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Billiard News

NATIONAL NINE BALL TOUR — THE TEXAS EXPRESS PROMOTIONS GROUP

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August, 1997 — APA — *$2.75*

PCA PROFESSIONAL CUESPORTS ASSOCIATION

Fisher, Massey Share Honors with WPBA, Seniors Titles

VNEA JR. EVENT

Championships
Keep Growing
to Record Field of 700

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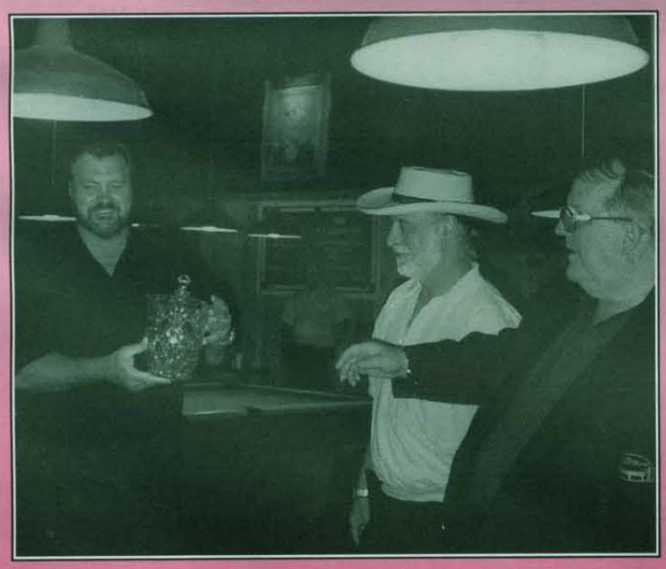
ALLISON FISHER. . .Returns to familiar No. 1 position following victory over top rival Jeanette Lee in Imperial International Detroit Classic at the Shark Club in Canton, MI.



MIKE MASSEY. . .'Tennessee Tarzan,' left, receives congratulations from Senior Tour Founder Steve Mizerak, right, and Tournament Sponsor Jim Blaylock after winning J.O.B.-Kasson Seniors Masters Championship in his first event since becoming eligible to compete on the Tour.

CHALLENGE OF CHAMPIONS

Oliver Ortmann
Defeats Fong Pang Chao
for 1997 Title

(Page 7)

valter morais

Mali

1997

presents

The Ladies Florida Tour

RULES

9-BALL
TEXAS EXPRESS

TIMES
Players meet at noon
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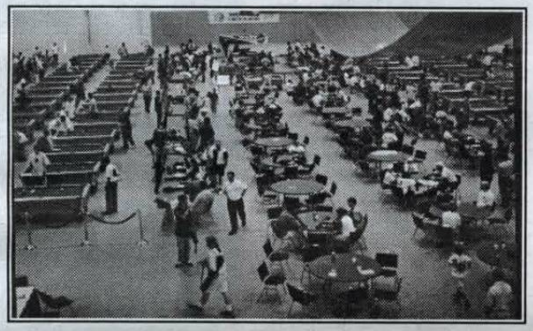
Inside

August, 1997

Volume 25, Number 7

VNEA Junior 8-Ball



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Challenge of Champions

Oliver Ortmann Defeats Fong-Pang Chao to Win 7th Annual International Challenge of Champions

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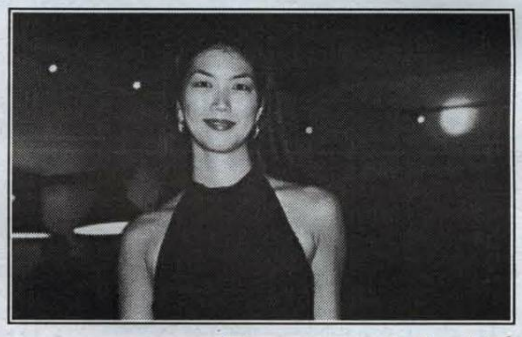

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Overall Field of 700 Converged on Sioux City Venue

VNEA Junior Event Continues Rapid Growth Pattern

By BRIAN ELLIOTT
VNEA Assistant Director

SIOUX CITY, IA—As the sun rose over the beautiful *Sioux City Convention Center* in Sioux City, IA on July 11, the country fresh air was suddenly electrified with the youthful excitement of several of the world's greatest junior pool players.

The young pool prodigies were preparing for the greatest pool challenge of their lives—*The 7th Annual VNEA International Junior Championships,* June 11-13, 1997.

Although play didn't officially begin until noon, players arrived early, anxious to show off their talent, conquer their respective divisions and have their names forever etched on the plates of the *VNEA Junior Wall of Fame.*

Upon entering the *Sioux City Convention Center* for the first time, you were instantly impressed by the arrangement of 80 gorgeous *Valley Cougar* pool tables pleasantly displayed in this enormous yet quaint arena.

