocha	Lawrence	HWK LOG	TOTAL POINTS	TOTAL AWARDS	GRAND AVERAGE	BEST RUN	BEST GAME	FINAL RANKING
Keskin	30	21	30	30	28	17	3	126	246	0.512	4	0.714	4
DeAmato	30	30	30	30	30	30	0	150	235	0.638	6	0.811	1
Richards	26	22	30	30	30	30	2	138	274	0.504	6	0.682	2
Campbell	13	21	21	33	23	30	5	87	246	0.354	4	0.000	6
Rocha	30	24	23	30	30	30	2	137	243	0.564	6	0.638	3
Lawrence	30	14	20	30	29	30	3	123	225	0.547	5	1.111	5
TOURNAMENT AVERAGE:												0.518	

Group B	Frankel	Cozza	Hughes	Leitzinger	Holstrom	Portilla	HWK LOG	TOTAL POINTS	TOTAL AWARDS	GRAND AVERAGE	BEST RUN	BEST GAME	FINAL RANKING
Frankel	W	30	30	30	30	24	4	114	219	0.521	4	0.577	2
Cozza	L	30	30	20	11	11	3	91	277	0.329	5	0.750	4
Hughes	13	28	30	24	18	18	4	113	371	0.305	4	0.423	5
Leitzinger	19	24	17	30	20	19	5	77	285	0.270	5	0.000	6
Holstrom	22	30	30	30	30	16	2	128	364	0.352	4	0.395	3
Portilla	30	30	30	30	30	30	0	150	237	0.633	7	0.698	1
TOURNAMENT AVERAGE:												0.384	

# Miguel Torres Wins 2018 USBA Nationals

For the last 11 years, Miguel Torres has thought about that glorious week in 2007 when he won the USBA Three-Cushion National Tournament. He's been trying to get back to the top of the podium ever since. Last year, he came close, finishing second to Pedro Piedrabuena, the nine-time champion. This year, he avenged that second-place finish last year by besting Piedrabuena, 35 to 33 in 22 innings (1.591), thus winning the crown and \$5,000.

Torres did not have an impeccable tournament. He finished 2nd in his preliminary group, losing to Ramses Verlinden, 25-20. In round of 16, he struggled, defeating Jim Bishop 35 to 18 in 38 innings (.921). He improved in the round of 8, topping Thanh Vu, 35 to 28 in 29 innings (1.207). In the semi-finals, he met an old rival, three-time national champion, Hugo Patiño. Both competitors played defensively, and Torres came out of top, 35 to 32 in 26 innings (0.972). When all was done, Torres was set to face Piedrabuena, who had played magnificently, posting a 7-0 record and a 1.587 average in the preliminaries, then playing 1.667, 1.250, and 1.842 to reach the finals. The finalists thrilled the crowd with their level of play, with Torres coming out of top

Despite his loss in the finals, Piedrabuena continues his dominance of the field, having won or finished second for the last dozen years. Hugo Patiño topped The Silver Fox, Frank Torres, 35 to 21 in 29 (1.207) for Third Place. Michael Kang finished fifth. John Park and Thanh Vu, both from Houston, finished 6th and Vu finished 7th, respectively. Ramses Verlinden, the only player to beat Miguel Torres during the week-long event, finished 8th. Tae Kyu Lee, a young player from New York, finished 9th. Neal Olson placed 10th.

Two veterans of USBA regional tournaments, Jim Bishop and Gary Eake, made it to the finals, finishing 13th and 15th, respectively. Former national champion, Mazin Shooni, finished 11th, Ertan Tarhan, an Oregonian, settled for 12th, and Joe DeAmato, from Boston, end up in 16th place.

