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BILLIARD NEWS

DEDICATED TO BUILDING BETTER SPORTSMANSHIP

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'Big D' Wins As Contestants Outplay Billing.....

WEST'S PERFECT RUN ENDS PHOBIA

By BILL VINT

It was a regional event . . . . supposedly a minor league competition. The jackpot was modest – $1,-000 for the winner.

A pool player considered as good as any, "Big D," Dallas West, won the fourth Midwest Open Pocket Billiards Tournament – his tournament.

The field was solid but not overburdened with stars. A few of the big names played–Handsome Danny Jones, Steve Mizerak, Tom Kollins, Virgil Pope, Frank Tulios. More were coming but cancelled at the last minute.

The contestants outplayed the billing. They shot better pool than the world's finest shot in the Johnston City Hustlers' All-World. The Midwest Open players had higher runs, higher averages, more exciting matches.

Dallas West played Babe Thompson of Kenosha, Wis., in his first game. Thompson broke. West made 125 balls without a miss. It's impossible to do better.

"That's the first one of those," West said. "I think there will be more.

'It was a psychological block. I used to have a phobia about running 100. After I got the first one, it was easier."

West ran through the tournament without a scratch. He beat Mizerak, the cocky youngster

(Cont'd on Page 9 - Column 1)

Challenge Match Cancelled In N.Y.

NEW YORK CITY, N. Y. - - This late word just in from Stanley Markusen, Executive Director of the Billiard Room Proprietor's Association of America (BRPAA), has announced that the up-coming World's Challenge

(Cont'd on Page 10 - Column 5)

DALLAS WEST
. . . .Readying for Careful Shot

'Danny Boy' Takes Long Sidetrip To Play

By BILL VINT

Handsome Danny Jones took a 1,200-mile sidetrip to Rockford to play pool.

It was kind of expensive because Jones was knocked out of the money in two games Friday.

Jones came to Rockford to play straight pool in the Midwest Open Billiard Tournament at Cue 'N Rail Lounge, below State and Madison Recreation.

Jones doesn't get a big kick out of playing straight pool.

"I don't play the game," the 37-year-old Texan drawled. "We don't play it back home. I play nine-ball and one-pocket."

He drove 1,200 miles from Houston, however, to try for the $1,000 top prize in the Rockford Tournament because, "I enjoy playing. I just won that other one and there was nothin' goin' on."

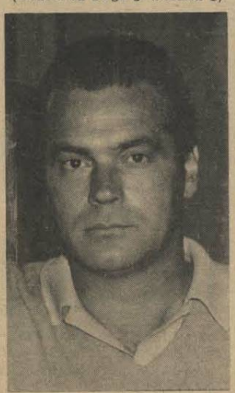
That "other one" was the overall title in the Johnston City Hustlers' World All-Around Billiards Tournament, one of the most respective crowns in the realm of professional pool playing.

"I didn't do any good in straight pool in that one either," Handsome Danny said. "I was eighth or sumpthin'. I won the nine-ball division and was second in one-pocket...won the overall over Boston Shorty (Larry Johnson) and Al Coslosky."

Friday he lost to Tom Kollins of Detroit, 125-109, and to Rodney (Babe) Thompson of Kenosha, Wis., 125-39. Two losses knocked him out of the tournament.

Jones' real game is snooker. "In 1961 and 1962, I won the world snooker tournament," he said, "but they didn't have it any

(Cont'd on Page 5 - Column 1)



JONES

96 Entries Makes 'Hustler' Tourney Very Successful

JOHNSTON CITY, Ill.-- With the co-operation of the Show Bar, all their personnel, the players, the newspapers, the B.P.A. officials, and most of the billiard world, this tournament was once again a complete and absolute success in every way, and a credit to the billiard world.

The public interest, both local and throughout the country, the coverage by newspapers, wire services and radio was excellent. The game of Pocket-Billiards is receiving and enjoying tremendous publicity throughout the country from this event.

The tournament attracted many dignitaries of the billiard world from all over the country, as well as representatives from most of the leading billiard manufacturing companies. Everyone who visited the Tournament whole-heartedly endorsed the event and the facilities as the finest ever held.

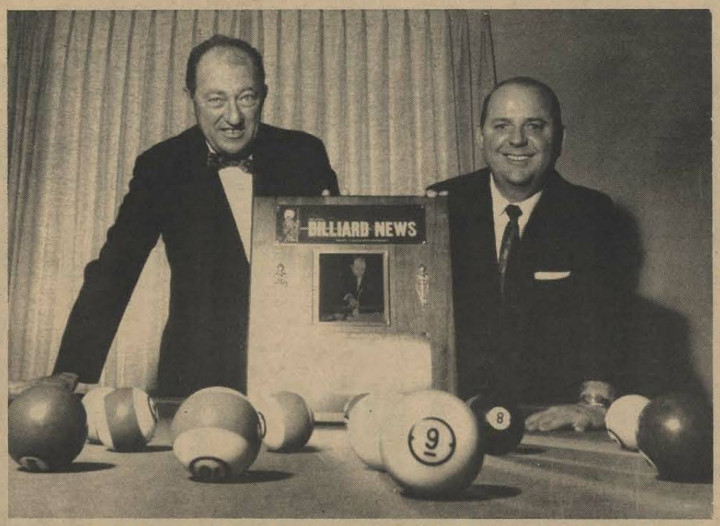
The home of the $20,000.00 World Championship is the Cue Club Billiard Academy of the fabulous Show Bar, with Gandy's "Big G" tables, giant perfectly designed scoreboards, and a seating capacity for four hundred people, with perfect vision for everyone in the arena.

SPONSORS & PROMOTERS
George and Joe Jansco

LOCATION PLACE
Cue Club Billiard Academy, Show Bar, Johnston City, Illinois
DATE
Oct. 18th Thru Nov. 10th, 1968
PRIZE MONEY
$20,000.00 Cash, plus Individual & Championship Trophies
SANCTIONED
Billiard Players Association Of America (B.P.A.)
TOTAL ATTENDANCE
5,606 (paid and complimentary)
ENTRIES
96 (ninety-six) representing 27 different states, including most of the leading pocket-billiard players in the country, plus numerous future young stars.

(Continued on Page Eight-Column Three)

People In The News



Mr. Lewis "Lefty" Goff (right), popular player-manager of the Dale Mabry Billiard Lounge, in Tampa, is pictured receiving this beautiful plaque from William A. Watson, proprietor of the new lounge and President of his Watson Architect & Engineering Co. Goff received Achievement Award plaque after being selected by the National Billiard News as the man doing the most to better the billiards game. The Goff selection was made last August, as will each year's recipient, by Mr. Earl Newby, Editor and Publisher of the NBN (This marked the first year the NBN made a selection of an outstanding person in the game of billiards).

Coslosky Slated For Bethlehem Exhibition

Philadelphia Pool Star To Make One Appearance Only

BETHLEHEM, PA. - Veteran pool sharpshooter, Al Coslosky of Philadelphia, will play an exhibition on Friday, December 27th at the Golden "Q", seven East 4th Street.

According to John Kraczar, the popular player-proprietor of this fine billiard lounge, explained that Coslosky, who recently made headlines while competing in the famed "Hustler" Tournament in Johnston City, will play at 8:00 P.M. only. Additional information may be obtained by contacting Kraczar at the Golden "Q" Billiard lounge in Bethlehem.

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Editor's Notebook

by EARL NEWBY

We would like to wish each and every one who subscribes to and advertises in THE NATIONAL BILLIARD NEWS a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year, and all the fine people in the sport of Billiards throughout the United States and around the world. This was what we call an "In and Out" year for the sport of billiards. Some fine Family Pocket Billiard Centers opened, also some closed, and others were sold.

The staff of the National Billiard News was deeply saddened when we received a letter, postmarked December 3rd, 1968, from Leo Galli, West Pittston, Pa., telling of the death of our friend and revered writer, Nicholas Mauriello. As the clipping states, he was an expert billiard shooter and fine sportsman. When they were fifteen years old, Al Coslosky tells us, he and Nick Mauriello used to travel all through the anthracite coal region cities and towns and play exhibitions. Coslosky stated that Nick was always a great show man from his early years to the time he passed away. We had the greatest respect for Nicholas Mauriello, and we miss him. We would like to quote Leo Galli: "Sorry to have to report news of this nature. A man who talked and lived pool all his life. No man in the world loved this game more than Nick Mauriello, who died Friday evening at 6:15, November 29, 1968." We offer our deepest sympathy to the Mauriello family.

We received a card from Jimmy Caras from Tulsa, Oklahoma. He was glad to hear that Al Coslosky won the straight pool division in Jansco's World's All Round Pocket Billiard Tournament at Johnston City, Illinois.

One of the new young players who made a great hit at Jansco's was Robert Madrid, of El Paso, Texas.

Prize winners in the Celebrity Pool Tournament, held on Sunday, November 24, sponsored by Watts Writers Workshop and Theater and Branches, were:

First Prize: Jack Lemmon and his partner Walter Mathau
Second Prize: "Golden Boy" Art Aragon and partner Hal March

The Consolation Prize went to Tom Cosmo, who have an exhibition of comedy trick shots. We expect to have more on this Tournament for the January issue.

We received word from our friend, Cliff Thayer, that he has just opened up a Billiard Room in Seattle, Washington. His manager is Mike Sentz. Cliff has also formed State Billiard Proprietors Association, of which he is the president. Keep up the good work, Cliff.

The Billiard News sends deepest sympathy to the family of Herbert L. Fritz, for whom funeral mass and services were held on October 14th at Mt. St. Mary's, Long Island. Mr. Fritz was with The Henry W. T. Mali & Co. of New York, and served as a director of the Billiard Congress of America from 1965 to 1968. He was also a member of the Board of Directors of the BBIA from 1965 to 1968.

BBIA President L. N. Miles represented his association at the annual fall meeting of the BCA in Chicago on November 25th. Mr. Miles recommended several courses of action to the BCA, including a continuation of BCA support to the Intercollegiate Billiard Program and the Boys' Clubs of America billiard program, turning the annual U. S. Open Tournament over to a private promoter to operate, and other actions to strengthen the position of the BCA as the official ruling body of billiards. Also, President Miles made a number of recommendations concerning the Billiard Room Proprietors Association, now affiliated with the BCA.

