the national Billiard News

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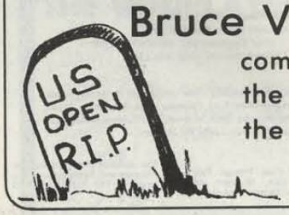

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In the mail. . .

Thanks

Thank you very much for sending me a copy of the Billiard News after my subscription has expired. Quite frankly I was vexed with myself for allowing this to happen.

I always eagerly anticipate each issue even though I sometimes know a result of a certain tournament. I especially enjoy reading about the highlights of the matches, high runs, and safety strategies.

I like to read about the great shooters from all points around the country, especially the Eastern players like Ray Martin (my favorite), Mizerak, Crane, Rempe, Liscotti, Riggie, Seigel, and Hopkins, etc.

My favorite game for playing and watching is straight pool, and I can hardly wait to see Ray Abrams straight pool tournament in September. I have seen the last two and I thought the facilities, tournaments, and location, and prices excellent.

I know many pocket billiard fans from Toledo will be there.

I enjoyed your recent January issue in tribute to Irving Crane, a fierce competitor, who certainly adds color and class to any tournament. However, I must take umbrage at Mr. Bruce Venzke's article in reviewing Ray Martin and Rosser Reeves' fine book. He praised the book, as well he should, but his caustic comment about Ray Martin rankles my Irish dander.

Ray Martin is a fantastic master craftsman on a pocket billiard table. To see this artist perform so imperturbally with that silk stroke of his — the way he stalks the table to seek out the shots, the cool manner in which he operates — what can one do but realize Ray Martin and his fellow pros give the game of "pockets" true genius and God-given talent.

Keep those copies coming, as I am enclosing a check — and don't fail me!

Your "Pockets" Fan,
RICHARD A.
MacGRAYLE

No thanks

Re: the article published in the January issue of The National Billiard News, "The Shooters". We wish to express our views on this article.

We think it is so vulgar that it has damaged the fine reputations that your paper always stood for.

We think it only proper that you write an apology to your readers in your next issue.

We hope in the future there will be more about Billiards & less about such trash as was in this article.

We, the following are subscribers to your paper—

Sincerely,
W. Glenn Bannan
James Madden
Joby Heininger

Ho-hum

All that space you devote to three cushion and snooker. Nobody but a hand full of purists play three cushion. The biggest pool room in this town had two billiard tables but had to take them out 5 years ago for lack of play. The games are 8 ball for amateurs, then 9 ball and straight pool. All this space to three cushion and snooker is just plain ridiculous.

If you are not chicken, print this and see how much agreement you get. The interesting things are the ones written by Thayer and by Richie Florence on "hustling" a long time ago.

Your reporting on tourneys is good. Who beat who and how. Play by play is the thing.

Also knock off the poetry... it's a bore.

Paul Coburn,
Salt Lake City, Utah.

Different strokes for different folks and there is enough interest in all these games to warrant an audience for the NBN. You wouldn't expect everyone to have a Tabernacle Choir just because there is one in Salt Lake City. We are making a strong effort to be all things to all billiard fans but since that is impossible we hope we are the next best thing.

We promise more "how to" articles but we cannot afford to cross off the poetry because our poetry editor, Bruce Venzke, miscues on his typewriter when he hears about dissatisfaction with our pool poems.

The real reason that we feature these rhymes is that we appreciate the effort of the fans in composing poetry about "the game".

By the way, did you know that Venzke chalks his fingers before typing his stories on pool?

9-ball record

I own and operate the 7th Ave. Billiards in Miami, Florida, and have been a subscriber to your paper for many years.

In the past, I have read of many records being made or broken in pool or billiards and there seems to be one missing. The patrons of my billiard room and I would like to know if there is a record established in the pocketing of the nine ball on the break in the game of nine ball?

We have one. Jerry Ellis, in the course of a nine ball game, made the yellow striped ball six times in a row off the break. Please let us know if this is the record.

Victor Ruotolo
Miami, Florida

Dear Vic, as of this moment Jerry Ellis is the record holder of making the nine ball off the break in consecutive games. If there are any challengers please let themselves be known. We require witnesses, a notarized statement and the possession of a no-fault insurance policy in case of arguments.

Where's BCA?

I thoroughly enjoy the National Billiard News but have one major gripe. How do I become a member of the Billiard Congress of America? I have watched your past issues but have never seen an ad by the BCA inviting membership. I would like to join.

I have a 5 x 10 Brunswick Billiard Table in my home

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Wisconsin crowns state champs

News photo by SAILOR OF RACINE

Left to right: Kelly Stellman, Debbie Ronayne, Dave Batchelor (tournament director), Jeff Carter and Mark Wilson behind their Pabst trophies.

Division winners share record purse

By BRUCE VENZKE

MILWAUKEE — The *Milwaukee Sentinel* Sports Show was again the co-sponsor and locale of the 9th Annual Wisconsin Pocket Billiard Championships, held March 10-19 at the Milwaukee Convention Center.

The four-division event featured a record $4000-plus total purse, including weekend vacation packages at the **Executive House** in Chicago for winners of the Class A Men's (semi-pro), Women's pro Invitational, and Men's Pro Invitational divisions.

Milwaukee's own **Pabst Brewing Company** donated four magnificent trophies to the division champions, while 2nd through 4th place trophies were donated by **Aqua Spray, West Allis Pool & Supply and Claude's on Hampton.**

The Billiard Congress of Wisconsin (BCW), which sanctions and conducts the state championships, holds qualifying tournaments at its participating member rooms in the Class A Men's and Junior Amateur (19-and-under) divisions prior to the state tests.

The 16 qualified Juniors went into action on opening weekend, playing double elimination 14.1 to 75 points.

Co-favorites were **Kelly "Skiff" Stellman** (Sailor's of Racine) and **Kevin Stanelle** (Aqua Spray). Each had won the Junior title once before, and in their last year in the division were expected to meet in the final game.

They did just that, with the only close game in either of their campaigns being Stanelle's 75-72 win over **Bob Richardson** (Cue-Nique Billiards) as Bob challenged from the loser's side.

The divisions were split so

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The Second Front Page

THE NATIONAL BILLIARD NEWS

May, 1978

64 players do battle in Sacramento Open

By LEE THOMPSON

SACRAMENTO, CA — Monday night (March 13) at the dinner banquet honoring the local news media representatives and tournament players, Terry Stonier said it had taken him ten years to see his dream come true.

He was referring to the Sacramento $10,000 Open 8-Ball Tournament that was to begin the next day.

Terry ended by thanking his wife Sandy, sponsors, players, friends, and pool enthusiasts for their help in making this six day tournament possible.

The El Rancho Hotel was the perfect site for this major event, with its 24 hour coffee shop, banquet room, bar, live entertainment, reasonable room rates for players and of course its Convention Hall converted into a 400 seat capacity tournament room.

The owners of El Rancho Hotel, Mr. & Mrs. Lloyd Hickey personally saw to it that their employees gave everyone excellent and courteous service.

For six days and nights the El Rancho Hotel would be the place and pool the game.

Sixty-four players were on hand including two women entrants. Malene Lucas and Debra Gumbra of Sacramento.

The tournament drew such top players as Lou Butera, Jim Rempe, Jim Mataya, Vern Peterson,

Terry Stonier, left, with winner Dan Louie holding trophy

Please turn to Page 17

On the cover:

Raymond Ceulemans, defending world champion 3-cushion player from Belgium, will join eleven other champions from all over the globe May 1st through 6th at the Sahara Hotel in Las Vegas, Nevada.

That's when and where the World 3-Cushion Championships, sponsored by The World Union of Billiards and the Billiard Federation of the U.S.A., will be held.

If you can't make it to Las Vegas, Ceulemans will appear in exhibitions May 8th through 10th at the Cushion 'n Cue in Oak Park, Michigan.

Information on exhibition times and admission prices may be obtained by calling the Cushion 'n Cue at (313) 541-1608.

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Malaysia to ban new rooms

By CHEAM TOON LEE

KOTA KINABALU, MALAYSIA — Billiards has become big business in this state of Sabah in East Malaysia. But now the authorities have stepped in to ban the opening of new public billiards saloons.

Police are tightening the licensing regulations because of brawls and gambling.

The boom began two years ago in the state that was once known as North Borneo and billiards saloons today run about 500 tables. Unofficial estimates put their annual earnings at more than $1.2 million.

Lawrence K. H. Lee, a saloon operator is generally credited with starting the boom. "Public billiards saloons are the biggest single moneyspinner this state has ever seen, but the market is near saturation," he says.

"For a man with just $12,000, there is no better business. He can recover his investment in less than six months. After that, it's profit all the way," he added.

Some saloon operators believe the ban on new saloons is the result of a dispute between police and local authorities over who should have the right to issue operating licenses.

The police argue that frequent brawls and heavy gambling in the saloons have made more stringent supervision necessary, including the power to cancel licenses.

Local authorities are reluctant to surrender control over a lucrative source of revenue.

The present license fee is $4 per table. This was set when the boom began two years.

Lee runs coin-operated billiards tables. He started importing tables from Western Australia in 1975 and bought accessories from Britain, and United States, Belgium and Taiwan.

He offered buyers liberal credit terms.

The gamble paid off and the game caught on with the people of Sabah. The state has a population of about 700,000.

On the road . . . upcoming tournaments

3-Cushion

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

U.S. Open 9-Ball
May 2-7
Q-Master Billiards
Norfolk, Virginia
1-804-853-9500

National 9-Ball Open
May 19-21
Sagone's Billiards
Colorado Springs, Colorado
1-303-634-9401

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

World 9-Ball Open
Men's and Women's
June 2-4
Hall of Fame Billiards
Lansing, Michigan
1-517-487-4578

Women's 8-Ball
June 5th
Two Buttes
Anchorage South Route
Lamar, Colorado

Legend Tavern Nine Ball Open
June 17-18
Legend Tavern
Ocean Shores, Washington
1-206-289-8977

Men's 8-Ball
June 19th
Two Buttes
Anchorage South Route
Lamar, Colorado

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

PPPA World Open
August 12-19
Biltmore Hotel
New York, New York

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

U.S. Open Snooker
October 13-15
Cushion 'n Cue
Oak Park, Michigan
1-313-541-1608

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.

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California billiardists set records

Gus Copulus, inventor of the "plus two" system, in a 1930 photo.

Photo from the collection of Robert Byrne

By BOB BYRNE

LOS ANGELES — Some eye-popping billiard feats were performed in February and March in Southern California.

In one amazing week at Tiff's in North Hollywood, Seiichi Omura, a couple of years ago the sixth-ranked three-cushion player in Japan, made 60 points in only 28 innings. The next day Allen Gilbert clicked off a career-high 22 points in a row in a practice game witnessed by a dozen unimpeachable sources whom I personally cross-examined.

