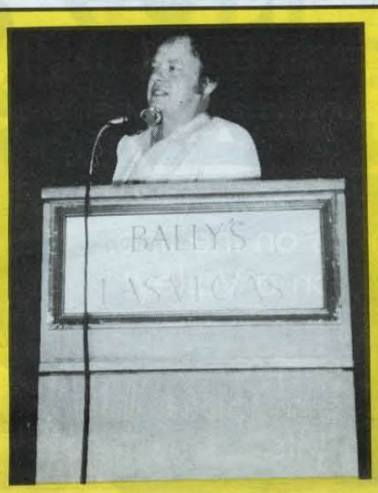
THE NATIONAL

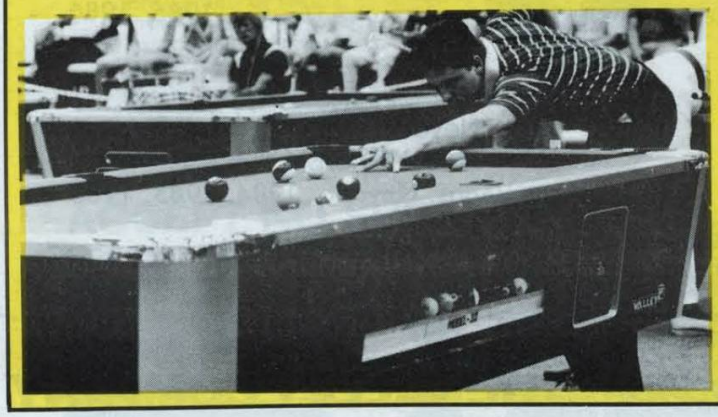
# Billiard News

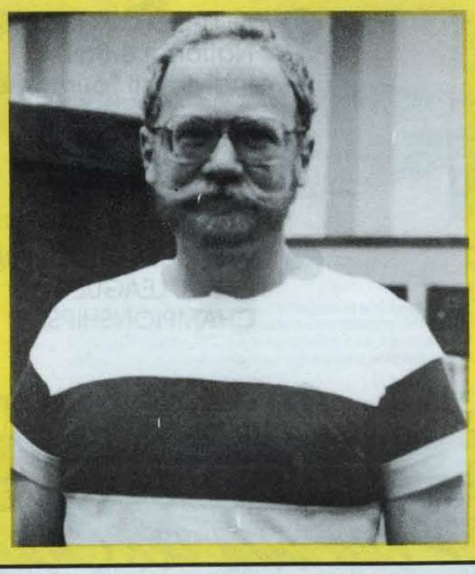
*The World's Largest Pool, Billiard and Snooker Publication*

*August, 1986* $1.50



Cannon Lanes
Red Sails
Scott Kitto
Chris Glass
Ron Drekic
All winners in the
VNEA Tournament





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*August, 1986*

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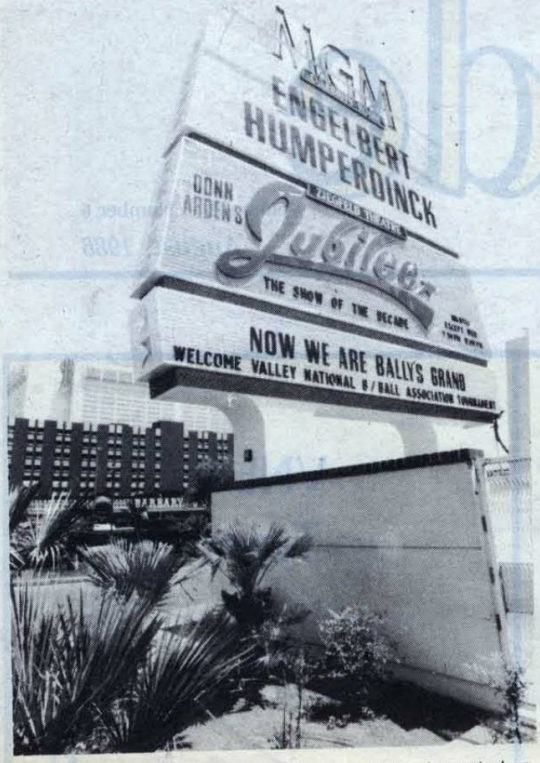
# Kitto and Glass Victorious in VNEA Singles




*VNEA finally makes the big time tournament — is posted on MGM marquee.*

Scott Kitto and Chris Glass etched their names into record books with convincing victories, as the sixth Valley National Eight-ball Association International Championships concluded recently at the Bally Grand Hotel in Las Vegas, NV.

Kitto breezed through six matches unbeaten in the select, 32-player men's singles finals field to collect the $1,000 first-place prize and a handsome plaque.

Glass eventually became a double winner in the exciting, expanded six-day event conducted in the enormous Goldwyn Ballroom.

The Cannon Falls, MN lass also romped through undefeated in the elite field of 16 females to capture the singles crown and a booty of $600 in addition to the VNEA plaque awarded the individual champion.

Later in the festivities Glass would become a double winner, assisting her Cannon Lanes women's team to its second consecutiye VNEA championship — the first-ever repeat in the short but highly-successful history of the association's finals.

In its sixth full year the VNEA and its league system has experienced amazing growth and success, expanding 10-fold from an original 2,500 participants in 1981 to nearly 24,000 in 1986!

What began in the north and central Midwest as a regional organization six years ago by energetic founder Chuck Milhem, president of The Valley Company, a subsidiary of Kidde, Inc., Bay City, MI and also current president of the VNEA, now comprises two countries, the United States and Canada, 29 states and 3 provinces!

With 16 women and 32 men participating in the first individual (singles) championships conducted in the Nevada resort community and an additional 80 females and 160 males later vying in five-player teams for the third successive year, Las Vegas was a "pocket billiard happening" June 1-8.

Format for the respective singles events was double elimination, race-to-2 in preliminary rounds for the women and race-to-3 in early action for the men.

Races were stretched to 5 and 4, respectively for males and females for the overall championships. The losers' bracket champion had to defeat the winners' bracket victor twice in order to claim the title.

Unfortunately for Mark Wilson and Terry Forney, men's and women's 1985-1986 VNEA individual runners-up, this situation did not occur.

Wilson, nevertheless, was more than satisfied with his $750 check and engraved plaque for a second-place finish, as was Forney, who took home a similar award and $350.

Registration for the gala event began Monday, June 1 in the Goldwyn Pavilion and ran from Noon to 9 p.m.

An opening ceremony in which Milhem greeted the individual participants and A.M. "Red" Jones provided an invocation, began the actual "tournament" at 10 a.m. Tuesday, June 2.

Tournament Committee members were introduced, as were the player officials and the rules of play were reiterated to the select 48 participants.

Members of the 1985-1986 VNEA International Championship Committee were as follows: Charles "Chuck" Milhem, president The Valley Company; A.M. "Red" Jones, Grand Marshall; Warren Kelly, The Valley Company, consultant; Bill Nemgar, The Valley Company; Gary Benson, High Country Games & Music, Inc., Fort Collins, CO; Jim Mason, High Country Games; Scott Nedberg, Jack Eiser Sales Co., Fort Wayne, CO, and Gary Nelson, Stansfield Vending, Inc., La Crosse, WI.

Additionally, Tim Norberg, C & N Sales Co., Inc., Mankato, MN; Tami Norbey Paulsen, C & N Sales; Conrad Burkman, The National Billiard News, Northville, MI, publicity; Fred Saack, D & R Star, Rochester, MN, and Lewie Hegeman, A. Van Brackel & Sons, Defiance, OH.

Tournament competition began promptly at noon that day under the watchful eyes of the following player officials:

Jerry Becker, Salmon River Amusement, Salmon, ID; Darlene Buffa, Salmon River Amusement; Dick Collier, D & R Star; Frank Frye, Salmon River Amusement; Bill Godsey, A. Van Brackel & Sons; Delana Juel, High Country Games; Bruce Peterson, Stansfield Vending, and Steve Sylvester, Jack Eiser Sales.

Kitto and Glass were as smooth stroking as the latter's last name throughout the individual competition.

The eventual men's champion breezed past first-round opponent John Bussey, sending him reeling into the losers' bracket. Then Kitto, who must like Las Vegas because previously he won against Southern Nevada's best on regulation tables at Crystal Palace Billiards, knocked Gerry Van Sharrel out of the victor's bracket.

Scott was no less impressive in the quarter-finals against Dan Soper or Greg Hockhalter in the semis, en route to a showdown with Anthony Falcigno.

Falcigno escaped a tough tussle with one of the early favorites, Billy Steele, of La Crosse, WI, who later was to be the hero in team competition.

That brought Kitto and Falcigno together and Scott emerged victorious, to await the arduous struggle of the challengers who were eliminating one another in the "last chance" bracket.

Meanwhile, Glass began her title quest with a victory over one of two Bloomberg sisters, Gari Jo, and disposed of Sandy Bowman to reach the semifinals.

Chris then was to play what eventually would be one of two strategic contests against her subsequent overall finals foe, Forney.

Fellow Minnesota shooter Lisa Tonjum (Rochester) was the next victim for Glass. Now Chris had captured the winners' bracket and she, too, rested and looked forward to an eventual rival.

Kitto's finals foe was as unexpected as the surprise exhibited by Tournament Committeeman Benson when he received the annual Valley National "Meritorious Service" Award for contributions to the administration, development and promotion of the game of pool.

Benson was all "choked up" with emotion during his acceptance speech at the June 7 awards-buffet-dance ceremony. He began crying tears of joy and had to terminate his spontaneous delivery.

There were no "throat problems" for Mark Wilson, however, in his surge toward the men's singles select circle. Wilson stroked as if he were Hamlet preparing for a soliloquy.

Mark suffered an opening-round defeat to Myrle McLaughlin. However, Wilson turned tiger, stalking his losers' bracket prey with relentless tenacity.

Wilson displayed supreme stamina as he clawed past eight consecutive opponents en route to eventual confrontation with Kitto.

In succession he ousted Don Woods, Mike Fenne, Dave Hancock, Alain Favreau, Bob Schulz, Steele in another tough setback that Billy later was to atone in team play, Dick Spitzer, a seasoned veteran and winner of numerous non-related regional events and, finally, Falcigno.

Meanwhile, quite a battle was brewing in the losers' bracket among the women.

After Glass sent Forney reeling into the "now or never" group, Chris' Cannon Lanes teammates Kathy Krentz, who eventually was eliminated by third place finisher Lisa Tonjum, and Rose Malkovich, who fell victim to the runner-up, attempted to make a clean sweep of the top prizes for the Minnesota juggernaut.

Forney's route to the finals was accomplished in the following fashion:

Terry won her opening round against Patty Maher; dropped Malkovich into the losers' bracket in the same round Tonjum sent her Cannon Lanes' teammate Krentz in that direction; eliminated the Cannon Lanes' pair in successive order, first Krentz and then Malkovich in the quarter and semifinals, respectively and won the bracket with a triumph over Tonjum.

The routes were too demanding upon the stamina and skills of Wilson and Forney, however, as each took a pressurized poke and the unblemished Kitto at Glass in the overall finales.

Tension is extreme to begin with in tournaments of this magnitude and when a player has to face each match with the knowledge that another slip will send he or she sliding down the precipice, the task ahead is that much more magnified.

This is to take nothing away from Glass and Kitto's victories. Each played superbly and went through unbeaten.

Kitto snapped off an obviously tired and emotionally drained Wilson, 5-1 in the finals.

Glass had a slightly more difficult time with Forney, building a 3-1 cushion before taking the title, 4-2.