* * * * *

One of the high lights at the $20,000 World's All-Round Pocket Billiard Championship tournament was the way California's Ronnie Allen finished in the 14-1 Straight Pool division. Dallas West was ahead, 116 to Allen's 9 points, when Ronnie ran out in two innings. Next he played Fujima, and won easily. The same thing applied to Relihan as Allen had two high runs to get the game over real fast. Now Ronnie had to play Al Coslosky, and the odds-makers had Allen at even money to win the Straight Pool division. In order to win, he had to take two straight games. However, as fate would have it, Allen lost to Coslosky, 150 to 55.

* * * * *

Late word just in from Miami, Fla., the greatest fun and games state in the union, advises us that Mr. Bernie Schwartz, the popular proprietor of Pittsburgh's fine Hawk's Nest Billiard Club, has beaten cue star Harry Cohen in a match of nine-ball. According to our good friend 'Bunny' Rogoff, this is the first time in years that Cohen has lost a nine-ball decision. Schwartz, who on

(Continued on Page 11 - Column 4)

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Bermuda Billiard Boom Could Mean Caribbean Championship

By JOE MARCUS

HAMILTON, BERMUDA- The sun almost always shines here in Bermuda, with the honeymooners and other tourists enjoying a swim either on one of the scores of pink-sanded beaches or in one of the gracious pools of the multimillion dollar hotels.

MARCUS

The natives of Bermuda are indeed sportsminded and they give wholehearted support to their teams.

That in essence is one of the main reasons why the billiard academies which have been springing up here are starting to set up new records for the amount of time played.

It seems that these proprietors are going to make an all out effort to hold a Caribbean Championship sometime next year with competition equally divided into straight pool and three-cushion play.

The winners of these two tournaments will get a full paid entry into the World Championships in both straight pool and three-cushion play and a rousing sendoff by their native countrymen.

World-wide attention in tournament play has reached Bermuda and the natives can name off the top players in each of the various phases with such rapid fire that you would think Lou (Machine Gun) Butera was naming an all-star cast while he was firing away at the pockets on the more than 200 tables that are in constant use in such towns as Hamilton, Somerset and Pagent.

While this writer was in Bermuda earlier in the year he had a chance to walk into one of the many lounges which although they lack the splendor of today's modern day emporiums in the States don't lack the enthusiasm as far as the players are concerned.

There's a cab driver in Bermuda by the name of Ernie who was a member of the Bermuda National Cricket Team.

"I'll tell you one thing about billiards," he said as he hustled his pink cab through the outskirts of Bermuda being careful to avoid the hundreds of tourists who use their motorbikes to get around.

"The sport has definitely caught on in the past year and I think that when the championship is held you're going to see an even greater outpouring of players. It just takes some one to show the people what the sport is about and it provides enough diversion to take away some of the interest from the outdoor sports. I know that when I was on tour with the cricket team I got my first look at snooker and I fell in love with the sport.

"Now almost all the hotels have installed straight pool tables and the tourists drive towards them has inspired some of the natives to try the sport.

"We are not fooling ourselves in believing that the winner of the Caribbean tournament which will probably include representatives of such nations and islands as Jamaica, Bahamas and the Virgin Islands will win the first world tournament he enters but I'll bet that we would disgrace ourselves.

"The people here love all types of sports and sometimes they are a little too overanxious to do well so they get careless but time will change this.

"I know that I intend to enter the tournament and although I don't know if I'll win I do know that I won't give up if I loose. After all isn't the aim of all sports including billiards to try and improve to the point where you feel that you have done the best that you are able to do.

"There are many fine players on the island including many Europeans and Canadians who are either working here or have moved here and they must rate the role of favorites when the first tournament is held. However, I'm sure that with all the practice that some of our younger players have been getting they are also going to make a strong bid to win a spot in the World's Championship."

Ernie the Cabbie just might be the one to wear the colors of the Caribbean in the next World's Championship and in the opinion of this writer the whole island of Bermuda would well be represented.

Manufactures & Suppliers! Why Stand Alone? Join BBIA

WHAT IS THE BBIA? Chartered in Chicago in 1940, the Billiard and Bowling Institute of America is made up of leading, independent manufacturers and distributors of billiard and bowling equipment in all sections of the United States and Canada. BBIA members are joined together in voluntary trade organization to promote the growth of bowling and billiards throughout the country. All specialized BBIA services and activities are aimed at promoting these two important sports, and at helping members sell more billiard and bowling products at a profit.

The BBIA is a proven association of progressive and independent manufacturers and distributors organized to promote, foster and advance the common business interests of the members, to increase the use of their products, to improve industry conditions, to collect and disseminate pertinent data relating to the industry, and to stimulate participation in billiards and bowling.

THE BBIA PROMOTES BOWLING

Since 1943, the BBIA has contributed substantial financial support to the vital industry-wide promotional activities of the National Bowling Council. A member of the BBIA Board of Directors serves as an active member of the governing body of the National Bowling Council, and the BBIA Executive Secretary serves as an advisory member. Voluntary contributions from BBIA members make possible the BBIA's financial support of the National Bowling Council.

THE BBIA PROMOTES BILLIARDS

Members of the BBIA have participated actively in the founding and growth of the important promotional work of the Billiard Congress of America. Individual members and the BBIA itself through its Billiard Promotion Fund contributes one-half of the operational budget to finance the Annual Boys' Clubs of America Billiard Tournament and the Annual Intercollegiate Billiard Tournament. In addition, the Billiard Congress of America publishes official rule books on billiards, sanctions billiard tournaments, and prints a special in-

(Cont'd on Page 12 - Column 1)

Breit Wins Exhibition

Pictured after completing final match, in recent exhibition, are John L. Edwards (left), and Jack (Jersey Red) Breit. In center is young Tony Gresham, who acted as official referee. Action took place at Bowling Green.

November 28, 1968

Dear Mr. Newby:

I was talking to you over at Johnston City the other day and I told you that Jack Breit and I were putting on an exhibition so you said for me to write and give the details.

We were playing a hundred game series of nine ball for three days. It was a challenge match. The first night was the first one to reach thirty, the second night the first to reach sixty, and the third night the first one to reach a hundred.

There was an exhibition before each night's match of trick shots by Jack. The first night Jack led 30-27. The second night Jack led 60-48, and the third night he beat me 100-75.

It was a very good turn out as far as the crowd was concerned. We had about 100 each night. It was held November 18, 19 and 20.

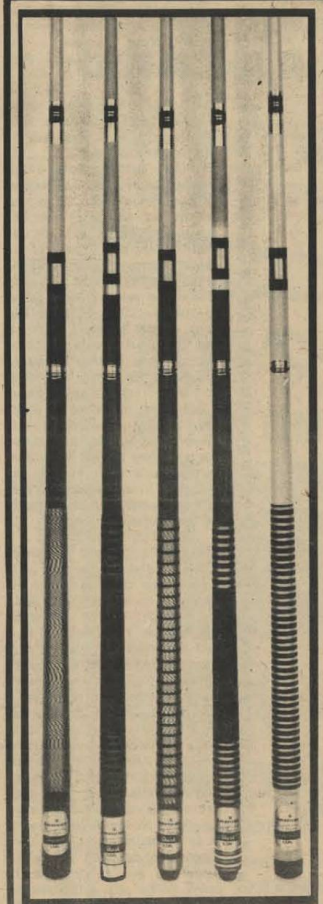
I will give you a rundown on my pool room. I have owned it since 1952, and Bowling Green is between Louisville, Ky., and Nashville, Tenn. It is a very good pool town. I have had most all of the top pool players come to my place at one time or another. I have not refused to play any of them 9 ball.

Last year I challenged Danny Jones to an 80 game series and he beat me 80-79, a close one. I will name several of the pool players who have been in my place: Danny Jones, Jack Breit, Eddie Taylor, Squirrel, Jimmy Moore, Bill Lawson, Don Watson, Cornbread Red, Detroit Whitey, Alton (Baby Face) Whitlow, Omaha Fats, Lefty Goff, Puckett, Steve Mizerak, Steve Cook, Joey Spaetz, Jack Perkins, Clem, Jim, Rolehan, and several more that I can't remember. I have challenged all of them at Johnston City to come to Bowling Green and play me (9 Ball) but they don't come. I will play any of them nine ball on my 4 x 8 table.

I have 12 tables and a very fine lunch counter. I have the very finest people in town as my customers--lawyers, judges, Court House, Jail, City Hall, banks and all department store personnel.

I am sending a snap shot of myself, Tony Gresham (referee) of Bowling Green, Ky., and Jack Breit, and I would appreciate it if you would return it to me. Thanks.

John L. Edwards
410 E. Tenth Street
Bowling Green, Ky. 42101



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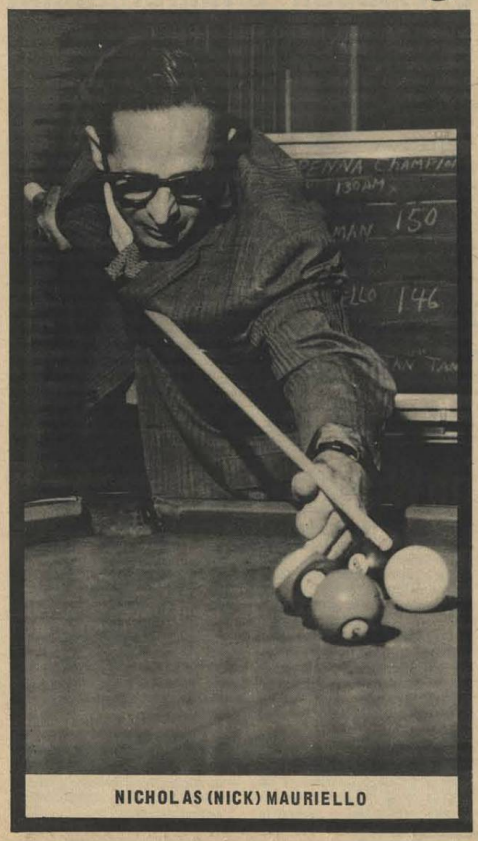
Nick 'Human Adding Machine' Mauriello Passes Away



NICHOLAS (NICK) MAURIELLO

EXETER, PA. – The world of billiards has lost one of it's most talented shooters, as Nick Mauriello, a former resident of Exeter, passed away on Friday evening, the 29th of November, at 6:15 P.M.