The last time an American player ran more than twenty was in 1945, when Welker Cochran got his career high, also 22. For lovers of irony, Gilbert's run came against Cochran's son Richard.

Harry Sims reports that the same day he made 50 points in 37 innings and was ashamed to mention it to anybody.

In March three tournaments were held and news continued to be made. (Four were originally scheduled, but Sudden Sam Worley had to cancel his in Van Nuys because of vandalism.)

At the Harold Worst Open in Arnie Satin's room in Hollywood, Al Gilbert topped a field of 12 with a perfect 11-0 record and a grand average of 1.026. Frank Torres was second with 9-2, losing to Gilbert and Carl Baldwin and averaging 1.128.

Omura, in his first American tournament, discovered that the locals know how to play. He lost to Gilbert and Torres and finished third, averaging a strong .993. The best game was 40 points in 23 innings by Torres.

The next outing was the Harvey Martin Open at Tiff's on the weekend of March 18. The field of 14 was divided into two flights and the top three in each advanced to a final six-man round-robin. Omura averaged an even 1.000 in the pre-lims and was the only undefeated qualifier. Other finalists and their pre-lim averages were Gilbert (.937), Torres (.920), Worley (.941), Robin (.891), and Payne (.875).

In the finals Torres averaged a sensational 1.320 (235 points in 178 innings), ending up in a tie with 4-1 with Omura, who averaged 1.238. Gilbert finished third with 3-2, averaging .995 in the finals.

In the playoff, Omura won handily, 50-30 in 45 innings. Torres had the best game, 50 points in 26 innings; Torres and Omura shared high run honors with 11's.

The final tournament in the group of three was the Gus Copulus Open held at Larry Ellington's Brunswick Billiards at 401 S. Main in Los Angeles. Gilbert and Omura skipped this one, leaving Torres the heavy favorite. Torres came through to finish first, losing only to Javier in the 12-man round-robin format, averaging .958 overall.

John Bonner returned to action with a solid performance, taking second with a record of 9-2 and an average of .716. Gomez had the best game, 40 points in 29 innings; Torres the high run with 10.

The highlight of the Gus Copulus Open came after the final game had been

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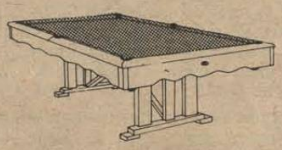

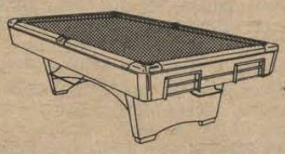

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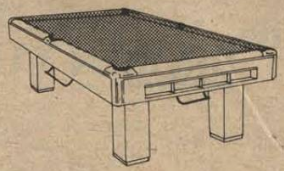

It was an honor to be associated

Bull Shots

By BOB MULLEN

My misspent youth has been good to me.

On April the 2nd of this year I had the honor to represent the Easter Seals Society of Greater Detroit (Wayne, Oakland and Macomb Counties) on their National Telethon. It was my pleasant duty to present a check to Jack Klugman the national host, the proceeds of our November Eight Ball Bash.

To have participated in this worthy cause was a delight from start to finish, for it gave us a chance to put our efforts where our mouths were. We, Burkman, Abrams and myself, have been preaching for years that there had to be a better way of promoting the pool game other than the way that the "powers that be" were doing it... And we did it with great results with more to come.

The Eight Ball Bash was a great platform for pool and the association with an organization like Easter Seals did nothing but enhance the tarnished image of pool. Minnesota Fats was there to give his all and the eyeballers were paying $50.00 a head to play one rack of eight ball with the rotound one.

Billy Joe Burge, the Cornbread Red of All American fame was there putting out for the crippled kids and the eyeballers paid to play with him. All the players were great and put out for the cause but Red and Fats were "dyanamite".

Well, that was the background for the honor that came my way in Los Angeles, giving the check to the host of a national telethon that was due to the efforts of 762 pool players who participated in the Eight Ball Bash. It will be even bigger this year with the qualifying tournaments starting in April and the culminating "Bash" to be held in the 14,000 square foot catering hall, Roma's of Bloomfield, with over 20 tables on which to play the games.

Again we will call upon the fabulous fat man of Dowell, Illinois, Minnesota Fats, to be our major domo. With the help of Cornbread Red, Jim Rempe and other stars of the game the 1978 Easter Seals Eight Ball Bash will be a thing of beauty, raising plenty of money for a fine cause.

We received a new book in the mails from the pen or typewriter of George Fels entitled. "Pool Simplified-Somewhat". The descriptive phrase on the title page reads, "An easy, enjoyable way for beginners to learn this truly challenging game." The title and the first paragraph of the book indicate the path that the author will take in pleasurizing the learning of a beautiful game. I can easily predict that Pool Simplified-Somewhat will be a complete success.

George Fels writes the most entertaining of the "how to books" on pool as he has shown in "Mastering Pool" (a runaway bestseller for this type of book). The introduction to the new book

Please turn to Page 23

Want fast improvement? Ask a pro

Kollins' Kolumn

Things your mother never told you

By TOM KOLLINS

Whenever I am asked by a student how he might most quickly improve this game, he always receives the same double-barreled answer - seek instruction from a qualified professional, and then practice.

A pro can usually pick out your obvious faults within a few minutes, so you can immediately begin work on eliminating them. After that it's just a matter of reinforcing your good habits through practice, until you develop consistency.

Players who practice doing the right things regularly and seriously must improve. No one is born with the ability to play position and pocket balls. These talents are unearthed and honed through many hours of practice. A player's physical and mental prowess will certainly figure into the degree of skill he will ultimately attain, but without practice he'll never get anywhere.

Muscular coordination, eyesight, a sound nervous system all contribute to the finished product.

Your goal should not be to shoot as good as Mizerak or Mosconi, but to become as good as your personal physical and mental endowments will allow. This can only be achieved through practice. You've got to pay your dues.

As for instruction, it is the greatest time saver since the invention of the zipper. The mysteries of kiss shots and throw shots that have been baffling the rail beaters for years, can be simply and clearly explained in very short order by a good pro. Attempting to solve those mysteries on your own can be as frustrating as trying to unscramble an egg.

The competent professional can demonstrate the easiest and most effective ways to do innumerable things on the pool table. One of the greatest drawbacks to any player's progress is when he tries to do something the wrong way, and it happens to work. He naturally assumes that his method was correct, and continues to use that method even though it is generally unsuccessful. There is no need to endure that kind of torment.

Your pro can also offer confirmation regarding those things you've been doing right. This reassurance will often improve your performance, simply because it increases your confidence.

Don't be too proud to ask for help. You may be the captain of your ship, but an able navigator can point you to the shortest route to success.

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The U.S. Open: An untimely death

Venzke's View from the bleachers

By BRUCE VENZKE

Some columns are fun to write... and some are almost painful. This one hurts.

You might then ask: "So why write about the death of the U.S. Open?"

The answer is multi-faceted. First I love 14.1. Second, I love pool halls (I even love billiard parlors, centers, lounges, emporiums and the like). Third, I love the nine-foot table. Fourth, I love the incredible skill, subtlety and utlimate demand of all-around ability that 14.1 uniquely places on those who achieve competence at it. Fifth, all of my loves of the first four reasons are in jeopardy of flying the flight of the Passenger pigeon if 14.1 is not sustained as the prestigious and ultimate championship game of pocket billiards.

14.1 has become the whooping crane of the pool world. A gorgeous and irreplaceable creature, struggling to stay alive against uncaring encroachment on all fronts, 14.1 may or may not fall to the small-table oriented and short sighted people who fail to recognize its significance to the well being of the sport and therefore the industry as a whole.

But it is in a very serious and precarious position.

How important is 14.1? Vitally so, and though it's hanging on to life with perhaps even less of a grip than the whooper is, by comparison it makes the crane's ecological importance to the world seem like what one more Popsicle stick on 42nd Street is to New York's litter problem.

Why? Because as virtually any large and successful billiard room proprietor will assure you, his 14.1 players are his most devoted, steadiest, most enthusiastic and most profitable customers. They generally have a love affair with 14.1 that lasts a lifetime. And as long as top-flight 14.1 competition continues, this invaluable nucleus of a room owner's clientele will continue to be fostered and developed.

The precision and excellence of equipment required for quality 14.1 play also contributes to the players' quest for knowledge and their demands for top-notch, full sized tables. If 14.1 is left to nonnational promotion only, it can survive only for a short time. Soon there would be no standards to strive for, no comparisons to be made, no Pros to look to for inspiration and knowledge.

Eventually, all play would sink to the lowest common denominator.

The commercial grade 9-foot table would then lose its hold — who needs it for Eightball (or even for Nineball, for that matter)?? And if you don't need a 9-foot table to play your game, what do you need a billiard parlor for? To see the top players in action? Hardly — because if 14.1 is tossed aside, the same game the "pros" will be playing will be the bar games. And that's where the action will end up (along with the money).

So if you kiss 14.1 goodbye, include a smooch for billiard parlors as we know them today (if not altogether). And give a last cheeky peck to one of the few showcases of Class in the sport, too. (Can you see getting the National Amateur Eightballers in tuxedoes?)

The BCA is absolutely correct to pursue Eightball on an amateur basis; thirty million players can't and shouldn't be ignored. But for 12 years, the BCA staunchly refused to admit that anything but 14.1 existed (and incidentally letting a tremendous swell of interest in Nineball help only sales figures, but not the BCA's position, the players, or the sport).

And now they turn around and drop the one good thing they had done.

I can only hope that whatever sponsorship help they require to have the Open is somehow realized and we see a U.S. Open national championship again. I wonder how actively they're pursuing that help... or are they waiting for someone to come running to them to help the billiard industry?

If the self-proclaimed "governing body of pocket billiards" really wants to be the sports' leading and ruling organization, it had better reorganize itself and put forth the effort, muscle and money to control and lead in ALL the major games. Otherwise give up the commercial and professional end of their involvement and change the name to "Women's & Amateur's Small Table Eightballing, Inc. (WASTE).

For 14.1 addicts this year, though, it looks like the one big scene will be the PPPA's 3rd Annual World tournament, billed as a centennial celebration of pocket billiards. They hope to have 20 more men this year for a field of 64, along with a smaller invitational event for women.

Please turn to Page 14

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TEAM 1

TEAM 2

Club 200 paces Minnesota tavern field

By JOHN SCHULTZ

MINNEAPOLIS, MN — The whole story started when the owner of Gentleman Jims, John Farkas came to me and asked me what I thought of the feasibility of a large team tournament; also, if I would be interested in promoting it.

It sounded good.

We decided we wanted 5 man teams. We then started contacting already formed teams in leagues in Minneapolis and St. Paul (they seemed interested).

We decided to make it a State Wide Tournament. We found and contacted Leagues all over the state, sent them all flyers and registration forms. We followed this with phone calls. We contacted at least fifteen (15) Leagues and sent out an additional 300 flyers to bars around the state and into Wisconsin and Iowa.

