the national
Billiard News
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MARCH
1978
The world's largest international pool, billiard and snooker publication

WILLIE MOSCONI

The Great Pool Shoot-Out

MINNESOTA FATS

It's anybody's game when legends collide

By BOB MULLEN

The meeting between these two giants of pocket billiards fittingly took place on Valentines Day. They came together "lovingly" on the national day of love with no quarter given.

Fatty was relentless in his banter, teasing the great Mosconi into a quiet rage and wonderous Willie had to fall back on the incomparable skill that made him the greatest player the game has ever known.

I want you readers to remember that last sentence for no matter what occurred at the "Strange Encounter" in the Waldorf's Starlight Room under the auspices of the American Broadcasting Company and Howard Cosell, Willie Mosconi's right to his place in the history of the pool game will be assured.

Rudolph Wonderone, a.k.a. "Minnesota Fats, Triple Smart Fats, and New York Fats is everything everybody has said but he can play the short games well. The "Fat Man" is a great banker, plays good nine ball and great one pocket and he had the great Mosconi concerned.

Mosconi is a straight pool player and although he has excelled at any pool game that he has attempted, he falls back on straight pool because that is his strength. Obviously, Willie gave this match some thought for he prepared himself by practicing the short games.

Willie the Wonder came up with a new twist and made 8 Ball, 9 Ball and Rotation play like straight pool. Mosconi insisted that all shots be called, anything made on the break would not count and have to be respotted, and all balls made with a carom from the object ball if not called would not count.

The Hall of Famer from Haddon Heights came up with a couple of other rules changes that were designed to "make him shoot" like no push out in nine ball, no ball in hand, must shoot at the object ball, and even changing one rule in the middle of the game.

When the Fatman objected to what was coming down the referee, Charles Orsatti, paid little heed, so Fatty took his case to the gallery of fans. While Willie attempted to shoot, Fats made his speech to the gallery until Mosconi insisted he sit down.

Fatty said, "These are the fans, Willie, and you know you have to have fans if this game is going to work." I think that Mosconi was put down. No one can defeat Fatty in a verbal confrontation.

At the start of this "Historic Battle" Fatty took off his sport coat and Mosconi raised hell. Fatty said that a pool player wearing a coat to play is like putting chocolate ice cream on oysters.

Willie said, "all right", taking off his coat to the applause of the home town crowd, "lets get on with it." It would have been great if he would have said, "Lets Play Pool Fatman."

Let's get to the least im-

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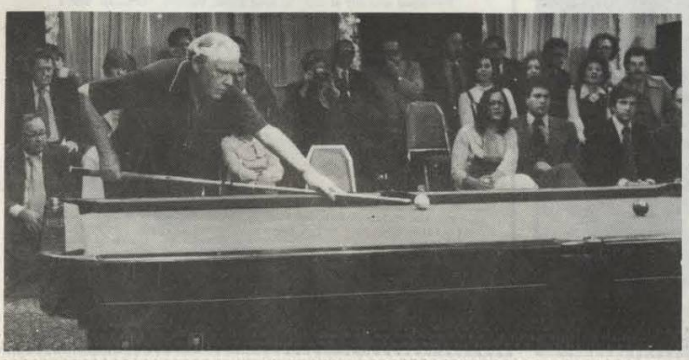

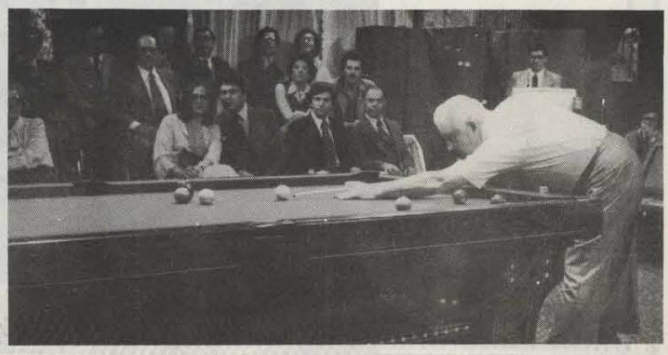

Book Review

MASTERING POOL

by GEORGE FELS

By PALMER BYRD

To say that George Fels' new book "Mastering Pool" is probably the best book of its kind is like saying that Mosconi can probably play.

Assuming you know how to make a few balls now and then, "Mastering Pool" is just what you need to help you see the kind of principles that separate you from top-notch players. (These are the same principles, by the way, that have probably separated you from your money on occasion.)

George Fels is a terrific writer, as you may recall from seeing some of his contributions to the N.B.N. in the last couple of years. His writing ability along with his knowledge of the game make "Mastering Pool" entertaining as well as informative reading.

The book takes a close look at straight-pool, eight-ball, nine-ball and one-pocket. Since the other games employ so many of the fundamentals of straight-pool, 14.1 is covered in depth before Fels takes on the others.

Some examples of the sort of principles he illustrates in the straight-pool section: Preparing yourself mentally for a shot; How to hit the stack so additional shots will break-out and what to

Please turn to Page 10

On the road . . . upcoming tournaments

3-Cushion

Grand Opening
March 11-12
Illinois Billiard Club
Chicago, Illinois

Queens Open
March 18-19
Jacy's Billiard Academy
Rego Park, New York

California One
March 12-14
Hollywood Billiards
Hollywood, California

California Two
March 16-18
Tiff's Billiards
North Hollywood, California

California Three
March 20-22
Sudden Sam's
Van Nuys, California

California Four
March 24-26
Brunswick Billiards
Los Angeles, California

University Bowl
April 1-2
University Bowl
Boca Raton, Florida

Leo Walch Open
April 8-9
Illinois Billiard Club
Chicago, Illinois

Milwaukee Open
April 15-16
Antlers Billiards
Milwaukee, Wisconsin

BFUSA-UMB World Tournament
May 1-6
Sahara Hotel
Las Vegas, Nevada
1-702-735-2111

Luis Campos Open
May 20-21
Illinois Billiard Club
Chicago, Illinois

Capital City
May 27-28
Hall of Fame
Lansing, Michigan

ABA Open
July 1-2
Hall of Fame
Lansing, Michigan

ABA Open
August 5-6
Hall of Fame
Lansing, Michigan

Rapid Fire Tournament
Every Monday & Thursday
Cushion 'n Cue
Oak Park, Michigan
1-313-541-1608

Pockets

Team Tournaments
March 10-11-12
Sam's Billiards
1845 NE 41st
Portland, Oregon
1-503-282-8266

Women's New York State Championship
April 8-9
Ernie Costa's 18th Ave. Ctr.
New York, New York
1-212-331-5480

Championship 9-Ball
May 19-20-21
Velvet Rail Billiards
Lansing, Michigan
1-517-487-3528

9-Ball Championships
May 22-28
Dearborn Hotel
Indianapolis, Indiana

Capital City Straight Pool Open
July 1-4
Velvet Rail Billiards
Lansing, Michigan
1-517-487-3528

Port Angeles Derby Days
9-Ball Championships
September 1-3
Port Angeles, Washington

Billiard News National Open Straight Pool Championships
September 1-4
Men's & Women's
Cushion 'n Cue
Livonia, Michigan

Listings in the tournament calendar are provided free to tournament sponsors as a service to our readers.

We suggest that dates and times be verified with the tournament sites directly in order to avoid any inconvenience.

Tom Jennings

Former U.S. Open Champion

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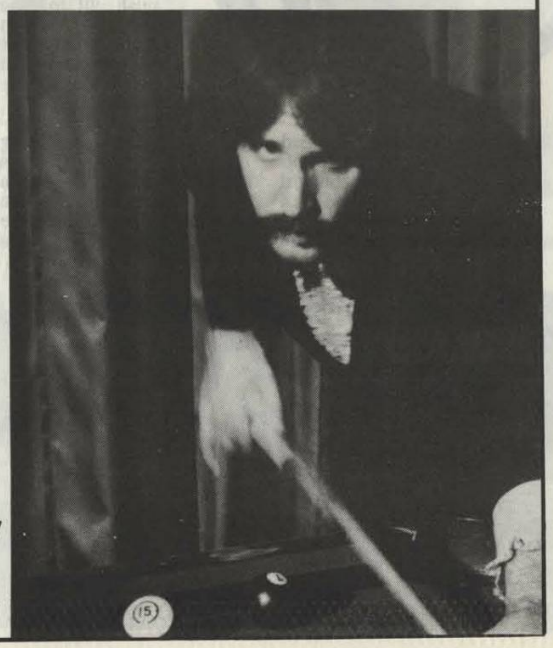

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Correction

Oops. We goofed.

In last month's issue we reported, both on the cover and page 9, that Jim Rempe had won all three divisions in the World Tournament in Japan. We were wrong. Jim in fact won two out of the three divisions, and was first in the over-all standings.

Our humble apologies to all.

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Gilbert dethroned; Torres champ

Edges Boston Shorty for national 3-C crown

By BOB BYRNE

SAN JOSE, CA — With a convincing last-round victory over Larry "Boston Shorty" Johnson, Frank Torres took first place by five-thousanths of a percentage point in the eleventh annual Billiard Federation national championship. His reward is a trip to Las Vegas, Nevada, to compete against the world's best in the thirty-third World Championship at the Sahara Hotel, May 1-6, 1978.

Joining him there will be the next three finishers, Johnson, Carlos Hallon, and Allen Gilbert.

Before play started on Thursday, Feb. 11, it was agreed that all ties would be broken by tournament scoring average. When play ended on Sunday night, a big crowd gathered around the scoreboard at the corner of the 250-seat exhibition room of California Billiards in San Jose, Calif., while Ed Courtney, BFUSA president, figured the crucial percentages with a pocket calculator.

Torres' final average turned out to be .835 and Johnson's .830. Two more billiards somewhere along the line would have given Shorty the title.

Three players were tied with records of six wins and three losses, Hallon, Gilbert, and Eddie Robin. Once again Courtney's calculator would decide. Hallon had had a string of fine games and it was no surprise when his average of .924 was posted.