Continued on Page 4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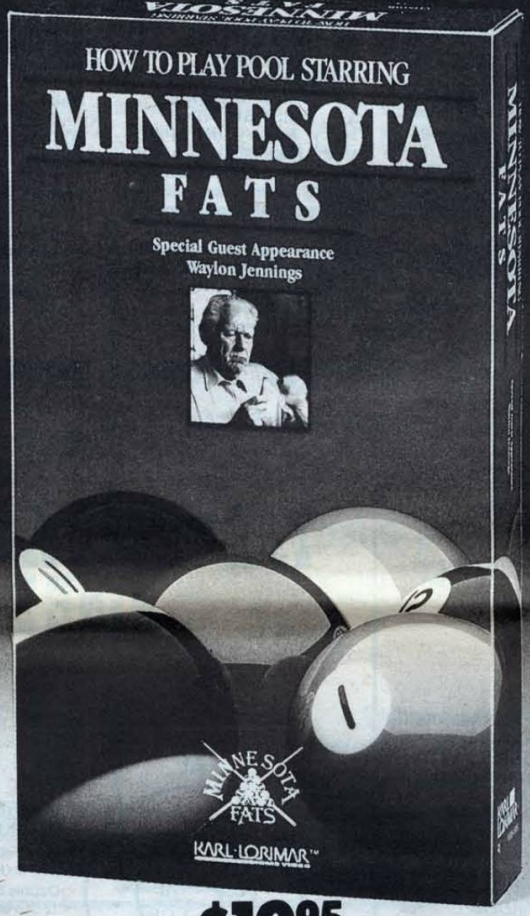


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Continued from Page 2

# Single Events

Scott's take was approximately one-seventh of the men's total singles prize fund of $7,450 and Wilson's one-tenth.

Falcigno took home $500 for third place and Spitzer pocketed $400 for fourth. Steele and Hockhalter each earned $300 for their fifth-sixth place finishes and Schulz and Tim Brandt received $200 apiece for seventh-eighth efforts.

Chris' portion of the $2,700 women's singles total prize fund was approximately one-fourth, compared to Forney's one-ninth.

Tonjum was awarded $250 for third place and Malkovich, $150 for her fourth place berth.

Krentz and Ann Espenes shared the 5th-6th place sums of $125 each. Maher and Bowman left the tourney with $100 stipends for tying for 7th-8th positions.

Falcigno and Spitzer joined Kitto and Wilson as winners of plaques emblematic of their performances.

Tonjum and Malkovich also were given plaques as mementos of their sharp-shooting to join Glass and Forney.

## Men's Single Results

**INDIVIDUAL (SINGLES) AWARDS**

Champion
Scott Kitto Individual Plaque
2nd Place
Mark Wilson Individual Plaque
3rd Place
Anthony Falcigno Individual Plaque
4th Place
Dick Spitzer Individual Plaque

**32 PLAYERS**
**DOUBLE ELIMINATION**
**WINNERS' BRACKET**
**FIRST ROUND**

Myrle McLaughlin def. Mark Wilson; Dick Spitzer def. Don Woods; Ron Drekic def. Neil Smith; Greg Hockhalter def. Jeff Hooks.

Scott Kotto def. John Bussey; Gerry Van Scharrel def. Bob Schulz; Bill Wilson def. Glen Olson; Alain Favreau def. Kim Stigall.

Billy Steele def. Henry Morris; Dan Marchini def. Rick Magruder; Don Soper def. John Pent; Terry Hanson def. Lynwood Berry.

Dave Hancock def. Mike Ritzie; Tim Brandt def. Kevin Dishman; Anthony Falcigno def. Steve Shirling; Mike Fenne def. Art Ekern.

**SECOND ROUND**

McLaughlin def. Spitzer; Hockhalter def. Drekic; Kitto def. Van Scharrel; Favreau def. Wilson.

Steele def. Marchini; Soper def. Hanson; Brandt def. Hancock; Falcigno def. Fenne.

**QUARTER-FINALS**

Hockhalter def. McLaughlin; Kitto def. Favreau.

Steele def. Soper, Falcigno def. Brandt.

**SEMIFINALS**

Kitto def. Hockhalter.
Falcigno def. Steele.

**FINALS**

Kitto def. Falcigno.

**LOSERS' BRACKET**
**FIRST ROUND**

Mark Wilson def. Don Woods; Jeff Hooks def. Neil Smith; Bob Schulz def. John Bussey; Kim Stigall def. Glen Olson.

Henry Morris def. Rick Magruder; John Pent def. Lynwood Berry; Kevin Dishman def. Mike Ritzie; Steve Shirling def. Art Ekern.

**SECOND ROUND**

Wilson def. Fenne; Hancock def. Hooks; Schulz def. Hanson; Marchini def. Stigall.

Morris def. Bill Wilson; Pent def. Van Scharrel; Dishman def. Drekic; Spitzer def. Shirling.

**THIRD ROUND**

Wilson def. Hancock, Schulz def. Marchini.

Morris def. Pent; Spitzer def. Dishman.

**FOURTH ROUND**

Wilson def. Favreau; Schulz def. McLaughlin.

Brandt def. Morris; Spitzer def. Soper.

**FIFTH ROUND**

Wilson def. Schulz.
Spitzer def. Brandt.

**QUARTER-FINALS**

Wilson def. Steele.
Spitzer def. Hockhalter.

**SEMIFINALS**

Wilson def. Spitzer

**FINALS**

Wilson def. Falcigno.

**OVERALL FINALS**
**(Losers' Bracket Champion)**
**(Must Win Two Matches)**
**(RACE TO 5)**

Kitto def. Wilson, 5-1.

**PRIZE MONEY BREAKDOWN**
**MENS' INDIVIDUAL**
**(SINGLES)**
**TOTAL PRIZE MONEY**
**$7,450**
**(32 Singles Finals)**
**(Field Prize Money)**
**(Breakdown Follows)**

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| 1st | Scott Kitto | $1,000 |
| 2nd | Mark Wilson | 750 |
| 3rd | A. Falcigno | 500 |
| 4th | Dick Spitzer | 400 |
| 5th-6th | Billy Steele | 300 |
| 5th-6th | Greg Hockhalter | 300 |
| 7th-8th | Bob Schulz | 200 |
| 7th-8th | Tim Brandt | 200 |
| 9th-12th | Alain Favreau | 150 |
| 9th-12th | M. McLaughlin | 150 |
| 9th-12th | Henry Morris | 150 |
| 9th-12th | Don Soper | 150 |
| 13th-16th | Dave Hancock | 100 |
| 13th-16th | Dan Marchini | 100 |
| 13th-16th | John Pent | 100 |
| 13th-16th | Kevin Dishman | 100 |
| 17th-32nd | Mike Fenné | 75 |
| 17th-32nd | Jeff Hooks | 75 |
| 17th-32nd | Terry Hanson | 75 |
| 17th-32nd | Kim Stigall | 75 |
| 17th-32nd | Bill Wilson | 75 |
| 17th-32nd | G. Van Scharrel | 75 |
| 17th-32nd | Ron Drekic | 75 |
| 17th-32nd | Steve Shirling | 75 |
| 17th-32nd | Don Woods | 75 |
| 17th-32nd | Neil Smith | 75 |
| 17th-32nd | John Bussey | 75 |
| 17th-32nd | Glen Olson | 75 |
| 17th-32nd | Rick Magruder | 75 |
| 17th-32nd | Lynwood Berry | 75 |
| 17th-32nd | Mike Ritzie | 75 |
| 17th-32nd | Art Ekern | 75 |

## Women's Single Results

**INDIVIDUAL (SINGLES) AWARDS**

Champion
Chris Glass Individual Plaque
2nd Place
Terry Forney Individual Plaque
3rd Place
Lisa Tonjum Individual Plaque
4th Place
Rose Malkovich Individual Plaque

**16 PLAYERS**
**DOUBLE ELIMINATION**
**WINNERS' BRACKET**
**FIRST ROUND**

Terry Forney def. Patty Maher; Rose Malkovich def. Sandy Healy; Chris Glass def. Gari Jo Bloomberg; Sandy Bowman def. Janene Hague.

Jeanne Bloomberg def. Jeri Engh; Ann Espenes def. Debbie Wilson; Cathy Krentz def. Candi Robinson; Lisa Tonjum def. Barbara Hamilton.

**QUARTER-FINALS**

Forney def. Malkovich; Glass def. Bowman.

Espenes def. J. Bloomberg; Tonjum def. Krentz.

**SEMIFINALS**

Glass def. Forney.
Tonjum def. Espenes.

**FINALS**

Glass def. Tonjum.

**LOSERS' BRACKET**
**FIRST ROUND**

Patty Maher def. Sandy Healy; Gari Jo Bloomberg def. Janene Hague.

Jeri Engh def. Debbie Wilson; Barbara Hamilton def. Candi Robinson.

**SECOND ROUND**

Maher def. J. Bloomberg; Krentz def. G. Bloomberg.

Malkovich def. Engh; Bowman def. Hamilton.

**THIRD ROUND**

Krentz def. Maher.
Malkovich def. Bowman.

**QUARTER-FINALS**

Forney def. Krentz.
Malkovich def. Espenes.

**SEMIFINALS**

Forney def. Malkovich.

**FINALS**

Forney def. Tonjum.

**OVERALL FINALS**
**(Losers' Bracket Champion)**
**(Must Win Two Matches)**
**(RACE TO 4)**

Glass def. Forney, 4-2.

**PRIZE MONEY BREAKDOWN**
**WOMENS' INDIVIDUAL**
**(SINGLES)**
**TOTAL PRIZE MONEY**
**$2,700**
**(16 Singles Finals)**
**(Field Prize Money)**
**(Breakdown Follows)**

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| 1st | Chris Glass | $600 |
| 2nd | Terry Forney | 350 |
| 3rd | Lisa Tonjum | 250 |
| 4th | Rose Malkovich | 150 |
| 5th-6th | Cathy Krentz | 125 |
| 5th-6th | Ann Espenes | 125 |
| 7th-8th | Patty Maher | 100 |
| 7th-8th | Sandy Bowman | 100 |
| 9th-12th | J. Bloomberg | 75 |
| 9th-12th | G. Bloomberg | 75 |
| 9th-12th | Jeri Engh | 75 |
| 9th-12th | Barbara Hamilton | 75 |
| 13th-16th | Sandy Healy | 50 |
| 13th-16th | Janene Hague | 50 |
| 13th-16th | Debbie Wilson | 50 |
| 13th-16th | Candi Robinson | 50 |


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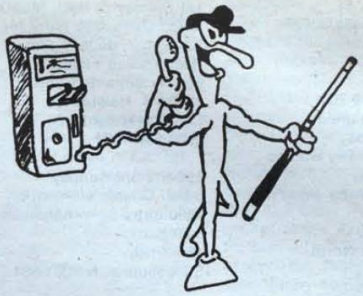

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Race to 11
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Sept. 1
Florida Women 9-Ball
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4½ x 9 Gold Crowns
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# Jarvis Beats "The Professor" to The Cash

By MICHAEL E. BARENTS

The 1986 "Motor City Open" 9-Ball Championships were held on "Father's Day" weekend, June 14th and 15th, at the Cushion-Cue 'N' Brew, in Livonia, Michigan.

40 men and 13 women, each paying the $100.00 entry fee, showed up for the competition and were welcomed by owner Ray Abrams who also served as tournament director. Although the numbers of players entered fell far short of expectation, their play wasn't. As a matter of fact the finals in both divisions were two of the most spine-tingling matches ever witnessed by most of those in attendance.

In the Men's division, Mark Jarvis, 23, of Chicago, Illinois, came out of the losers bracket and defeated defending champion Grady "The Professor" Mathews of Detroit, Michigan, by the scores of 11-1 and 11-8. 1st place was worth $1,170 and a trophy. 2nd place paid $690 and a trophy.