We ended up with a good representation of 21 teams.

The final standings were as follows:

1st—200 Club, Minneapolis (featuring some of Minneapolis' Best Shooters.) Gene "The Machine" Lowe, Doug Vezina, Mike Ryder (Who went through the tournament undefeated) and Don "Boots" Gibson (possibly the best in the state); 2nd—Midway Bar, Duluth; 3rd—Jimmys Bar, Minneapolis; 4th—North End Depot, Minneapolis; 5th—American Billiards, Fairbault; 6th—Cue Masters Billiards, Dubuque, Iowa; 7th—Uptown Bar, Minneapolis.

Here is the way it went — the 200 Club went undefeated beating the Ace Box Bar, St. Paul, 8 to 5; the Uptown, 8 to 2; American Billiards, 8 to 5; Jimmy's, 8 to 3, and finally the Midway, 8 to 5.

The Midway Bar lost the first game and then went through the Losers Bracket beating everyone until losing to the 200 Club.

Jimmy's Bar went through the Winners Bracket also losing only its last two matches, first to the 200 Club, 8 to 3, and then to the Midway, 8 to 6, taking 3rd Place.

TEAM 3

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Larry Hubbart

California

Continued from Page 5

played when the man after whom the affair was named, Gus Copulus Himself, now 84 years old, stepped to a table, borrowed a cue, and showed why he is possibly the strongest player never to be world champion.

It was Copulus who invented the "corner five" diamond system along with Clarence Jackson in the second decade of this centruy, and it was Copulus who invented the "plus two" system along with Bob Cannafax. Copulus, who defeated Hoppe four out of five times in 600 point matches, Copulus, who was always fighting for first place in the 1920's and early 30's, Copulus, the greatest umbrella shot player the world has ever seen... and there he was in the flesh, still able to demonstrate that the legends are true.

People crowded around the table and hung on his every word as he explained a few subtleties of the diamond system — how the contact point on the second rail changes, for example, as the cueball origin moves up the long rail — how to compensate for the slight curve in the cueball path between the second and third rails, how to shoot umbrellas shots either inside or outside the first object ball.

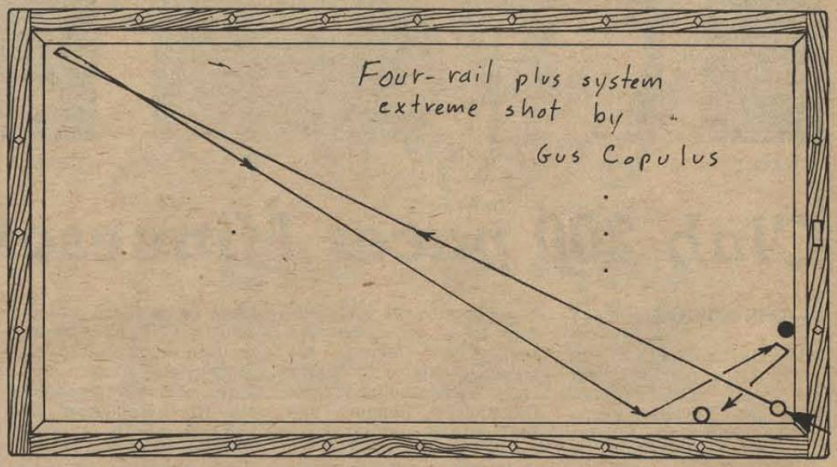
In the old days, he told us, when he used to teach the diamond system, he would put five dimes on edge of the cushions, then shoot a five-cushion shot and make every dime jump in the air.

To conclude his impromptu performance, Gus showed us some trick shots none of us had ever seen before.

For one of them he froze the red ball on the long rail a diamond from the corner and put the white balls in the diagonally opposite corner, in a line with the red and only one-sixteenth-inch apart. From that position he shot a force-follow with an elevated cue; the cueball travelled slowly down the tabled on the diagonal from corner to corner and doubled the rail behind the red! He made it on the third try — it took me twenty-five tries after I got home.

A diagram of one of his other exhibition shots is included with this article.

Gus Copulus — I hereby nominate him for the Hall of Fame.



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ACU-I crowns '78 champions

TALLAHASSEE, FLA — Two new collegiate billiards champions were crowned at Florida State University April 7.

Steven "Cue" Cusick, a 26-year-old senior from the University of Illinois, won the Men's title by defeating David Yao, a California State University at Los Angeles senior, by a score of 100-44.

Maridana Heydon, a 19-year-old Oregon State University junior, won the Women's title by defeating Frances "Squeaky" Cockrum, a Northeastern Oklahoma University senior, by a score of 50-31.

Both students won their titles in the Pabst/ACU-I National Intercollegiate Billiards Tournament.

Perseverance made the difference for Cusick, who left last year's tournament in third place and entered the 1978 tournament ranked third. He won the Big Ten Championship in 1975 and 1976; was a runner-up in 1977; was his region's champion (Region No. 9, which includes Illinois and Indiana) in 1976, 1977 and 1978, and teaches billiards at the University of Illinois.

Heydon had entered the 1977 billiards tournament ranked number one in women's competition, only to be toppled by Julie Bentz of the University of Wisconsin in a major upset. Bentz went on to take the women's billiards championship last year.

Ironically, Heydon, who also entered the tournament ranked third this year, walked off with the championship.

An excited crowd of more than 400 students and friends cheered for their favorites in the matches held in the R. R. Oglesby Union Ballroom at Florida State University. The championships are sponsored by the Pabst Brewing Company of Milwaukee in cooperation with the Association of College Unions-International.

The matches were played on new Gandy Big "G" billiards tables, the "Rolls Royce" of competiition tables, which were donated by Gandy Industries of Macon, Georgia, for the tournament.

Fire guts Nashville billiard room

Nashville — Lewie Little, coach of three-rail billiards at Vanderbilt University, is a sad man,

After coaching and promoting the game on the only two tables in this area he had plans for getting Nashville on the tournament trail. He had succeeded in getting such players as Mike Donnelly, Bob Below, Stan Hardy and Bill Hawkins to perform on them when they visited Lewie at his home in Nashville.

All found the Nashville tables fast, accurate and of ABC-tournament quality.

One table is in the recreation room of the Sarratt Student Center at Vanderbilt. It is still there.

The other table was in Twentieth Century Billiards, located in the Nashville college district at Twenty-First and Capers Avenues, directly across the street from an apartment house where Little lives and is manager.

It is no longer there, having been destroyed when fire gutted the 2-story building on Saturday night, April 2. And there is the reason for the sadness of Little and a large group of three-railers who had turned to the game in the last four years.

Nick Morris, owner of Twentieth Century Billiards and friend of Little's since his sport writing days here, put in a three-rail table for Little three years ago after Little had given Vanderbilt University it's first such team in history. The Vandy squad used their own table for regular night classes every week but Morris, helping Little promote the game, reserved his table on Saturday mornings for the Commodores.

Morris owned the building which housed a popular restaurant on the first floor and his billiard parlor on the second. He will rebuild and lease the entire structure to the restaurant. He hopes to find a place nearby in the college community and reopen a place for pool and snooker — and a three-rail table for Lewie and his cue friends.

Brink tops in own tourney

RAYTOWN, MO — Don Brink walked away from his own tournament a winner March 26th, when he won 1st place in the Missouri Open 3-Cushion Tournament, held at his Raytown Recreation in downtown Raytown.

Brink, who recently added a spacious new room devoted exclusively to billiards, outdistanced eleven other contestants who braved one of the winter's worst storms to compete in the two day event.

Going into the last round of the twelve player round robin, Brink was tied with Bill Hawkins and Song Kim, each having only one loss. Hawkins and Kim, however, had to play each other.

In that game Hawkins staged a late inning rally to defeat Kim, 30-29. Kim had led the match 29-22.

Hawkins began the playoff match between he and Brink with a run of 7 in the second inning. The lead exchanged hands at 21 and Brink went on to win, 30-23.

Hawkins finished second and Kim finished third.

Other entrants were: Walter Martin, Doug Burt, Loni Brandes, Bruce Bellington, Harold Blankenship, Doug Brink, Dick Robertson, Harry Schaller, and Jose Diaz.

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MATCH

BEST 5 OUT OF 9 GAMES

DOUBLE ELIMINATION

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Pool playing pooch is dog-gone good

Reprinted from
The Detroit Free Press

By PETER GAVRILOVICH

This is a story about a dog who shoots pool. All true. Nothing to shake a stick at.

His name is Bonamie Bonaparte Hartley. He's a French poodle, the toy kind, eight years old, lives in Durand which is 17 miles west of Flint.

He has been shooting pool for seven years, says his owner, Rebecca Jo Hartley, 46.

Sit him on the felt and he dashes over the cue ball, grabs it with his teeth, places it between his front paws and snaps it back under his tummy, through his hind legs and into any ball in its path.

This is a story about a dog who shoots pool.

"He can clear a table in 15 minutes," says Ms. Hartley, who was a barmaid at the 206 Bar in Durand when she met Bonamie.

Seems Bonamie's first owner couldn't keep him, so he brought the pooch into the pub and Ms. Hartley took charge of Bonamie.

When he was six months old, she recalls, she placed him on the table and he began toying with the ball. She trained him to only go for the white cue ball and soon, she says, he was doing the rest.

This is a story about a dog who shoots pool.

"He gets some (balls) in (pockets), but I'm sure he's not going to stand up to a pro," said Durand writer Darlene Jaye, who wrote about Bonamie for the Owosso Argus-Press.

"In my opinion, it's more by accident that he gets any in," she said.

Ms. Hartley says Bonamie is "retired, more or less' due to advancing years. Seems when he was in his prime, Bonamie did a lot of traveling, ambling up to tables, pawing his quarter near the coin slot for the next game.

"He's played pool in Iowa, Illinois, Wisconsin and most of Michigan," says Ms. Hartley.

This is a story about a dog who shoots pool.

"If he scratches (misses all the balls and sinks the cue ball) he goes down to the pocket and barks until I get it for him," says Ms. Hartley.

"Bonamie also rolls over, sits up, jumps through your arms and plays with his pet rock."

"I was offered $1,000 for him from a guy in Traverse City, but I wouldn't take it. He's like one of the family."

Bonamie hasn't played much pool recently, being as how he's in retirement and all.

But when he did, when he used to clear the table at the 206 there in Durand, he had the customers rhapsodized.

A customer once spirited down his drink, paid his bill and left saying, "I'm never going to tell anyone what I just saw," after he watched Bonamie Bonaparte Hartley smack his cue ball under his tummy and through his hind legs.

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Well, almost

Rempe challenges the world

By JIM REMPE

By this challenge I intend to establish the top players' credibility and gain the recognition we deserve. Willie Mosconi was on ABC's Wide World of Sports recently where he beat Minnesota Fats in the "Great Pool Shootout." During the match he was interviewed and mentioned that he hasn't been playing in competition for a while (about 20 years, which he didn't mention). At the end of the show he stated that he "was the best pool player in the world."