The final qualifying berth for the World went to Gilbert with his .857, better than Robin's .801.

The tournament was conducted in what for billiards can be called a blitz of media publicity. A news release had been sent out to area newspapers and television stations pointing out that the field included the defending national champion, Gilbert, and four former national champions, Ashby, Johnson, Torres, and Robin. Ed Krueger and Dorothy Wise, proprietors of the 28-table room, made repeated phone calls to local papers, and the effort paid off handsomely.

Three TV film crews and three newspaper photographers visited the tournament and the local ABC channel in San Francisco gave three-cushion billiards a full five-minutes on both the 6:00 and 11:00 p.m. newscasts, perhaps the most publicity the game has ever received in the modern era.

The result was near capacity houses, despite

Please turn to Page 21

These four men finished on top and will represent the United States at the World Tournament in Las Vegas, Nevada at the Sahara Hotel May 1-6. From left to right (and in order of finish): Frank Torres, Larry Johnson, Carlos Hallon, and Allen Gilbert.

Frank Torres competing in last year's World Tourney

No more straight pool

Billiard Congress slates national 8-ball tourney

The Billiard Congress of America has completed plans to run its Second Annual National Eight Ball Tournament. Qualifying play will take place through July. With the expected overwhelming numbers of interested players throughout the country regional eliminations will be held through September, if needed.

Up to 192 finalists will compete November 2-4 in Louisville, Kentucky to seek out the best players among the men and women who compete in 8 Ball. To quote BCA Managing Director Bob Goodwin, "Anyone can play".

A separate women's division has been assured. Over 16 local qualifying tournaments have been reserved for the ladies to date.

Making this tournament financially possible are sponsors from the billiard industry, Albany Hyatt Billiard Ball Company and the Valley Company. These two members have put up $10,000 — to cover the cost of advance printing, promotion, patches, trophies and a portion of the prizes.

Mailings will start soon to room operators, taverns, colleges and leagues.

Other BCA members ptiching in with prizes are — Tables: Cue Master, Gandy, Global, Golden West, Murrey, National Billiards, Play Master, Valley and World of Leisure. Table lights from Marshall Mfg. Co.; Cues from International Billiards, Valley, Huebler; Table covers and cue cases from Leapro; Table cloth from Mali; and Cue Racks from International Billiards.

The total retail value is almost $23,000.00. Anyone else who would like to contribute should contact Bob Goodwin at BCA headquarters.

Other news from BCA is another project to start later in the year and will involve both retailers and their neighboring billiard rooms in a cooperative effort. This will be designate as "Learn to Play Billiards Month".

During 'Billiard Month' customers buying billiard equipment at retail member stores will receive a free introductory lesson at a nearby cooperating room, where further paid instructions will be available.

The Proprietor and Retail members voted to fill the two new directorships for BCA. Elected as the Retail Director was Ruehl Lee, Pro Billiards of America of Davenport, Iowa. Nick Page of Maries' Golden Cue of Chicago, Illinois was elected the Proprietor Director.

The Second Front Page

THE NATIONAL BILLIARD NEWS
March, 1978

Legends

Continued from Page 1

portant part of this story, the game. They played nine ball, rotation, and Eight Ball. Mosconi won all the sets, won all the arguments, and Fatty walked out of there with a pocket full of money.

The Fat One enjoyed himself throughout, talking to the crowd, kidding with Cosell, needling Mosconi.

Mosconi was just the opposite: up tight, never a smile, always a true competitor in every sense of the word.

My problem; I was confronted with writing this story about two people with whom I have shared a long friendship. And that is a story in itself.

Willie thinks of Fatty as a braggart and a prevaricator with little talent. I think of Fatty as the biggest drawing card in the business, the example of what the public thinks of when they think a pool player; a man who sacrifices his own time for charitable causes (Easter Seals); a kind man with a good word for everybody; a man who has helped the game that has very little good to say about him.

The Fat Man is the principle missionary in the field for the game of pool. He provides a color and excitement that is appealing to one and all, young and old, pool fans and novices. He is the spirit of what makes this game so popular.

Fatty has been willing to share the glory and the spotlight. But show me a completely unselfish pool player and I will show you a loser.

Willie Mosconi is class and talent unequalled in pool and the game has been good to him. Now may be the time to pay some dues. Now may be the time to cultivate some of the other players to step into his shoes when he is no longer able to show his wares. Keep the continuity going and create that popular figure that will provide the box office draw that Mosconi has represented in the past.

Nobody could ever take Mosconi's place for he is one of a kind, a true living legend in pocket billiards. But it is up to Willie, and maybe Fats, to put their show on the road and tie in some of the other younger players to create that showcase necessary for the continued interest in the game and its eventual rise to the heights it deserves.

The "Fats and Willie Show" was an add-on to the Triple PA promotion of a "Trick and Tough Shot Contest" between Champions Steve Mizerak, Allen Hopkins, Ray Martin, Peter Margo, and the incomparable Hall of Famer Irving Crane.

Luther Lassiter was to appear with this group but had to bow out because of illness and his place was taken by popular Ernie Costa.

The premise was based on a similar event at last years Asbury Park Championship matches, the product of the combined imaginations of Lee and Marshall Boyar.

Each player started out with an introduction by Howard Cosell and two trick shots of the own choosing.

Mizerak showed the crowd a feat of unparalleled confidence. Steve placed two cues coming out of the corner pockets to form a triangle, put the cue ball at its point and placed another cue by hand to form the pyramid. He applied pressure to the two cues and slowly raised the ball to a peak of three feet above the bed of the table.

The other players did their things well until it came to shy, low key Pete Margo. Margo approached Howard Cosell to do the old "shoot the ball out of the mouth" trick, Cosell demurely declined but offered the services of his guest, Al Rosen. Al Rosen is the former all-star third baseman for the Cleveland Indians and now V.P. of the New York Yankees. This guy looked like he could break Margo in a few pieces with just a look.

I remember him. Playing ball he very seldom fielded the ball with his glove but mostly with his chest.

Rosen made the remark that he played his career without a cup and he thought that he should have one now.

Petey had Rosen lie on his back with a piece of chalk in his mouth and then placed a ball in the chalk, then proceeded to hit the ball into the corner pocket without the slightest harm befalling Cosell's 'volunteer'. I suppose that you had to be there but it was a lot of fun and the kind of thing that enhances the image of the game.

Ernie Costa finished off the show with an interesting shot lining up the balls in numerical order, elevated from the bed of the table on rolled up playing cards. Ernie shot through this "Bicycle" viaduct, made the object ball in the corner pocket without the falling balls disturbing the success of the shot.

The players then proceeded into the tough shot division of play with 8 diagramed 'tough shots' worth points to each player depending on whether they made the shot in one or two tries. Mizerak beat out Margo for first place with Crane coming in third.

The game was played on a table put up by Loria and Sons, a 4½ x 9 Kling (or Hudson) that played beautifully.

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9-ball action in Tampa

Roberts over Hubbart in Citrus Open

Story and photos by FLAN PILKINGTON

In a style that nine ball fans have come to know as classic Louis Roberts, "St. Louis Louie" made fast work of Larry Hubbart to claim the $2,000 first prize at Baker's Billiard Academy in Tampa.

Starting January 16 and ending on Sunday evening, January 22, Louie went undefeated through the 32-man double elimination

A. G. BAKER

event. He punched a one way ticket to the loser's bracket for Morris Dugger, Bill Stigall, Terry Bell, Joey Spaeth, and Larry Hubbart.

A full house of enthusiastic spectators surrounded the table as Louie told jokes, jumped over balls, kicked shots in and, from seemingly impossible situations, continued to run out and send Hubbart to the second place pay window for his G-note.

To make it to the finals, Larry "Cue Salesman" Hubbart, with a tremendous display of heart, came back from a deficit of two games to eight to defeat local super player Jerry Brock. With a spectacular crowd-pleasing shot Hubbart, with cue ball in hand, combinationed the nine ball off the one to win 11-10.

Brock, who is primarily known as a bar table player, refused to be shaken by a disputed call in the quarter finals and played steady run-out nine ball to put Mike Sigel out of the tourney with fourth place money of $300. Brock's loss to Hubbart placed him third and he collected $500.

Baker's Billiards has been in business in Tampa, Florida since 1927. Seventy-six year old A. G. Baker and Tournament Manager, T. R. McIntosh operated as well organized a tournament as this observer has ever witnessed. All prize money was paid promptly in cash and they announced that next year's meeting would be a $10,000 affair. People like T. R. McIntosh and Mr. Baker are a credit to the game and friends to all players.

After the tournament games were completed each evening, dignitaries of the "action set" carried a high profile. There were ring games of payball and 10-ball to keep the attention of the eyeballers and stakehorses until sunrise and after.

Names like "Gene the Machine," "Boston Joey," "Flyboy," "Handsome Danny Jones," Dan louie, Bob Ogborn, Steve Oaks, Eddie Burton, and others wereheard around the 24-table room. With their cues fashioned by Szamboti or Balabushka, Joss or Meucci, they complained of poor light, bad rolls, tight pockets, and all the other standard excuses we have heard so many times.

Then, next morning with empty pockets, cue securely stored in a leather Fellini, they would be looking for a ride to the bus station so they could get home to find a new stakehorse and go to Baton Rouge next week and do it all over again.

St. Louie Louie (left) accepts the prize money and congratulations from tourney director T. R. McIntosh

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Bull Shots

By BOB MULLEN

CATCHING UP... The two time BCA U.S. Open Champion Tom Jennings finally met up with Pete Margo, his principle antagonist. Triple PA. Champion Allan Hopkins holds a weekly King of the Hill contest at his billiard room in Greenbrook, N.J. Margo won this match-up 150 points to 107, coming from behind with unfinished run of 127. Nobody ever said that Margo couldn't play pool.

Pete also won the New England All Around Championship at the Gold Crown Billiard Club in New London, Conn. Margo compiled a 5-1 record in the four man field, losing only to Ray Martin in the 9 ball event 11-3. Jack Colovita finished in second place.