Mauriello, long a pool buff, was a man who litterly talked the game of pool most of his entire life. No man the world over, loved the game of billiards more than Nicholas Mauriello.

When death came, Mauriello, who was 53 years old, was still in the General Hospital, where he had been a patient for the past three and one-half months. Nick resided at 5 Academy St.

He was widely known as an expert billiard shooter, and was an entertainer known as the "Human Adding Machine." He had appeared in many hotel, television and night club engagements, including the Jack Parr Show. He performed at a testimonial dinner for Yogi Berra in New York City.

Born in Pittston, he was a member of St. Anthony's Church, Exeter, and a charter member of the Exeter Hose Company. A brother, Patrick, died in 1961.

Surviving are his step father, Antonio Mauriello, Exeter; brother, John, Wyoming, and sisters, Mrs. Hoseph Carrozza, Vineland, N.J., and Mrs. Anastasia Zibuck, Exeter.

Funeral services were held at the Gubbiotti Funeral Home, 1030 Wyoming Avenue, Exeter, with a Requiem Mass at St. Anthony's Church. Interment was in Mount Olivet Cemetery, Carverton.

(We would like to send out a special "Thank You" to one Leo Galli for passing this bit of information along to our Billiard News business office.)

GALLI

'Pool Portraits' Make Billiards Great Game

POOL PARLOR PORTRAITS

There must be hundreds of various types of characters in the billiard rooms scattered throughout the nation. Each one is different from the rest, but all are bound together in a common cause – their love for billiards. For identification's sake, let's classify them under the following names and see how many you recognize in your own room.

THE OUTSIDE MOVEMENT MAN

This guy considers himself a top player and when he is stroking and executing right, all is cream and peaches, but just let him miss a shot and he comes up with these remarks. . . "Did you see that? Just as I shot, someone walked behind me. It threw me off.". . . (Off is right. The someone who walked behind was the local tennis star who was wearing sneakers, and he was six tables away.). . . This character never misses a ball because he dropped his shoulder or pushed the shot. . .The real reason for his miss was because the sweater sitting six chairs down and in back of the griper blinked his eyes at the exact moment of the shot. It's always the same. "Some talked to loud. . .Did you hear that horn outside blow?. . .Turn off the radio. It breaks my concentration. . .You're breathing to loud. . .He flicked a butt just as I shot. It was a Camel, I know. I saw it out of the corner of my eye. . .The one trouble with these guys is that they never seem to know that all this movement occurs when they win the same as when they lose. Truth of the matter is they have to have an excuse for losing.

THE EQUIPMENT MAN

Here is a guy who walks into a room, grabs a cue and rolls it over the table to see if it's straight. He steps to the table and rubs his hand to see which way the nap runs. He picks up a ball and flicks a mite of dust from it. He checks the spot to be certain it is in line with the diamonds. Next he picks up a file and dresses the tip. Powder is a must, and he uses it in large portions – most of it on the table. He calls for a cue ball and holds a rack atop it and two playing balls to be sure they are all the same size. He rubs his hand on the cloth to see if it is stretched tight, and then shoots the cue ball the table length to see if the table is level. . .His next action seldom changes with this guy. He places the cue ball 18 inches from the rail at the head of the table, bridges off the rail and then jams his cue under the ball, sending it jumping off the table. . .When he finally gets into action, the truth comes to light. . .This guy has been watching too many movies, because he can't run two balls. Know anyone who fits this player?

THE OLDTIMER

There's always one of these in any room. He's the player in his late sixties who at one time was "the best player in these here parts." This character is a whiz at analyzing each and every shot of the local players. He can tell you why you missed one shot and made another. He can inform you what shot you should have played, and what your next shot should have been. He knows every angle of the game and is quick to tell you he'd "show you how to play, but my eyes just ain't what they used to be. You just wait 'til you get to be 60. You'll find out!"...This story seldom varies since he's been saying the same thing for the past 20 years, and it's an even money bet he never could play the game. I know there's one of these guys in your room. .

THE ANGLES MAN

Here's a guy who sits up nights thinking of ways to beat his opponents. . .He believes he's a sharp cookie, and if he is outclassed by a player, the way to beat him is to shoot all the angles he knows. . .If he can't win on one table, he takes the game to another. . .If this fails, he changes cue balls. . .If he still is beaten, he wants to go to another room. . .Or he wants to change the game. . .The biggest kick he ever got was once in a game of eight-ball, when he had no possible shot except the Black Beauty hanging in the pocket, he bet his opponent that he'd come out of it and not give him another shot. . .After getting a bet down, he then shot in the eight ball thereby not giving his opponent another turn. . .If he can't win on the square, he starts "sharking" his man. . .He'll take out his handkerchief and mop his brow while his opponent is shooting. . .He bangs his cue on the floor. . .He tries to claim unscored points. . .Anything to win . . .Often he comes up with "trick games.". . .Sportsmanship means little to him. . .He claims he never takes a bad hit,

(Cont'd on Page 11 - Column 1)

HOLIDAY GREETINGS
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After Two Most Successful Years, 'Babe' Has Arrived

KENOSHA, WIS. -- One of the more promising young pool stars to receive national attention during the past year is 27 year old Rodney "Babe" Thompson, who recently was the victim enabling Dallas West to tie a world's record.

It seems that while competing in the Midwest Pocket Billiard tourney at the Cue 'N Rail in Rockford, Ill., "Babe" broke to open the game, then West literally went rammy and ran 125 and out in just thirty minutes. Thompson never had a chance to raise his cue after breaking. (See related story on page nine.)

In 1967, Thompson won three consecutive tournaments in his regional mid-west area. The first was the '67 Midwest 14-1 Championships, held at Bensingers in Chicago, Ill. Next he captured the 3rd Annual 14-1 Tournament at "The Cue" in Madison, Wis. In this event, "Babe" defeated Dallas West in the final match.

The third '67 victory came at again the expense of Dallas West, as young Thompson edged West again in the final match to capture top honors in the Kenosha Billiards Fall Open. All three of these tourneys hosted the top cue stars from in and around the greater Chicago, Milwaukee and Rockford areas.

With the year 1968 nearly over, Thompson can be very proud of his accomplishments to date. Having won the Michigan State Tourney in Lansing, where he had a high run of 84 and out in his final game to clinch victory.

The "Babe" then went on to capture the Midwest Regional Tournament in Bloominton, Minn. which also netted him a berth in the qualifying rounds of next April's BRPAA World's tourney. Thompson also placed second in the Motor City Classic last April, and while competing in last years BRPAA action, "Babe" collected himself a 2-2 record.

What will 1969 hold for Rodney "Babe" Thompson? That's most certainly a good question. One not to be answered so easily, but one that can surely be answered as only time marches on. One thing for sure, the "Babe" will be letting you hear from him from time to time, via his cue stick. (Continued good luck "Babe," and keep stroking smoothly.)

RODNEY 'BABE' THOMPSON

Cue Club Readying For 2nd U.S. Open

ARLINGTON, VA. -- The 2nd Annual running of the U. S. Open Nine-Ball Tournament is all set to go at the Jack & Jill Cue Club, 2707 S. Wakefield Street. And, according to Bill "Weenie Beenie" Staton, popular proprietor of the J & J, this years event will carry a total prize fund of at least $2,600.

Dates for this popular cue classic have been set for January 17th thru the 26th, with a Double Elimination format. First prize will be worth a cool $1,000, plus the usual championship trophy.

Entry fee has been set at a moderate $75, and contestants are urged to send their entries in as soon as possible. Following the $1,000 top prize, the prize fund narrows down to a $600 runner-up purse, with amounts of $400, $200, $100, $100, $100 and $100 rounding out the eight-position melon.

Players interested in participating in this 2nd Annual U. S. Open Nine-Ball tourney, should contact Bob Purdum or Bill Staton at the Jack & Jill Cue Club, Telephone (703) 931-7671.

'DANNY BOY' TAKES LONG SIDETRIP TO PLAY

(Continued from Front Page)

more. I'm still considered the world snooker champion.

"That's why I'm trying to learn to play straight pool."

The problem with straight pool is "too many good players."

"It's just patterns," he said. "It's not so much shootin' a ball, but learnin' a pattern. Straight pools all offense. You have to know which ball to shoot at."

Playing with Minnesota Fats has helped, Handsome Danny said. "Fats was the world's greatest player in his time. He's probably done more for the game that anyone."

Jones also said Minnesota Fats will make an exhibition appearance in Rockford.

Handsome Danny, like all professional pool players, is a traveling man. He left Saturday for South Carolina for an exhibition appearance. Rockford was a stop en route from Houston.

"Houston's about 200 cups of coffee from here," Jones said.

He drove, instead of flying, because he's afraid of airplanes.

"I used to work at Lockheed. I think about those bolts...they might have slipped one in one of those planes I worked on."

And, like all traveling pool players, he's a gambler.

"One year in Las Vegas, I won $4,000 playing pool," he said. "I won the nine-ball division and was real good in the others.

"Then I lost $8,000 playin' craps. I asked a friend of mine to loan me a hundred to get out of town. He said he wouldn't do it until he saw me pack my bags.

"I packed. I didn't make it very far...to the other side of town. I stopped at another gambling joint.

"I finally had to call my wife and tell her to send $100 to Phoenix, Ariz. I used my credit cards to get me there."

In the Rockford tournament, Jones was a victim of the upcoming young generation of pool hustlers.

Babe Thompson is one of them.

"He beat Luther Lassiter in Vegas," Jones said. "I beat Lassiter before," he said.

The measure of one's proficiency in pool seems to be whether or not he has ever beaten Lassiter, considered the best there is today.

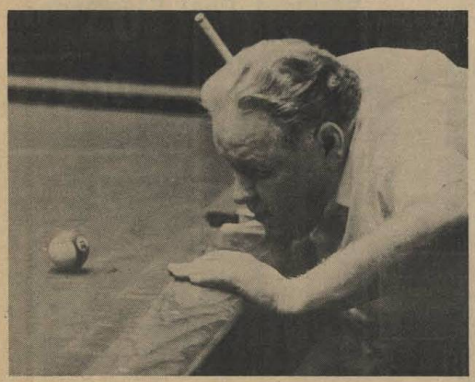
"There's a lotta women playin'," Jones added. "Lotta young guys comin' up. There's a lotta guys in their teens playin' in tournaments...a lotta them scare me.