Winning for the second straight year in the women's division was Loree Jon Jones of North Plainfield, New Jersey, who squeaked out an 11-10 victory over teen-age sensation Bonnie Hoffman, of St. Petersburg, Florida. Ms. Jones' win was worth $640. Ms. Hoffman's share of the prize fund was $400. Both received trophies, as well.

After a rules discussion and a blind draw, play began shortly after 12:00 Noon, Saturday. All matches were races to seven, except the finals.

After a first round bye, Ms. Jones easily defeated her next three opponents. She beat Julie Hunter, of Grand Rapids, Michigan, 7-5...shut-out Corinne Hoffman, of St. Petersburg, Florida, 7-0...then sent Bonnie Hoffman to the losers bracket 7-3. Jones would now have to wait until Sunday afternoon before playing her finals match.

Bonnie's march to the finals began with an easy 7-2 win against LaVerne Hagenbusch, who came here from Federal Way, Washington, near Seattle. (Another West-coaster in the Ladies competition was Toni Macante of San Francisco, California, who lost her only two matches.) Ms. Hoffman then defeated Kelly Simpson, of Amhurst, New York, 7-4. Anne Mayes, of Houston, Texas took Hoffman to the hill in the third round. At 6-6 Mayes was at the table with just two balls remaining for the victory. It was not to be, however, as she missed an easy cut-shot in the corner, on the 8-ball. Hoffman, breathing a sigh of relief, pocketed both balls for a hard-fought 7-6 win. Despite a brief reprieve from the losers brackets, Hoffman was finally sent there by Jones. That left just a one-set semi, and the final, to be contested on Sunday.

In the men's prelims, Grady Mathews emerged from the winners bracket, unscathed. With the exception of his first round-match, "The Professor" raced to victory with ease. The opening round scare came from Paul Mottey, a cue maker, from Pittsburgh, PA. The final score was 7-6. After that, Mathews took a deep breath and went on to defeat his next five opponents by a combined score of 35-18. In succession, Grady beat J.M. Flowers, Tampa Bay, Florida, 7-4...Mike Fries, Detroit, Michigan, 7-5...Jim Mataya, Grand Ledge, Michigan, 7-4...Larry Wiggins, Lansing, Michigan, 7-2, and Fred Hess, Ferndale, Michigan, 7-3. Mathews now had to play the waiting game.

Mark Jarvis had to play four more matches than Mathews, before the two met head-on, due to a third round loss to Wiggins. In the first two sets, Jarvis easily beat Cass Marcinkowski, Sterling Heights, Michigan, 7-3, and Steve Drumm, Heath, Ohio, 7-4. Then came the momentary set-back as Wiggins, playing flawlessly, put Jarvis in the losers bracket, 7-2. Jarvis didn't buckle, however. He came back strong and downed Steve Titus, Ann Arbor, Michigan, 7-3. Next up was Harry Aporff, Southgate, Michigan, runner-up in the previous weekends Detroit Open. This match went as far as it could with Jarvis prevailing 7-6. Jarvis then nailed down 7-2 and 7-5 wins over Clifton Babcock, Ionia, Michigan, and Bobby Hunter, Grand Rapids, Michigan, respectively.

Now for some revenge. In his last match on Saturday, Jarvis, once again, faced Larry Wiggins. This time it was all Jarvis, by the identical score of 7-2.

On Sunday, Father's Day, play resumed, at High Noon, with Bonnie Hoffman, once again, facing Anne Mayes. This time it was no contest. Hoffman trounced Mayes 7-2.

The Women's Final would have to wait until the Men's prelims were concluded.

The men began play with the final winners bracket match between Mathews and Hess, which, as reported earlier, Mathews won.

In the losers bracket, Jarvis still had to face two tough competitors in Jack Hines of Toledo, Ohio, and Hess. Hines took Jarvis to 6-6. But as destiny sometimes dictates, Jarvis won 7-6. Hess proved to be no problem at all as Jarvis rolled to an impressive 7-1 triumph.

Now there were just two men remaining, Their match would await the outcome of the Women's Championship final.

Playing like a seasoned veteran, Hoffman jumped out of the gate very strong. She capitalized on every miss by Loree Jon Jones. Loree Jon was struggling. Nothing was going her way. And before long, Bonnie was ahead 7-2. Could Jones regain her composure? Could she reach deepdown and relocate the confidence she has used to become a many-times champion? Could Hoffman keep the pressure on? The answers to these questions were yes, yes, and, no. Slowly but surely, Jones fought her way back and caught Hoffman at 8-all. She then pulled ahead 10-9 and only needed to sink the 9-ball in the next game to retain her title. She missed but Hoffman didn't. Now it was 10-10.

If Bonnie wins the next game, another set is necessary. It wasn't to be, however, because when she missed the 8-ball, Loree Jon jumped up from her chair and calmly (that's easy for me to say) sank both remaining balls to win her second consecutive "Motor City Open" championship.

The men would have a tough act to follow, but follow it they did.

Mark Jarvis, quickly, jumped in front of Grady Mathews 2-0. In the third game Mathews ran out after Jarvis missed the 2-ball. From then on it was all Jarvis. He won nine straight games to win the first set 11-1, in just 35-minutes. The crowd of several hundred was buzzing. They had seen their local favorite, Mathews, lose before, but never so convincingly. Grady looked stunned. The look on his face was that of total disbelief in what he, and those looking on, had just witnessed.

The Championship set would begin after a short break during which time, believe or not, Jarvis practiced.

The final match began with Mathews taking a 1-0 lead, running out from the 3-ball. Jarvis won a lackluster second game to even it at 1-all. In the third game, Jarvis, with ball in hand, hooked Mathews who proceeded to sink that ball with a one-rail kick. In doing so, he hooked himself and missed. Jarvis ran out taking the lead 2-1. The next two games went to Mathews who then took the lead 3-2.

Jarvis tied it at 3-all, running out from the 5-ball. He then broke and ran to the 7-ball before missing. Mathews then finished off that game to take a 4-3 lead. Jarvis tied it again, 4-4, when he ran the table after Mathews failed to pocket a ball on the break. Grady took three out of the next four games to take a 7-5 lead. ("The Professor" looks ready to take charge. Jarvis, however, still has that look of gritty determination.)

This next game—the 13th of this set—marked the beginning of the end for Mathews. Follow-

Continued on Page 20


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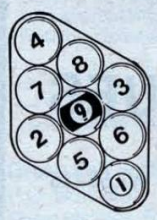

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# It's Sigel and Villaponda In Third Busch Open

*Loree Jon Jones, Kris Villaponda, Mike Sigel and Allen Hopkins.*

Mike Sigel went undefeated through a field of 49 to capture the 3rd annual Busch World Open 9-Ball. His closest match came against Alan Hopkins, when they played the winner's side final and Sigel emerged an 11 to 9 victor. In the finals, where Hopkins would have had to defeat "Captain Hook" twice to win the tournament, the score read; Sigel 11-Hopkins 8.

Kris Villaponda won by scores of 9- to 8, 9 to 8 9 to 7, 9 to 8, and 9 to 8, to win the ladies division. It was without a doubt one of the most exciting women's events ever, as Kris against lovely and talented Loree Jon Jones, the lead changed hands no less than 5 times. With the score knotted at 8 games each, it appeared that Loree Jon would be the winner of at least the first set, as she looked at only the 8 and 9 balls on the table. The shot on the 8 ball, however, was long and difficult. She pocketed the 8 ball and didn't come far enough down the table for good position on the 9 ball. She then played a bank shot which missed and Kris Villaponda won her first major title.

Bill Incardona, for the second time in as many tournaments, finished 3rd. Richard Lane, from Dallas, ended alone in 4th position, while 5th and 6th went to Dallas West and Scott Kitto.

Billie Billing took 3rd place honors in the ladies division, after winning several matches. Peg Ledman was fourth.

The equipment was Brunswick Gold Crowns with Simonis cloth and centennial balls. A 24-hr. shuttle transported many of the contestants to and from nearby motels. Scott Smith and Grady Mathews directed the tournament, which was sanctioned by the P.B.A. Busch Beer and McDermott Cue Co. were sponsors for the $10,000 added event.

Final Standings

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| **Men** | | |
| 1st | Mike Sigel | $5,500 |
| 2nd | Alan Hopkins | 3,000 |
| 3rd | Bill Incardona | 2,200 |
| 4th | Dick Lane | 1,600 |
| 5th | Dallas West | 1,125 |
| 6th | Scott Kitto | 1,125 |
| 7th | Dave Bollman | 900 |
| 8th | Ray Martin | 900 |
| 9th | Guido Orlandi | 675 |
| 10th | Jeff Caster | 675 |
| 11th | Greg Fix | 675 |
| 12th | Jose Parica | 675 |
| 13th | Louis Roberts | 300 |
| 14th | Willie Munson | 300 |
| 15th | Howard Vickery | 300 |
| 16th | Buddy Hall | 300 |
| **Women** | | |
| 1st | Kris Villaponda | $1,800 |
| 2nd | Loree Jon Jones | 1,300 |
| 3rd | Billie Billing | 650 |
| 4th | Peg Ledman | 450 |
| 5th | Kelly Simpson | 300 |
| 6th | Mary Kenniston | 300 |


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## By Ben Carruthers

"Things were going real well and then I had that bad stroke, after that, everything went down hill."

Sound familiar?

Do you have a tendency to follow a script when you perform at the table? If you are in good stroke, you build a rhythm and stick with it. Nothing can stop you as you steamroll ahead.

The opposite is true too. You make a mistake, and the tide turns, you start in a spin, downwards, you can't do anything right.

This is a phenomenon in the sports world called, "The Tide". If the tide is going in, you ride with it, you don't fight it. If the tide is going out, you ride out with it.

So it says here.

World Class performers don't ride the tide, unless it's going the way they want it to go.

Resist the invitation to ride the tide, even though it's going in a direction that's not for you.

Psychologists tell us that the best way to feel enthusiastic, even though you aren't enthusiastic at the moment, is to **look** enthusiastic, and you'll **be** enthusiastic.

You will begin to **feel** (emotion) the way you are acting. The feeling will follow the act. But you've got to get the act going (motion), to get the feeling going. Motion = emotion.

In the Detroit ghetto where it's hard to feel enthusiastic, the frontrunners are fond of saying, "Fake it, and you'll make it!" In other words, act positive, and positive things will begin happening for you. Act negative and nothing will happen for you.

If you feel a slump coming on, and feel you aren't going to shot at 100% ability, **overact**, become and feel like a top player. Swagger.

# Look The Part

Strut. **Emote.** Talk to the crowd and your friends. Pretend you "have it."

Pretty soon, by acting positive, you will have it. You will kiss the ol' blahs goodbye, or at least shelve them until your important match is over. Buck the tide when it's not in your favor. Act like a winner, and you will be a winner.


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# Cannon Lanes and Red Sails #2 Win

By JOHN CASH

It was like a shot heard 'round the (pocket billiard) world!

A Cannon (Lanes) shot, that is!

History was etched into the record books Saturday, June 7 at the Valley National Eight-ball Association International Championships at the Bally Grand Hotel in Las Vegas, NV.

For the first time in the brief six years of competition among teams in the association's national finals a repeat champion has emerged.

Captain Janene Hague's Cannon Lanes women's powerhouse from Cannon Falls, MN brushed aside all challengers to capture its second consecutive VNEA international title, this time in the spacious Goldwyn Ballroom of the enormous Southern Nevada facility.

Ignited by the play of Chris Glass, Rose Malkovich, Cathy Krentz and Karen Wold, Hague's Cannon Lanes sharpshooters shot down 15 other finalists in the double elimination event, going undefeated through five matches in the three days of intense play.

Cannon Lanes was joined among the elite by a determined Red Sails No. 2 men's team from LaCrosse, WI that wouldn't succumb to pressure, battling for every inch to claim the men's title.