The USBA would like to thank the Casino del Sol for its hospitality and for its financial support, including a generous contribution to the prize fund. David Levine, a longtime support of billiards, continued his largesse with a contribution to the prize fund. There are many who worked behind the scenes to make the tournament a success. Just to name a few, Dale Saunders, the tournament director, worked long, hard days scheduling, completing charts and running a tight ship. Cliff (Mechanic) and JoJo kept the Gabriels tables in top

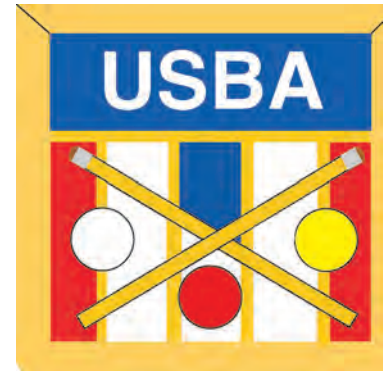


shape, vacuuming the cloth and cleaning the balls. Mickey Campbell and Professor-Q-Ball for taking photos. Daniel and Geraldine from POVPOOL live streamed the tournament and added commentary.

Many players and their significant others stepped up and pitched in to help with many aspects of the tournament. And, of course, the USBA thanks Mazin Shooni (Pres.) for organizing the event and pulling it all together. And let's not forget our sponsors, Gabriels, McDermott Cue, George Hart, Simonis, Professor-Q-Ball.

Round of 16						
MATCH	NAME	PTS	INN	AVG	HR	W/L
#01	PEDRO PIEDRABUENA	35	21	1.667	10	W
	JOE DeAMATO	5	21	0.238	1	L
MATCH NAME						
	NAME	PTS	INN	AVG	HR	W/L
#02	JOHN PARK	35	39	0.897	6	W
	MAZIN SHOONI	29	39	0.744	6	L
MATCH NAME						
	NAME	PTS	INN	AVG	HR	W/L
#03	FRANK TORRES	35	37	0.946	8	W
	VU NGUYEN	18	37	0.486	4	L
MATCH NAME						
	NAME	PTS	INN	AVG	HR	W/L
#04	NEAL OLSON	30	51	0.588	1	L
	RAMSES VERLINDEN	35	52	0.673	5	W
MATCH NAME						
	NAME	PTS	INN	AVG	HR	W/L
#05	MICHAEL KANG	35	49	0.714	4	W
	GARY EAKE	11	48	0.229	3	L
MATCH NAME						
	NAME	PTS	INN	AVG	HR	W/L
#06	TAE KYU LEE	34	35	0.971	5	L
	HUGO PATINO	35	35	1.000	5	W
MATCH NAME						
	NAME	PTS	INN	AVG	HR	W/L
#07	MIGUEL TORRES	35	38	0.921	5	W
	JIM BISHOP	18	37	0.486	3	L
MATCH NAME						
	NAME	PTS	INN	AVG	HR	W/L
#08	ERTAN TARHAN	20	37	0.541	1	L
	THANH VU	35	37	0.946	7	W





I-r, Frank Torres 4th, Hugo Patino 3rd, Miguel Torres Winner, Pedro Piedrabuena 2nd