That's like saying that Joe Louis is still the greatest boxer in the world.

That match, "The Great Pool Shootout", is like a tennis match would be between Rod Laver (an old pro) and Bobby Riggs (an old hustler) to see which is the best player of today, eliminating Connors and Borgh from the competition.

Well, I guarantee that I know about 15 players who would love to play Mosconi straight pool (which is his best game) and a lot of other players who would play him 9-Ball (today's most popular game) plus all the other pool games. I'm not taking anything away from Mosconi's ability — he was a great player — but let's face it, when he was playing in tournaments there wasn't as many good players as there are now.

And, I get a kick out of people who watched the old-time players in the days of the 5 by 10 tables and the clay balls and say how much tougher the equipment was then. Let me set that straight.

A 5 by 10 pool table is easier to play on than a 4½ by 9 because there is more room to move the cue ball around (easier to get position). Plus the clay balls were easier also because today's balls are made of some kind of plastic and English will transfer from the cue ball to the object balls a lot more than the clay.

By this I mean if the cue ball is spinning to the right, the object ball it contacts will spin to the left. This also means that the balls will curve more, throw more and do all kinds of funny things that the clay balls would not do.

In every sport the younger players are getting better; there is more knowledge and ability in today's pocket billiard players also. It just wouldn't make sense to say that the players of yesteryear were the more dominant players.

The champions of today are fighting legends who won't fight back and won't shut up.

I am 29 years old and I've been playing pool for 16 years. Like every player I wanted to be the best.

In my mind I did become the best in the world by winning 7 world titles and a number of U.S. Master's, Nationals and International tournaments — a total of 35 tournaments in 7 years. The only thing I got was self-satisfaction.

Besides the small minority of the Billiard World, nobody knows me. When I meet people and they find out I play pool for a living they all say "Can you beat Minnesota Fats or Willie Mosconi?" Frankly, I am getting sick of it!

I am challenging Willie Mosconi to play for $100,000 all or any of the games that he played Minnesota Fats with the same rules that he made up himself.

From my point of view, one of the reasons pool hasn't become a recognized sport is because Mosconi did nothing to promote the game. If anything, he held it back. All he did was to promote himself and live off his reputation. Now is his chance to help the game by accepting this challenge — anytime and anywhere.

In "The People's Almanac" by Irving Wallce, Professor Harvey C. Lehman of Ohio University spent several years researching the peak performance ages of athletes of various fields. Using over ten thousand players as subjects, Lehman discovered that billiard champions have the highest average age of any sport considered.

The PEAK age of a billiards master is 34.35. The average age of people who set records in it is 35.67.

Mosconi is almost double that. He should be doing TV commercials like Joe DiMaggio instead of claiming he still is the best.

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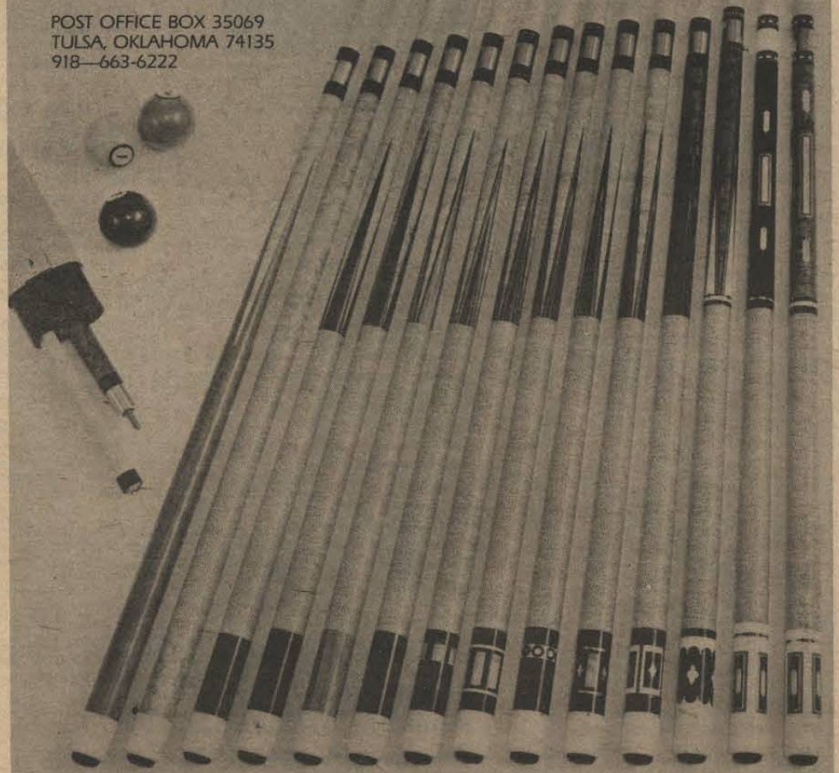

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Venzke

Continued from Page 7 ·

The big event is slated for August 12-19 at the Biltmore Hotel in New York City, with every effort being made to make the tournament a memorable celebration of 100 years of pocket billiards. As a 14.1 lover, I wish the PPPA every success, and hope that I can arrange to be there. If you love 14.1 at it's best, you should be there too.

So that's this month's view from the evermore-difficult to find 14.1 bleachers. Next month we'll have our winner's and other poems from the 3rd Annual Pool Poetry Contest. Please do me the honor... **I'll save you a seat.**

POT SHOTS FROM THE PAST

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

5 Years Ago: May 1973

• **Larry "Boston Shorty" Johnson was the Star at Jansco's** Stardust tournament, winning the Eightball division and all-around title. The Nineball division went to **Norm Hitchcock,** with **John Ervolino** taking down the One Pocket section.

• **The new *NBN's* Editor's Mailbox was stuffed with letters** of congratulations to the staff for their purchase and resumption of publication of the National Billiard News. Among the writers: **Willie Mosconi, Jimmie Caras, Mike Asch, Andy Tobin, James Wilhem, Guy Little, James Cattrano, Sr., Tiff Payne and Bob Byrne.**

• **Respected promoter Fred Walen's views** that a **Mosconi-Fats** match would be foolish and a loser for both of them, was reprinted in the *NBN.* (It finally came to be in 1978, of course.)

• **The Billiard and Bowling Institute of America** announced the recipients of it's Meritorious Service Awards for 1973, rare dual awards given to **Milt Rudo** and **Mike Geiger.**

• **Gordy Hart's Viking Cue Company** set an all-time NBN record for having his company's name and logo appear in pictures of tournament players: 6. The tourney was the Stardust.

1 Year Ago: May, 1977

• **Jim Rempe defeated Harry McConnell** in the 1st World Nineball Association championship match, laying claim to the $15,000 winner's prize. As runner-up, McConnell's check was for $9,000. **Wade Crane** and **Jim Mataya** split $9,000 for 3rd & 4th in the 16-player WNBA Invitational event.

• **George Pawelski and Kathy Collard** won State Championships in Wisconsin, while **Greg Riggie and Linda Haywood** did likewise in Maryland. Intercollegiate titles in the Pabst-ACU-I championships were won in Columbia, South Carolina, by **Jay Hungerford** of Arizona State University and **Julie Bentz** of the University of Wisconsin-Madison.

• **It was Mizerak again at Mike Asch's Hi-Cue Billiard Lounge** in Elizabeth, New Jersey, winning over **Allan Hopkins** in the final of the New Jersey State Nineball Championships. Steve triumphed over a field of 16 in the 3-day event, pocketing the winner's check for $555.00.

• **A five-day, $10,000 winner-take-all Challenge Match** between 1976 U.S. Open champion **Tom Jennings** and 1976 PPPA World Open champion **Larry Lisciotti** was set for June 8th through June 12th at Hopkins Billiards in Greenbrook, NJ.

• **Mike Donnelly of Monroe, Michigan** defeated defending champion **Bob Letherby** in a playoff for the title of the 2nd Annual Southeastern U.S. 3-Cushion Billiards Championships held in Florida. **Carlos Hallon** was third, with **Cliff Lee** taking fourth.

Ashby wins Southeast U.S. Open

BOCA RATON, FLA — A playoff that lasted until 3 a.m. decided this year's winner of the Southeastern United States Open 3-Cushion Billiard Championships, held April 1 & 2 at the University Bowl in Boca Raton.

George Ashby of Jacksonville, Illinois, defeated Carlos Hallon of Lawrence, Massachusetts, 40-20 in the early Monday morning match to nail down the title and 1st place check for $1,000. Hallon received $440 as runner-up.

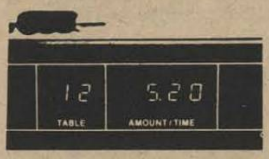
Ashby, U.S. representative to the world tournament in 1976 and 1977, and Hallon, one of this year's U.S. representatives, emerged from a six-man round robin with identical 4-1 records.

Ashby started the playoff match strong, scoring 22 points in 11 innings. At the end of 23 innings he led 31-17 and continued to gain on Hallon, winning 40-20.

Bob Letherby of Muskegon, Michigan, finished in 3rd place. He narrowly missed turning the finals into a 3-way playoff, losing to Bill Hawkins of Decatur, Illinois, 40-39 in his final game. Letherby received $260 for 3rd. Hawkins finished 6th for $60.

The two other players in the top six were Bill Mahoney, New York, New York, and Chris Bartzos of Flushing, New York. Mahoney finished 4th for $160 and Bartzos won $80 for finishing 5th.

CONTROL
is the name of the game



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DOUG MacDONALD – EDITOR

THE BROKEN CUE NEWS

It's Team Canada in ISL event

Story and Photos By GRAHAM DUNCAN

TORONTO, CANADA — 8 Teams representing six Countries competed in the International Snooker League's round robin Tournament in Toronto from April 3rd to April 8th, 1978. The welcome new entry, Scotland, represented by Bert Demarco, Robert Thallon, and Peter Gray played well to finish runners up to the Ottawa Team of Ervin Budge, Ken Shea and Bill Olsen.

The major disappointment was the non appearance of the Irish Team which had been so successful in 1977. One of the Irish Team Members, Toni O'Beirne had travelled independently to Toronto and as he is a Member of the New York Athletic Club was able to play for New York in the Competition.

Strong Challenges to the top two Teams were provided by the Teams from England and the hosts Toronto.

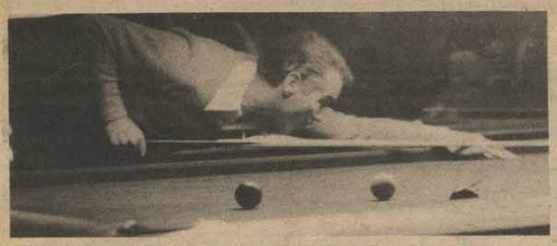
The most successful players in the various groups were:

In the "A" group E. Budge from Ottawa won 16 lost 5; "B" group K. Shea from Ottawa won 17 lost 4; "C" group P. Gray from Ottawa won 16 lost 5.