Captain Russ Lee's five-man group obviously earned its first crown, winning nine finals matches including five in succession as it scratched through the losers' bracket to twice defeat a previously unbeaten winners' bracket championship Caboto Club power from Windsor, ON (CAN) and 30 other challengers.

It was a fitting climax to a highly successful tournament, as players from both teams, other team and singles competitors, friends, relatives and spectators cheered wildly as the matches see-sawed until the underdog Red Sails No. 2 team pulled off the upset.

In the end it took nerves of Steele, Billy Steele's that is, to earn the title for the Wisconsin five-player champs. Al Orear, Jay Gleason and Bob Schulz joined Lee and Steele on the victorious team.

Cannon Lanes defeated the Shortstop Saloon of Rochester, MN, 110-90, in the 13-game finale to capture the $2,250 first-place prize from a total women's finals purse of $8,000. The runners-up took home $1,500.

A check for $5,000 went to the Red Sails No. 2 team for first-place honors, as it prevented a Canadian group from Windsor to take home back-to-back team championships.

The Caboto Club collected $3,000 from a total men's team purse of $22,600 for runner-up distinction.

Over all, 32 women's teams and 64 men's groups shared in the impressive $30,600 VNEA International Championship prize fund.

Red Sails Inn No. 2 stole a page from last year's VNEA history book recorded by the Cannon Lanes women's team when the Minnesota females roared from behind to prevent the Bank Shot of Rapid City, SD from gaining the distinction as the first repeat champion.

Cannon Lanes had to struggle from the losers' bracket to the title match and twice defeat the Bank Shot for its initial crown, also.

Liburdi had captained last year's victorious Kozak's men's team, also from Windsor, ON. Both Canadian teams' charters are held by Town & Country Amusement.

Prior to claiming its little bit of history Cannon Lanes had to successfully follow this route to the title:

Hague's defending champions knocked the Alumni Inn, La Crosse, WI, into the losers' bracket in the teams' opening-round finals match.

Cannon Lanes then turned back Willies in the winners' bracket quarter-finals; continued to dominate last year's runner-up Bank Shot team in the semis and defeated the Elk Creek Elkies, like the Bank Shot, a Rapid City, SD area unit, to move into the overall finals.

Runner-up Shortstop Saloon had a more difficult time, however, despite capturing its first two winners' bracket contests. Tonjum's group opened with a victory over Katy's No. 4 and sent Don's Seldom Inn into the losers' group.

However, the Elk Creek Elkies did the same to the La Crosse, WI unit and the Shortstop Inn had to capture three losers' bracket contests to reach the finals.

First the team eliminated Harry's 63 No. 19 in the losers' quarter-finals. Then the eventual runners-up edged the Alumni Inn in an exciting semifinal fray.

It was now time for the Shortstop Inn to return the favor to Elk Creek and Tonjum's team accomplished just that.

*Cannon Lanes repeat women's winning team.*

*Men's winning team — Red Sails #2.*

This time there was far less trouble for the women's champions, who were led by Malkovich's 30 points in their win over Captain Lisa Tonjum's Shortstop Saloon.

Joining Tonjum on the second-place Shortstop Saloon group were Lori Beundorf, Anita Smith, Barb Dusbabek and Anne Glackler.

Malkovich was the lone new member of the two-time champion Cannon Lanes juggernaut. She replaced Deanna Martin for the D & R Star charter-held quintet.

Captain Tony Perrone was joined on the tough runner-up Caboto Club team by Andy Robinet, Bobby Rezin, Tony Liburdi and Bob Adelchi.

Surprising finishes always seem to be a part of this tourney and the Red Sails No. 2 men's team kept this factor intact.

The Canadian Caboto Club team marched swiftly through the 32-team men's opening-round finals field, dropping the Community Tap into the losers' bracket at the outset.

Caboto Club followed with victories over Cannon Lanes, the Midway Bar in the winners' bracket quarter-finals, Oleander No. 1 in the semis and eventual third-place finisher On Broadway of Rochester, MN to secure a berth in the overall finals match.

As the Caboto Club relaxed, the "do-or-die" test of nerves began for Lee's team as the Red Sails No. 2 attempted to sight-in on clear, smooth waters.

Actually the La Crosse, WI team was victorious in its first three winners' bracket finals contests, opening with a triumph over Pete's Bar No. 1; sending the Elk Creek Outcasts, Rochester, MN, into the "now-or-never" group and emerging with one of two thrilling victories over another Windsor, ON team, the Riviera Hotel.

On Broadway put a momentary tear into one of the Red Sails No. 2's sails, nearly capsizing the ship in a semifinal winners' bracket encounter.

However captain Lee was equal to the task at hand, steadily guiding and righting the vessel.

Red Sails No. 2 resumed its title quest in the losers' bracket quarter-finals with a victory over the Cockroaches.

It was at this juncture that the calm before the storm ceased for the Red Sails "Catamaran." Storm warnings appeared from out of nowhere and it would take a veteran captain and his motley crew to survive this baby!

Itching for revenge was the Canadian team from the Riviera Hotel which unleashed a barrage of sharp-shooting fire that only the tested vets could escape.

In VNEA national finals competition the winner of each game can receive a maximum of 10 points for his team, 3 points for successfully pocketing all of his striped or solid balls plus the 8-ball and leaving all of his opponents' striped or solid balls on the table, for which he received 1 point each.

If a player does not break and run out, his opponent scores 1 point for each of his own balls pocketed prior to the winner clearing the table. Therefore a minimum score for the winner is 3-0 and a maximum tally, 10-0.

Since there are a maximum of 15 games possible in a match, the Riviera Hotel allowed seemingly certain victory to slip from its grasp.

At the end of 12 games in the Canadians' second match against the eventual champion during the semifinals of the losers' bracket, the Riviera Hotel needed just 13 points in three games to win.

Alas, the Red Sails No. 2 did not allow the Riviera Hotel to average 4 balls remaining on the table before winning each of the contests, thus possibly preventing an all Canadian Windsor, ON championship encounter.

Lee's team then went on to eliminate On Broadway, setting the stage for the nerve-wracking overall finals in which the Red Sails No. 2 had to defeat the heretofore unbeaten Caboto Club twice.

In the initial title deciding match the Red Sails No. 2 quickly jumped into a 54-23 advantage after 6 games. Bobby Rezin and Tony Liburdi of the Caboto Club scored successive 10-3 and 10-0

Continued on Page 18

American flag arrives

Canadian flag arrives

Grand Marshal Red Jones

Gary Benson, this year's ac
Red Jones and Warren Ke

Valley President Chuck Milhelm and Red Jones

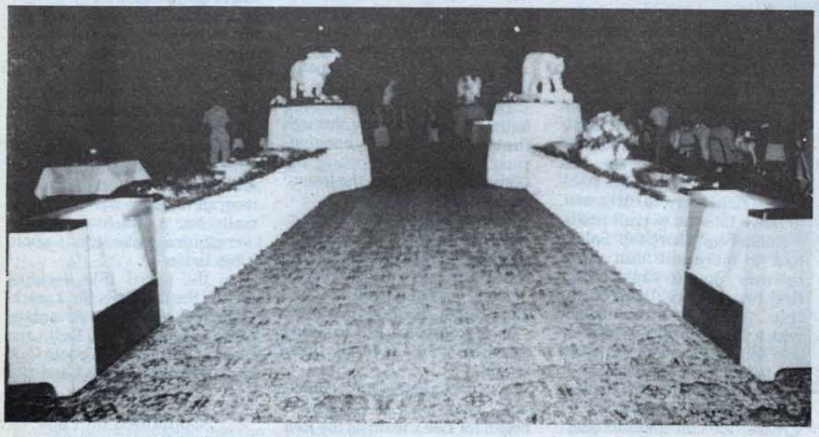
Gary Benson, this year's honoree, talks to players

Valley President Chuck Melhelm addresses the players.

Gary Nelson did a tremendous job as tournament director.

VALLEY 8-BALL LEAGUE ASSOCIATION

# 1986



Two parts of the fabulous food layout at the annual Awards Banquet

D&R Sportsman Bar — winner women's best dressed team.

Everyone
Doc Rutt

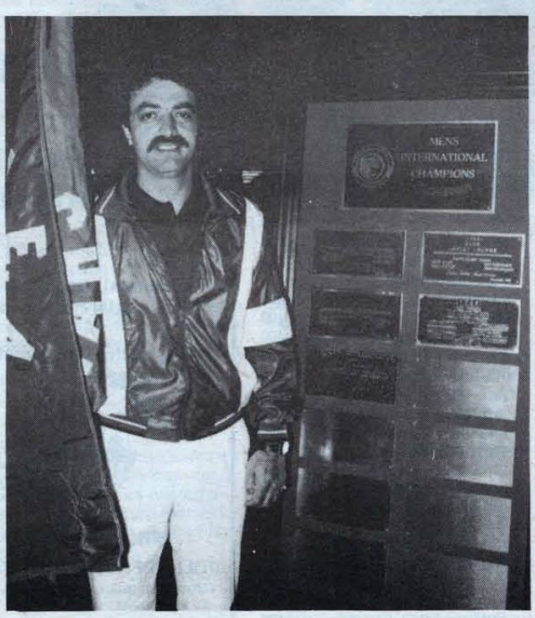
vement award winner, flanked by previous winners, Chuck Melhelm,

Kozak's Tavern gave it a game run but came up a little short this year and had to settle for fourth place.

Gary Nelson presents Bill Nemgar with a custom-made ring for all his help for developing the VNEA tournament.

Cabota Club — men's best dressed 2nd place finisher.

ot toasted at the party, even the Engle.
presented the toast.




Captain Liburdi representing last year's winner Kozak's Tavern presents their champion flag and post champion plaque.

Captain Janene Hague representing Cannon Lanes presents their flag and post.

# Team Events

Continued from Page 9

wins over Jay Gleason and Bob Schulz, respectively, to close the margin to 53-57.

However, Billy Steele, Al Orear and most aptly, captain Lee closed out the first finale with 10-0, 10-2 wins over Bob Adelchi and Captain Tony Perrone and Lee's 10-3 triumph over Andy Robinet sent the outcome toward its scintillating conclusion, 87-58.

Now it was the Caboto Club's turn to prove its worth. Captain Perrone, Robinet, Rezin and Liburdi quickly stroked to victory to give the Canadians a 44-23 cushion after 5 games.

The Red Sails No. 2 determinedly clawed back with Shulz' 10-6 win over Liburdi to trail 60-71 at the 9-game juncture, but the sky looked black for the La Crosse, WI sailors when Adelchi destroyed Steele, 10-1 to give the Canadians a 20-point 81-61 cushion with but 5 games remaining.

Captain Lee, Orear, Gleason and Steele were more than equal to the seemingly insurmountable task that lay ahead.

Lee began the third round with a 10-5 win over rival captain Perrone and Orear followed with an identical 10-5 verdict against Robinet.

The Caboto Club's margin had been trimmed to a mere 10 points with three games to go and the large audience, sensing a comeback, began whispering to one another.

That whisper elevated to a low-level buzz which permeated the spacious Goldwyn Ballroom when Gleason swiftly outstroked Rezin, 10-2 and the Red Sails No. 2 trailed by a scant 2 points, 91-93.

Now the stage was set for an exciting climax to the week-long festivities that began June 2 with singles competition which ended June 4, at which time teams registered and commenced play June 5.

The match between Schulz and Liburdi was in progress when the Gleason-Rezin contest concluded. There was a minimum of 6 points and a maximum of 20 remaining to be claimed when anchormen Steele for the Red Sails No. 2 and Adelchi for the Caboto Club were called to the table.

Steele had the honor of breaking the balls since Gleason had defeated Rezin. The slender sharp-shooter stepped to the table, broke, making a stipe.