APOLOGIES TO ALLAN GILBERT for not publicizing his spectacular billiard playing in the west coast tournaments. It isn't often a player dominates a game like Gilbert does. True that Arnold Palmer and Jack Nicklaus had their days but their days were numbered and Gilbert goes on and on.

This year the Billiard Federation, led by Ed Courtney, will host the International Three Cushion Tournament in Las Vegas at the Sahara Hotel starting May 1st. 1977-78 will be a year to be remembered in three cushion because of the record number of regional and qualifier tournaments for the strictly amateur BFUSA Nationals.

Abe Rosen just led a field of twelve in the Regionals held in Oak Park, Michigan, with Lawrence (Boston Shorty) Johnson coming in second. Abe is a bit long in the tooth at age 70 and was not expected to make the finish because of physical stamina requirements, but skill won out.

Boston Shorty definitely made up his mind to get the recognition he deserves for his all round ability. He can poo-poo (what other word can you use?) the idea of prestige, recognition, and love of the game but a man doesn't go to all that trouble unless he has a great deal of faith in his own ability.

Carlos Hallon finished 3rd and is definitely a comer.

I long ago gave up the idea that I would be a good player but I consider myself an astute judge of natural talent in billiards of any form, and I would say that if Hallon would accept the proper guidance he could probably play as a "World Ranked Player". That guidance would be available through Allan Gilbert and some of the other players with world experience.

Gilbert's help improved Bill Hawkins game to a point that the "Hawk" became a much more consistent player and that was at a late stage in life. Think what could be done with a player like Hallon.

Coming in fourth was the ever dependable Jose Campos.

ED COURTNEY, PRESIDENT OF BFUSA, flew in from California to be present at the regionals in Michigan. This was my first meeting with Ed and his enthusiasm is remarkable. One of his cohoorts in the planning and execution of the "International" at Vegas is Bob Byrne and Bob Byrne says that Courtney wants this to be a success so badly that he would mortgage his home.

Where are the wealthy fans of three cushion? Even the well-to-do that can spare a donation to make this gala event a success. Japan had a knockout affair and it was partially sponsored by billiard manufacturers and money from private sources. The United States has no such source of backing for this event that will feature the finest three cushion players in the world from Europe, Asia, South America and the United States.

Spectators will be coming in from all over the world. Ed Courtney may have to make personal sacrifices to provide the class setting the event deserves. Check the ad for the BFUSA and then send in for a season ticket, an ad for the program book, or even just send in.

IN ALL THE YEARS OF PUBLISHING, THE NATIONAL BILLIARD NEWS has never received a response similar to that brought about by the article in the January issue titled, "The Shooters". Some for and some against the subject matter and the language used.

We could say that the "Shooters" was a test to see if there was anyone out there doing anything but looking at the pictures in our paper, but we won't. No apologies and no search for extra credit for springing the story. I see our position in the billiard world as being a mirror held up to the pool scene so that the spectators and the fans in the back row can see what is going on.

We received a complaint from the "Fast Freddy" mentioned in the piece that his referral to localities where action is available created a hassle for him. It is not the best kept secret in the world that a pool player

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Kollins' Kolumn

Things your mother never told you

By TOM KOLLINS

While it may come as a surprise to many, one of the major concerns of the novice pool player is the way he stands at the table. After all, how can he be expected to concentrate on proper shot sequence or cue ball speed when he feels so wobbly, or so stiff, or so just plain uncomfortable that it commands an inordinate amount of his attention.

The feeling of being at ease over the ball is the first step toward acquiring confidence. Confidence is the key that opens the door to becoming a good player.

You may have noticed that all players do not strike the same pose when they address the ball. You would, in fact, be hard pressed to find two players whose stance is identical. Even among professionals there is a great variance.

You will find one who stands with his feet fourteen inches apart, another with his feet four feet apart, and still others who cover all of the points in between. While some may lock the left knee and others the right, there are some who lock both knees and others who flex both.

Obviously, the stance is a very individual thing.

The proper stance for you is one that affords good balance. That's the key word, balance.

The pilot of a small plane knows that if the weight of his cargo is not "within the envelope", his craft will not fly properly, if it flies at all. Neither must you allow your weight to be either too far forward, or too far back. Keep it "within the envelope".

If someone was to pull the table out from under you while you are shooting, would you fall on your face? If so, you're leaning too far forward.

You'll know you have good balance when you can hold your stance while being given a slight nudge, **from any direction.**

If you've been standing with all your weight on one foot, with your legs crossed, or in some other unorthodox position, you will find it very difficult to maintain your equilibrium. The head and the body must remain motionless throughout the stroke. Only the shooting arm gets into the action.

After all this, if you're still looking for a model whose stance you can copy, try to find a professional with the same approximate size and physique as your own. At the very least, it's a good place to start.

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Venzke's View from the bleachers

By BRUCE VENZKE

The month of March in the bleachers means our rhyme and meter lovers have their days.

This will be our **3rd Annual Pool Poetry Contest**, in which we ask all and any of you to submit your own original poetry that is in some way about pool, billiards, players, or any aspect of the sport. We then have a group for publication in the June *NBN*.

The author gets his poem published for all pool nuts to read, plus our publishers supply a free one year subscription to the *NBN*. We'll also print a couple of the runner-up poems.

So pound 'em out and post 'em! This could be your year.

There are three simple rules to follow:

1. Poems must be typed or clearly printed.
2. Poems must be rhymed; no free verse.
3. Poems must be received by April 30, 1978.

Send your entries to Bruce Venzke, 17901 W. Rogers Drive, New Berlin, WI 53151.

We always try to inspire you at this time by providing some poems from our files. This year is a little special; we have a **Bob Milne Poetry Festival.**

Bob Milne is a Michigan pianist and poet (and billiard buff) who has been submitting poems all year in anticipation of this year's contest. Since he's already won (the 1st Annual), we decided to eliminate all his poems from the 3rd Annual, and to provide them for your pleasure in advance.

So here goes; read his and then write yours:

The Shortstop

Gentlemen! Gentlemen! May I insert,
You've left me quite confused;
I don't know what a "shortstop" is
or how the term is used.

From letters you have printed,
wrote by men in times of strife,
it is clear that they're both players
from two different walks of life.

One man seems a gentleman;
(I can't recall his name).
His words walk soft, respectful,
but they say he earns no fame.

The other strokes up mighty runs
where all the glory reigns,
but from the reading of his letters
it is clear he's short on brains.

So tell me learned gentlemen
(and I offer it with flowers):
Does "shortstop" mean "can't run the balls"
or "short on thinking powers"

For if it's one, then there I am,
just missing balls in play,
and if the other — tell me friends,
and I'll shut my mouth today.

That is clearly one of Bob's older entries. Here follows a somewhat later poem, though hardly less provocative.

Who is the Godplayer?

All masters and maestros are humbled it's true.
He has risen to save us, you see,
from Mosconi and Hoppe, Greenleaf, the rest
It's (Ta-Da!!) the "Player of the Century!"

From out of the darkness (who is this man?)
As he strokes through the balls sublime;
caroms and kisses, he plays without misses
he's a legend in his own er— time!

Forgive me my ignorance — I know not of this man,
yet for knowledge and guidance I've prayed,
for the masters, I'm taught, many battles have fought
but, good men, who the hell has he played?

Has "God" rolled the balls with the awesome likes
of the Greenleafs and Cranes; is it silly
to wonder aloud, if he's mighty and proud,
will he play with the legend called "Willie?"

Or is nothing left sacred by show business types
who belittle the art of the game?
Though his hot air earns money, it's not really funny
Cold stares — without laughs — is not fame.

So now let us come to a judgment in time;
we have heard how he brags his reknown.
With all B.S. aside, for the glory and pride
let me plain lay my question down—

Dear God —
There's been braggarts before, there'll be braggarts again
who all wilt like the vanishing star;
so will you seek out Willie, put up your cash
and show us how good you are?

And finally, perhaps an introspective look at involvement with pocket billiards?

It Never Changes

Oh, call for the shrink! Bring me doctor and nurse!
To explain this behavior so rash!
See him cut the balls backwards, or 3-rail them round
while "The Man" leaves the hall with his cash!

The game is so easy when one plays alone
They go straight, as if rolling in tubes;
but play for ten bucks (think of wife, home and kids)
and one might as well try to roll cubes!

Yes, you've done it again, you incredible jerk,
you've squandered the money, you churl;
so think of Mother, confess to your deeds
and repent, ye, aloud to the world.

(Take a deep breath — that's it, be
brave — he's going to do it!)

"This game is the Pits! I will never again
set my feet in these smoke-choking halls!

Please turn to Page 20

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On Wisconsin circuit

Carter wins last 9-ball meets

By BRUCE VENZKE

It was quality, not quantity on January 22 as Romine's High pockets in Milwaukee hosted another quickie one-day Nineball tournament with twelve area shooters after the $520 in prize money.

The field went into two round robin brackets with the top two finishers making the single elimination chart for the evening's finals. And what the field lacked in size, it made up for in quality and balance.

In the first bracket, Madison's **Mark Wilson** showed the way, undefeated, with **Jeff Carter** of Beloit right behind with a 4-1 record, having lost only to Wilson. Coming up one win short in 3rd with Chicago's **Tom Kollins,** who lost two tough ones to Carter and Wilson by 8-7 and 8-6.

In the second bracket, Milwaukee veterans **Willie Munson** and **Bruce Venzke** led the pack with 4-1 finishes to advance to the final four. **George Brunt** (Milwaukee) and **John Brannon** (Beloit) tied for the 3rd-4th spots, each having lost an 8-7 match to the leaders that cost them the finals.

Finishing out the bracket were host **Big Daddy Romine** (5th) at 1-4, and **Russ Lee** (LaCrosse) who lost 8-7 to both Venzke and Munson to wind up 6th.

In the finals, it was Carter getting loose against Munson for an 11-4 win, while Venzke turned back Wilson 11-7.