### Quarterfinals

MATCH	NAME	PTS	INN	AVG	HR	W/L
#09	PEDRO PIEDRABUENA	35	28	1.250	1	W
	JOHN PARK	33	28	1.179	1	L

MATCH	NAME	PTS	INN	AVG	HR	W/L
#10	FRANK TORRES	35	36	0.972	5	W
	RAMSES VERLINDEN	15	36	0.417	3	L

MATCH	NAME	PTS	INN	AVG	HR	W/L
#11	MICHAEL KANG	28	23	1.217	8	L
	HUGO PATINO	35	24	1.458	5	W

MATCH	NAME	PTS	INN	AVG	HR	W/L
#12	MIGUEL TORRES	35	29	1.207	7	W
	THANH VU	28	29	0.966	5	L

### Semifinals

MATCH	NAME	PTS	INN	AVG	HR	W/L
#13	PEDRO PIEDRABUENA	35	19	1.842	9	W
	FRANK TORRES	11	19	0.579	1	L

MATCH	NAME	PTS	INN	AVG	HR	W/L
#14	HUGO PATINO	32	35	0.914	4	L
	MIGUEL TORRES	35	36	0.972	7	W

### 3rd & 4th Place

MATCH	NAME	PTS	INN	AVG	HR	W/L
#15	FRANK TORRES	21	29	0.724	5	L
	HUGO PATINO	35	29	1.207	5	W

### Final

MATCH	NAME	PTS	INN	AVG	HR	W/L
#16	PEDRO PIEDRABUENA	33	22	1.500	4	L
	MIGUEL TORRES	35	22	1.591	4	W

### Final Ranking

FINAL RANK	NAME	TOTAL POINTS	TOTAL INNINGS	GRAND AVERAGE	HIGH RUN	BEST GAME
1	MIGUEL TORRES	305	294	1.037	9	2.083
2	PEDRO PIEDRABUENA	305	194	1.572	11	2.273
3	HUGO PATINO	336	333	1.009	10	2.083
4	FRANK TORRES	273	293	0.932	8	1.471
5	MICHAEL KANG	328	400	0.820	7	1.042
6	JOHN PARK	264	250	1.056	6	2.273
7	THANH VU	294	276	1.065	7	1.316
8	RAMSES VERLINDEN	281	454	0.619	8	1.000
9	TAE KYU LEE	194	247	0.785	9	1.786
10	NEAL OLSON	204	317	0.644	7	1.000
11	MAZIN SHOONI	195	200	0.975	7	1.389
12	ERTAN TARHAN	193	241	0.801	6	1.000
13	JIM BISHOP	197	240	0.821	6	1.250
14	VU NGUYEN	176	276	0.638	5	0.806
15	GARY EAKE	185	373	0.496	5	0.595
16	JOE DeAMATO	163	271	0.601	4	0.833
17	GILBERT NAJM	154	172	0.895	6	1.667
18	SONNY CHO	175	156	1.122	4	1.786
19	JAMES RICHARDS	167	314	0.532	4	0.962
20	TONY FERRARA	166	270	0.615	4	0.862
21	JESUS QUINONEZ	163	269	0.606	5	0.781
22	CAMILO MEDINA	140	219	0.639	5	1.136
23	ALLEN CASTILLO	133	206	0.646	5	1.087
24	BALDOMERO TEJEDA	152	294	0.517	5	0.893
25	KHALIL DIAB	150	257	0.584	5	1.042
26	ERGUN TUNA	159	307	0.518	6	0.735
27	CARLOS BAZO	155	271	0.572	6	0.806
28	CESAR CARDOZA	134	257	0.521	6	0.862
29	JIM HENRICKSON	149	247	0.603	6	1.471
30	ANDRES FERNANDEZ	109	217	0.502	6	0.610
31	EDUARDO CERVANTS	145	339	0.428	7	0.676
32	PAUL FELTMAN JR..	144	309	0.466	7	0.694
33	BERKAY KESKIN	116	231	0.502	7	0.543
34	PAUL FELTMAN SR.	114	231	0.494	7	0.806
35	MARK SULLIVAN	128	227	0.564	7	1.087
36	PAUL FRANKEL	150	353	0.425	8	0.568
37	HECTOR OCAMPO	118	317	0.372	8	0.641
38	AHMET OZAN	112	268	0.418	8	0.455
39	GEORGE ANDRAOS	97	236	0.411	8	N/W
40	DAVE EHLERS	88	253	0.348	8	N/W
41	BOB FERRARA	137	331	0.414	9	0.556
42	MICKY CAMPBELL	88	257	0.342	9	0.595
43	FRANK GIORDANO	59	263	0.224	9	N/W



## USBA Honors Professor-Q-Ball

At the USBA Three-Cushion National Championship tournament held at the Casino del Sol Resort in Tucson, Arizona, the United States Billiard Association honored Paul Frankel, better known to the billiards world as Professor-Q-Ball, for his contribution to three-cushion billiards. More than anyone during the last fifteen years, Paul has been responsible for the resurgence of three-cushion billiards in America.