"You hear about Dallas West beatin' Thompson? Ran 125 and out. I guess Thompson took it out on me."

Jones, with a sneaky sort of look, predicted the winner in today's finals of the Midwest Open.

"Right now, you'd have to think Dallas would be the favorite... home tables and all. I'll go with a sleeper-Steve Mizerak. I'll pick Dallas second. Third? I pass."

Handsome Dan is now en route to South Carolina...a 250 cups-of-coffee drive.



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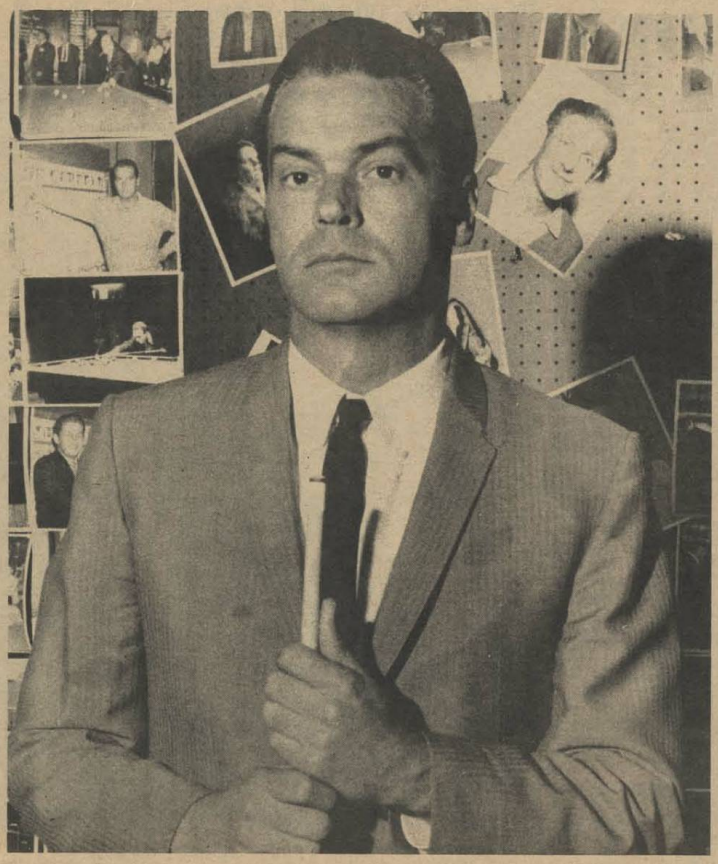


AFTER WINNING THE NINE-BALL ACTION, handsome Danny Jones went on to capture the 8th Annual "Hustler" All-Around title of the Jansco promoted Johnston City Cue Tournament. Jones won $3,600.00 for his three week effort.

Jones Wins All Around, 9-Ball

NINE-BALL SCORES
(69 Games)
WINNER

Danny Jones, Houston, Texas
McGeehean beat Madrid 11 - 9
Johnson beat Mataya 11 - 9
Kainman beat C. Allen 11 - 8
Jones beat Kainman 11 - 2
Breit beat Tanzini 11 - 5
Perkins beat Cook 11 - 8
LaSieur beat Lillard 11 - 4
Houser beat Latham 11 - 8
Pawlenski beat Wilson 11 - 2
Priest beat Lillard 11 - 5
Gambill beat Latham 11 - 4
Cook beat Galvin 11 - 8
Murnak beat Tozer 11 - 9
Burge beat Johnson 11 - 4
Perkins beat McGeehean 11 - 8
Coslosky beat Breit 11 - 7
Breit beat Reliham 11 - 3
Staton beat Pawlenski 11 - 9
Angel beat Coslosky 11 - 6
Jones beat Hahn 11 - 9
Burge beat Todd 11 - 9
Mataya beat Todd 11 - 5
Puckett beat Gartner 11 - 8
Gartner beat Jansco 11 - 8
Puckett beat Cloyd 11 - 10
West beat Galvan 11 - 7
C. Allen beat Kainman 11 - 4
Gartner beat Cloyd 11 - 7
Murnak beat Wilson 11 - 7
Jones beat Puckett 11 - 5
Madrid beat Cook 11 - 8
Watson beat Gambill 11 - 2
Fujimi beat Breit 11 - 9
Staton beat Murnak 11 - 5
Watson beat Webber 11 - 1
Angel beat Coslosky 11 - 8
Webber beat Gambill 11 - 5
Fujimi beat Reliham 11 - 9
Cloyd beat Jansco 11 - 6
C. Allen beat Hahn 11 - 10
R. Allen beat Staton 11 - 3
Breit beat Thompson 11 - 6
Tozer beat Murnak 11 - 7
Edwards beat Priest 11 - 1
LaSieur beat Edwards 11 - 8
Pawlenski beat Tozer 11 - 8
Houser beat Watson 11 - 10
LaSieur beat Angel 11 - 5
Houser beat Webber 11 - 10

(Cont'd on Page 8 - Col. 1)

Nine-Ball Standings

WINNER: Danny Jones, Houston, Texas
RUNNER-UP: Jack Breit, Houston, Texas

Eleven best of twenty-one, lag for break, loser of each game breaks thereafter. After every foul, opponent gets one ball in anywhere on the table, except on break, which is played normal.

FINAL STANDING:	PRIZE MONEY
1. DANNY JONES, Houston, Texas	$1500.00
2. Jack Breit, Houston, Texas	1000.00
3. Bill Burge, Detroit, Michigan	600.00
4. Danny Gartner, Clifton, New Jersey	400.00
5. Ronnie Allen, Burbank, California	300.00
5. Ryan Houser, Centralia, Illinois	300.00
7. Ardell LaSieur, St. Louis, Missouri	300.00
7. Jack Perkins, Las Vegas, Nevada	300.00
9. Kazro Fujimi, Japan	150.00
9. Don Watson, Portland, Oregon	150.00
9. Lee Angel, Richmond, Virginia	150.00
9. Bob Madrid, El Paso, Texas	150.00
9. Larry Johnson, Boston, Massachusetts	150.00
9. Bill Staton, Washington, D. C.	150.00
9. C. Allen, Wayne City, Illinois	150.00
9. U. J. Puckett, Fort Worth, Texas	150.00
17. Al Coslosky, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania	50.00
17. Jim Reliham, Springfield, Massachusetts	50.00
17. Jim Mataya, Lansing, Michigan	50.00
17. Norman Webber, Lewistown, Maine	50.00
17. Martin Kainman, Kansas City, Missouri	50.00
17. Ed McGeehean, Milwaukee, Wisconsin	50.00
17. Shirley Cloyd, London, Kentucky	50.00
17. George Pawlenski, Racine, Wisconsin	50.00
TOTAL ---	$6300.00

BREIT

Here's The Com
The World's $2
Who Won The Prize

1. DANNY JONES, Houston, Texas	$3,600.00
2. Larry Johnson, Boston, Massachusetts	2,100.00
3. Ronnie Allen, Burbank, California	1,900.00
4. Al Coslosky, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania	1,700.00
5. Jack Breit, Houston, Texas	1,550.00
6. Billy Burge, Detroit, Michigan	950.00
7. Ardell LaSieur, St. Louis, Missouri	900.00
8. Jim Reliham, Springfield, Massachusetts	650.00
9. Jack Perkins, Las Vegas, Nevada	650.00
10. Kazuo Fujima, Japan	550.00
11. Bill Staton, Washington, D. C.	500.00
12. Danny Gartner, Clifton, New Jersey	500.00
13. U. J. Puckett, Fort Worth, Texas	450.00
14. Norman Webber, Lewistown, Maine	350.00
15. Bob Madrid, El Paso, Texas	350.00
16. Bryan Houser, Centralia, Illinois	300.00
17. Don Watson, Portland, Oregon	300.00
18. Joe Valdez, Boston, Massachusetts	300.00
19. Dallas West, Rockford, Illinois	300.00

MAKING THE GREATEST COMEBACK OF THE YEAR veteran Al Coslosky, of Philadelphia, enjoyed one of his finest cue performances ever as he won the 14-1 action i

Coslosky Victorio

Straight Pool Standings

WINNER: Al Coslosky, Philadelphia, Pa.
RUNNER-UP: Ronnie Allen, Burbank, Calif.

Played under official rules set up by Billiard Players Association of America Tournament Rules Committee. 14 and 1 rack pool, 125 points. Public Drawing for pairings, and winner determined by Double Elimination Play.

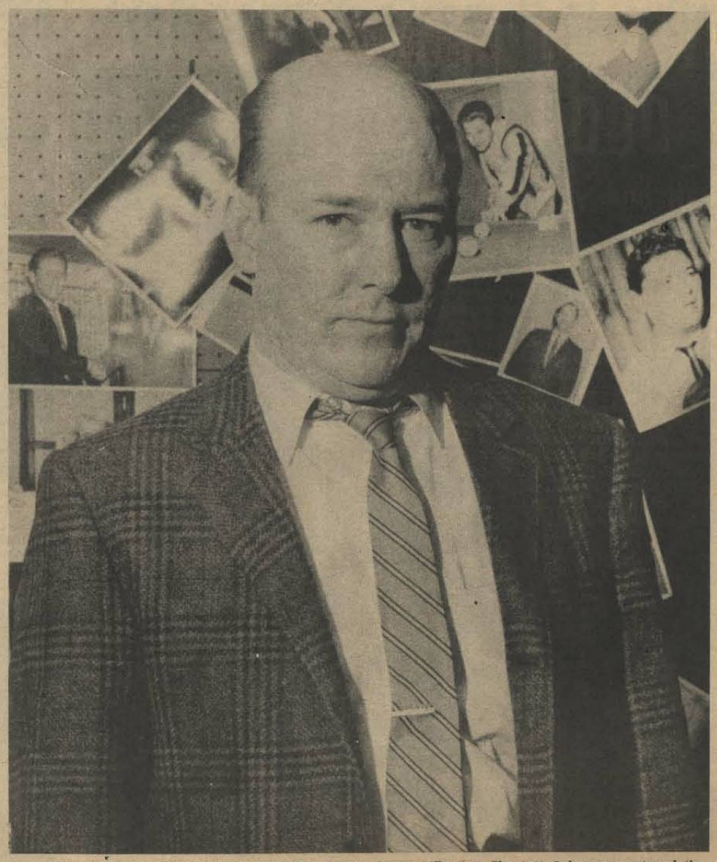
FINAL STANDING:	PRIZE MONEY
1. AL COSLOSKY, Philadelphia, Pa.	$1500.00
2. Ronnie Allen, Burbank, California	1000.00
3. Jim Reliham, Springfield, Massachusetts	600.00
4. Kazro Fujimi, Japan	400.00
5. Danny Jones, Houston, Texas	300.00
5. Ardell LeSieur, St. Louis, Missouri	300.00
7. Bill Staton, Washington, D. C.	300.00
7. Dallas West, Rockford, Illinois	300.00
9. Jack Briet, Houston, Texas	150.00
9. U. J. Puckett, Fort Worth, Texas	150.00
9. Larry Johnson, Boston, Massachusetts	150.00
9. Norman Webber, Lewistown, Maine	150.00
9. Hubert Cokes, Evansville, Indiana	150.00
9. Bob Madrid, El Paso, Texas	150.00
9. Bill Amadeo, New York, New York	150.00
9. Jim Mataya, Lansing, Michigan	150.00
TOTAL ---	$6300.00

lete Wrap-Up Of 0,000 'Hustler'