The 3rd place game saw Munson leading Wilson by one game while on the hill, and then breaking in the nine to close it out and finish 3rd.

In the championship, Carter remained loose and sharp, with hardly an error as he swept to a convincing 11-5 victory over Venzke to take the title.

Host Terry Romine had added $100 of his own loot to the pot, and T. D **Dan McCann** distributed it for him as follows:

1. Jeff Carter, $250; 2. Bruce Venzke, $150; 3. Willie Munson, $75; 4. Mark Wilson, $45.

☆ ☆ ☆

Jeff Carter of Beloit won the tenth and last stop on the West Allis Pool and Supply-Billiard Congress of Wisconsin 1977-78 Nineball Tour February 12th at Capitol Billiards in Milwaukee. The ten monthly tournaments employed a point system to qualify 16 players for the 1978 Wisconsin State Nineball Championships to be held in April.

Carter, sporting a new tournament philosophy of relaxed confidence, defeated the always tough **Mark "Woody" Wilson** in the final set, 10-3. Carter had made the final after wins over **John Brannon** (10-6) and **Jack Spoerl** (10-8), while Wilson had turned back **Randy LaMar** (10-2) and **Wally Paetow** (10-3) to be in the championship match.

Brannon defeated Paetow in the 3rd place playoff, 4-0, and it was a hard loss for Paetow who had played gallantly in a last ditch effort to make the top 16 list for the state meet. Paetow needed a 3rd place finish to slip past **Craig Powers,** but Brandon stopped him in 4th, and Walter's Nineball year was over.

Also in the final eight-man bracket were **George Brunt,** who lost 10-9 to Paetow in the finals' first round, and **Willie Munson,** who was similarly edged by Brannon. The field for the one day event was 21.

The order of finish: 1st: Jeff Carter; 2nd: Mark Wilson; 3rd: John Brannon; 4th: Wally Paetow; 5th: George Brunt; 6th: Willie Munson; 7th: Jack Spoerl; 8th: Randy LaMar.

Nineball Tour co-director **Dave Batchelor** released the following official final point standing list of the sixteen state championship qualified players:

1. Willie Munson 86; 2. Randy LaMar 73; 3. Chuck Olla 68; 4. Mark Wilson 63; 5. John Brannon 57; 6. Tod Covington 56; 7. George Brunt 52; 8. Jeff Carter 52; 9. Jim Fitzpatrick 47; 10. Terry Romine 46; 11. Jack Spoerl 43; 12. Bruce Venzke 43; 13. George Pawelski 42; 14. Andy Wawiorka 39; 15. Ron Schneider 37; and 16. Craig Powers 34.

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INSET: Another Varrin creation, the Gale Johnson Traveling Trophy, named for the secretary of the American Billiard Association to whom the trophy was donated in November, 1977.

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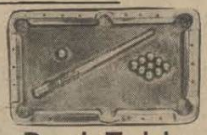

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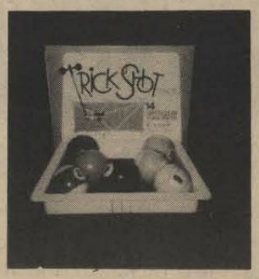

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Komori wins 3rd consecutive amateur title

Junichi Komori won his third consecutive Japanese National Amateur Three Cushion Championship in a rough and tumble tournament held in Tokyo, November 20th through the 23rd. Nobuaki Kobayashi, former world champion, struggled to a second place finish in the games which were held under superb playing conditions in the Mayuzumi Building in downtown Akasaka. Yoshio Yoshihara, who must be on anyone's list of the world's top five or six players, finished third.

The tournament, marked by the incessant, almost fanatical safety play which has characterized Japanese three-cushion billiards since the last world tournament, was played on two Awajitei World Match Tables outfitted with Tru-speed cushions, Nikke A-3 cloth, Callenelle World Tournament Balls and Hitachi Slate Heaters.

Komori, although showing consistent class, was only able to compile five wins against two losses. He fell victim first to Yoshihara's superb safety in losing 50 to 38 in 40 innings and then was overpowered by Kobayashi who b blitzed him 50 to 19 in 28 innings. The quality of safety play was evident in the fact that Komori was only able to average 1.212, some 15% below his 1977 year's average.

Kobayashi, showing a lack of training, was only able to get his game together at the end of the tournament. But when he did start moving, he showed a mastery of the Ceuleman's technique of playing both safety and position at the same time that totally overwhelmed his opponents.

High run honors went to Kobayashi for his run of 13 and the best game was Yoshihara's 50 points in 22 innings. Yoshihara also had the best average of 1.292.

The final standings with averages were: 1. Komori, 5-2, 1.212; 2. Kobayashi, 4-2-1, 1.169; 3. Yoshihara, 4-3, 1.292; 4. Kashiwagi, 4-3, 1.006; 5. Iguchi, 3-4, 0.948; 6. Fujita, 3-4, 0.752; 7. Kashiki, 2-4, 0.946; 8. Shiozaki, 2-5, 0.915.

Book

Continued from Page 2

look for once the balls are open; How you can forsee and **avoid** "bad rolls" **before** they happen; and the "whenever possibles", George's own "Nine Commandments" to increase your ability to run balls two or three-fold.

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Jim Rempe: *'Who owes you, Mataya?'*

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I challenge you to any three games of your choosing and I will annihilate you! Just in case you will permit ME to pick the three games (which I know you won't do!) you can get a big price for your money! How's that for making it easy on you, Jim?

I'm not belittling your ability, Jim, but even you should know that it's not all that hard to get to the top playing billiards — it's staying on top that's tough. And I don't feel that two tournaments qualify you as a top contender!

Truly (not phony) yours,
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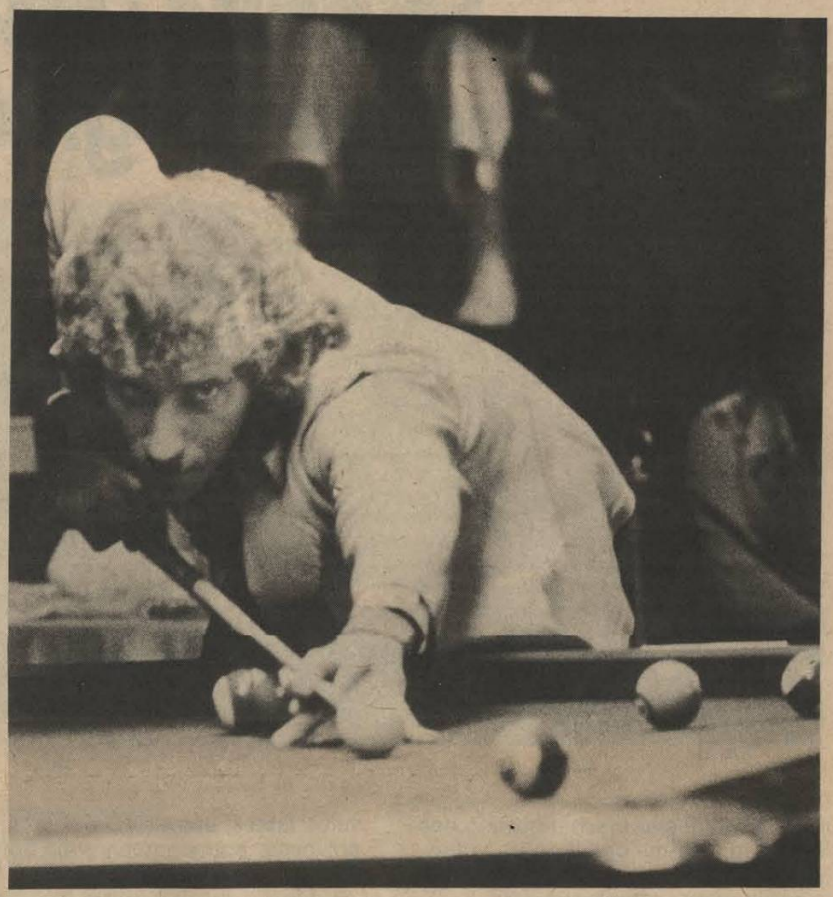

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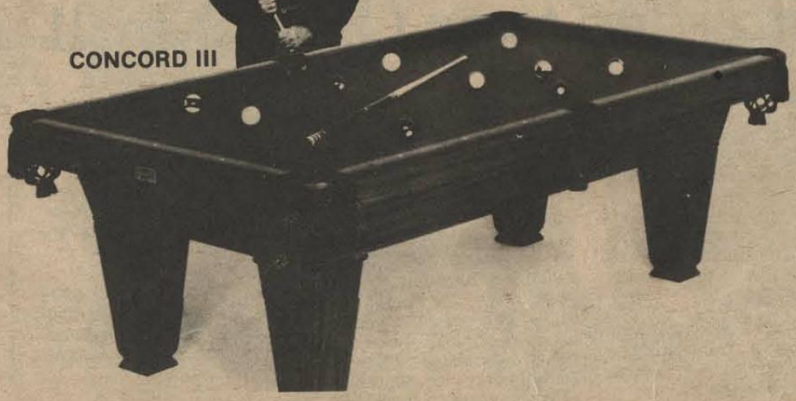

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Willie Mosconi

EBONITE FUQUA SPORTS

Ceulemans' Belgian 3-C champ

By CARL CONLON

HOBOKEN, BELGIUM — The Belgian 3-cushion championships for 1978 were held in Hoboken, Belgium, the sit of the 1972 championships. Raymond Ceulemans, the world's premier billiard player, easily annexed his 95th major championship by winning all his games. Ceulemans finished with an average of 1.484 for the tournament.

The tournament was played on two Rene Gabriels tables with Rocket cushions, Simonis Super Extra Roulant cloth and Super Aramith (light red) balls.

The field of eight included, besides Ceulemans, Ludo Dielis of Deume, Belgium, who has 26 major championships to his credit. In addition to qualifying for the European 3-Cushion Championships with his second place finish here, Dielis is qualified for the World Championship in Pentathlon, 18.1 Balkline and One Cushion.