He confidently played with precision-like efficiency, obtaining perfect position with each passing shot. Steele ran out to tumultuous roar of the crowd.

Then a hush settled over the room as all eyes were fixed on the team captains who were responsible for the official score.

Steele's 10-0 runout elevated Red Sails No. 2 to a 101-93 advantage.

Since Shulz had pocketed three of his solids and the margin was 8 points, the best Liburdi could do was to move the Caboto Club to within 1 point with a 10-3 triumph.

A jubilant Lee shot his arms straight above his head and the team and audience responded with thunderous applause.

The Canadians' brief one-year reign as kings of the VNEA International championships had ended and the honor of No. 1 had returned to the great North Midwestern region of the United States!

Greg Fix, Tim Brandt, Dick Collier, Phil Beighley and Mike Galbreath combined to lead On Broadway to third place and a $2,000 team paycheck in the men's division.

Mike Sardelli, who scored the only 30-zip (three 10-0 wins in the same match) total of the entire national finals, Pat White, Charlie Kobryn, Dennis Favero and Ron Wiseman led the Riviera to fourth place and $1,200.

The Elk Creek Elkies of Piedmont, SD captained by Lorna Duprel, with Sandy Wilcznski, Kim Jones, Debbie Spitzer and Kelly Schwartz took home $750 for third place in the women's division.

Fourth place and $500 went to the Alumni Inn, LaCrosse, WI, captained by Karen Harris with teammates Kris Harbaugh, Deb Stellpflug, Linean Rowley and Peg Haggerty.

## Men's Team Results

**32 TEAMS**
**DOUBLE ELIMINATION**
**WINNERS' BRACKET**
**FIRST ROUND**

Riviera Hotel def. Hangover House; Cockroaches def. Sportsman's; Red Sails No. 2 def. Pete's Bar No. 1; Elk Creek Outcasts def. Loose Ends No. 1.

Sam's def. Kozak's No. 1; On Broadway def. Wagner's Lunch; Pioneer def. Red Garter; Rack def. Maggio's Express.

Caboto Club def. Community Tap; Cannon Lanes def. Chatfield Liquors; Midway Bar def. Howie's Hof Brau; Elk Creek No. 1 def. Black Hawk Hawks.

Oleander No. 1 def. Buckhorn Bar; Spanky's def. Don's Bar; Pete's Bar No. 2 def. Don's Seldom No. 2; River Queen No. 7 def. Redwood No. 2.

**SECOND ROUND**

Riviera Hotel def. Cockroaches; Red Sails No. 2 def. Elk Creek Outcasts; On Broadway def. Sam's; Rack def. Pioneer.

Caboto Club def. Cannon Lanes; Midway Bar def. Elk Creek No. 1; Oleander No. 1 def. Spanky's; River Queen No. 7 def. Pete's Bar No. 2.

**QUARTER-FINALS**

Red Sails No. 2 def. Riviera Hotel; On Broadway def. Rack.

Caboto Club def. Midway Bar; Oleander No. 1 def. River Queen No. 7.

**SEMIFINALS**

On Broadway def. Red Sails No. 2.

Caboto Club def. Oleander No. 1.

**FINALS**

Caboto Club def. On Broadway.

**LOSERS' BRACKET**
**FIRST ROUND**

Hangover House def. Sportsman's; Loose Ends No. 1 def. Pete's Bar No. 1; Wagner's Lunch def. Kozak's No. 1; Red Garter def. Maggio's Express.

Community Tap def. Chatfield Liquors; Black Hawk Hawks def. Howie's Hof Brau; Don's Bar def. Buckhorn Bar; Redwood No. 2 def. Don's Seldom No. 2.

**SECOND ROUND**

Pete's Bar No. 2 def. Hangover House; Loose Ends No. 1 def. Spanky's; Wagner's Lunch def. Elk Creek No. 1; Cannon Lanes def. Red Garter.

Community Tap def. Pioneer; Sam's def. Black Hawks Hawks; Elk Creek Outcasts def. Don's Bar; Cockroaches def. Redwood No. 2.

**THIRD ROUND**

Loose Ends No. 1 def. Pete's Bar No. 2; Wagner's Lunch def. Cannon Lanes.

Sam's def. Community Tap; Cockroaches def. Elk Creek Outcasts.

**FOURTH ROUND**

Loose Ends No. 1 def. Rack; Riviera Hotel def. Wagner's Lunch.

Sam's def. River Queen No. 7; Cockroaches def. Midway Bar.

**FIFTH ROUND**

Riviera Hotel def. Loose Ends No. 1.

Cockroaches def. Sam's.

**QUARTER-FINALS**

Riviera Hotel def. Oleander No. 1.

Red Sails No. 2 def. Cockroaches.

**SEMIFINALS**

Red Sails No. 2 def. Riviera Hotel.

**FINALS**

Red Sails No. 2 def. On Broadway.

**OVERALL FINALS**
**(Losers' Bracket Champion Must Win Two Matches)**

Red Sails No. 2 def. Caboto Club, 87-58.

Red Sails No. 2 def. Caboto Club, 101-93.

**PRIZE MONEY BREAKDOWN**
**MENS' TEAMS**
**TOTAL PRIZE MONEY**
**$22,600**
**(32-Team Finals)**
**(Field Prize Money)**
**(Breakdown Follows)**

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| 1st | Red Sails #2 | $5,000 |
| 2nd | Caboto Club | 3,000 |
| 3rd | On Broadway | 2,000 |
| 4th | Riviera Hotel | 1,200 |
| 5th-6th | Cockroaches | 800 |
| 5th-6th | Oleander #1 | 800 |
| 7th-8th | Sam's | 600 |
| 7th-8th | Loose Ends #1 | 600 |
| 9th-12th | Rack | 400 |
| 9th-12th | Wagner's Lunch | 400 |
| 9th-12th | River Queen #7 | 400 |
| 9th-12th | Midway Bar | 400 |
| 13th-16th | Pete's Bar #2 | 250 |
| 13th-16th | Cannon Lanes | 250 |
| 13th-16th | Community Tap | 250 |
| 13th-16th | Elk Crk. Outcasts | 250 |
| 17th-32nd | Hangover House | 175 |
| 17th-32nd | Spanky's | 175 |
| 17th-32nd | Elk Creek #1 | 175 |
| 17th-32nd | Red Garter | 175 |
| 17th-32nd | Pioneer | 175 |
| 17th-32nd | Blck. Hawk Hwks | 175 |
| 17th-32nd | Don's Bar | 175 |
| 17th-32nd | Redwood #2 | 175 |
| 17th-32nd | Sportsman's | 175 |
| 17th-32nd | Pete's Bar #1 | 175 |
| 17th-32nd | Kozak's #1 | 175 |
| 17th-32nd | Maggio's Express | 175 |
| 17th-32nd | Chatfield Liquors | 175 |
| 17th-32nd | Howie's Hof Brau | 175 |
| 17th-32nd | Buckhorn Bar | 175 |
| 17th-32nd | Don's Seldom #2 | 175 |

**TEAM AWARDS**

*Red Sails No. 2, La Crosse WI,* *1 Sponsor Plaque* (Russ Lee, captain; Al Orear, Jay Gleason, Bob Schulz & Billy Steele) Individual Plaques

*Caboto Club, Windsor, ON (CAN)* *1 Sponsor Plaque* (Tony Perrone, captain; Andy Robinet, Bobby Rezin, Tony Liburdi & Bob Adelchi) Individual Plaques

*ON Broadway, Rochester, MN,* *1 Sponsor Plaque*

*Riviera Hotel, Windsor, ON (CAN)* *1 Sponsor Plaque*

## Women's Team Results

**16 TEAMS**
**DOUBLE ELIMINATION**
**WINNERS' BRACKET**
**FIRST ROUND**

Shortstop Saloon def. Katy's No. 4; Don's Seldom Inn def. Lynwood Bar; VFW No. 2 def. LaFiesta; Elk Creek def. 4th & Main.

Harry's 63 No. 19 def. Dooley's; Bank Shot def. North Star Bar; Cannon Lanes def. Alumni Inn; Willies def. Midway Bar.

**QUARTER-FINALS**

Shortstop Saloon def. Don's Seldom Inn; Elk Creek def. VFW No. 2.

Bank Shot def. Harry's 63 No. 19; Cannon Lanes def. Willies.

**SEMIFINALS**

Elk Creek def. Shortstop Saloon.

Cannon Lanes def. Bank Shot.

**FINALS**

Cannon Lanes def. Elk Creek.

**LOSERS' BRACKET**
**FIRST ROUND**

Lynwood Bar def. Katy's No. 4; La Fiesta def. 4th & Main.

Dooley's def. North Star Bar; Alumni Inn def. Midway Bar.

**SECOND ROUND**

Harry's 63 No. 19 def. Lynwood Bar; Willies def. La Fiesta.

Dooley's def. Don's Seldom Inn; Alumni Inn def. VFW No. 2.

**THIRD ROUND**

Harry's 63 No. 19 def. Willies.

Alumni Inn def. Dooley's.

**QUARTER-FINALS**

Shortstop Saloon def. Harry's 63 No. 19.

Alumni Inn def. Bank Shot.

**SEMIFINALS**

Shortstop Saloon def. Alumni Inn.

**FINALS**

Shortstop Saloon def. Elk Creek.

**OVERALL FINALS**
**(Losers' Bracket Champion Must Win Two Matches)**

Cannon Lanes def. Shortstop Saloon, 110-90.

**PRIZE MONEY BREAKDOWN**
**WOMENS' TEAMS**
**TOTAL PRIZE MONEY**
**$8,000**
**(16-Team Finals)**
**(Field Prize Money)**
**(Breakdown Follows)**

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| 1st | Cannon Lanes | $2,250 |
| 2nd | Shortstp. Saloon | 1,500 |
| 3rd | Elk Creek | 750 |
| 4th | Alumni Inn | 500 |
| 5th-6th | Harry's 63 #19 | 400 |
| 5th-6th | Bank Shot | 400 |
| 7th-8th | Willies | 300 |
| 7th-8th | Dooley's | 300 |
| 9th-12th | Lynwood Bar | 200 |
| 9th-12th | La Fiesta | 200 |
| 9th-12th | Don's Seldom Inn | 200 |
| 9th-12th | VFW #2 | 200 |
| 13th-16th | Katy's #4 | 100 |
| 13th-16th | 4th & Main | 100 |
| 13th-16th | North Star Bar | 100 |
| 13th-16th | Midway Bar | 100 |

**TEAM AWARDS**

*Cannon Lanes, Cannon Falls, MN* *1 Sponsor Plaque* (Janet Hague, captain; Cathy Krentz, Rose Malkovich, Karen Wold & Chris Glass) Individual Plaques

*Shortstop Saloon, Rochester, MN* *1 Sponsor Plaque* (Lisa Tomjun, captain; Lori Buendorf, Anita Smith, Barb Dusbabek & Ann Glackler) Individual Plaques

*Elk Creek Night Owls, Piedmont, SD* *1 Sponsor Plaque*

*Alumni Inn, La Crosse, WI,* *1 Sponsor Plaque*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***ASK THE PLAYERS!***

# St. Louis Louie — *Interview by John Koeppel*

Memphis, TN. Highpockets Palladium has added a new star to its attractions.

James Strickland has just announced that the "Incomparable" St. Louis Louie will make Highpockets his future home territory.

St. Louis Louie, who has just finished a feature role in the movie "The Color of Money, " was interviewed by this writer.

J.K.: "Louie, you have just finished making a movie that is the sequel to the famous "Hustler" movie. How does it feel to have a role in such a production?"

Louie: "It was doing something different than I had been doing. I enjoyed doing the movie and working with such fine professionals in the show business."