Money And How Much

20. Hubert Cokes, Evansville, Indiana	300.00
21. Martin Kainman, Kansas City, Missouri	200.00
22. Jim Mataya, Lansing, Michigan	200.00
23. Lee Angel, Richmond, Virginia	200.00
24. Bill Amadeo, New York, New York	150.00
25. Connie Allen, Wayne City, Illinois	150.00
26. Steve Cook, Tampa, Florida	150.00
27. Charles DeValliere, Richmond, Virginia	150.00
28. Shirley Cloyd, London, Kentucky	100.00
29. Eddie McGeehean, Milwaukee, Wisconsin	100.00
30. Jan Jansco, Johnston City, Illinois	50.00
31. Larry Perkins, Lexington, Kentucky	50.00
32. Al Miller, Racine, Wisconsin	50.00
33. LeMar King, Kansas City, Missouri	50.00
34. Terry Downey, Joliet, Illinois	50.00
35. Pete Murnak, New York, New York	50.00
36. Don Todd, Detroit, Michigan	50.00
37. George Pawlenski, Racine, Wisconsin	50.00
TOTAL ----	$20,000.00

last month's "Hustler" tourney at Johnston City. The 53 year old Coslosky placed third in the final All-Around standings, and earned himself some $1,700.00.



FOR THE THIRD TIME IN EIGHT YEARS, Larry "Boston Shorty" Johnson captured the One-Pocket division of the 8th Annual "Hustler" Tournament at Johnston City, Ill. Johnson went all the way to victory when Coslosky, of all people, fired a ball into one of "Shorty's" pockets by mistake. His winnings totaled some $2,100.00.

Johnson Captures 1-Pocket Meet

ONE POCKET SCORES
(44 Games)
WINNER
Larry Johnson, Boston, Mass.

Webber beat L. Perkins	4-3	Watson beat Angel	4-1
Madrid beat DeValliere	4-1	Burge beat Webber	4-3
J. Perkins beat Gartner	4-3	Johnson beat Jansco	4-2
Breit beat McGeehean	4-3	Webber beat L. Perkins	4-3
Watson beat Madrid	4-3	Perkins beat Gartner	4-3
DeVallier beat Madrid	4-0	Cokes beat Staton	4-3
Webber beat Kainman	4-1	Puckett beat Staton	4-3
Johnson beat Cook	4-3	Breit beat Burge	4-0
Valdez beat Miller	4-3	Perkins beat Cokes	4-1
LaSieur beat King	4-1	Perkins beat Puckett	4-0
Valdez beat Watson	4-3	Jones beat Johnson	4-2
Allen beat Breit	4-3	Breit beat Valdez	4-1
Valdez beat Burge	4-1	Jones beat Allen	4-1
Johnson beat Breit	4-2	Johnson beat Jones	4-1
Johnson beat Jones	4-1		
Kainman beat Houser	4-1		

Miller beat Valdez	4-2	R. Allen beat Reliham	125-25
Johnson beat Coslosky	4-3	R. Allen beat West	125-112
Cook beat LaSieur	4-2	Fujimi beat LaSieur	125-80
Jones beat J. Perkins	4-1	Coslosky beat Reliham	125-63
Kainman beat McGeehean	4-3	Coslosky beat R. Allen	125-55
Allen beat Watson	4-3		
Jones beat Cokes	4-1		
Valdez beat DeVallier	4-3		
Burge beat Webber	4-2		
LaSieur beat Coslosky	4-3		
LaSieur beat Cook	4-2		
Perkins beat LaSieur	4-1		
Johnson beat Perkins	4-2		
Johnson beat Allen	4-3		

s In Straight Pool

STRAIGHT POOL SCORES
(57 Games)
WINNER
Al Coslosky, Philadelphia, Pa.

Gartner beat Webber	125-67	West beat Perkins	125-56
Mataya beat Hahn	125-98	Reliham beat Fujimi	125-77
Fujimi beat C. Allen	125-83	Breit beat Webber	125-49
Reliham beat Mataya	125-11	Cokes beat Todd	125-54
Amadeo beat C. Allen	125-95	Jones beat LaSieur	125-43
Puckett beat Todd	125-68	Staton beat Murnak	125-117
Coslosky beat Angel	125-102	LaSieur beat Breit	125-83
Reliham beat Cloyd	125-109	Webber beat Tozer	125-59
LaSieur beat Downey	125-99	Breit beat Downey	125-57
Burge beat Amadeo	125-88	Madrid beat Angel	125-59
Murnak beat McGeehean	125-61	Fujimi beat Mataya	125-105
West beat Perkins	125-109	West beat Madrid	125-3
Angel beat Cook	125-86	R. Allen beat Cokes	125-88
Jones beat Tozer	125-14	Amadeo beat Burge	125-80
Coslosky beat Madrid	125-44	Jones beat Gartner	125-86
Staton beat R. Allen	125-91	R. Allen beat Murnak	125-86
Todd beat Cokes	125-67	Mataya beat Amadeo	125-87
Cloyd beat Hahn	125-50	Webber beat Gartner	125-59
Fujimi beat Burge	125-116	Staton beat Pucket	125-49
R. Allen beat McGeehean	125-66	Coslosky beat Johnson	125-118
Johnson beat Thompson	125-52	LaSieur beat Breit	125-104
Madrid beat Cook	125-56	R. Allen beat Puckett	125-104
Mataya beat Cloyd	125-68	Reliham beat Jones	125-74
Johnson beat West	125-113	Fujimi beat Jones	125-88
		R. Allen beat Fujimi	125-38
		West beat Johnson	125-107
		Coslosky beat Staton	125-96
		R. Allen beat Staton	125-63

ALLEN

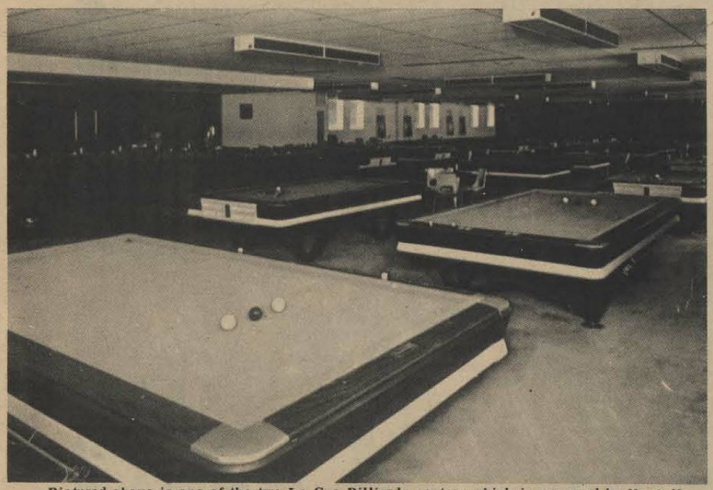
One-Pocket Standings

WINNER: Larry Johnson, Boston, Massachusetts
RUNNER-UP: Danny Jones, Houston, Texas

Four best of seven. Lag for break and loser of each game breaks thereafter. Scratch in pocket or failure to drive a ball to rail after contact constitutes a foul, penalized by loss of one ball. Three consecutive fouls penalized by loss of game.

FINAL STANDING:	PRIZE MONEY
1. LARRY JOHNSON, Boston Massachusetts	$1500.00
2. Danny Jones, Houston, Texas	1000.00
3. Ronnie Allen, Burbank, California	600.00
4. Jack Breit, Houston, Texas	400.00
5. Jack Perkins, Las Vegas, Nevada	300.00
5. Joe Valdez, Boston, Massachusetts	300.00
7. Ardell LaSieur, St. Louis, Missouri	300.00
7. Billy Burge, Detroit, Michigan	300.00
9. Martin Kainman, Kansas City, Missouri	150.00
9. Hubert Cokes, Evansville, Indiana	150.00
9. Steve Cook, Tampa, Florida	150.00
9. U. J. Puckett, Fort Worth, Texas	150.00
9. Al Coslosky, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania	150.00
9. Norman Webber, Lewistown, Maine	150.00
9. Don Watson, Portland, Oregon	150.00
9. Charles DeValliere, Richmond, Virginia	150.00
17. Jan Jansco, Johnston City, Illinois	50.00
17. Danny Gartner, Clifton, New Jersey	50.00
17. Larry Perkins, Lexington, Kentucky	50.00
17. Ed McGeehean, Milwaukee, Wisconsin	50.00
17. Bob Madrid, El Paso, Texas	50.00
17. Al Miller, Racine, Wisconsin	50.00
17. Bill Staton, Washington, D. C.	50.00
17. LeMar King, Kansas City, Missouri	50.00
TOTAL ---	$6300.00

LeCue Is Home For 'Jones Boy'