The third qualifier was Laurent Boulanger of Liege, Belgium, who owns 15 major championships in his 35 year competitive career.

Ceulemans, as usual, announced his presence by playing the best game in the tournament in his first game, beating Florent DeJonghe of St. Niklaas, 60-28 in 30 innings. The tournament presented no problem to Ceulemans as he won all his games easily.

The high run of the tournament, 14 points, was unusual. Ceulemans had finished his game against Leslie Menheer of Antwerp 60-34 in the first half of the 48th inning. Menheer went to the table for his last inning, broke and ran a very tasty 14.

Generally, the safety play was very tight. There were very few "natural" shots for any of the players.

In the final game, Ceuelmans vs Dielis, the score stood 15-14 for Ceulemans in the 21st inning. Ceulemans then broke the game wide open by running four 6's in four innings to come 39-14 in 25 innings. Each 6 began with a five cushion bank shot at balls on the other endcushion from the cue ball.

The event was well attended with over 250-300 people per session and over 500 for the last session.

Knowles tops Ohio 9-ball

Some of the sharpest pool sharpies in Northeast Ohio gathered together for a marathon tournament on a Sunday in January proving that 9 Ball is the game for one and all. The place: Moon Mullins Family Pool Hall, prize money of $840.00 plus gifts and tough competitive play.

Glen Knowles of Youngstown, Ohio was the first place finisher along with the 'pool game'.

In the words of the promoter, Moon Mullins, "I wanted you to know that we do a little promotion for pool in Ohio. I have a small room of 9 tables and very little seating for spectators. Most of the people had to stand up for more than nine hours and they proved to be super fans for they all cooperated with the players in every way. With our severe space limitations players needing more room to execute a shot were given that space by the fans without instructions from anyone.

"It was an invitational tournament and 16 of the areas toughest players showed up. What helped to make this an unforgettable event was the fact that along with myself I had 12 other sponsors. The contributions along with the $30.00 entry fee gave the players reason to shoot their best."

Here is a list of the prizes and the winners:

1st—Glen Knowles, $400.00, Youngstown; 2nd—Mike LaRich, $200.00, Mayfield Heights; 3rd—Mark Mryo, $125.00, Cleveland; 4th—Fred Martin, $75.00, Canton; 5th—Tim Daniels, $40.00, Cleveland; 6th—Barry Hixon, $40.00, Alliance; 7th—Dennis Jackson, Gift, Brimfield; 8th—Mike Alverez, Gift, Cleveland.

Others that played were: Jerry Wolfe, Joe Kerr, Mike Ruffo, Robert Gallagher, Larry Skubio, Leil Gay Jr., Rich Ford and Steve Beal.

The tournament was double elimination, race to nine games, one foul ball in hand and Glen Knowles went undefeated.

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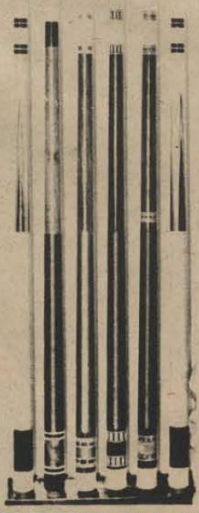

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DOUG MacDONALD – EDITOR

THE BROKEN CUE NEWS

Snooker Council finally a reality

After three years of much hard work, the Canadian Snooker Control Council has finally come into being. A lot of people have to be thanked for establishing this country-wide network.

Special thanks is reserved for Len Homenchuck, the President of Chenier Hall, for his unselfish position in supporting this council. It is people like this who put the game first, which the sport so desperately needs.

We would like to thank each of the trade members who not only are supporting the council but who are and have, in the past, supported many of the tournaments in Canada. These trade representatives are as follows:

Michael Holubik of Ontario Billiard Supply and World of Billiard, Toronto, who has strongly sponsored T.V. tournaments as well as the Canadian Championships originally held in Ottawa. This year he will be co-sponsoring, with the Pepsi Cola Company, the 1978 Canadian Snooker Championships.

Howard Peak of National Bowling and Billiards Limited, of Vancouver, who has helped not only in sending the B.C. players to compete in the National finals but as well by supporting the Provincial Championships.

Bud Leach of Pepsi Cola Canada Limited, who was so helpful in having Pepsi co-sponsor the Canadian Championships. Pepsi support for 1978 has more than doubled over 1977 and 1976, when they made their first entry into the sport of snooker. Between Pepsi and the World of Billiards, the prize money for the Canadian has been increased to $10,000.

John Geminari of Frito-Lay Canada Limited whose company, for the second year in a row, is sponsoring the Canadian Ladies' Championships — $1,000 at stake this time. A very nice increase.

We, of the snooker world, should stand strongly behind these sponsors. The stronger they become, the stronger the sport becomes. Let us support those who support us.

The objectives of the Control Council are as follows:

1—To develop and promote amateur snooker at all levels throughout Canada.

2—To sanction all regional tournaments leading to national and international amateur play.

3—To raise expense money for amateur players in order to allow them to compete in the Canadian Championships and in international competitions.

4—To be a focal point and collective voice for amateur snooker throughout Canada.

5—To develop and improve the relations between snooker and the media and the general public.

Regional and Provincial Control Councils are presently being set up throughout Canada. This will provide a strong focal point within each region or province and allow better and coordinated leadership to local tournaments and refereeing.

Please turn to Page 16

How we rate the players

It seems that each time we rate the top snooker players in Canada we come out with more accurate assessment. Possibly, this is because we have had the opportunity over the past few seasons to see more of them in action under tournament conditions. Also, these ratings were done by four experts rather than by one or two, as in the past.

It is interesting to know the high rating of Jim Wych, who just recently won the Western Canada Championship, as well as competing so successfully during the Canadian tour of the United Kingdom.

Kirk Stevens, another young player (19), is starting to gain recognition after proving his worth both in the Canadian tour as well as in his home town of Toronto.

Most of the other players are well known to the snooker public, so we will not comment further on them.

Here is how we, of the Broken Cue News, see them:

1. Cliff Thorburn — Toronto; 2. Robert Paquette — Montreal; 3. Jim Wych — Calgary; 4. John Bear — Vancouver; 5. Bill Werbeniuk — Vancouver; 6. Kirk Stevens — Toronto; 7.

Please turn to Page 16

THE BROKEN CUE NEWS

1407 Carling Ave., Ottawa
Telephone 613—722-7945

EDITOR
Douglas G. MacDonald
C.A.

THE BROKEN CUE NEWS IS PUBLISHED MONTHLY IN THE NATIONAL BILLIARD NEWS AND ITS SOLE PURPOSE IS TO PROMOTE THE SPORT OF SNOOKER AND BILLIARDS ACROSS CANADA

All correspondence to be addressed to the Editor, Broken Cue News
1407 Carling Ave., Ottawa

Canadian Snooker Council finally a reality

Continued from Page 15

A chain of tournaments, leading from the smallest rooms in Canada directly to the World Championships, has now been developed. Any rooms wishing to have their room champions compete in regional championships can now be accommodated.

We have been extremely honored to have the Right Honorable John G. Diefenbaker accept the position of Honorary Chairman. No other Canadian is held in such high esteem. We are indeed thankful.

His Honor Lorry Greenberg has accepted the position of Honorary Vice Chairman. He has a love of snooker and is a reasonably good player in his own right. As well, his participation in the grand opening of the Canadian Men's And Ladies' Championships has been greatly appreciated.

Letters were written to twenty people across Canada seeking their permission to serve as provisional directors, until the first annual meeting to be held during the Canadian Championships in September. We were extremely pleased to report that eighteen of the twenty accepted the offer.

Each of the selected regional directors were asked to supply other names of persons who might be interested in serving, so they can be voted on at the September meeting.

The make-up of the Canadian Snooker Control Council is as follows:

OFFICERS

Honorary Chairman, Rt. Honorable John G. Diefenbaker

Honorary Vice Chairman, His Worship Mayor Lorry Greenberg

Chairman, Douglas G. MacDonald

Vice Chairman, Len Homenchuck

Secretary, Maurice Hayes

REGIONAL DIRECTORS

Newfoundland, ...

P.E.I., Phil McLennan

Nova Scotia, Dick MacDonald

New Burnswick, Robert Hargrove

Western Quebec, Ervin Budge

Southern Quebec, Robert Paquette

Eastern Ontario, Gerry Seed

South/Western Ontario, ...

Northern Ontario, Peter Peroff

Manitoba, Rocco Rosaito

Saskatchewan, Kent Gould

British Columbia, Len Homenchuck, Gary Strachan

Alberta, Wayne Hall

AT LARGE DIRECTORS

Gord Gunn, Maurice Hayes, Douglas G. MacDonald, Orval Porteous, John Bell, Jerry Thompson

REPRESENTATIVES

Player's Advisor, Cliff Thorburn

Trade, Michael Holubik, Ontario Billiard Supply; Al Selinger, Dufferin Cue; Bud Leach, Pepsi-Cola Canada Ltd.; John Geminari, Frito-Lay Canada Ltd.; Howard Peak, National Bowling & Billiards Ltd.

Universities, Stan Mills, Carleton University

COMMITTEES

Finance & Administration, Douglas G. MacDonald

Tournaments, Gerry Seed

Sale of Rules & Revisions, Maurice Hayes

International Relations, Douglas G. MacDonald

Promotion, Ervin Bidge

EACH OF THE DIRECTORS HAVE ONE VOTE.

Since the directorships which were refused were from the Southwestern Ontario area, we are presently seeking people to fill these vacant positions. They would be responsible for forming a Southwestern Snooker Control Council and sanctioning local tournaments in the area, and as well to authorize the running of the Southwestern Ontario Championships.

Please note that among the representatives is Stan Mills of Carleton University who, along with the Broken Cue, hosted the first annual inter-university snooker tournament. Six major universities participated.

Next year we expect this competition to double in entries. It is what is needed throughout Canada. If you want your university to participate, you can contact us or Stan Mills.