The Competition concluded with an individual knock out Tournament for all the Team members. There were many surprises with 3 of the top 4 seeds being defeated in their first matches. Ken Shea from Ottawa defeated the top seed, Noel Miller-Cheevers made the top break in the competition with an 80.

Terry's Billiard Supplies, Dufferin Cue, The Composition Billiard Ball Co. (Super Crystalate) and The World of Billiards provided the financial support to make the competition a social and playing success.

ERVIN BUDGE



KEN SHEA

BILL OLSON

U.S. 'dumping' harmful

Canada's anti-dumping tribunal rules that Canadian production of slate-bed billiard, pool and snooker tables is being materially injured by dumping by U.S. exporters. As a result of the ruling, anti-dumping levies will be maintained on imports of such tables from the U.S. Provisional levies had been imposed since last November.

Complainants in the case were Ontario Billiard Supply Co., Toronto, and National Bowling and Billiards Ltd., Vancouver. Brunswick International (Canada) Ltd., Mississauga, Ont., an affiliate of Brunswick Corp., Skokie, Ill., was described by the tribunal as the largest importer of the slate-bed tables. It said Brunswick occupies a "dominant position" in the Canadian market.

The tribunal said that a significant number of Taiwanese-made slate-bed tables were exported to Canada for the first time last year at "relatively attractive prices." "The presence of these tables may exacerbate the situation, but in the absence of any evidence regarding consumer acceptability," the tribunal said it is not prepared to accept the argument that imports from Taiwan represent an immediate threat.

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

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Snooker Quiz

Last month's answers

1. When the balls have been spotted and the cue ball has been finally placed on the table and struck with the tip of the cue.
2. No. The game has not commenced, see no. 1. Respot yellow and continue.
3. Foul stroke, penalty 4 points. Play continues from where ball finished.
4. When a player is prevented from hitting the ball "on" on both sides, by a ball or balls not "on".
5. The ball nominated by the player if he is snookered after a foul stroke.
6. No. But if any doubt exists, he should for his own protection, or if requested by the referee to do so.
7. Four points. Value of the ball "on", i.e. red.
8. No. The reds were obstructing each other but were balls "on". Rule 3d.
9. No.
10. No. Player can snooker behind any ball other than nominated ball.

This month's questions

11. Taking a colour as a free ball when snookered after a foul, the striker snookered behind the respotted colour. Is this a foul?
12. Player taking black as free ball, the striker potted both black and red. What is the score to be credited?
13. Taking brown as free ball when snookered on yellow, the striker potted both brown and yellow. What does he score?
14. Taking a colour as a free ball, striker aims at that colour, misses it and hits red. Is this a foul?
15. Snookered after a foul the striker nominates a colour, aims and misses the colour, hits black and pots the ball 'on" with the black. What is the penalty? (The ball on being the green.)
16. A player snookered on all reds, took a colour and potted it and three reds. What has he scored?
17. With cue ball touching red, the ball on the player plays away and does not strike another ball. Is this a fair stroke?
18. Can a player snooker behind the nominated ball, when more than the pink and black are on the table?
19. Striker is on a pool ball and cue ball finishes touching pink. He plays away and strikes black. Is this a fair shot?
20. On a red, after a foul, striker nominated black, struck the cue ball which potted a red and then continued on and potted the black. Is this fair?

Answers next month

United States top ten players

Following is a listing of the top ten snooker players in the United States as compiled by The National Billiard News.

1. ERIC CONNELLY
2. RONNIE ALLEN
3. TOM KOLLINS
4. HERB LEHMAN
5. JIMMY REID
6. FRED SALEM
7. JOHN SCRIPPS
8. BILL STROUD
9. JIM KNISLEY
10. GEORGE AGAJANIAN

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Sacramento

Continued from Page 3

Ritchie Florence, Dan Louie, Tom Kollins, Bill Stroud, Ritchie Ambrose, Paul Brienza, Larry Hubbart, Louie Roberts, Harry McConnell, Dennis Searcy, Cole Dickson, Ronnie Allen and Keith McCready.

SANDY STONIER

Minnesota Fats was the added attraction. For five days and nights he regaled the crowds with tales of his legendary exploits. His running 'feud" with Mosconi and comments on their televised match up, were too much!

Minnesota Fats and tournaments are a winning combination. We all look forward to seeing him next year.

But the name of the game was 8-Ball and the fans saw it played on the big 4½ by 9 Gold Crown tables; watched as the players practiced cue ball control, running patterns, safety plays, and run outs from the break.

Knowingly or not the crowds were witnessing a condensed version of straight pool and they loved it!

It is impossible to mention every match because many were played down to the wire in the race to 8.

One match that didn't come off was the confrontation between Jim Mataya and Jim Rempe.

When the draw was held Mataya picked up his card and threw it down, saying "Rempe"! He hoped Rempe would draw the card allowing them to match up but he was due for a disappointment.

Rempe's first loss was to Dan Louie 8-4, then Kim Davenport of Modesto eliminated him with a win of 8-7.

Jim Mataya, who played strong, was a crowd pleaser with his come from behind wins. Yet he too lost to Dan Louie 8-5 and suffered his second loss to Roy Futternick in a close, tough match, 8-7. He automatically took third place in the tournament winning $1,000 and many more fans in the process.

Richie Florence in his match with flashy Louie Roberts, was in control all the way.

At one point he asked the crowd if they thought a carom shot might get him out of a trap. The crowd hollered "yes" so Richie fired the shot in and went on to dispose of Louie 8-6.

Lou Butera and Terry Bell played a tough match. It was tied 7-7 and Terry had the break. He made a ball but found he was hooked. He fouled giving Lou ball in hand but there didn't seem any way Lou could run out the clusters.

Yet he did, working the rack beautifully, picking the cluster apart ball by ball. But he couldn't get shape on the 8 ball which was frozen on the foot rail.

When he finally got down over the table, you could almost hear a pin drop as the crowd held their breath. He hit the eight so thin it didn't roll, it crept towards the pocket. When it finally dropped in, the crowd got to its feet applauding and stomping.

Throughout the evening people were still talking about the rack Lou Butera ran to win 8-7.

But the biggest thrill for most of the spectators was watching a young player named Roy Futternick. Roy lives and works in Reno, Nevada now, but since he grew up here in Sacramento, he is still considered a home town boy.

ROY FUTTERNICK

He left here with ability and potential and came back with the maturity to win the big one. Roy came to play and he proved it by defeating Richie Florence 8-4, Vern Paterson 8-4, Darr Ferris 8-6, Ronnie Allen 8-3 and Jim Mataya 8-7. Despite the score his match with Ronnie Allen was one of the highlights of the tournament. Roy made a shot you had to see to believe.

With the score 7-3 Roy had to make his six ball and get shape on the eight. Easy?? not when his six ball was inches off the side rail and Ronnie Allens 11 ball was between it and the cue ball. The only out seemed to be a safety but Ronnie only had two balls on the table!

Without a moments hestiation, Roy jacked up and jumped the cue ball over the 11 ball, hit his six ball sending it flying into the side pocket like it had been shot out of a cannon! The cue ball took off hitting three rails and came back to rest in perfect shape for the eight!

It was pandemonium time and California almost fell into the sea.

What can I say.

Roy went on to lose to Dan Louie 8-2 and the crowd settled down. But he came back to win over Mataya in a close game 8-7.

Meeting Dan Louie in the finals he lost the first game 8-2 and came away with second place and $1,500. His next stop is the Vegas WNBA Tournament in July.

Dan Louie of Seattle, Washington came through the field undefeated to win the $10,000 open 8-Ball Tournament.

He came here a champion having won in Bend, Oregon two years ago. So his winning first place and $2,000 prize money didn't exactly surprise anyone.

He has great ability and talent and when you combine these attributes with class, you have a champion the game can be proud of, and is.

Referee Clinics

The National Billiard News will sponsor a series of clinics to train referees for all types of tournaments.

The first clinic will be held May 13 & 14 at

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In the mail . . .

Continued from Page 2

and love three rail billiards. I guess I am an odd ball because there are not many billiard tables in this area.

I belong to a Tavern 8 Ball league but my first love is three rail billiards. The ultimate billiard challenge isn't recognized by most 'pool' players in this area.

Any info will be appreciated.

Sincerely,
Kenneth C. Davis
La Verne, California

We hate to disappoint you but you are not such an odd ball. Three cushion is alive and well and living all over the world.

The BCA has not recognized the game in years but the American Billiard Association has kept the balls rolling for years and has been doing a bang up job. The two individuals responsible of late for the continuous run of three cushion are Gail Johnson and Leo Walch and they can be reached at American Billiard Assoc., 1660 Lin Lor Ct., Elgin Ill. 60120.

If you wish to contact BCA the address is as follows: 717 North Michigan Ave., Chicago, Ill. 60611. We are sure that if you word your letter right and ask with a certain tone of humility they may accept your application for membership.

It is a shame that "they" don't realize that there are many thousands of people like yourself who would like to contribute something to the game and would appreciate the opportunity.

Egotism

I watched the great "Pool Shootout" televised on ABC. It should have been billed "The Great Pocket Billiard Funeral" thanks to the cancerous ego of Willie Mosconi.

I read recently that three cushion billiards died with Willie Hoppe, unfortunately, pocket billiards died when Willie Mosconi became champion. Mr. Mosconi has taken a great deal from the game and has returned very little.

Without doubt, Mosconi is the second greatest pool player in the history of the game. No one who knows the game would believe that Minnesota Fats could beat Mosconi. But why would Mosconi ridicule and belittle Fats on National TV?

Fats has been good for the game. Your paper should make its readers aware of the charitable acts of the "Fatman" and the comparable drawing power of the two biggest names in pool today.

In my opinion it would be good for the game if Mosconi along with Fats would tour the country playing exhibitions with some of the newer (by comparision) players whose names are not household words. Players the caliber of Jim Rempe, Steve Mizerak, Pete Margo and others creating goodwill and promoting interest once again in this great game.

Mosconi's ego would probably not allow him to share the spotlight with these other great players.

Some people believe that the manufacturers killed the pool game, but Mosconi's attitude and lack of consideration for others in the sport must share some of the blame.

This game deserves another champion like Ralph Greenleaf, the greatest player who ever lived.

This game desrves better treatment from the people who make their living from it. The game would prosper and the players would certainly better their own situations.

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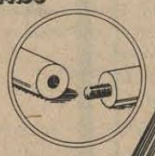

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Wisconsin

News Photo by SAILOR OF RACINE

Pro Men's Champion Jeff Carter receives the Pabst Championship Trophy from tournament official Bruce Venzke.

Continued from Page 3

Stellman and Stanelle then met in a single 100-point championship match. It was tight and taut, with Skiff Stellman emerging with a 100-87 victory, $120 in merchandise, and the huge Pabst Championship Cup.