Pictured above is one of the two Le Cue Billiards centers which is managed by Mr. & Mrs. Jimmie Causey, of Houston, Texas. Located in "Downtown Houston," at 1104 Rusk St., is where Danny Jones can usually be found sharpening up on his fine game. The other Le Cue is located "In the Village" at 2438 Rice Blvd., at Kelvin St. (Our special thanks to Mrs. Causey for sending along this photo and information)

JONES WINS ALL AROUND, 9-BALL

(Continued from Page Six)

R. Allen beat Pawlenski	11 - 9	Breit beat Gartner	11 - 5	Breit beat Fujimi	11 - 3
Gartner beat C. Allen	11 - 2	Burge beat Fujimi	11 - 8	Jones beat Burge	11 - 7
Johnson beat Mataya	11 - 9	Breit beat Johnson	11 - 5	Jones beat Breit	11 - 4
Madrid beat McGeehean	11 - 8	LaSieur beat Angel	11 - 8		
Watson beat Staton	11 - 9	Gartner beat R. Allen	11 - 7		
R. Allen beat Houser	11 - 8	Breit beat Burge	11 - 7		
Houser beat Watson	11 - 6	Perkins beat LaSieur	11 - 2		
Breit beat LaSieur	11 - 4	Angel beat Madrid	11 - 10		

Divisional Play-Off Standings

FINAL PLAY-OFF STANDING:	WIN	LOSE
Danny Jones	5	0
Larry Johnson	2	2
Al Coslosky	0	5

PLAY-OFF SCORES:

STRAIGHT POOL

Jones	125	Johnson	125	Jones	125
Johnson	63	Coslosky	73	Coslosky	108

NINE BALL

Jones	11	Jones	11
Johnson	4	Coslosky	4

ONE-POCKET

Jones	4	Johnson	4
Coslosky	2	Coslosky	2

'HUSTLER' TOURNEY

(Continued from Front Page)

GAMES PLAYED

Straight (14-1rack pool, 125 pts.)
Nine-Ball (11 best of 21)
One-Pocket (4 best of 7)

QUALIFICATIONS FOR CHAMPIONSHIP PLAY-OFF

Contestant must win one of the three divisional titles to qualify for the play-off. Then he meets the other divisional winners playing all three games to determine the World's All-Round Champion.

WINNER

Danny Jones, Houston, Texas
New World's All-Round Champion

RUNNER-UP

Larry Johnson, Boston, Mass.

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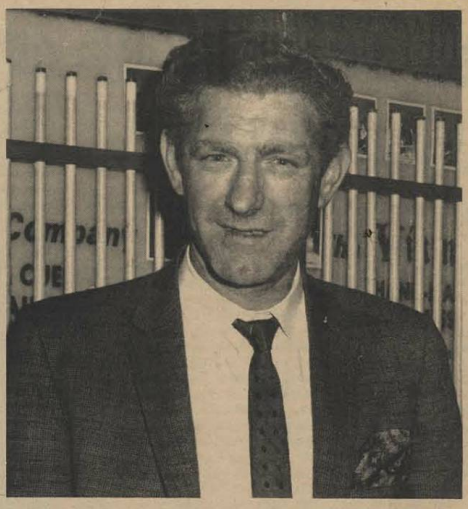
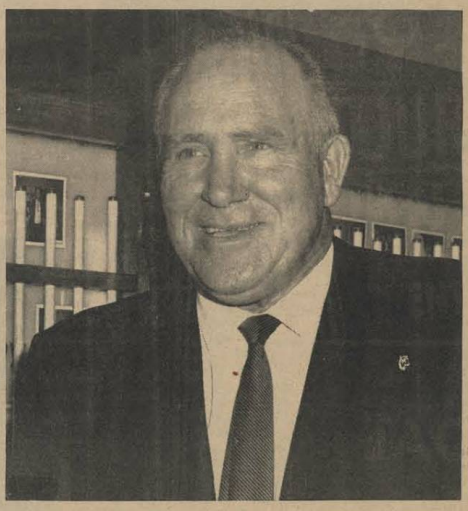


BILLY 'Cornbread Red' BURGE, who left the 'Hustler' action in Johnston City some $900.00 richer as he captured a 3rd place finish in the 9-Ball meet, and a 7th place finish in 1-Pocket (See final standings of all divisions on centerfold).

JACK PERKINS placed 5th in the 1-Pocket where he earned a cool $300.00 cash award, then finished 7th in 9-Ball competition which netted the steady pool star another $300.00. Says Jack, "I'm more than satisfied with my performance."

ROBERT 'Bobby' MADRID finished 9th, twice, and 17th, to win $350.00 for his efforts.

EDDIE MCGEEHEAN finished 17th, twice, and earned himself $100.00 for his Johnston City efforts.



U.J. PUCKETT, one of the finer gentlemen of our game today (aren't we all), who finished in a tie for 9th place in all three divisions. Puckett also earned $150.00 for each effort, for an overall count of $450 for his trip to Johnston City.

WEST'S PERFECT RUN ENDS PHOBIA

(Continued from Front Page)

from New Jersey, in a tense match, 125-102. Mizerak and West came into the confrontation with outstanding three-game performances, including West's 125-ball run and a 113-ball run by his challenger.

Mizerak struggled into the lead, and West struggled through a rally to win it.

"We were the favorites," West said. "We were a little tight. Your arm tightens up a bit when you know the other guy can run out on you.

"Even when I ran out on him, the ball wasn't rolling well."

Handsome Danny Jones had referred to Mizerak as a sleeper. West knew better.

"By living in New Jersey, he commutes pretty regularly to New York," West said. "There's always something going on there. He's always in stroke-just like I am. But I have to out for it. We don't have that kind of competition here. He plays with 40 or 50 guys who can run 100."

West began "going out" three years ago. Bud Lundahl, proprietor of State and Madison Recreation, paid West's entry fees.

Lundahl, incidentally, is a non-pool player. He grew up with the game, but never played it. His father owned State and Madison before him. What Bud developed was a keen eye for a pool player.

With Dallas, "you could see it," Lundahl said. "Anyone who has watched pool could tell he was tough."

"There were a lot of tournaments I wanted to play in," West said. "But because of the high entry fee, I couldn't cut it. It was take one or the other. Bud helped. He's helped a lot."

In the past three years, West's game has improved "probably 25-30 per cent. I would attribute it to the competition," he said.

"You can't go out and fire against the tougher ones or they'll beat your brains out."

West, of Loves Park, has played them all and beaten them all-at one time or another.

He's played the hustlers, too. Jersey Red, Eddy Kelly, Ronny Allen are "Three real go-getters," West said. "They like to play for a lot of cash."

"A hustler used to be a man who went in unknown and beat his man out of money," Lundahl said. "It's not that way today. Most of the top players are known."

Hustling, today, is one known player meeting another known player. It is, in a sense, a battle of nerves.

"The way I class all that is immunity," West said. "When you do it long enough, you do it naturally.

"If tournaments ever reach high status, it'll take some of them a while to lose the old instinct."

(West feels tournaments should have $5-$6,000 purses and charge $2 admission fees to build the game's status.)

"The thing about me," West said, "and I've played those fellas is that they know I can play with them under their circumstances. I don't play under those conditions all the time. I used to...until I started playing straight pool with Joe Diehl. Then I became a straight pool nut."

West's next event may be the world tournament in the Los Angeles, Calif., Elks Club, a 15-man invitational, lasting from Jan. 31 to Feb. 28. West has an invitation.

"It's my first time for this one," West said. "It's modeled after the New York tournament. You play in tuxedos. I played in 'em in New York. I don't care for it.

"We'll have every Wednesday off," he said. "They have Elks meetings on Wednesdays.

"I'm not so sure I'm going yet. The biggest things you do are spend money and stay a long time."

All this, indirectly, leads back to the Midwest Open, a tournament Lundahl initiated a few years back to show off locally-groomed stars like Joe Diehl and Charlie Cacciapaglia, and reinstated four years ago for the newcomer, Dallas West.

It's a straight pool tournament. You shoot at whatever ball you like, trying to make as many in a row as you can.

If you're good, you can make the other player sit quite awhile ...waiting for you to miss.

"I think it bothers all players to sit and wait," West said. "The secret to it is to never give up hope."

It happened to West in the final game of the Midwest Open. Virgil Pope, on a hot streak, had Dallas down and was building the lead.

"A lot of times I'm sluggish after eating or something," West said. "I have to have a little heart stimulant. Coffee does it.

"My wife's getting to the point she know it. I was sitting there, looking around and I couldn't find her. About 15 minutes later I had my coffee."

Pope missed. West got up, knocked in 63 balls in a row, and won, 125-89.

The $1,000 purse was $100 less than he's won in any one tournament, yet he ranks third in the United States in competitive pool earnings for 1968.

West shrugged his shoulders. "I usually don't play that well here."

ROBERT MC LAUGHLIN

West Ties World Mark In Midwest Open Pocket Tourney

ROCKFORD, ILL. -- Dallas West, of Loves Park, tied a world record recently, running 125 balls to beat Kenosha, Wis., player Rodney (Babe) Thompson, 125-0, in the Midwest Open Pocket Billiards Tournament at the Cue 'N Rail.

Thompson broke and West needed 30 minutes to match the Billiards Congress of America record in his bid for the $1,000 first prize.

The first day of action saw several brilliant performances, and one big surprise when handsome Danny Jones, of Houston, Tex., overall winner of the recent Johnston City Hustlers' All-Around World Billiard Tournament, dropped his opening match to Tom Kollins and his second to Thompson, to be ousted from the double-elimination event.

Steve Mizerak, a New Yorker, posted a run of 115 to whip Rockford's Dick Jungen, 125-5, in his first match. Mizerak came back in the third round to smash Willie Munson of Milwaukee, 125-3, with a run of 96 in the straight pool tournament.

Action continues today in the State and Madison Recreation billiards lounge, with finals slated for Sunday.

'PLAY POOL' – IT'S FUN

York Leads Traveling Loop

HANOVER, PENNA. - Results of the final first half standings of the Penna. State Traveling league show York leading with a 3-1 won/loss record, with the Chambersburg squad holding a close second with a record of 2-2. Hanover is third with a 1-3 record.

Individual efforts show John Humbert pacing the field with a 4-0 record, totaling some 600 balls with a high run of 42. In the runner-up slot is Bradley Regonthal who has a 3-1 won/loss count, 587 total balls, and a high run of 32.