Mazin Shooni, the USBA President, presented Paul with a hand-engraved plaque in a surprise ceremony during the annual USBA banquet. The inscription on the plaque read: "To Paul Frankel (Professor-Q-Ball), Thank you for your support of and dedication to Three-Cushion Billiards, the greatest table game on earth." The players and their guests at the banquet greeted Paul with a thunderous round of applause, showing their appreciation for his efforts.

Originally from New York, but now living in Tennessee, Paul has been instrumental in the promotion of the carom game during the last two decades. In addition to being the publisher of Professor-Q-Ball's National Pool & 3-Cushion News in both print and digital form (<https://professorqball.com>), Paul has also organized various billiard tournaments, exhibitions and events, including the Champion of Champions tournaments and several USBA Qualifiers. He is a constant presence at the Super Billiard Expo and other billiard tradeshow, hawking his paper and introducing pool players to the pocket-less game. As a representative of



Gabriels tables, Paul has sold dozens of tables to individuals and room owners throughout the United States.

We thank you Paul and hope you keep the ball rolling!

### President's Desk

The work of the USBA is never done. The national championship ended a few days ago, and the USBA Board is back organizing its next event. But, more about that great event after I pay respect to our new national champion and say a few words about a dear friend.

Miguel Torres bested the field of 43 at the 2018 nationals, winning his second title. It was a gutsy performance by Miguel, who struggled slightly in the earlier rounds, but saved his best for last, posting a 1.591 average in the final game to defeat returning champion, Pedro Piedrabuena, 35 to 33. Congratulations to Miguel and to all the other players.

A special thanks goes out to Paul Frankel, known affec-

tionately as Professor-Q-Ball. The USBA honored Paul in a surprise ceremony during the annual banquet. Paul works 24/7 on billiards, and we owe him a great gratitude. I am happy to have worked with him over the years prompting billiards around the country. We need more like him.

Off in the horizon is the Three-Cushion Amateur Classic, set to occur next January. The tournament crowns the "B" National champion and is open to all players with an average below .850. The tournament will run from January 7th to 12th. We'll be back at the Casino del Sol, completing our three-year agreement. We expect a full field again, so please check the USBA website for information on registration. Best in billiards.



## Jerry McWorter Wins

### Cuemakers International 9-Ball Championship

Some of the finest cuemakers from all over the country met in Oaks, Pennsylvania at the Super Billiards Expo for the 2018 Cuemakers International 9-Ball Championship. The player's field was filled with cuemakers from both the American Cuemakers Association and the International Cuemakers Association as well as some independent cuemakers. The tournament was played in a race to seven single elimination format. The top half of the bracket saw Jerry McWorter shoot his way through a tough field beating John Rocker in the semi-finals. His opponent in the finals was two-time champion Chris Hightower. Chris reached the finals with a win over Chris Nitti in the semi-finals. When it was all over Jerry McWorter took home the title of the International 9-Ball Champion of Cuemakers for 2018.

The event was the sixth annual Cuemakers International 9-Ball Championship and was held as a charity benefit for the Galilean Children's Home in Liberty, Kentucky. The Galilean Children's Home has helped countless children and special

needs adults for a few decades now. All entry fees and cash donations went directly to help the Children's Home. Some cuemakers paid much more than the \$50 entry fee donation and others who were unable to play came by and donated just to help the Children. The cuemakers tournament raised over \$1300 for the Children's Home this year.

Next years event will also be held during the Super Billiards Expo. A special word of appreciation needs to be given to all the event sponsors: The International Cuemakers Association, Mad Man Handcrafted Tips, Ultra Skin Tips and Cue Man Billiard Products. And thanks most of all to the cuemakers for their generous donations and participation. Our cuemaking industry indeed has some generous quality individuals representing it.

*If interested in sponsoring, donating to or playing in the 2019 event contact Chris Hightower at [cueman@cuesmith.com](mailto:cueman@cuesmith.com) for more information.*



Jerry McWorter and Chris Hightower