So Stellman became the first two-time Junior Amateur champion, while Stanelle posted his third consecutive runner-up finish. In addition to the title, Stellman also took the high run honors, with his 53 against **Jeff Stroiman** (King Cue).

All prizes were in merchandise in the Junior division, to preserve the young men's amateur standing.

The top 4 finishers:

1. Kelly Stellman, (5-0) — $120; 2. Kevin Stanelle, (4-1) — $70; 3. Bob Richardson, (4-2) — $30; 4. Jeff Stroiman, (4-2) — $30.

The Women's Invitational division, with 16 entrants, was contested in Sixball, with a split double elimination chart.

Defending champion **Kathy Collard** (Sailor's of Racine) and National Collegiate champ **Julie Bentz** (Cue-Nique) were expected to be there at the end. And when expected strong challenger **Debbie Ronayne** (Cue Room) took a 6-8 loss from **Carol Olla** in the very first round, it looked even better for Collard and Bentz.

But Ronayne, a strong, tough pressure player, strung seven straight victories together to take the title, $200, a weekend vacation, and a beautiful Pabst trophy.

Included were back-to-back wins over Collard to put Deb in the final match, preceded by one-game wins also over **Ann Bendoritis** and '76 champ **Cindy Taylor.**

In the other bracket, Bentz had marched unimpeded into the championship match, with her only close call being an 8-7 win over **Ardie Barry** in the second round. Ardie then hung in nicely with three in a row to be Bentz's loser's side challenger, but Julie relegated her to 4th place with an 8-4 decision.

The final was a white-knuckler, with two well-matched players shooting hard and well. When the last Six dropped, Debbie Ronayne had an 11-10 win in the championship match.

The top 8:

Debbie Ronayne, (7-1) — $200; 2. Julie Bentz, (4-1) — $100; 3. Kathy Collard, (3-2) — $50; 4. Ardith Barry, (4-2) — $50; 5. Cindy Taylor, (2-2) — $30; 6. Orlana Schulz (2-2) — $30; 7. Ann Bendoritis, (2-2) — $20; 8. Lynn Reed, (2-2) — $20.

The Class A Men took over on Tuesday for their 16-man, split double elimination 14.1 test, playing to 100 points.

The three pre-tourney favorites here all got to the last matches as expected, where it became anybody's tourney among them.

Craig Powers (Romine's High Pockets) took four straight to be in the final game, including a 100-63 win over defending champion **Bruce Venzke** (Aqua Spray) and a 100-92 squeaker over loser's side challenger Kevin Stanelle (Sailor's of Racine).

Mark "Woody" Wilson (Cue-Nique) waltzed through his bracket with extreme ease as expected, finally being challenged and defeated 100-57 by Venzke from the loser's side. But in the rematch for the finals berth, Wilson prevailed 100-83.

In the title game, the seasoned veteran Wilson simply out-steadied the young Powers, scoring methodically and relentlessly to post a 125-67 championship win.

Tim Mlachnik (Antler's Billiards) shot the best game, a 7-inning, 100-91 job over **Gleason Scott** (Ebony Cue), while Venzke took high run with a 44.

The top 8 finishers:

1. Mark Wilson, (5-1) — $150; 2. Craig Powers, (4-1) — 100; 3. Bruce Venzke, (4-2) — 65; 4. Kevin Stanelle, (4-2) — 65; 5. Don Brucker, (3-2) — 40; 6. Chuck Olla, (2-2) — 40; 7. Tim Mlachnik, (2-2) — 20; 8. Bob Beyer, (2-2) — 20.

The 24-man Pro Invitational field finished out the 10-day stint with split double elimination action to 125 points.

The first round's biggest margin of victory was in a 125-37 win by Beloit's **Jeff Carter,** and it should have been an omen of things to come for the rest of the field.

Carter had come in on a streak of three consecutive Nineball tournament championships — obviously playing very well. But this was straight pool, a game Carter plays neither very much nor (in his own words) very well... wasn't it?

Maybe it was, but the result was the same: Carter taking it. He followed his first win with a close call over **Bob Beyer,** 125-113, and then a fine 125-58 effort over **Tod Covington.**

Then came the key "driver's seat" game in the lower bracket (winner then needs to lose twice to be denied the final game) with '76 champ **Randy LaMar.** Carter responded with a pivotal 125-47 win, and then awaited the loser's side challenger.

That was **John Brannon,** also from Beloit, and he gave Carter his first loss of the tournament, a 125-121 spine-tingler. But in the rematch, it was Carter, 125-101, and he was in the championship match.

In the other bracket, **Jim Talsma** of Racine was the winner's side winner, with four straight convincing victories. But his challenger was LaMar, who flip-flopped to that bracket after the loss to Carter.

Another white-knuckler in this bracket as LaMar gave Talsma his first defeat by 125-122, forcing a re-match there as well.

LaMar came alive in the re-match, running 70 and 19 in the final two innings to derail Talsma and reach the final with a 125-73 victory.

The LeMar-Carter 150-point final was cautious and close. It reached 109-106 in LaMar's favor, but on his next two innings, he posted only a six each time. The second six did him in.

Carter stepped up trailing 106-121 and ran 44-and-out to win his first Wisconsin State 14.1 Championship. He netted $700, and of course, a weekend vacation and a magnificent championship trophy from Pabst.

Defending champion **George Pawelski** of Racine copped high run honors with his 73, and LaMar had the best game of eight innings (with a 58-and-out) in a 125-4 rout of **Willie Munson.**

The co-sponsoring B.C.W. members who make these championships a reality deserve a good deal of credit. Unselfish desire to promote the sport of pocket billiards, rather than petty individual goals, mark the efforts and contributions of the B.C.W. members and supporters.

May it always be so, for the "Sports Show" championships in Wisconsin are a unique and valuable event.

I must also give credit to: Dave Batchelor, Tournament Director, who received a plaque of appreciation from the players; Aqua Spray, Inc. (tables and equipment); Pabst Brewing Company (trophies, flyers, charts); Executive House, Chicago (weekend vacations); and Gary Engelbert, Chief of Officials, along with the entire fine crew of referees and scorekeepers.

Men's Pro Division results:

1. Jeff Carter, (6-1) — $700; 2. Randy LaMar, (5-2) — $400; 3. Jim Talsma, (4-2) — $225; 4. John Brannon, (4-2) — $225; 5. Mark Wilson, (4-2) — $125; 6. Willie Munson, (3-2) — $125; 7. Bruce Venzke, (4-2) — $85; 8. Ron Dobosenski, (3-2) — $85;

9. George Pawelski, (2-2) — $110; 10. Edgar Mathis, (2-2) — $60; 11. Tod Covington, (2-2) — $60; 12. Chuck Olla, (1-2) — $60; 13. Andy Wawiorka, (2-2) — $45; 14. Luis Rodriguez, (1-2) — $45; 15. George Brunt, (1-2) — $45; 6. Kevin Stanelle, (1-2) — $45.

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Tom Kilburn: *BCA's first 8-ball champ*

Tom Kilburn and his trophy from the U.S. Open

"My overall confidence is better. Since winning the tournament, I've found that I'm a much better player than I once gave myself credit for."

That's how Tom Kilburn, the 1977 National Eight Ball Champion, capsulizes the effect that "winning the big one" has had on his game.

Tom's "big one" came in September 1977 at the Dayton, Ohio Convention Center. The tournament's 1978 version, which promises an even larger field, will be staged at the new Convention Center in Louisville, Kentucky. This time it will happen in early November, and Tom Kilburn will again be there, but this time as the defending champion.

"I'm ready to show that I'm no fluke," says Tom. "I'm going there to win it again."

Tom John Kilburn did not start at a young age like most accomplished billiardists. Born seventh in a family of nine in Wayne County, Tennessee, Tom never saw a pocket billiard table until he was twelve. Even then, he says, he only played two games of rotation.

Tom wasn't an overnight success. He gradually improved his game, though he admits he treated it casually. Finally, at the age of 35, Tom started taking the game seriously, working diligently on control and strategy, and setting goals for himself.

He dreamed of playing in the U.S. Open.

He knew the road would be rough, but he didn't know how rough. He soon found out.

In his first qualifying tournament, he was paired against Jim Rempe, who only the night before had strutted his stuff by running 238 balls in practice. Tom's next qualifier saw him playing Texas gentleman Bob Vanover. Like Rempe, Bob used this opportunity to turn the game into a clinic.

Looking back, Tom says "Those early losses actually helped me. I always learn a lot by watching the top professionals. I'll usually pick out one particular player, and watch him closely, and study his style, his stroke, just everything he does."

Although Tom has not yet qualified for the U.S. Open, his careful observations have paid off. Determination, perseverance, and a lot of gutsy shooting brought him a national title, and the respect of players and fans. More than once in that tournament, Tom had to pull out miracle shots to come from behind, snatching another breath and another game from the jaws of elimination.

"I was behind Lhotka (a good, but deceptive player) four games to one in a race-to-five preliminary match. A short coaching word and a vote of confidence from Paul Gerni, and I got fired up, won four in a row, and advanced to the next round."

Tom's narrow escapes did not go unnoticed in the stands. Author and instructor Johnny Holiday remarked, "I don't know how he does it. He defies the rules, gets out of line, and just when you think he's through, BANG — he smacks in a "toughie!"

Kilburn didn't disappoint the rest of the fans, as he continued his winning ways with exciting matches that had eyeballers buzzing. Time after time Tom ignored the odds of tournament extinction with his come-from-behind wizardry.

Finally, tournament co-directors Red Jones and Nick Page announced the five winners, one for each flight, we would compete in round robin play. "Bowman... Park... Conrad... Spitzer... and Kilburn."

Tom agreed it was good fortune to have advanced this far:

"I'd say about 50 of the 70 players there were very good, and any one of them might have taken it. I had heard of a lot of them, but

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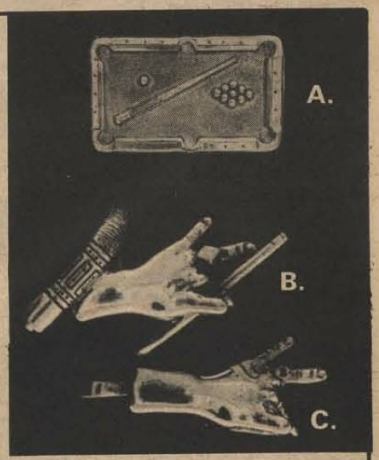

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had never seen them. And one thing I had going for me — all my opponents were strangers to me. And I also decided they were as nervous and cautious as I was."

When the round-robin was completed, Spitzer emerged unmarked and undefeated. However, a point system method of selection determined that Kilburn would be Mr. Spitzer's worthy opponent. "I honestly thought I was going to finish third, behind Spitzer and Park," confessed Kilburn.