J.K.: "Did you get any personal satisfaction out of your role in the movie that you will carry with you in the future?"

Louie: "It was a new experience and I feel I have learned a lot that I did not know before I started. Perhaps the most important, personal impact was that it helped me decide on a movie I had been thinking about for a long time."

J.K.: "What decision was that, Louie?"

Louie: "For some time I had been considering eliminating all the frills and side excursions from my first love, namely, 'playing pool.'"

J.K.: "What sort of diversions did you have in mind?"

Louie: "Well, it's more than just having it in my mind — I've already changed my 'life style' - period. For one thing I've quit gambling! I really wasn't a true gambler anyway. A true gambler must be ruthless and grasping. He must take every advantage and show no mercy toward his victim. Just picture me. I would go to a strange pool hall and be approached by some young 'would be shark.' Instead of leading him on, and taking all his money, I would come right out and tell him who I was. After a few games, he would believe me. A hustler could soon starve to death at that rate!"

J.K.: "Was there any other change you've made?"

Louie: "Yes. Heavy partying and drinking. The heaviest drinking I do now is a coke. These are probably two of the worst habits a serious player can get into. Gambling misdirects the true goal of billiards playing - being the best. Drinking and partying takes up valuable time and upsets your billiard game."

J.K.: "How about drugs?"

Louie: "I've never had that problem - so I wasn't talking about that."

J.K.: "Louie, what are you doing at Highpockets?"

Louie: "James says that he wants to motivate the hundreds of young people that come into Highpockets to play. He said that they try hard enough but have no conception of the different levels of skill. They just knock the balls around."

J.K.: "How are you helping with that?"

Louie: "Highpockets publicized my arrival. Most of the players had never heard of anyone except Fats and Mosconi. This balyhoo raised their curiosity. They were very excited when I arrived. After I gave a performance of trick shots and talked about the skill of various champions - they decided to take lessons! As any professional will tell you, once players are interested enough to take lessons and practice, they will begin to appreciate the finer points of the game."

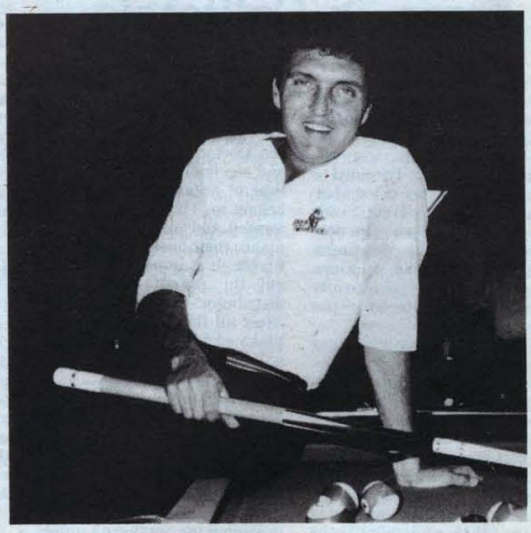
J.K.: "I've heard you call Highpockets a Palladium. I've never thought about applying that term."

Louie: "I called it a palladium because it is. It's a huge place, the very best equipment, the arrangement of the spectators, viewing, wide spaces between the billiard tables, game room, cafe facilities, a bar and a large TV screen. Over all, it's a very high class establishment."

J.K.: "Besides going on tour will you be playing in tournaments?"

Louis: "Yes. I need the competition. Any tournament that has high caliber players will offer the challenge I want. I feel that the stiff discipline I get from playing the top players, in tournament surroundings, will help my game."

(Unfortunately, after the interview with St. Louis Louis began the tape recorder power failed without my knowing it. So this interview, while substantially accurate, may not reflect St. Louie's exact thoughts. If so, I bear the responsibility - and apologize before hand.)



*St. Louis Louie in his newest role.*

## The Finer Points by Grady Mathews

"What do you do for a living?" asked the man seated next to me at the pool tournament.

"I am a calculated risk specialist" I answered seriously.

"How could you possibly make any money like that?" he exhorted, mouth agape.

"Actually, it's easier than you would think. These great pool players, when they discover how tough it is to scratch out an existence playing in tournaments, resort to alternative money making. They become adept at relieving floks of their cash, without making any real commitments. And I have simply followed in their footsteps and actually improved on their rather basic principles", I paused.

"And that's all you do?" he asked, unbelieving.

"Well, no. I steer, double steer and triple steer for money games. To you, that means that I am an accomplished actor and liar. Often, when playing both ends against the middle, I am a winner before the game starts. And I help, tout is a better word, side betters in their gambling activities," continued.

"I don't believe what I'm hearing!"

"Why not? Lotteries, casinoes, horse racing and other forms of licensed, legal robbery glom up to 65% of the take. An astute gentleman like myself often helps people win fantastic sums of money, which they do not have to pay taxes on. And when these people make me a loan prior to the festivities, well, that could be optly termed "insurance." Truth insurance, I like to call it. Of course, if they win, I sometimes pay the loan back out of my tip."

"And if they don't win?" he looked me in the eye.

"By the time they see that they're going to lose, I've regaled them with hardship stories, which may even be true," I responded.

"Do you ever play anyone yourself?" he asked.

"No. Why should I knock myself out like that? There's too much easy dough to be made on the side. Besides, I need all of my spare time to figure odds." I took a sip of my coffee.

"Why are you telling me these things?"

"Because it's obvious to me that you are a man of discernment and vision. And, unless I miss my guess, you are not averse to a little side action, but don't know exactly what to do or how to go about it. Now, it just happens that a great opportunity is coming up shortly and men of character such as ourselves would be foolish not to act upon it. I did forget to mention that odds on the money sometimes make negligible sums immaterial to the total picture. Now, you see that fella over there. He's going to play the short guy sitting on that chair some one pocket. What he doesn't know is.....

(Are there really people like that?)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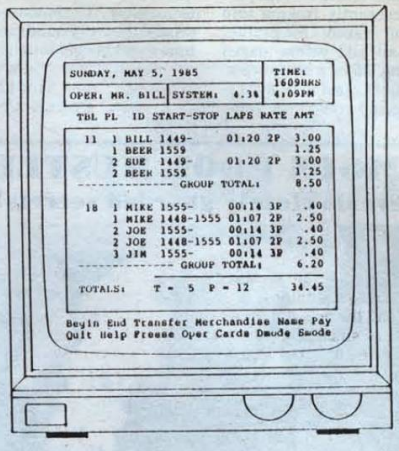


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*Letter to The Editor*

# Billiard Dealers Form Assoc. in California

Gentlemen:

About one year ago it dawned on me that if the billiard industry was going to survive the 80's that some changes were going to have to occur. I decided to get the billiard dealers together in my area for a meeting. From this first meeting we have now incorporated the Southern California Billiard Dealers Association, a non-profit organization registered in the state of California.

My main objective was to get the idea of billiards back in view of the public. Wouldn't we all enjoy seeing the very brisk sales days of the 60's and 70's back again! This won't happen unless we organize and do some very serious promoting. The home computer and video games have cut in to our market and now is the time to do something about it.

We all know that on an individual basis the high cost of advertising limits us on our ability to effectively hit the public and leave a lasting impression. This would be one of the highlights of our organization. Why not pool our resources, get some backing from our suppliers, and come up with an ad campaign that we could not afford separately but that collectively would be reasonable for all of us. We did this last Christmas and came up with a $25,000.00 ad campaign in the Los Angeles Times newspaper. We are currently looking into television, radio, magazine, direct mail and yellow pages advertising, all on a co-op basis. Other options open to us are co-op buying and group insurance.

We are involved in a specialized industry and we should organize and start functioning like the professionals that we are. Doctors, lawyers, plumbers and electricians all have some type of organization that they belong to. This keeps them informed and involved and thus makes their business more profitable. It is important that we get the manufacturers and distributors involved in this. After all the dealers are their lifeblood and what benefits one will benefit the other.

You will find that this type of contact with your suppliers and competitors is very valuable. Already our members have become more profitable and have a definite goal in mind for the future. If you are interested in joining the Southern California Billiard Dealers Association our annual dues are $100.00 and a $25.00 per month fee to cover newsletters and the monthly meetings. We meet on the second Wednesday of each month and we are growing steadily. We welcome new members and we would like to see you at one of our meetings. I can't stress enough to you the importance of good communication between retailers, distributers and the general public.

If you have any questions feel free to contact me at (714) 547-0933. I would welcome your questions or comments. Remember, Christmas is just around the corner and now is the time to get behind the eight ball!

Cordially:
Tim Flathers
President/SCBDA

# Jarvis

Continued from Page 7

ing his break shot, the balls were scattered in such a way that he surely would have run out had he pocketed a ball. But he didn't. Jarvis did, though. He stepped to the table and not only ran this rack but the next two, as well to take an 8-7 lead. Grady then evened the match at 8-all, running-out from the 3-ball. On the ensuing break, Mathews scratched and Jarvis ran the table as he did in the next game, also. Mark is now just one game away from the title. In what turned out to be the final game, Jarvis sank a ball on the break shot. He then pocketed the 1-ball, attempting, at the same time, to free-up the 2-ball, with the cue ball, which he failed to do. Not wanting to let Mathews get back to the table, Jarvis tried to end the match right then and there by trying a two-nine combination. It didn't work. But this was Jarvis' day and nothing could change that because Mathews had absolutely no shot. He tried to play a safety but couldn't pull it off. Then, with the flare of a true champion, Jarvis stepped to the table and ran out. Congratulations, Mark, and continued success.

Interestingly enough, both Jarvis and Mathews are scheduled to make an appearance in the soon-to-be-released movie "THE COLOR OF MONEY", the sequel of "The Hustler".

Mark Jarvis had never entered a Ray Abrams sponsored tournament before this. He was an unknown not only to Ray but to most of those who witnessed his fine exhibition, here. Elsewhere, throughout the Mid-west, Mark is well-known. He has been playing in tournaments since age 15. In the past couple of months, Jarvis won B.J.'s 9-ball classic in Kentucky and placed 2nd at the Granito Classic in Chicago, Ill.

Mark and his father own and operate the Jardon Billiard Club in Chicago, reputed to be the only 24-hour pool room in the Win- City.

The following is a list of the money winners in each division.

**MEN**

1st—Mark Jarvis.....$1,170 plus Trophy
2nd—Grady Mathews.....690 plus Trophy
3rd—Fred Hess.....530
4th—Jack Hines.....370
5th—Steve Eskelinen.....210
6th—Larry Wiggins.....210
7th—Bobby Hunter.....210
8th—Jim Mataya.....210
9th—Clifton Babcock.....100
10th—Paul Fenslau.....100
11th—Paul Mottey.....100
12th—Harry Sexton.....100

**WOMEN***

1st—Loree Jon Jones.....$640 plus Trophy
2nd—Bonnie Hoffman.....400 plus Trophy
3rd—Anne Mayes.....320
4th—Corinne Hoffman.....240

*In view of the fact the women had only 13 entries, Ray Abrams added the $300.00 to the prize fund and paid the same as 16 players.


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# Billiards Challenge of The Sexes

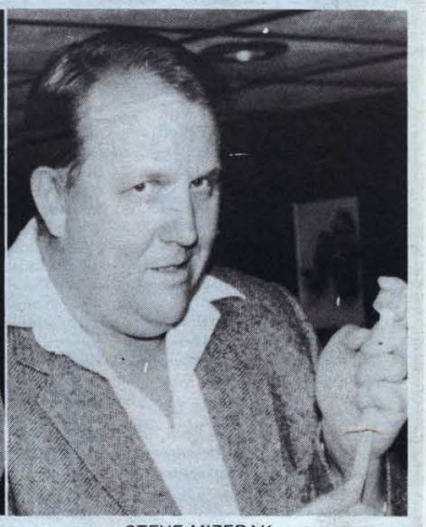
NEW YORK CITY.....Barry Dubow of Corley Associates, Inc., is proud to announce the first "Billiards Challenge Of The Sexes" between Women's World Champion Jean Balukas, of Brooklyn, New York, and Men's World Champion Steve Mizerak, of Colonia, New Jersey. This exciting sports challenge, a best out-of-seven tournament series, will be contested at the Nassau Coliseum, Long Island, New York, in conjunction with the 6th Annual Newmark & Lewis Audio Video Show, August 14, 15, 16, 17, 1986.