Robert (Bob) McLaughlin, although having a 1-3 record for a 4th place tie with Ernie Lewis, has posted the highest run for this first half action, a steady count of 60 balls. Competition takes a holiday now, with action resuming on January 5th.

TEAM STANDINGS

	Won	Lost
York, Pennsylvania	3	1
Chambersburg, Pa.	2	2
Hanover, Pa.	1	3

Individual	Won	Lost	Total Balls	High Run
John Humbert	4	0	600	42
Bradley Regonthal	3	1	587	32
Corky Fry	3	1	528	28
Robert McLaughlin	1	3	498	*60
Ernie Lewis	1	3	449	33
George Lee	0	3	206	28
Hubey Long	0	1	32	---

*High Run For League

2ND HALF SCHEDULE OF PENNA. STATE TRAVELING LEAGUE

Hanover at York	January 5th, 1969
Chambersburg at Hanover	January 19th, 1969
York at Chambersburg	February 2nd, 1969
Hanover Home Association Tournament	February 9th, 1969
York at Hanover	February 16th, 1969
Hanover at Chambersburg	February 23rd, 1969
Chambersburg at York	March 2nd, 1969

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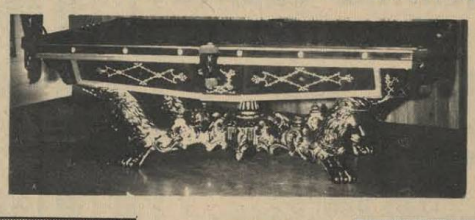

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The Press Box

The Champ Who's Sick And Tired

By ROY McHUGH

Off in another part of the low basement room, there was a rattle of applause. Either Joe Balsis or Bernie Schwartz, who were playing straight pool at the Hawk's Nest, in Squirrel Hill, had made a difficult shot. Luther Lassiter, sprawled in a leather arm chair next to the wall, did not raise his eyes.

Nobody living shoots better straight pool than Luther Lassiter, but the game, he avows wearily, means nothing to him.

"It's a botheration," he said in his soft Carolina drawl. "I'm 50 years old, and I don't know why I keep messin' with it. A pool player's life is empty and meaningless."

Lassiter smiled in a self-deprecating way, the corners of his mouth turned down. He's a dignified man with genteel Southern manners. He has short, wavy hair, almost white now, a ruddy, benevolent face and pouches beneath his eyes.

In his match at the Hawk's Nest with Joe Balsis, Lassiter frowned a lot. He shuffled around the table, sucking a candy mint. When he missed a shot, which was extraordinarily often, for Luther Lassiter has won the official world's championship four times in the last six years, he would mutter, "Great guns!"

Balsis, the world champion in 1965, was far ahead. But eventually Lassiter stopped missing. As he was running his fifth straight rack, dropping ball after ball, each shot exciting the crowd, he pulled down the corners of his mouth.

"First time I've giggled in two years," he said.

THE TROUBLE HE'S SEEN

Luther Lassiter has problems. His health is bad, his finances are low. Last year he competed in five major tournaments, winning four and finishing second in a fifth. His total purses amounted to $10,300. "Why, after taxes and expenses, sir, a truck driver makes more than I do," he said.

But Lassiter is a bachelor, with no mouths to feed except his own. He's a bachelor because he's a pool player. "Oh, I came close to getting married a couple of times, but I'm glad it didn't happen," he said. "When you're not married, you don't need much money."

Lassiter

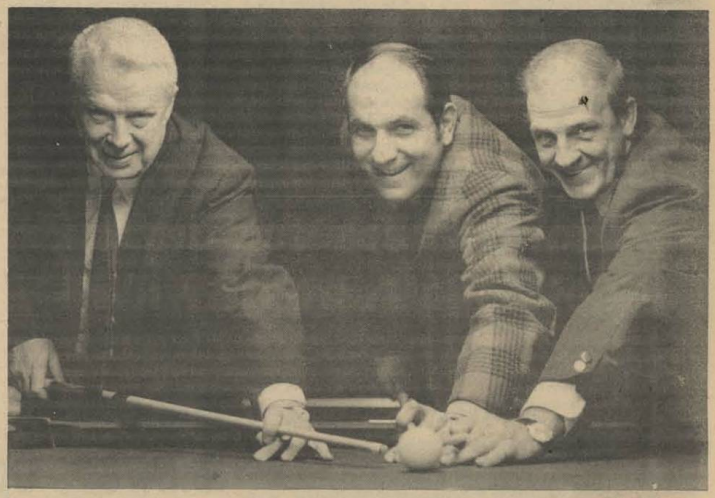
Lassiter feels he was meant to be a surgeon. How does he know he would make a good one? He just knows. As a boy delivering groceries in Elizabeth City, N.C., he knew he could play pool.

The hustlers would come through Elizabeth City—"looking to snap your leg off," Lassiter says—but the kid they called "Wimpy," because of his appetite for hot dogs, sent them on their way with blunted fangs. Lassiter shipped on a Coast Guard cutter during World War II, and in Norfolk, where he spent all his shore leave, there was a room where the hustlers played for the highest stakes in the history of pool. In a legendary match, Lassiter gave a hustler named Norfolk Whitey a 40-ball spot in a 100-ball game for $10,000. Needing 60 balls to win, Norfolk Whitey made 58 in a row and then missed. It was his last shot. Lassiter went to the table and ran 100 balls.

For 15 years after the war, he was constantly on the road, playing pool with all comers. Lassiter never considered himself a hustler. "I was a player beater," he said. "I beat the good players. I didn't go into a room pretendin' to be a gas-station attendant or a travelin' salesman. Ever'body knew who I was."

(Continued on Page 11-Column 1)

Balsis Edges Lassiter In Pittsburgh Exhibition



Bernie Schwartz (center), popular proprietor-promoter of the Hawk's Nest Billiard Club in Pittsburgh, Pa., pictured with all-time great, Luther "Wimpy" Lassiter (left), and Joe "The Meatman" Balsis, after trio completed series of Exhibition matches earlier this month. Balsis edged the "Wimp" when final count was in.

PITTSBURGH, PA. -- Veteran pool sharpshooter Joe Balsis, from nearby Minorsville, has won the recent three-day Exhibition match against Luther "Wimpy" Lassiter, at the Hawk's Nest Billiard Club on Murray Avenue in Pittsburgh. Overall play ended in a 6-4 Balsis victory.

According to Bernie Schwartz, who also participated in the festivities, "This exhibition was a complete success in every way. There was much enthusiasm from everyone about these two great players."

On Monday evening, December 2nd, at the 7:00 P. M. match, Balsis defeated Lassiter in Nine-Ball action by an 11 to 5 count. In the Straight Pool meet, Schwartz edged Balsis by a 150-86 margin. Then at the 10:00 P. M. match, Lassiter bested Schwartz 11-9 in Nine-Ball, then went on to edge Balsis in Straight Pool by a count of 150 to 134. Lassiter ran 83 and out to gain this win.

With the action moving to Tuesday evening, December 3rd, the 7:00 P. M. squad saw Balsis open with an 11-2 decision over Schwartz in Nine-Ball, with the Straight Pool victory also going to the Minorsville ace as he chalked up a close 150-135 win over the "Wimp." In the 10:00 P. M. activities, Big Joe continued his winning ways by defeating Lassiter 11-5 in Nine-Ball, with the Straight Pool win going to Lassiter as he edged the host proprietor by a count of 150-120.

The third and final days action was Wednesday, December 4th, and the 7:00 P. M. Matches saw Lassiter edge Balsis 11-7 in Nine-Ball, with the latter taking his defeat in stride as he came right back to whip Schwartz in Straight Pool by a margin of 150 to 33. In this match, Balsis gave the many fans something to buzz about as he ran 97 and out.

According to Mr. Schwartz, local TV and Radio Sportscasters took plenty of interest and gave wonderful coverage of all the action. Both Balsis and Lassiter were interviewed on local TV. The big question asked by one and all was, "When will we be able to see more such exhibitions?"

From the response given this exhibition, Schwartz has announced plans for an Invitational Straight Pool Tourney, January 26th through February 2nd, at his Hawk's Nest Billiard Club, and will offer a Prize Fund of some $7,000. Some of those players already invited are Balsis, Lassiter, Lou "Machine Gun" Butera Irving "The Deacon" Crane, Cicero Murphy and Schwartz.

CHALLENGE MATCH

(Continued from Front Page)

Match between Current World's Champion Irving "The Deacon" Crane and runner-up Luther "Wimpy" Lassiter, has been called off.

The event, scheduled for late December at the Broadway Billiards, 52nd Street and Broadway, was won by Lassiter last year as he defeated Jack (Jersey Red) Breit, at the Q-Ball Billiards in Vineland, New Jersey. (Our January Issue will carry a complete story as to why this annual event had to be cancelled, and at such short notice.)

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Super-Star Caras Still Going Strong

PHILADELPHIA, PA. - Back in those good ole days, veteran cue artist Jimmy Caras used to do the same things on a pool table as he does today. And that is to perform with the greatest of ease, to say the least. Photo at left shows the super-star, from Springfield, Pa., with the ever popular Jimmy Dykes, in a picture that was taken in 1936 at the latters Billiard Lounge – Bowling Center, which went under the name of Dykes Colonial Recreation center, located on Samson Street, just off 52nd, in West Philadelphia. (Although Dykes doesn't own it anymore, the center is still in operation today under the direction of Robert Crawley.) Here, Dykes is pictured watching Caras readying to execute a trick shot. Earlier in the evening, Caras bested Dykes while playing lefthanded.

Caras, the second youngest player to ever win a World's Championship, captured his first of many World titles in 1935. Since that time, Caras has risen to a fame as only few stars ever get to enjoy. According to the records here at NBN headquarters, Caras is still the undefeated champ on the 5 x 10 table, as today's U.S. Opens are played on 4½ x 9 slates.

Caras stunned the entire billiard world in 1967 when he made the greatest comeback of modern times by winning the '67 U.S. Open. Later, Caras was named as Brunswick's "Man of the Year." Caras is the leading man on the Brunswick Advisory Staff of Billiard Champions.

'POOL PORTRAITS' MAKE BILLIARDS GREAT GAME

(Continued from Page Four)

but is quick to proclaim bad hits against his competitor. . .Nice Guy?