If you have local tournaments, or are involved in them and want that to receive official sanction so that the tournament winners can compete in regional playdowns, please send us a letter and we, of the Canadian Snooker Control Council, will set it up for you.

The Billiards and Snooker Control Council, the world governing body, has given us their blessing and has confirmed our role as Canada's governing body.

Odds & Ends

•The Ottawa area referees association has come into being, with Maurice Hayes as President and John Bell as Secretary. This should be a reasonably strong group, as there are many good qualified referees in the Ottawa area.

•Lola Seed, of the Centennial, has really gone all out and raised $2,000 for a 32 double knockout tournament in Ottawa. First prize will be $800.

•Gabe Tarini, of Holiday Lanes in Sudbury, is also staging a $1,000 tournament.

•Terry Haddock, of Terry's House Billiards in Toronto, received a nice surprise in Houston, Texas, when he found he was in the top 20 of the Brunswick dealers.

Ratings

Continued from Page 15

Bernie Mikkelson — Calgary; 8. Jim Bear — Vancouver; 9. Tino Malo — Montreal; 10. Kevin Robitaille — Ottawa.

Let's hear your comments. Possibly the snooker rooms in Canada could use this rating to help to promote their tournaments, as well as arrange head to head challenge matches.

Give us your opinion on the top ten and we will publish your letter.

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First British championship set

LONDON, ENGLAND — W. D. & H. O. Wills today announced at the Penthouse Club, London, their sponsorship of the first national singles and doubles pool championship, to be known as the Embassy Open.

The Embassy Open is also the British qualifier for the World Pool Championship and the U.K. winners are guaranteed at least $10,000 ($5,000 for singles winner and $5,000 shared by doubles winners) of the $120,000 prize money at the World Finals in Hong Kong, against the champions of the U.S.A., Canada and Australia.

The Embassy Open will be a knock-out competition with an entry fee of 75p per player. The first round will be played in venues where pool is played such as pubs and clubs.

The venue winners then compete at Area level to qualify for the Regional Finals, leaving 16 singles and 32 doubles players to play-off at the National Final in London, to become the Embassy Open Champions.

There will be trophies and awards at every round, with the overall winners receiving a free seven day trip for two to the Hong Kong finals. Also, the organisers of the venues from which the eventual singles and doubles champions emerge, will receive a free trip for two to Hong Kong.

The Embassy Open is being organised for W. D. & H. O. Wills by Herpol Limited, who will act as National Co-ordinators under license from Professional Promotions International (Hong King) Limited. Herpot have appointed 16 Regional Coordinators who will distribute tournament kits free of charge to locations within each region.

Each venue will appoint an organiser and he will be responsible for completing the entry chart, collecting entry fees and returning these to the National Co-ordination Centre by May 12th. A random draw of the names appearing on the entry chart will then take place and be entered onto a knock-out chart which will be sent to the venue organiser.

The play-off can then take place on any convenient date before June 16th.

The tournament dates are as follows:

May 12th — Closing date for return of entry charts to the National Co-ordination Centre by venue organisers.

June 16th — Completion of first round to establish local Embassy Champions.

June 17th - August 31st — Area Finals.

September — Regional Finals.

October — National Final, London.

December — World Finals, Hong Kong.

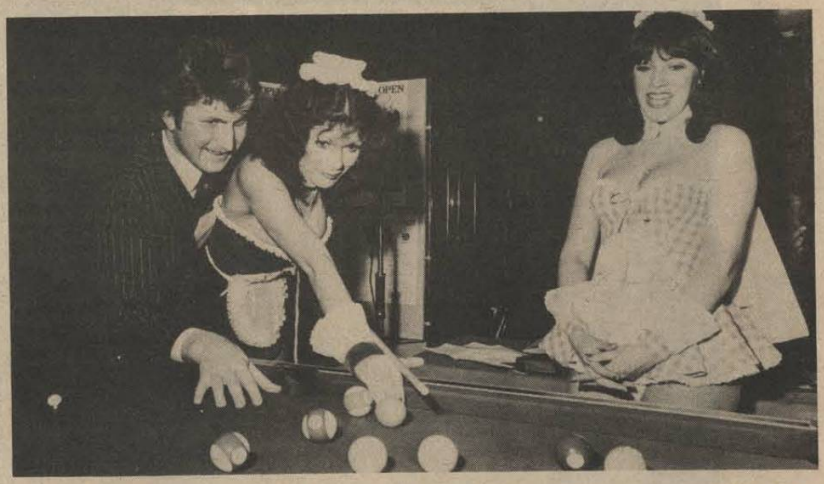
Cash prizes to be competed for in Hong Kong:

Singles: 1st — $US 25,000, 2nd — $US 15,000, 3rd — $US 10,000, 4th — $US 5,000.

Doubles (share): 1st — $US 30,000, 2nd — $US 20,000, 3rd — $US 10,000, 4th — $US 5,000.

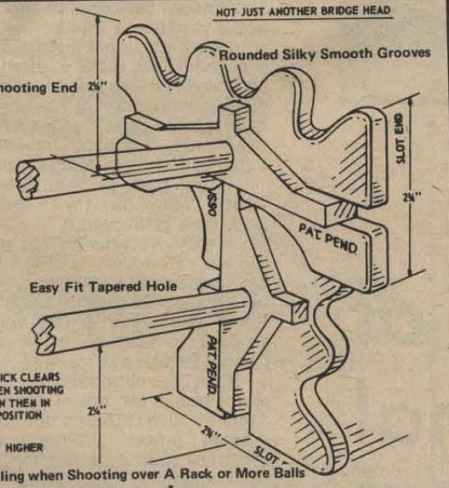
Plus $US 5,000 trophies and awards.

Further information from: Paul Rabbitts, Sponsored Events Department Tel: (0272) 641111 Ext. 2431



Mike Farley and Lynne & Lorraine of the London Penthouse Club where the announcement of the upcoming Embassy Open was officially made.

NOT JUST ANOTHER BRIDGE HEAD



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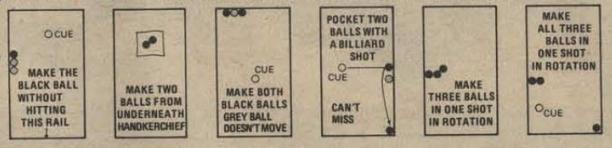

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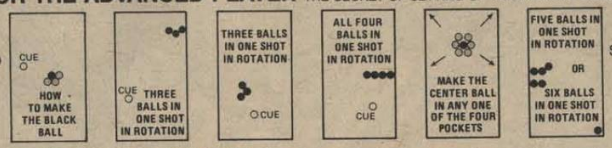

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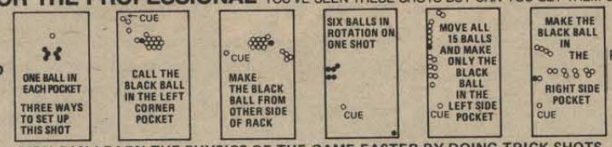

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Cliff Thayer:

Profile of a professional

By himself

(As told to The National Billiard News)

I will go with a little background. I was raised in Eugene, Oregon. At age 13 I was considered the boy wonder of the horseshoe pitching world, having pitched 48 ringers out of 50 on the regulation 49-foot course, one ringer short of the world's record. My average percentage at all times was 87% ringers. Even today that might be strong enough to win the world's title. I would practice four, five, six hours a day.

I played my first round of golf as a senior in high school. I shot an 87 for 18 holes, my first try; I was placed on the high school team, having never played. I broke par 7 months later with a 69.

I first picked up a cue in February 1939 (19 years old). In March of 1939, Irving Crane came to Eugene, Oregon, having been booked by Sylvester Livingston. This was 4 weeks after he had run 309 balls in Layton, Utah Feb. 3, 1939 (first man to break 300 balls). After his show he was asked by the man he played to watch me play. Mr. Crane was gracious enough to give me an hour of his time, and I have never forgotten his brilliant words.

"Cliff," he said, "you can do anything on a pool table I can do. The only difference is I can do it more out of 10 times than you can. In five years you can become a great player provided you do two things: No. 1 — **Don't quit** — and No. 2 — **Learn to take it for you never get so good you don't lose.**"

I would like to add two more things about this brilliant man. In 1946 I met him for the second time at Bensinger's 56 Table Room in Chicago. I walked up and said, "Remember me?" (He was playing at the time).

Crane said, "Give me two minutes." After a couple of minutes he walked over and said, "Yes, you're Cliff Thayer from Oregon." I thought right then and there that this man was brilliant to have such an incredible memory.

In 1950 in Boston at the world's tournament he made a tremendous combination shot in one of his matches. I was having dinner with Joe Canton that night and Irving dropped by the table. I asked him if he thought he was going to make that difficult combination. The answer he gave me has been a help all my life. Crane said, "I wouldn't have shot it if I didn't know I was going to make it."

Going back to 1939, I told my father, "Some day I'll be one of the great ones at this game."

I was overseas during most of the war. However, in 1942 I had 30 days leave and I spent the entire time in Chicago with Charles C. Peterson. I was discharged in 1946 and went straight to Chicago to be around Charlie Peterson.

Charlie obtained a lifetime membership for me at the Illinois Athletic Club through the great 3 cushion player, Bobby Lord. I practiced from noon to midnight for 90 straight days (documented in a story about me in the Athletic Club magazine). I was 26 years of age and knew I had to work hard for I hadn't played in over 5 years and only 1 year before I went overseas.

So in effect, I started at age 26. I

→

moved to New York City and in 1947 turned professional. (Please note, I was far from a great player but I had finally broke 100 balls in less than one year's time, and I was determined to be a great player). I never will forget one show in Westchester County in 1947. I played so badly, the owner asked me if I was really a professional.

During this time I was playing all the veterans hospitals. All I asked was free transportation to and from. I also worked with Charlie Pete with the Boys Clubs of America.