This first "Billiards Challenge Of The Sexes" between Jean Balukas vs Steve Mizerak is the beginning of a series of "Challenge" tournaments to be showcased throughout the United States to attract national recognition for pool by bringing attention to men's and women's equal competitiveness in the sport of pocket billiards. **There are no physical barriers between the sexes in this sport that prohibits women from competing against men and winning the competition.** This theme will be continuously projected by Jean Balukas, who will be challenging the top professional men players throughout the year during this exciting national billiards campaign.

Newmark & Lewis is sponsoring this first stop on the "Billiards Challenge Of The Sexes" tour to offer exciting indoor sports entertainment for the thousands of people attending the Nassau Coliseum for the 6th Annual Newmark & Lewis Audio Video Show. Corley Associates is producing the "Billiards Challenge Of The Sexes" national series and is handling all public relations aspects associated with the event.

For further information please contact: Barry Dubow, (212) 286-8940.

JEAN BALUKAS



STEVE MIZERAK

# *Pool in Prison — Letter to The Editor*

On the list of places you can play pool, add Federal Prisons. Sometimes called "Camps", "Federal Correctional Institutions" and "Country Clubs." Certainly there are similarities, but there are also differences. Very important differences.

Here at F.C.I. Ashland, Kentucky, the membership is exclusive and you have to qualify, they just don't let anybody get inside. The tennis courts are always packed, usually the wait for the Nautilus exercise machines is short and there is always steaming hot water for the after exercise shower. The golfing challenge is the extremely difficult, Hydrid, 18 hole Putt Putt course.

Landscaping? Yes! Trees that change with the seasons, flowers planted by the chapel and the green, green grass is always well tended, right up to the double, twelve foot, razor wire topped fences. The fences and the management are constant reminders that this place, Ain't no Country Club. Alcohol, drugs, gambling and most everything that are no, no's on the outside are severe no, no's here. You will go to jail (B Cell House) for the infraction or the intent to commit the infraction. B Cell House is not a nice place to be.

Yes, there are women here, untouchable, trained in brutal self-defense and armed with "panic-buttons"; an electronic marvel that, when activated, brings a large number of very large men with no sense of humor, to fold, spindle and mutilate that inmate who thinks the women here are just for him to have and to hold.

So far, my vote is for the "outside" Country Club, but wait! All Country Clubs I've visited in the past only had one pool table. Here at F.C.I. Ashland, we have twelve, count 'em twelve, green felt beauties in a place called the "Old Gym." Apply named, on the second floor of a large, sprawling main building built in 1939. Here the pocket billiard players gather, hang out and play between the hours of "First Period Old Gym" and "Last Period Old Gym". To non-members this is 5:00 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. (summertime hours).

The atmosphere is reminiscent of something between a Boy's Club and a Pool Hall located on the border of North America and South America. The membership here is a cross section of the Western Hemisphere. Languages spoken? English, Pidgin English, Spanish, American Indian and a strange tongue called "Washington, D.C., Downtown, Street Jive." One would think a language barrier would exist as it pertains to the rules one uses to play pool. Management here has solved this problem with the "House Rules." Unwritten, but easily interpreted to be: Every table is open to challenge at any time, scratch on the eight ball and you lose, One foot on the floor.

In reality the players use: International, B.C.A., Tavern League, Busch, Mich, Bud, Miller, tournament and of course, some still make them up as they go along.

Matching up is no problem. Everybody plays some sort of eight ball. But if you're like me, I HATE 8-BALL!! My favorite is 14.1 continuous billiards, but I've given up trying to explain the rules. Here I use my extensive Spanish. "You comprende 9 ball?" For the American Indians I carry four bags of colored sand to pour on the floor for drawing strange symbols. Only kidding! Almost everybody understands 9 Ball. The fad right now is one-pocket. Hispanics don't play one-pocket. They do try to explain a strange game that has wooden pegs arranged in the center of the table. The object appears to be to knock down the pegs, make caroms or pocket balls for points. Nobody has any pegs, so I've never seen a game played. Sounds interesting though. I did see a table like that in Naples, Italy, in 1964. The place was closed and somehow or other I didn't get back to see how the game was played.

The "Pool Hall" image prevails. Not because of the obvious "Criminal Element", but more the no-frills surroundings, vintage tables and equipment and the characters. Skill levels run from beginners that put "Spanish" on the cue ball, to near tournament quality players. Ages run from early 20's to 60's plus. Years ago Ashland was known as the "Gladiator School", now it's more the "Old Folks Home."

Action?? No! Yes! No! "No Gambling" is allowed. This is a severe No No. You will go to jail if caught. There is no "Green Stuff", but you can have so many quarters, dimes or nickels, stamps and cigarettes. No one would admit to wagering, but I did see an I.O.U. for one first born male and two daughters.

The cast of characters that frequent and play are typical of any "outside" billiard room. Some exceptions are noteable: The "Blaster" has been known to break so hard in six ball that the cue ball has hit the light fixture, 18 feet straight up and landed back on the table for an easy run out. The balls seem to run and hide in the nearest pocket cause they can't stand the brutality. "Swisher" dances around the table on his toes, talks funny and lewdly fondles the cue sticks. He/She can't play but likes to be around the "fellas". Wierd Dude! "Banker" can't shoot a ball straight into the pocket but somehow banks balls one, two, three, four rails and out. Amazing! "Mouse" only plays to hide the cue ball so you don't ever have a clear shot. Nobody likes him. He's the only guy openly boo'ed. "Cripple" always has something physically wrong with him to get a "spot." Robs everybody that isn't aware he's in for acting. Defrauding insurance companies. "Entertainer" keeps his victims laughing while he extracts every quarter, dime, nickel, stamp, cigarette, candy bar and the last cookie. Vicious character, but very funny! "Professor" uses computer printouts to defeat op-

Continued on Page 23

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# Billiard Corner
## By Carl Conlon

In all my conversations with the five or six top-ranked players of the world, the question of **FORM** at the table always comes to the fore. The Japanese go so far as to say that many standard shots cannot be made repetitively if the form of the player is not sound. Ceulemans says that the player can make many points just because his form is sound.

Customarily the good players divide the form into at least three major components:

1. Stance
2. Grip
3. Bridge

Stance necessarily includes the elements of balance, position of the feet, position of the upper body and head position. Both the Japanese and the Belgians use a similar technique to arrive at a solid, comfortable stance.

1. Take your customary grip on the cue where you normally grip it. Basically, nearly all experienced 3-cushion players grip the cue anywhere from one inch to one handspan buttwards from the balance point (18½ to 20 inches from the butt).
2. With the cue held firmly, put the tip at the cueball at the closest point to the ball (as close as possible without fouling) of your warm-up stroke.
3. Stand with your feet **parallel** to the cue, and with the thumb of your grip hand at the seam of your trousers when your arm is relaxed and straight (of course, the tip of your cue will rise from its normal position when you do this—let it rise).
4. **Without lifting the foot**, turn the foot nearest the cue to a line 45 degrees to the cue. Step away with the outside foot to a distance between the feet about the same as the width of your shoulders.
5. Bend forward at the waist on the 45 degree line established by your feet. At this point **do not** look at the cue-ball. Fix your eyes on the mid-ferrule of your cue. When your nose is about 12-14 inches from the cue, turn your head and look to the cueball. This puts your head directly over the cue with your nose on the line of the cue. (If you look at the tip of the cue as you bend over, your right eye will be on the line of the cue, and if you look at your cue hand as you bend over, your left eye will be on the cue line.) Thus, you can assure yourself that your strongest eye is on the aiming line.
6. Place your bridge hand on the table about 6-8 inches from the cueball on the line of the cue. At this point, your cue, your grip hand thumb, and cueside big toe are all in the same plane running through the aiming point on the cueball.

Your hand is now free to be swung back and forth in a straight line by the pendulum action of your forearm. Any adjustments to the stance should begin with the feet. Depending upon the player's body configuration (thin, fat, short, tall etc.) the outside foot can be moved forward or backward in the original line (parallel to the inside foot) until a completely comfortable position at the table is achieved. **DO NOT MOVE THE FOOT IN LARGE INCREMENTS** (an inch at a time is about right). The distance of the head from the cue is adjusted by bending the knees. The upper arm should be parallel with the floor and only the forearm swings back and forth to get the stroking motion. This is the basic stance for good FORM and obviously can and must be modified to fit the individual. But, keep the feet as close as possible to the position described. I have observed over the years that when the better players miss a couple of times, they Always look to their feet. Kobayashi and Komori (the most classic player of all) both say flatly that the player shoots **straight** because of the position of the feet. The only top player who does not seem to concern himself with his feet is Blomdahl of Sweden. However, I note that his feet, while splayed rather than parallel, are nearly always the same.

After a few minutes of practice each day for a week or so you will find that you will automatically fall into "good form" when you set up for the shot. Let me remind you that this is a method of arriving at a standard "good form" at the table which is used in the teaching of beginning players in other parts of the world. It is not a cure-all for your problems and indeed may be quite difficult to do if you have set your body in another position for a number of years. But, try it—get yourself into a good standard position at the table—adjust it to yourself with respect to your body configuration and I believe you will be pleasantly surprised at the results....

In the next article I will discuss the grip and the bridge...

# Letter to The Editor

To The Editor:

I enjoy reading The NATIONAL BILLIARD NEWS, but your latest edition saddened me because of its news about the passing of Paul Lucchesi. If I may, I would like to tell a story about him that few people connected with billiards have ever heard. Yet this man singlehandedly changed the course of events for thousands of men and women who play the game:

In 1976, when I was asked to take over the management of the Billiard Congress of America, it had just completed its most disastrous tournament, financially. Having gambled and lost on the possibility of conducting a profitable U.S. Open 14.1 Championship, it was deeply in debt, even to the extent of having collected and spent the coming year's dues. Membership, as a result, had dropped to about 400 players and eighteen suppliers. The officers and directors had resigned.

The only possibility of BCA survival was in attracting player-memberships through new tournaments. Meeting in Chicago, the Directors agreed to stay on for one more try. For seed money the only possibility was the updating and selling of new "Official BCA Rule & Record Books."

Even there, the catch was **money!** And the printers knew we did not have any. Hat in hand, I sought money. One man came forward. Paul Lucchesi. He gave BCA a note, promising to personally pay up to $20,000 to creditors, should BCA not be able to pay its bills. Armed with that note, we bought (and profitably resold) 85,000 new rulebooks. Thus began a new era for BCA which lead to the National and All-American 8-Ball Tournaments...and survival.

It all happened because of the unselfish act of one man. Others helped, of course, but it was Paul who made it possible. There has to be a place in billiard history for such a man.

Best regards to all,
Bob Goodwin


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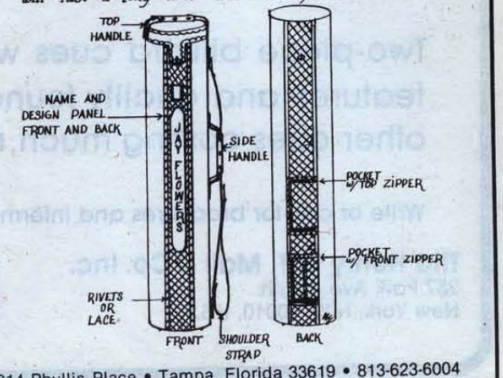


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# Playing Around with Grady

Even the great players have to re-evaluate the basics, from time to time. I'll give you a quick checklist to use for your own evaluation.