THE GORGEOUS GRIPER

Here's a real dilly. . .This prince of a chap is the one who gets on his opponents nerves merely by the manner in which he continuously belly-aches. . . His last shot didn't pan out right, even though he made the shot and continued to run more than 100 . . .Nothing seems to please him. . .When he is losing, he lays down the gripe as strong as red onions, but when he is winning, then is the time that he really beefs. . .He pockets the balls cleanly, but his cue ball is out of position a hair. . .Two balls ended up close together. . . This requires him to break them up and his cue ball is laying just right to do it. . .Still he's not pleased. . .Yes, above all, this character gets on his opponents nerves so bad it turns him into a griper too. . .

THE CHAMP WHO'S SICK & TIRED

(Continued from Page Ten)

THE CHANGING SCENE

Now he plays only in tournaments, or occasionally, as at the Hawk's Nest recently, in exhibitions. "It's not like the old times, because pool was easier then," he said. "You'd come into a town like Pittsburgh and find 15 people who could run 100 balls. You don't see that today. The manufacturers have made the game tougher. The balls are plastic, the table reverberates, the cut of the pockets is different. Even the cues are different."

Lassiter has soured on tournament play, too, complaining, "It isn't pool any more. If you lose two games, you're eliminated. There's only one way to find out who's the best player – stand 'em up and let 'em play day in and day out on a tough table. If you can beat a man, and you play long enough, you can beat him all the time."

He passed a hand over his eyes. "My sinus is actin' up," he said. "Good health is more important than anything else to a pool player, more important than his stroke or his competitive spirit or anything. I've lost half of my stomach and my gall bladder's ailing, and I'm just about blind from high blood pressure. You can't be sick and play pool."

Of all the world's so-called pleasures, Lassiter said, there's only one that appeals to him.

"Quietness."

Roy Patrick McHugh is Sports columnist of The Pittsburgh Press

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Schaefer Scored 'Tame' Cue Win

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* * * * *

BOTH WERE OFF STROKE

(Editor's Note: The following is a story that was sent along to us from one of our many, many fans, and we thought our readers would enjoy reading it. It's a story that was printed in the Philadelphia Evening Bulletin, December 24th, 1927.)

By FREDERICK H. HOVEY

In a recent review, the writer referred to the difficulty of arriving at a satisfactory comparison of the relative skill of the exponents of the spectacular three-cushion carom style of billiards, because in that game an average of one is about the highest mark that is possible of attainment in a match or series of matches of any considerable number of points.

It was also pointed out that, in 18.2 or 18.1 balkline, it was more easily ascertainable, as to relative ability of various exponents, because of records as to averages and high runs.

Seeking to apply this test in the world championship challenge match between Jake Schaefer, challenger, and Welker Cochran defending holder of the title, which was concluded last Wednesday, there are, in the analysis, a number of interesting and illuminating points which loom up quite strongly.

Young Schaefer defeated Cohran by the fairly decisive score of 1,500 to 1,304 points. The brilliant son of the late "Wizard Jake" Schaefer thereby regained the world 18.2 balkline championship and he will be privileged to hold it until he meets Edouard Horemans, the Belgian, who is next in the line of challengers.

It may be interesting to followers of the game to state that Horemans has recently joined the ranks of the "benedicks," and announced his marriage to Blanche Van de Kerckhove, the writer having just received the announcement, dated "Brussels, December 20."

Horemans will sail for this country shortly and the writer understands he will immediately avail himself of his challenging privilege.

This week's challenge match in New York, from the writer's point of view, was disappointing, tame and decidedly mediocre. It lacked quality and descended to the commonplace.

The opening block of 300 points on Monday night was taken by Schaefer, 300 to 211. Schaefer averaged only 25, and had one fairly good run of 148, while Cochran's average of 19 2-11 and best cluster of 60 was the standard of skill one might expect from the junior professionals.

The great genii of billiards are like all genii; that is to say, decidedly temperamental and both Schaefer and Cochran had alibis in the form of playing conditions or equipment.

The experiment was tired of heating the soapstone slates of the billiard table with a system of electric coils to insure right action from the sensitive ivory balls. It was a very cold night and in all probability the scheme failed because Schaefer complained the room was too hot and he could not

(Cont'd on Page 12-Column 5)

EDITOR'S NOTEBOOK

(Cont'd from Page Two)

December 2nd, 3rd and 4th, staged a highly successfull exhibition match at his place between Joe Balsis, Minorsville, Pa., and, Luther Lassiter, Elizebeth City, N.C., is enjoying a little vacation with his wife. Schwartz will have plenty of work to do upon his return home as he's planing to run a $7,000 Invitational Straight Pool tourney in late January and early February.

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Standing -- (left to right) -: Rich Marquardt, J. P. Stevens & Co., Inc.; Mort Luby, Billiard & Bowling Institute; John Nikithser, Raybestos-Manhattan, Inc.; Frank Lanza, Victor Billiard Company; Jack Thomas, Brunswick Corporation; Charles Bailey, Fisches Mfg., Co.; William Sheffer, Tweenten Fibre Co., Inc.; Mike Geiger, Chas. W. House & Sons; Gordon Murrey, Murrey & Sons Co., Inc., Fred Mali, Henry W. T. Mali & Co., Inc.; Norman Althoff, J. P. Stevens & Co., Inc.; Bud Hobbs, C'Ville Lanes, Inc.; John Ryan, Valley Mfg. Co.

Seated -- (left to right) -- James Wilhem, Saunier-Wilhem Co.; Julius Butcher, F. Grote & Hubbell Co., Inc.; Lee Taylor, National Billiard Chalk Co.; William Gunklach, National Billiard Mfg. Co.; Joe Farhat, Velvet Rail Billiards; Don Neer, Billiard Congress of America; Roy Gandy, Macon Billiard Supply Co.

Not present: Ellis Faulkner, Albany Billiard Ball Co.; Fred Grothe, Frederick-Willys Co., Inc.; Arthur Schmidt, A. E. Schmidt Co., Inc.

MANUFACTURERS & SUPPLIERS! WHY STAND ALONE? JOIN BBIA

(Continued from Page Three)

structional booklet on playing billiards. The BCA also has expanded its activities in recent years to include a membership section for billiard room proprietors and supplies proprietors with league play score sheets, instructional aids and other services. Over 10,000 men and women college students in 110 colleges and universities participate in the annual intercollegiate Billiard Tournament, while over 22,000 junior, intermediate and senior boys compete annually in the Boys' Clubs of America Billiard Tournament. These activities, as they expand and grow, will continue to stimulate increasing participation in the sport of billiards at all age levels.

The BBIA also furnished partial financial support for a special 26-week television series on billiards entitled "Ten-Twenty." This series ran for 26 weeks on a major Chicago television station, and subsequently has been televised in major metropolitan markets throughout the country. The continuing success of this series is resulting in direct stimulation of interest in billiards and billiard products among television viewers, ample justification for the BBIA's substantial investment in this program.

COMMUNICATIONS WITH BBIA MEMBERS

*Monthly BBIA Bulletin...The BBIA communicates with its members and the industry with its monthly BBIA Bulletin, featuring information on BBIA activities and programs, as well as summaries of major industry developments and events of vital interest to members.

*BBIA Product Directory...Published annually, the BBIA Product Directory lists BBIA officers, committees and members with complete addresses, as well as all major products manufactured by members. This directory is distributed widely to interested industry members.

*Billiard & Bowling Information Aid...Published since 1960, this colorful four-page folder features pertinent information for architects and contractors to assist them in constructing or remodeling billiard and bowling establishments. BBIA members receive 100 copies of this brochure for distribution without charge.

*Statistical Information...Periodically, BBIA members are sent statistical and background information related to the bowling and billiard industries to assist them in promoting sales and marketing their products at a profit.

SERVICES TO BBIA MEMBERS

*Monthly Credit Reporting Service...Inaugurated in 1964, the BBIA's monthly credit service has been expanded into a major free service for members. The credit program features the distribution to members only of a list of past-due accounts submitted monthly by the membership. The BBIA also furnishes at no charge special stickers to attach to past-due invoices advising accounts that they will be turned over to the BBIA Credit Reporting Service unless the amount involved is paid promptly. This service has been termed invaluable by the majority of BBIA members in assisting them in the increasingly important area of credit and collections.

*Free Promotion Aids...The BBIA supplies members with a wide range of free promotional aids, including decals, advertising mats, electros of the BBIA emblem and mats promoting billiards.

*Distinguished Industry Service Award...Each year, at its annual convention, the BBIA presents a Distinguished Industry Service Award to an industry or national leader who has contributed substantially over the years to the promotion and growth of the sports of billiards and bowling. This annual award receives national recognition for the BBIA and its activities.

*Cooperation With Industry Groups...The BBIA cooperates closely with all industry organizations to help promote industry growth and participation in billiards and bowling. The BBIA, through it officers and members, is represented officially at annual meetings and conventions of major industry associations and organizations.

*Industry And Member Contacts...BBIA Headquarters in Chicago is a major clearing house of information between BBIA members, and answers hundreds of inquiries each year on the industry. In many cases, firms with specific problems or equipment needs are referred to BBIA members who can assist them.

ANNUAL BBIA CONVENTION

Since 1943, the BBIA has conducted an annual convention offering members an unparalleled opportunity to meet with fellow distributors and manufacturers, inspect new equipment, and discuss industry problems. Representatives of all major industry associations and organizations are invited to participate in BBIA Convention sessions, and panel discussions are normally scheduled on the status and future of the industry problems. Speakers of national reputation are featured at the BBIA Convention.

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SCHAEFER'S 'TAME' WIN

(Continued from Page Eleven)

get the right action in his draw shots, in which he is the supreme master, while Cochran's objection consisted of the kick that the ivories were too highly polished.

Schaefer's grand average for the entire match was 34 38-43, best run 161. Cochran's record was 31 2-42 grand average and 196 high run.

In one tournament Schaefer once grand averaged 51.23 and 57.14 in another. In 1925 he ran 400 from the spot. This was against Hagenlacher in Chicago. And the German never got any further than chalking his cue tip.

In a challenge match against Horemans once. Schaefer beat the Belgian by 1,500 to 890, grand averaging 93.25.