I really became known when I arranged a big benefit show for the Damon Runyon Cancer Fund at Eddie Wallace's 110th St. Billiard Academy 28 tables. I played Mike Eufemia who had just won the eastern pro title. I won the match. The next moring Q Ball Kelly called me at work and asked how I made out. He couldn't believe I got by Mike Eufemia.

We had tremendous talent in New York City from 1947 to 1954 — Johnny Irish, Onofrio Lavri, Mike Eufemia, Joe Canton, Art Judice, Pete Judice, Abe Rosen, Baby Coles, Tom Cosmo, Frank McGowan, and on and on.

I probably watched Willie Mosconi play 150 to 200 times. I would study his brilliant analytical mind on how he key balled and played to 4 pockets, not 6.

I know this much about Mosconi (I know him personally). He is ⅓ better than any 14.1 player who ever lived, and I know he could have run 1000 balls if he ever tried for high runs. I don't know how many times I've watched him run over 100 balls, then miss, so he can do his trick shots and get on his way.

I have been complimented many times by being asked if I was Mosconi. I play rather fast, and I'm over a cue like Willie. I was timed once on 91 balls and it was 11 minutes.

I placed second in the New York City Pro in '53 and tied for first in '54. Lost in playoff to Johnny Irish when we were tied at 45-45 and Irish went 80 and out.

I hung up my cue in 1954 and moved from New York City to Seattle, Washington. I came out of retirement in 1966 and from that time on the game of 14.1 rack really came to me.

Reverting back to the early '40's for a moment: Arthur "Babe" Cranfield of Syracuse, New York showed me what and how to practice. I have shown hundreds of people the same methods of practice. It should be noted that the "Babe" had a high run of 198 on a 5x10 at age 13. I have a letter from Cranfield written in 1947 in answer to a block match I wanted to play him in Syracuse. He had just run 321 balls on a 5x10 table at the Citizens Club in Syracuse. I wonder how many people know of that.

Joe Canton of Watergliet, N.Y. in 1950 cued me in on playing the game on line. That one item changed my entire game.

I would like to state in 1950 on one given night Joe gave a show at Julien's and ran 100 balls. We then rushed to another show he had at Eddie Wallace's 110th St. Academy, and he ran 298 balls, missing the record of 309 (at that time) by 12 balls.

In 1968 when I went into the retail business in pool tables was the first time in my playing career when I devoted my full time to the game. In a one-year span I had high runs of 364 (4x8), 449 (4x8), 283 (4½x9). For years my business card had a 600-point challenge to anyone for $2,000.00.

I'm the person who in 1971 placed a ¼-page ad in Pete Balner's paper challenging Minn. Fats to a match for $5,000.00

Since 1968 I have played free exhibitions at any and all retirement homes. I have played free all the Boys Clubs of America Chapters (eleven) in Seattle.

I have given a show where approximately 1,000 attended at $1.00 a head, and the proceeds went to the Boy Scouts of America.

During the last nine years I would give a free show, 1 to 1½ hours, in the homes of people who bought pool tables from my firm. I only asked that they invite people in so I could teach. I feel we have to do anything we can to bring this game to the front.

I had my own TV show 4 years ago. It was called "8 Ball Champions", one-half hour, 9 p.m. Sundays for a 16-week period. The format was perfect: Eight taverns in conjunction with my company. Four tavern champions would play live on TV, 3 games of 8 ball until one player was left. He would play me one game of 8 Ball, we used our time perfectly.

If we had spare time, it would be devoted to a lesson on Draw, etc., etc. It was a well-watched show, and I received phone calls from far away congratulating me on my production.

My reason for the show was pool promotion. I honestly do not believe I sold one table from the show, but we sure created a great interest in the game of pool.

The Star Dust and Johnson City Tournaments by Jansco were great. Only one big problem — anyone with a good job or business didn't have 3 weeks of time.

I think we need all the games. 14.1 Rack — 9 Ball — 8 Ball — One Pocket and Bank Pool.

The ideal place for an exhibition is on a high school basketball court. I have done this three times, once before 2,000 people at $2 to $2.50 a head. When held in such a location men, women and people of all ages will attend.

We who are fortunate enough to play better than others must not be secretive. I believe in helping people to understand the games.

I recently opened a place in Seattle named "The Q." It encompasses a retail outlet for Playmaster Pool Tables, a rec room of seven foos ball, 5 coin-operated tables by Playmaster, two 9-foot Brunswick Gold Crowns. I have a 40-foot 3-tier bleacher overlooking the coin operated tables. I plan to hold a tournament every two weeks — singles, doubles, tavern teams, men and women. The Rec Room has gone so well we are in the process of enlarging our pool-playing facilities, plus adding a restaurant.

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Venzke

Continued from Page 7

And as for this cue (crunch), I break it in two lest it lead me again to the balls!"

(enter the shrink, doctor and nurse)

'It's the Pits! It's the Pits! Oh, my God! Oh, my God!

And with that, they just took him away.
And it still can be heard, his last echoing word
"I can't play! Oh, my God! I can't play!!"

So we stood there all humbled, all shamed in disgrace,
when I felt on my shoulder again
a hand ('twas old Zeke), there with tears in his eyes,
says "Hey son — will ya play one for ten?"

Well, that's a threesome by Bob Milne — and I guess it's safe to say that he knows how he feels. Some interesting poetry to get you on your way.

And that's a visitor's view from the bleachers; I'll be back in April with my own ruminations. Please join me... **I'll save you a seat.**

POT SHOTS FROM THE PAST

Being a glance at the news of the past, compiled from NBN past issues:

5 Years Ago: March 1973

• **Mike Geiger was named by the BCA** to be general chairman of the 8th U.S. Open, his 5th time at the helm. **Kim Gandy** of Gandy Industries will be co-chairman.

• **Raymond Ceulemans of Belgium** retained his World 3-Cushion title in Cairo, his 11th straight world championship, posting a 7-0 record and setting a new average standard of 1.478.

• **Steve Mizerak was the master** at the Jack and Jill Cue club's 1973 Masters 14.1 tournament in Arlington, Virginia, running his winning streak to seven consecutive championships.

• **Jose Campos took the 1973 Michigan Open** 3-cushion championship at Oak Park's Cushion 'n' Cue, triumphing in a premier battle of 36 top 3-C addicts from around the nation.

• **Paul Gerni of South Bend, Indiana,** in what was undoubtedly a slip in a press release announcing his fine promotional work, admitted to being almost 25 years of age.

1 Year Ago: March, 1977

• **Steve Oaks won Nick Page and Jack Gunne's Chicago Nineball Championship** at Marie's Golden Cue, beating a field of 64 and horrible weather to pocket $2000 in the $50 entry fee event. Texan **Bob Vanover** took $1000 south as runner-up.

• **Allen Gilbert and George Ashby finished 1-2** in the BFUSA National Championships (3-C) in San Jose, qualifying for the May world tournament in Tokyo, Japan.

• **The BCA, the governing body of U.S. pocket billiards,** announced their new National 8-Ball Championships tournament. Said BCA President **Paul Lucchesi:** "we will bring the 256 finalists to Dayton on September 16 and 17 (to) play for over $25,000 worth of prizes..." About 70 players participated.

• **Larry Hubbard won the James E. Gaston Memorial Tournament,** a 32-man Eightball-Nineball test held near Birmingham, Alabama. **Joe Jansco** directed the action.

• **Joe Burns returned to the promotional scene,** announcing his $17,000 Dayton National 8-Ball and 9-Ball Championship to be held in May, with **Jim Rempe** as tournament director.

Mullen

Continued from Page 6

can go into any metropolitan area and come across the possiiblity of a game of skill for a pot of gold.

It is not our policy to smother a story of this type with unnecessary editing but it is our policy to print anything that is pertinent to the pool scene. We believe that the "Shooters" told the story we wanted told and you can replace the two main pool players of the story with someone from your own locality and never lose a beat.

The Billiard and Bowling Institute of America is due to have its Convention May 9th to 12th in Nashville, Tennessee. All members are welcome to attend and some potential members would be more than welcome. The General Membership and Directors Meetings and all the other doings will originate at the Opryland Hotel which is located within Opryland Park.

The program consists of a day and a dinner as guests of the Jack Daniels Distillery, golf and tennis tournaments, a visit to the Hermitage for the ladies and a matinee for one and all at the Grand Ole Opry. There will be business sesions in the mornings on both billiards and bowling subjects.

Fees are $100.00 for men and $75.00 for their feminine companions. There will be a $10.00 discount for those signing up before March 10th and Children are $25.00.

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The Cue-Nique 48/6 makes it easy to add or subtract players at any point during a game and automatically changes the dollar rate according to the number of players.

Now you can see elapsed time
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Impossible to forget to reset
Each time a new table is started, the computer is automatically reset. . . cuts out confusing and costly errors.

48/6 CONTROL IS COMPLETE

Unit is small, compact and eliminates employee error.
It can sit right next to the cash register, allowing employees and customers to check cash register tab against computer figures.

Two key system.
A must for chain operation or absentee ownership.

Customers can run a tab for non-game items.
When customers make other purchases, push tab button. Computer will make note that non-game items have been purchased. At the end of game, flashing display will remind you to add outside purchase. Customer pays only once.

Also a real time clock
When the Cue-Nique 48/6 isn't giving table or lane information, it works as a clock . . . giving the correct time of day.

Hourly rates
May be changed by owner at any time.

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Maximum Income
During peak hours 48/6 can automatically change over from special rates (such as single player or practice rates to regular rates when all tables are in use).

Counts Customers
End of day checkout gives you customer count; and transaction count.

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Lets you know at a glance your Cue inventory.

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Shows you at glance which tables are in use. Each table has its own LED display.

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All of these cost- and time-saving features are part of the Cue-Nique 48/6. . .at a price less than conventional clock/counters. Contact us for more information and an estimate. We know you'll be surprised how inexpensive the Cue-Nique 48/6 really is.

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Torres

Continued from Page 3

ticket prices of $3.00 to $5.00.

In the opening games, Gilbert rolled over 70-year-old Abe Rosen of New York 50-39 in 71 innings. The 71 was not bad considering that Gilbert began with seven blank innings (followed by a 10 run) and took 21 innings to make his last 6 points.