1. Are you staying down?
2. Are you following through?
3. Are you looking at the object ball rather than the cue ball at impact?
4. Do you have a cue that you're happy with and is the tip in good shape?
5. Is your own personal rhythm or tempo at its proper setting?
6. Is your mental and physical conditioning what it should be, for you to perform at the top of your game?

Other important questions may occur to you. Remember them. Write them down if necessary.

Following any loss, do you ask yourself honestly, why did I lose? After doing so, do you try to improve your weaker areas? Are you angry at yourself when you miss a shot you know you should make?

Sometimes, when I am playing, I imagine to myself that every great champion in the world is seated and watching my match. And I think to myself: Don't do anything that might appear stupid or unprofessional in their eyes. I try to execute every shot in an intelligent, capable manner. I try to make no unforced errors. Don't give them anything. And after all of these things, I still have, and so will you, days when I play poorly. But when you reach stage, because of a winning posture, a determined attitude, that you may still win on your bad days, imagine what's going to happen on the good days.

Don't make the mistake of underestimating the opposition. It's good policy to play every shot, each game, all matches, as if some world champion were your opponent. If you play "harrigans" and loose safeties against a weak opponent, you'll pay dearly against top flight competition.

When you miss makeable shots, do you set them back up and shoot them however many times it takes to get it right? If you miss practicing and the same shot should come up in match, you'll probalby hit it the same way, without correction.

When you've lost a close match and you had your chance, do you go back to the pool room and examine the possibilities that may have eluded you? Maybe you should have played safe instead of going for the ball. Or vice versa.

What are you going to do when you're playing somebody who'll do anything short of murder to win? It's an excellent idea to have some plan to combat that type of person. If you're unprepared and this situation should arise, you'll probably do just what he wants, which is lose.

All of these questions of the self-help variety are of great value when it comes to improving your pool game. We've all seen people who play pool all of their lives and still can't make a ball, because they don't embrace the constant struggle for improvement, which is an inherent piece of every great pool player.

You may gather from my comments that it is incredibly difficult to master the time honored, venerable sport of pocket billiards.

That is very true. But there's no reason not to enjoy yourself while improving. And there are some shortcuts, which really do help. Of course there is nothing wrong with playing this wonderful game just for the fun of it. But if you want to play it well, you've got to pay the price, which includes a lot of questioning and re-evaluating.

# Prison Pool

Contnued from Page 21

ponents. Cares not for cash or commissary but wants all your "Science Digest," "Omni" and "Popular Science" magazines. Does take I.O.U.'s for pocket calculators if you don't have magazines. "Junkie" shoots the lights out for "liquid assets." Cokes, R.C.'s and Root Beer (A & W). He might play if you have 7 Up or diet drinks, but only if he has a trade lined up. Sad case of addiction, there should be a law against that stuff! "Coach" teaches and preaches basic fundamentals. Always bores people with talk of his book, "Manual For Teaching Basic Fundamental Skills." Everybody wishes he would shut up and go write the darn thing. "Country Boy" puts everybody to sleep. Breaks, runs out, breaks, runs out, breaks, runs out. He wants to be a pool player but he can't figure out two fouls ball in hand. Nobody feels sorry for him.

The last character on the list is the "Hustler". A few more lines will be afforded this character because his claim to fame is "gamesmanship." After barely beating you to death even he will give you a spot. After barely beating you with the spot he'll give you a different spot. Somewhere on the list of spots available, you will finally beat him. At this time Mr. "H" grabs a broom handle and you spot him. The merciless beating continues until the victim is drained of all ready and future assets. Only the very best get the ultimate spot. He uses a golf ball for a cue ball.

Some say its pretty dull around here, but there was some excitement awhile back. Mr. "H" indirectly challenged "Coach" to a match for the title of "Numero Uno." Coach thought the prospects over the decided not to kill his future action by accepting the challenge. Instead of broom handles for cue sticks Coach countered with playing with genuine, Government issue, string mops. Mr. "H" apparently declined. Coach was disappointed, he was low on stamps.

Physical escape from a Federal Country Club is a very severe No, No. Penalty is five more years added to your sentence that must be served before you can "Hit The Door". Mental escape for short periods of time is however still permitted.

Some read, watch T.V., Putt around, run, play cards, tennis, pump iron, B.S. and lie about the "good old days" or the families on the outside, the millions of dollars lost and made. Me? My only escape is to be with the twelve green beauties and totally immerse my mind in playing or watching. I feel as free as any man anywhere!

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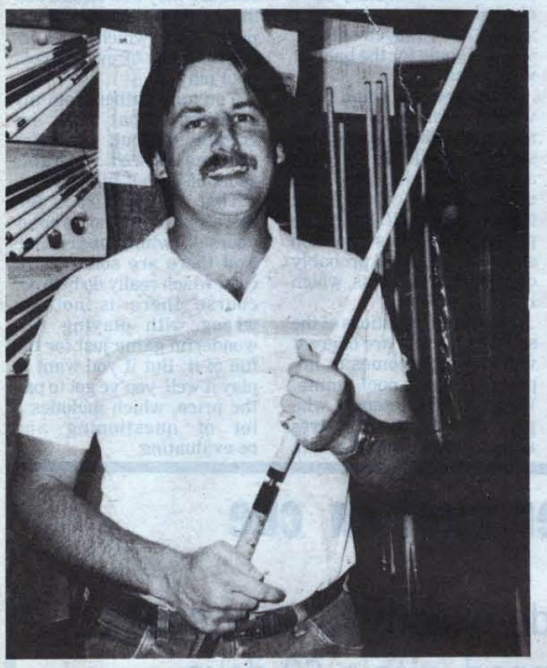
# Intense Billiard Interest in Memphis



*Lou Jones after winning a Wednesday night 8-ball tournament.*

Intense interest and a driving motivation are the key words, around Memphis, among the billiard elite, in their continued push toward greater interest and participation in billiards.

In the forefront of the drive is 'Players Club' (Kinard & Johnny Birdsong) and Highpockets (Strickland) blazing new paths with their innovations and projects.

Incidentally, newcomers to Memphis may have some difficulty locating Highpockets. It is not listed in the yellow pages.

There are dozens of other rooms, in Memphis, that are doing their part in creating new converts.

The Busch Pool League just finished its 7th annual, tri-state regional tournament.

The regional contest was the final result of a tri-state elimination of over 1000 Memphis players and 88 teams, of 5 or 6 members each, from Tennessee, Kentucky and Arkansas.

The largest paper in the mid-south (The Commercial Appeal) carried a full page article, with a large picture of Christine DiTommaso of Highpockets about the Busch Tournament league.

The winners of the area were automatically entered into the mammoth national competition in St. Louis. Over $100,000 in cash and prizes will be awarded.

Busch Beer sponsors the billiard play in all their outlets.

American Pool Players Assoc. governs the leagues.

James Salmon (assisted by wife Rose) is league operator.

Larry Hubbard and Terry Bell devised the handicap system used. James and Rose computerized it.

This tri-state elimination was held in the Longbranch Saloon on Lamar. The parking lot and environs were under the constant surveillance of photographic monitors plus an outside guard. Safety was not a problem.

The 6 pool tables ($3\frac{1}{2}$x7 ft.-coin oper.) were separated from the spectators with a full length, 30" high, solid rail divider. Judges tables lined the outside of the rail with the bleachers behind the judges. The umpires were situated inside the rail where they could move around the table, freely.

The game was 8-ball. Two men and one ladies team were selected to compete in the finals in St. Louis.

Although only winners are picked by teams it is only the individuals that compete. They are graded by points. The total points of the team members produces the winning team. This would be similar to bowling.

Since an expert player is handicapped to even the odds, the victor is more at the mercy of 'luck' than without the handicap.

Does this kill the enthusiasm and desire to improve?

Apparently not. We found team players helping each other and team members putting in extra practice to improve. I talked to a few players that expressed desire to improve to the point where they can challenge experts.

Perhaps the best aspect of the handicap, billiard play, to an observer was the comradeship; and true sportsmanship that was apparent. They had a good feeling toward each other and were continually trying to help the other person's game!

Pool hall proprietors are showing a big interest in this saloon pool playing. Strange as it may seem, it is increasing the number of new players and practice on the big tables!

All the winning teams came from Nashville, Tenn.

The winning ladies team was from Bobbies Lounge—Captained by Bobbie, the tavern owner.

One winning open team was from Country Playhouse and was captained by Jerry Errington.

The other open team was from Job's Tavern and was captained by Maybelle Covington.

Player's Club (one of the bigger billiard establishments in the midsouth) has come up with a new wrinkle that has created a good deal of interest and participation.

Like Topsy of Uncle Tom's Cabin, "it just grew".

Every Wednesday night expert, average and beginning players drop into the club—plunk down a few dollars to enter a single elimination, one game 8-ball tournament.

The amazing development is that the top flight players are not coming up in the first place slot! This seems incredible since some of the players can run an 8-ball table without much difficulty. Yet in the tournament it just doesn't work out that way! There are just too many ways to lose a single game of 8-ball. Luck rears it's evil head!

Such players as A.J. Bernard, Milton Erwin, Louisiana Lou, Johnny Birdsong and Jack Hunter have thrown down the battle gauntlet and lost the battle.

Winners of some of the past games have been Larry Governatori, Sammy Lee, Norman Perry and Nat Green. One of the latest winners was Lou Jones.

The purse is relatively small but that appears to be of secondary interest to the players. They love the atmosphere, the competition and the congeniality of the other players and spectators.

The number of players varies from Wednesday to Wednesday. The first tournament had only eight players but quickly jumped into the twenties.

These games have increased the number of new players and their practice time although many have not yet entered the contest.

*John Errington (dark shirt) receiving trophy for 'Country Playhouse for the mens' team.*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## 1986 MIDWEST OPEN 9-BALL CHAMPIONSHIPS

## SAT. & SUN. - OCTOBER 4TH & 5TH, 1986

### FORMAT

**GAME - 9-BALL** DOUBLE-ELIMINATION

**RULES** - ONE-FOUL, BALL-IN-HAND, CUE-BALL FOULS ONLY, EXCEPT ON BREAK, PUSH-OUT ON 1st SHOT. SCRATCH ON BREAK - CUE-BALL-IN-HAND, BEHIND BREAK LINE. ALL BALLS STAY DOWN, WINNER BREAKS.

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WOMEN'S DIVISION - 3:00 P.M., OCT. 4, 1986
TOURNAMENT STARTS AT NOON FOR MEN'S DIVISION AND 4:00 P.M. FOR WOMEN'S DIVISION

### AWARDS

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| 3rd - $200.00 + TROPHY | 3rd - $400.00 + TROPHY | 3rd - $600.00 + TROPHY | 3rd - $1000.00 + TROPHY |
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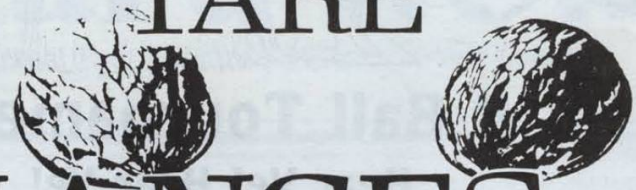

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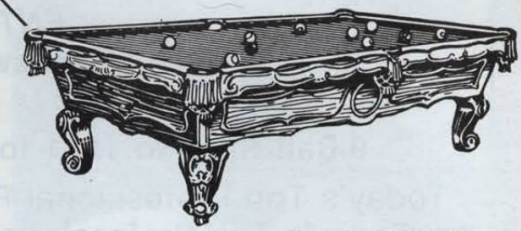

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