So Dick Spitzer of Rapid City, South Dakota, had to go back to the firing line to prove himself.

By now both he and Kilburn had acquired substantial cheering sections. Admitted Tom, "I thought Spitzer would walk all over me — he was really playing well."

The match started with some good play by both players, but when Spitzer's opening break sent the cue ball flying off the table, not just once, but twice, Kilburn capitalized by carefully picking his way through the balls to run the table — both times.

According to Tom. "Those two breaks really made a lot of difference, especially psychologically."

The finals were a race-to-seven affair; each player took turns negotiating the collection of red and yellow casino balls that lay scattered on the table before them, pocketing their color before turning their attentions and efforts to the final goal — the black eight ball.

Tom's biggest cheerleaders were seated high in the stands, sighing or dying on each shot, and screaming frantically when Tom pulled off one of his "Miracle" shots.

Leading the cheers and fighting the tears were Marilyn Brehmer of The Billiard Ball in South Bend, (who sponsored Tom and three other area eight-ballers), and Tom's wife Margaret, who was holding on to relatives around her, seeming to fear the worst. Her eyes were wet, but she was smiling proudly.

The tears she was fighting back bravely would soon break loose when Tom's hand shot up in the air as the final eight-ball disappeared into the pocket, while the crowd roared its approval.

How did Tom Kilburn feel during the finals?

"I was more nervous when I was sitting down," replied Tom. "I just feel better when I'm shooting, 'cause I know I'm in control. I was definitely "keyed-up", and after it was over, after the last ball went in, I almost collapsed. I could really feel that emotional drain."

Tom watched the final day of the U.S. Open the day before the eight-ball tournament, and learned a valuable lesson from watching Dick Lane's dilemma. He applied it two days later in his own final match.

"...Remembering... all that, I realized it was important to clearly think out each shot, and not let myself get careless. You just can't take being ahead for granted, it's no guarantee."

Ironically, Tom didn't win the first eight-ball qualifier he entered last summer. He wasn't even sure he would try again to qualify: "It was about two months before the national tournament. Paul Gerni offered to work with me, on my stroke, my grip, my wrist (I kept turning it sideways), and my followthrough. Then, one day, he convinced me to try again to qualify for Dayton — he told me then, in July, that he thought I could win it all, if I believed I could do it! Man, I'm glad he talked me into it!"

Now Tom Kilburn has won a major tournament in his first attempt, and has some impressive evidence of his prowess: a huge, four-foot silver trophy which almost dwarfs his four-year-old son James, and a beautiful antique pocket billiard table, on which to teach his skills to his older sons, Jeffrey, 14, Johnny, 12.

Tom uses the Albany 8-Ball Casino Balls in his home ("I love 'em, and think they're great for the game"), and knocks them in the pockets with his new 59-inch Huebler cue, which weighs in at 20¼ ounces, and, like the balls, trophy, and table, was also a reward for his first place finish.

What's in the future for Tom Kilburn?

"I really need more experience in competition, so I expect to play in more tournaments.

"I love to play straight pool, equal offense, and anything that is best for the game, and will get the public interested.

"I'm also dabbling in trick shots, and will make several exhibition appearances. I'll also be glad to promote and run some of the 8-Ball qualifiers, if they ask for my help.

"I'm open to challenges."

The first National Eight-Ball Championship is now history, and the Billiard Congress of America is looking ahead to the second chapter.

Any one of the players who qualified to play in the past event could have won on the basis of their raw talent. But other factors affect the outcome, and most of them, like character, are intangibles.

Tom Kilburn has character and all the other intangibles which contribute to the making of a champion. He proved it once. He intends to prove it again.

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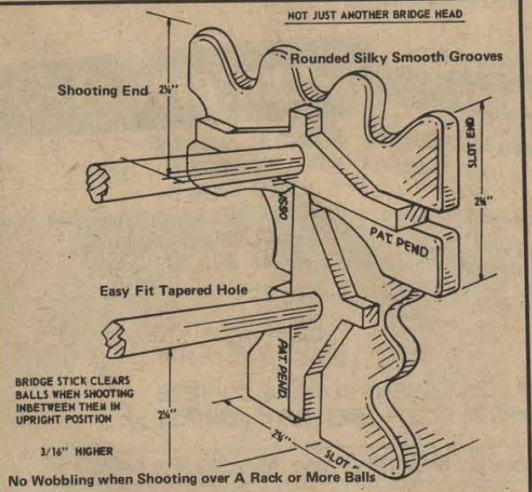

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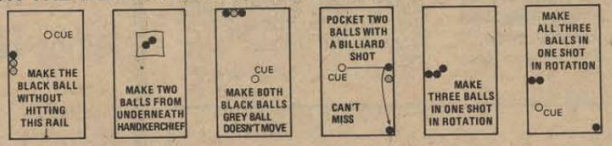

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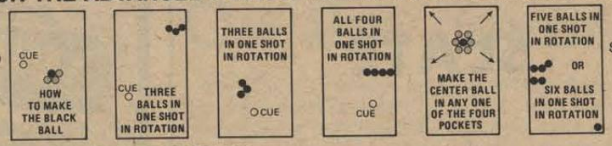

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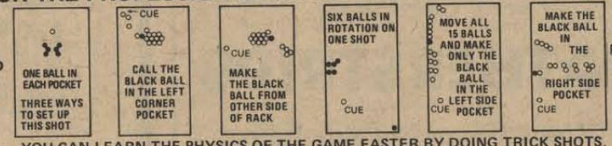

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Ebonite and Fischer, two respected names in the billiards and games industry, have united their talents to produce a "superlative alternative" to buying from a large, inflexible manufacturer or a small, regional supplier. Together, Ebonite/Fischer offers excellent programs, products and prices to give the rec. room buyer a better shot at the billiards business.

The benefits of a large company and a flexible structure are melted together in the union to form a company that's large enough to offer a complete line of products for the family room, while flexible enough to custom design tables for volume customers. With the acquisition of Fischer Billiards Company completed on January 1, 1978, the combined Ebonite/Fischer lines offer the largest selection of family room games in the business.

All of Fischer's manufacturing operations have been moved to Miami Lakes, Florida and integrated into Ebonite's facilities.

"The Ebonite/Fischer merger has given us additional stability with which to expand our research and marketing efforts," said Bill Bohn, president of Ebonite Billiards, a Fuqua Sports Company. "Ebonite Billiards and Games is a source for everything you might want in a rec. room." During 1978 Ebonite/Fischer is aggressively establishing the company as a total family room game manufacturer who plans on sustaining its leadership role in the industry.

Ebonite/Fischer's combined years of experience in manufacturing, research, marketing and distribution add up to proven success. This experience is the foundation upon which they plan to build new product lines.

Fischer's billiard and game tables enhance Ebonite's other three lines by adding their own distinctive styling to Ebonite's offerings. For 1978 the four lines include Willie Mosconi tables, a high end exclusive line, Ebonite tables, Fischer tables and a full line of game tables including the ever-popular gambit and backgammon tables.

With their expanded lines, Ebonite Billiards and Games, a Fuqua Sports Company, can put together a $5,000 package which includes a billiard table, a three-in-one gambit, a pinball machine, a soccer table and a backgammon table. This package can be offered as everything for a complete rec. room according to Mr. Greico.

Fuqua Sports is a major national producer of equipment for the recreation industry. Fuqua Sports companies include Hutch Sporting Goods, Ajay Sports, Dorcy Cycle, Ebonite Bowling, Ebonite Billiards and Games and Wester Water Skis.

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Mullen

Continued from Page 6

reads: "Let me begin by complimenting you on your decision. In choosing pocket billiards (pool to us from now on) as a game which you'd like to learn, you've shown unparallelled wisdom. This could easily be one of the truly nifty recreational decisions of your life."

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And most important, George Fels.emphasizes the fact that is totally ignored in all other attempts to write about "the game"... "It's also great fun." This is one time when all concerned let George do it and George, you done good.

Following up in the same line of thought, my trip to California the land of milk and honey and three cushion players, led me to some important news about another book. Bob Byrne will have a new book available in a few months. Look for it.

Speaking of Lists and the trouble I got into last month by publishing a list of my own choices for best player in a number of catagories. The response was frightening. One of our long time customers in my billiard supply store was quite put out because he believed I slighted Jim Rempe.

I received phone calls from all over the country about other slights that may have occurred and I told them as I tell you, send us your lists and we will make up a composite totalling all votes. The one list I did not put forth was my choice of the best promoters or the best exhibitionists. I am in trouble enough so I will pass for now.

We hear tell of a ladies cueist named Karen Rhine of Evansville, Indiana, coming along as a straight pool player. Of considerable skill and vertually unknown, Karen wants to make her big time debut in the Labor Day National Billiard News Open for Men and Women in Livonia, Michigan. Our NBN associate, Ray Abrams, is promoting this prestigious event after changing dates from Memorial Day to the beginning of the fall season.

As of now this will be the biggest straight pool event of the year for each of the divisions and as in the past the house puts money in the pot. Ray's tournaments have always been something for the players to look forward to, especially Steve Mizerak. The Great "Miz" has won this event each and every time it was played on Memorial Day. Abrams was tempted to send Steve the money this year because he did not want him to spoil his weekend.

How about something contreversial? Brunswick just came out with a brand new catalog of accessories and supplies. Beautiful cover, a work of art and in most cases the merchandise inside is up to the standards of the Big "B", but... "they" feature a Willie Hoppe Comemorative Cue that is an affront to the traditionalists of the game.

I don't believe they (the Brunswick Buyers) know that a Willie Hoppe 'original' will sell for $50 to $100.00 used. Where oh where are the inlaid prongs on the leather wrapped butt? Where has the brass piloted joint gone to? Next we will hear, Willie who?

Shed a tear for yesteryear,
What can be said, they think it's dead,
It's in a horrible condition,
The olde billiard tradition,
But we will try to keep it alive
Despite old "Turk" it will survive.

The preceding 6 lines were found in a bottle floating in the river and they are attributed to "Puhka". I think that this is a hint of things to come. Rumor has it that the billiard game is not far from establishing an Historical Museum devoted to the facinating past. Complete details will be available in our next issue.

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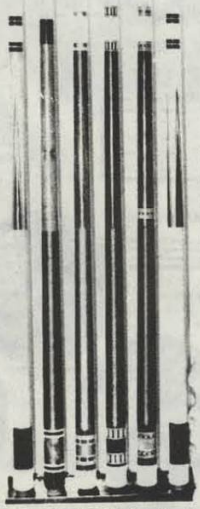

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NAME .....
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Tip of Cue 11 to 14 mm.....
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To have the next 12 issues of The National Billiard News delivered to your mail box, simply fill out this coupon (please don't forget to check the appropriate category at the bottom, we like to know just who our readers are) and enclose a check or money order in the proper amount (do not send cash). Then mail it to us.