Torres was lucky to get by Hallon, who led at one point 45-41. Robin topped Campos 50-41.

In the second round on Thursday the players showed that they were getting the hang of the brand-new Super Extra Roulant cloth, as the three games took 54, 59, and 51 innings.

Ashby squeaked past Sims 50-45, Johnson rolled over Gomez 50-35, and Torres crushed Rosen 50-32. In the third round Ashby was sharp in dealing Robin a heavy blow, beating the deliberate 1972 champion 50-38 in 48 innings. Gilbert won easily over Gomez, and Johnson got a miracle win over Sims.

Sims was trailing 49-48 when he made the typing point, leaving himself an easy short-angle shot for a victory. But before he could shoot Johnson called "wrong ball" and the wrong ball it was. So Sims lost the point he had just made and it was Shorty who now had the short angle, which he made.

Because international rules were being followed, Sims had a chance to tie, as Shorty had opened the game. He made the break but missed the final shot by a whisker. Sims was so discouraged by the loss he sat slumped in a chair for an hour, and nobody could blame him.

According to one fan, the players had been shooting with the wrong ball for five innings.

Was Johnson aware of it and was he waiting for the critical moment to make the call? History will probably never know.

Upsets began on Friday and continued through Saturday. Ashby was staggered by Campos, who beat him 50-47. Then Ashby fell 20 points behind Gomez, rallying to get a tie. Losing to Hallon 50-48 and Torres 50-46 gave the young midwesterner a record of 3-3-1 with Gilbert and Johnson still to come.

Gilbert, too, found himself in deep trouble after dropping games 39-50 to Hallon and 48-50 to Robin.

Going into the final three rounds on Sunday, Shorty was leading the pack at 6-1 with Ashby and Torres to play, Torres was also 6-1 with Gilbert and Johnson to play, Gilbert was 5-2 with Ashby and Torres to play, Robin was 4-3 with Gomez and Rosen to play, Hallon was 4-3 with Campos and Gomez to play, and Gomez was 3-3-1 with Hallon and Robin left.

So seven players were still in the running for the top four sports.

Robin and Hallon, having already played the leaders, had slightly the easier of it on the final day, winning both their games to finish with three losses apiece. You can be sure that Robin was rooting for Gomez to beat Hallon, but Hallon, the youngest player in the field at 25, prevailed 50-32 in 44 innings.

Robin's last faint hope was for Gilbert to have a high-inning game in losing to Ashby.

As it turned out Gilbert only got 26 points against a red-hot Ashby, but the 41 innings was good enough to preserve Gilbert's edge over Robin on average.

Ashby was terrific against Gilbert, building up a 17-9 lead and then hitting a 12, 4, and 1 in three innings to put the game away. Earlier in the day Gilbert had kept his hopes alive by winning a clutch game against Torres 50-35.

Johnson was very nearly perfect against Ashby, winning 50-32 in only 30 innings, a new BFUSA best-game record. The scoresheet showed only 7 blank innings.

In the match for first place between the two leaders, Torres stepped out to an early big lead and Johnson seemed unable to get control of the balls. It was Torres 50, Johnson 32 in 57 innings.

	W-L	HR	BG	AVG.
1. Frank Torres	7-2	9	51	.835
2. Larry Johnson	7-2	8	30	.830
3. Carlos Hallon	6-3	13	44	.924
4. Allen Gilbert	6-3	10	44	.857
5. Ed Robin	6-3	12	46	.801
6. George Ashby	4-4-1	12	39	.998
7. Pepe Gomez	3-5-1	7	45	.730
8. Luis Campos	3-6	7	62	.742
9. Harry Sims	2-7	7	68	.702
10. Abe Rosen	0-8	8	--	.641

The field average for the tournament was a hair under .800. In half of the previous ten BFUSA nationals, the winner didn't average that.

A peculiar feature of the final standings was that Ashby averaged .998 and finished sixth.

Norm Kingwell, fingers flying over the keyboard of his pocket calculator, discovered that Ashby's opponents had averaged .940 against him. Presumptuously, I called George aside and told him of this, suggesting that he should tighten up his defense. I reminded him of what Danny McGoorty once said: "Why make three and then give your opponent three?"

But Ashby rejected that advice. He prefers offense.

"In a few years," he said, "I'll be good enough to make six and give my opponent three. I lost this tournament because I missed too many naturals."

How would you like to miss a lot of naturals and still average .998?

Despite Ashby's failure to qualify, the United States will have a very strong contingent in Las Vegas with Torres, Johnson, Gilbert and Hallon. Maybe this time we'll make a dent in the Europeans and the Japanese.

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Ebonite names Bruno manager

Don Bruno has been appointed National Sales Manager of Ebonite Billiard and Games, a Fuqua Sports company. According to Vince Greico, vice president-marketing, Mr. Bruno will be responsible for all major accounts in the United States and Canada in addition to managing all sales efforts.

Prior to joining Ebonite, Mr. Bruno served as the National Sales Manager for Brunswick's pinball division. He had held sales management positions at Brunswick for the past eight years.

DON BRUNO

Don Bruno received a BS degree in marketing from Chicago City College. Presently, Mr. Bruno, his wife Pat, and their three children, are in the process of moving from Hinsdale, Illinois to Miami Lakes, Florida.

Fuqua Sports is a major national producer of recreational equipment for every major sport.

Changes made by Brunswick

SKOKIE, IL — Brunswick Corporation has announced several organizational changes which will mainly affect the Company's Recreation Group.

The Briarwood and MacGregor Divisions have been combined into a single unit, with Jack J. Curran as Division General Manager. Curran had been general manager of the MacGregor Division. Harold O. Roberts, previously general manager of the Briarwood Division, has been named Director of Manufacturing for the new combined division.

Brunswick's manufacturing plant at Eminence, Kentucky, formerly a unit of the MacGregor Division, has become part of the Company's Brunswick Division. The plant will continue to produce bowling and golf bags, as it has in the past.

Another manufacturing facility, Union Hardware in Torrington, Connecticut, which was also part of the MacGregor Division, has been reassigned to Brunswick's Technetics Division. Union manufacturers tubular steel products and is an O.E.M. supplier of golf shafts.

Milt Rudo, Group Vice President of the Recreation Group indicated that, "The reorganization of the MacGregor and Briarwood Divisions will not affect the way in which their products are manufactured or marketed. MacGregor golf equipment will continue to be sold through pro shops, sporting goods dealers and other retail outlets. Brunswick billiard tables and Briarwood home games will be sold by the Company's Leisure Marts and other franchised dealers, as they have been in the past."

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Q-Master has put together some of the info that will be of interest to billiard rooms and pool buffs all over the world. In addition to instructions on how to cover a pool table, we have included in this collectors' item: everything you have wanted to know about pool balls, cloth, cue sticks and a lot of information on what to look for in buying a pool table.

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First '78 ABA event

Cattrano 'New Year's' champ

By MILT GOLDRING

The first sanctioned A.B.A. Three Cushion Billiard Tournament of 1978, billed as the New Year's Open, got underway at Jacy's Billiard Academy in Rego Park, N.Y. on Jan. 28th. Entry fees of $50.00 with management putting in $50.00 assured a purse of $800.00 as 15 contestants made up the field.

Three flites of five were drawn — two best from each flite into a six man round robin final. Preliminary games 35 points, final games to 50 points.

After preliminary games were completed the six players who made the finals were Carmine Biancniello (2-2 plus points), Jimmy Cattrano (4-0), Murray Shapiro (3-1), Vince Sbarbati (3-1), Juan Rosenfried (2-2 plus points) and Carlos Hallon (3-0).

High runs were made by Shapsiro and Bartzos with an "8", Sbarbati with a "9" and Hallon with a "12".

The contestants that didn't make the finals were Calderon, Shaw and Green in Flite "A", Hirsch, Waldman and the gracious lady all the way from Milwaukee, Wis., Loni Brandes from Flite "B" and D'Amato, Zito and Bartzos from Flite "C".

The finals brought together the two pre-tournament favorites — Cattrano, going undefeated, and Hallon, losing to young 20 year old Biancniello, necessitating a victory over Cattrano to force a play-off.

The final game was in doubt up to the 45 inning with the score Hallon 37 — Cattrano 35 but then Hallon in the next 6 innings scored 11 points with runs of 5 and 4 closing out Cattrano 50-42 in 56 innings, forcing a play-off.

This game was a repeat performance of their previous battle for at the end of 44 innings Cattrano led 38-35, increased his lead by the 52nd inning 48-40. However, Hallon snarled back with a 6 in the 53rd inning making the score 48-46 and that was the end of his scoring, Cattrano winning 50-46 — this game also took 56 innings!

The final standings with purse money was as follows:

1. Jimmy Cattrano, $320.00; 2. Carlos Hallon, 200.00; 3. Juan Rosenfried, 120.00; 4. Vince Sbarbati, 80.00; 5. Murray Shapiro, 40.00; 6. Carmine Biancniello, 40.00.

As usual, Tony Albano with the assistance of Dino Cattrano did a very fine job running the tournament.

Thanks are due to Joe Niski for his efforts in collecting for the A.B.A. travel fund.

A sad note— Bill "Pizazz" the manager of McGirrs died on Jan. 22, 1978. He was an ardent three cushion fan, hardly ever missing a tournament, and his constant good-natured bragging that, "he ran the best tournaments in the country," will be sorely missed.

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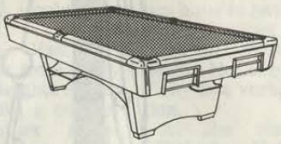

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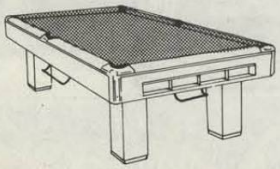
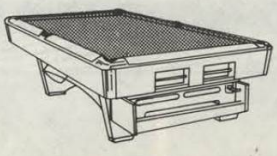

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