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5-78

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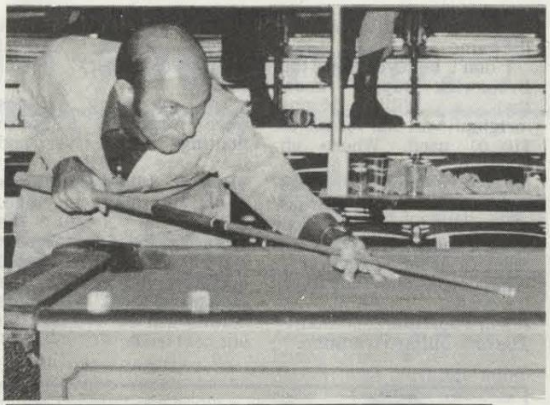

Can you beat him?

Starting November 2, 1978, this man will be holding court at the new Commonwealth Convention Center in Louisville, Kentucky. For three days he will be defending his title of BCA NATIONAL EIGHT-BALL CHAMPION.

His name is Tom Kilburn. He lives in South Bend. He's good. If you think you're better. . . .TRY!

BCA's National 8-Ball tournament is open to anyone, with both Women's and Men's Divisions. You are welcome to play in most any of the Local Qualifying Tournaments listed below. Or sponsor your own tournament, if you can round up 12 or more players.

Player entry fees are only $7 plus a share of the cost of sending the winner to Louisville. To sponsor a Qualifying Tournament costs only $10, and BCA provides you with a complete Tournament Kit, a personalized trophy and a prize for your winner(see adjoining ad for more details). There's over $23,000 in prizes waiting for you. So is TOM!

Write or Call for Details:
Billiard Congress of America
717 N. Michigan Avenue
Chicago, Illinois 60611
(312) 944-0246

National Eight-Ball Tourney Fires Up

Interest in BCA's 2nd National Eight-Ball Tournament began to run high in April as qualifying tournaments got underway across the country.

The first sponsor to declare a winner was Harold's Pool Parlour, Inc., Roselle, Illinois. Donald "Preacher" Feeney, a marketing executive from nearby Naperville, walked away with the trophy—a set of Casino "8" balls and the round trip to the $23,000 shootout in Louisville, Kentucky, next November.

Following him into the winner's circle was Charles "Easy Street" Benner, who took the contest held at The Side Pocket in Hancock, New York on April Fools' Day. He chose a new Valley cue to go with his trophy and pass to Derbytown.

First woman to make her entrance into the Championship playoffs is Sharon Conway. A Chicagoan, she played in the April 8 qualifier sponsored by Marie's Golden Cue.

To date, 80 tournaments have been scheduled by sponsors. "We are receiving several new tournaments a day," reports BCA president Paul Lucchesi, "and have room at the finals in Louisville for 192 players. We hope that everyone who wants to play or sponsor a qualifying tournament gets a chance to do so. Our objective is to have a lot of people have a great time playing a great game."

Qualifiers in 21 States;
Listed below are qualifying tournaments scheduled to date. Most will welcome additional players, but you must sign up at least 24 hours in advance of play. To make arrangements, contact the sponsor directly.
Women's tournaments are indicated in bold face type.

CANADA
Avalon Electronics
Newfoundland, Canada
709-229-4583
July 15

COLORADO
The Bank Shot
Colorado Springs, CO
303-636-9958
May 27-28

Colorado Springs Pool League
Colorado Springs, CO
303-596-8673
April 2, July 9

Sagone's Billiards
Colorado Springs, CO
303-634-9401
May 22-23

FLORIDA
Brew & Cue
Tallahassee, FL
904-222-8749
April 24-27, **May 8-11**, May 22-25, **June 5-8**, June 19-22

8-Ball Lounge
Ft. Myers, FL
813-481-9847
June 11

GEORGIA
American Home Rec. Ctr.
Athens, GA
404-543-4918
May 5-6 (mixed)

IOWA
Cue Master Billiards
Dubuque, IA
319-556-9873
June 3, June 17, **June 24**, July 1, **July 8**, July 15, **July 22**, July 29

ILLINOIS
Butler's Tap
Heyworth, IL
309-473-2979
April 1, **April 15**, April 29

Chalk of the Town
Pekin, IL
309-346-3006
April 8 (mixed), June 17 (mixed), July 17 (mixed)

Guys & Gals Billiard Parlor
Dixon, IL
815-288-6611
May 23, June 13, June 20, July 18, **June 22**

Harold's Pool Parlour
Roselle, IL
312-894-9570
April 22, **May 20**, June 17

Marie's Golden Cue
Chicago, IL
312-478-2555
April 29, June 3

Plaza Billiards
Granite City, IL
618-876-8707
April 22-23, May 27-28, June 24-25

INDIANA
Family Billiards
Anderson, IN
317-644-6050
April 22, May 6 (mixed), June 10, June 24, July 15

Rocky's Rec Room
W. Lafayette, IN
317-743-5812
May 6

KENTUCKY
Rack 'N Cue
Owensboro, KY
502-926-4248
June 10, **June 11**, June 17, June 24

MASSACHUSETTS
Silver Cue Billiards & Game Room
Woburn, MA
617-933-9771
June 4 (mixed)

MICHIGAN
Leo's Lounge & Bar Harbor—
L & S Music Co.
Petoskey, MI
616-347-2739
April-May

Silver Cue Billiards
Marquette, MI
906-228-8711
June 10, **June 17**

MINNESOTA
Gentleman Jims
Minneapolis, MN
612-823-8118
April 22, May 6, **May 20**, June 3

Golden Cue Billiard Lounge
E. Grand Forks, MN
218-773-3589
July 26, July 27

University of Minnesota
Minneapolis, MN
612-373-2411
April 17 (mixed), May 19 (mixed)

MONTANA
The Cartwheel Bar
Great Falls, MT
406-761-9053
April 15, **May 13**, May 20, June 17

NEVADA
Charleston Heights Liquors
Las Vegas, NV
702-878-9835
May-July

NEW JERSEY
Hi-Cue Billiard Lounge
Elizabeth, NJ
201-354-8950
May 19-21

NORTH CAROLINA
Play Room
Greensboro, NC
919-294-6049
May 6

NORTH DAKOTA
Midwest Billiard Supply
Fargo, ND
701-237-5665
April 22, **April 22**

OHIO
"Jim Knisley" Billiards & Snooker Lounge
Bremen, OH
614-569-4737
April 29, May 13-14

Westgate Lanes
Rocky River, OH
216-333-0616
April 15

OKLAHOMA
Midamerica Billiard Ass'n.
Tulsa, OK
918-663-3743
2 tour. — dates not set

VIRGINIA
Royal "8" Billiards, Inc.
Virginia Beach, VA
804-497-0263
April 4-25

WASHINGTON
Red Robin Tavern
Spokane, WA
509-327-3769
May 20-21, **May 20-21**

WEST VIRGINIA
Marshall University
Huntington, WV
304-696-6667
April 29-30

WISCONSIN
Rolling Greens
Neenah, WI
414-722-6179
April 16, **April 23**, April 30

THE BILLIARD CONGRESS OF AMERICA
presents the Second

NATIONAL CASINO 8-BALL TOURNAMENT

OPEN TO EVERYONE!

- **LOCAL QUALIFYING TOURNAMENTS** are being held thru July 1978. Anyone may enter. There are both Men's and Women's divisions. No age restrictions.
- **EVERY PARTICIPANT** will receive a colorful tournament patch, a complimentary membership in BCA for 1978, a copy of the rules, plus periodic newsletters concerning tournament progress.
- **EACH LOCAL WINNER** receives a unique trophy, a choice of a set of Albany "Casino 8" billiard balls or a fine two-piece cue by Valley, and progresses either directly to the NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS in Louisville, Kentucky, next November, or to REGIONAL ELIMINATION TOURNAMENTS (IF it becomes necessary to do so to maintain the number of Championship finalists to 192 contestants.)
- **PLAYER ENTRY FEE** is just $7 per Local Tournament PLUS a pro-rated share of the cost of sending the winner to-and-from Louisville, Kentucky. Enter as often as you wish, or until you win.

SIGN UP TO PLAY!

LOCAL TOURNAMENT DATES ARE BELOW:

		man	or	women
1)	_____	___		___
2)	_____	___		___
3)	_____	___		___
4)	_____	___		___

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two of the oldest American-made billiard equipment manufacturers!

The National Championships will use 100% cast phenolic Casino 8 balls (2¼" ±.0025, well within BCA specifications)

Albany Hyatt Billiard Ball Co.
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A great old name... has a great new look!
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PRIZES, PRIZES, PRIZES for NATIONAL WINNERS

BILLIARD TABLES — Quality slate tables by BCA MEMBERS shown at right. Top 10 men and two women have choice in order of finish. Tables will be delivered and setup anywhere within continental U.S. Each table will be equipped with Cue Sets and Racks by INTERNATIONAL BILLIARDS, Table Cloth by MALI, Table Lighting by MARSHALL, Casino 8 ball sets by ALBANY HYATT, Table Covers by LEAPRO.

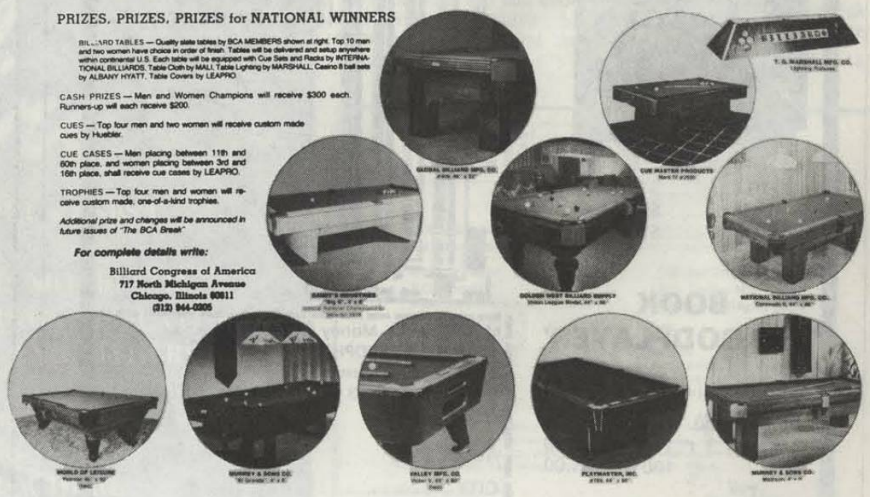
CASH PRIZES — Men and Women Champions will receive $300 each. Runners-up will each receive $200.

CUES — Top four men and two women will receive custom made cues by Hustler.

CUE CASES — Men placing between 11th and 80th place, and women placing between 3rd and 16th place, shall receive cue cases by LEAPRO.

TROPHIES — Top four men and women will receive custom made, one-of-a-kind trophies.

Additional prize and changes will be announced in future issues of "The BCA Break"

For complete details write:

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