"Thanks to all of the efforts and hard work by the host *Charter Holder River City Amusements, the Sioux City Convention Center* served our unique purposes with ease," *VNEA Executive Director* Gregg Elliott said.

"We even added a sacred section to the room called *The Pocket* where the finals of each bracket were played out. The kids tried especially hard to achieve this upper level."

Players, parents, friends and *Operators* representing 29 different *Charter Holders* traveled from Ontario, Canada, Nebraska, North Dakota, Wisconsin, Minnesota, South Dakota, Iowa, Illinois, Wyoming, Ohio, Indiana and Pennsylvania to compete for International recognition, along with trophies, beautiful prizes and *U.S. Savings Bonds.*

Huebler Industries, represented in Sioux City by Paul Heubler, a long time sponsor of the *VNEA*, donated 36 beautifully engraved *Huebler* cues to the top four finishers in each team division, along with 36 gorgeous hard cases for those finishing in 5th-6th and 7th-8th places. Huebler's generosity added a special touch to the already impressive awards display.

MAJORS TEAM CHAMPS. . .Jerrod Bernath, Tyler Depew, Julian Bernath

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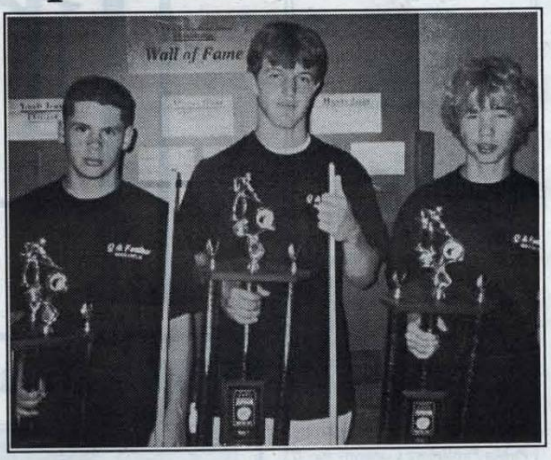
Photos by VNEA



MINORS TEAM WINNERS. . .Derek Benson, Brad March, Cody Hodgins

YOUTH TEAM TITLISTS. . .Derick Hofer, Robert Pugh, Riley Pugh

With an incredible 135 3-person teams and more than 420 singles entrants, the *VNEA International Junior Championships* continues to break new ground and set new standards for youth pool in this country.

"This *Junior Program* continues to grow by leaps and bounds," Elliott said, "and we are committed to ensuring the program's success long into the future."

Again this year, the *VNEA* featured the *Singles* competition for the juniors. It was a huge success as it not only offered the kids more opportunities to play but it gave them a better chance to take home some beautiful prizes.

See Results, Page 17

Even if the juniors didn't manage to place in the *Singles* competition, several *Mini-Singles* tournaments were played Friday evening with beautiful *Huebler* cues, *McDermott* cues, *Mali* cues and *New Image* cases for first and second place.

The *Singles* competition kicked off the weekend of events on Friday afternoon. For both the *Singles* and *Team* events, the players were broken down into three separate divisions: *Youth* (ages 9-13), *Minor* (ages 14-17) and *Major* (ages 18-20).

The talent displayed in the *Singles* competition was second to none and the Convention Center crowds were treated to some fantastic matches. Here is how the *Singles* unfolded by division:

Youth Division—Chad Nelson (champion), *D & R/Star,* Rochester, MN

Minors Division—John Zender (champion), *C & N Sales,* Mankato, MN

Majors Division—Tony Merksick (champion), *N.T.S.,* Omaha, NE

As a special treat throughout the

See VNEA, Page 24

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Tournament Trails

Date	Division	Event/City, State	Added-$	Entry Fee	Promoter	Phone
Aug. TBA	Men's Pro	PCA Sharkey's 9-Ball Open Sharkey's Billiards, St. Louis, MO	TBA	TBA	C.J. Wiley	214-321-9947
Aug. 3-6, 1997	Men's Pro	PCA Shooters 9-Ball Open Shooters Billiards, Olathe, KS	$ 10,000	$ 300	C.J. Wiley Shooters Billiards	214-321-9947 913-780-5740
Aug. 7-10, 1997	Women's Pro	Brunswick Billiards New York Classic Amsterdam Billiard Club, New York, NY	$ 50,000	$ 500	WPBA	712-252-4789
Aug. 16-17, 1997	Women's Amateur	WPBA Viking Cues Amateur Nationals Miss Cue Billiards, Toledo, OH	$ 10,000	$ 35	Miss Cue Billiards	419-865-3792
Aug. 21-24, 1997	Men's Pro	PCA Texas 9-Ball Championships Eric's Billiards, Austin, TX	$ 10,000	$ 125	C.J. Wiley Eric's Billiards	214-321-9947 512-442-7039
Aug. 23-24, 1997	Open	B.G. McGee's Annual 9-Ball Tournament B.G. McGee's, Greensboro, NC	$ 1,500	$ 50	Bob Wolfe	910-299-0042
Sept. 6-7, 1997	Open	Nick Vlahos Memorial New Englander 9-Ball Spot Shot Billiard Club, Portland, ME	$ 5,000	$ 115/125	Pat Murray Kerry Hebert	508-520-4333 207-773-3466
Sept. 6-7, 1997	Open	Steel Horse Cafe 9-Ball Open Steel Horse Cafe, Elkhart, IN	$ 1,000	$ TBA	Steel Horse Cafe	219-294-3724
Sept. 8-13, 1997	Men's Pro	PCA Treasure Island 9-Ball Open Treasure Island Casino, Red Wing, MN	TBA	TBA	C.J. Wiley	214-321-9947
Sept. 13-14, 1997	Open	All About Pool Tour 9-Ball Country Club USA Billiards, Chelmsford, MA	$ 3,000	$ 100	Dave Cunha Country Club Billiards	508-934-9700 508-934-9700
Sept. 16-21, 1997	Open	22nd Annual United States Open 9-Ball Championship Chesapeake Convention Ctr, Chesapeake, VA	$ 50,000	$ 500	Barry Behrman	757-853-8900 757-499-8900
Sept. 20-21, 1997	Open	Viking 9-Ball Tour Stop 19 Mr. Pockets, Pittsburgh, PA	$ 1,000	$ 30	Mike Janis	800-200-7665
Sept. 26-28, 1997	Open (Wheelchair)	The 1997 Viking NWBA 9-Ball Championship Holiday Inn Airport Winners Billiards, Cleveland, OH	$ 10,000	$ 50	Pete Vanko	216-234-6922
Oct. 4-5, 1997	Open	Viking 9-Ball Stop No. 20 Bogart's Billiards Cafe, Livonia, MI	$ 1,000	$ 50	Mike Janis	800-200-7665
Oct. 7-12, 1997	Men's Pro	Camel Pro Billiards Series J.O.B. Nashville Open J.O.B. Billiard Club, Madison, TN	$ 40,000	$ 250		
Oct. 11-12, 1997	Open	Midwest Bar Table Classic Billy's USA Bar & Grill, Ft. Wayne, IN	$ 1,000	$ 40/60	Mac Ashby Billy's USA Bar & Grill	219-436-7665 219-436-7665
Oct. 21-26, 1997	Men's Pro	Camel Pro Billiards Series Boston Open Country Club USA, Chelmsford, MA	$ 40,000	$ 250		
Oct. 23-26, 1997	Open	4th Annual U.S. Open One Pocket Championship Billiards Playground, Kalamazoo, MI	$ TBA	$ 150	Matt Rosendaul Billiards Playground	616-372-7611 616-372-7611
Oct. 23-26, 1997	Women's Pro	BCA Phoenix Classic Phoenix Civic Plaza, Phoenix	$ 50,000	$ 500	WPBA	712-252-4789
Oct. 30-Nov. 2, 1997	Women's Pro	Leisure Bay Billiards New Orleans Classic Mardi Gras World, New Orleans, LA	$ 50,000	$ 500	WPBA	712-252-4789
Nov. 11-15, 1997	Men's Pro	Camel Pro Billiards Series South Jersey Open South Jersey Expo Center, Pennsauken, NJ	$ 75,000	$ 250		
Nov. 18-23, 1997	Men's Pro	Camel Pro Billiards Series Tulsa Open Magoo's, Tulsa, OK	$ 40,000	$ 250		
Dec. 2-7, 1997	Men's Pro	Camel Pro Billiard Series Denver Open Denver Merchandise Mart, Denver, CO	$ 75,000	$ 250		
Dec. 4-8, 1997	Women's Pro	WPBA National 9-Ball Championship Treasure Island Casino, Red Wing, MN	$ TBA	$ TBA	WPBA	712-252-4789
Second Sunday Every Month	Men	Snooker's Pool & Pub—Livonia, MI (Jan., Mar., etc.) Snooker's Pool & Pub—Eastpointe, MI (Feb., Apr., etc)	$ 100 (Full Field)	$ 25	Snooker's Pool & Pub Snooker's Pool & Pub	313-422-9510 810-772-4990
Last Sunday Every Month	Men/Women	Monthly 9-Ball Open Jimmy's Billiards, Orlando, FL	60 Percent of Entry Fees	$ 25	Jimmy's Billiards Jim Schwab	407-851-0288
Third Sunday Every Month	Men/Women	Monthly 9-Ball Open Bogarts Billiards Cafe, Livonia, MI	$ 500	$ 25/5	Bogarts Billiards Cafe	313-427-3030
First Sunday Every Month	Women's Open	Women's Motor City Open House of Billiards, Livonia, MI	TBA	$ 15	House of Billiards	810-477-5320
First Saturday Every Month	Monthly Open	The Golden Eight Ball Monthly Open Golden Eight Ball, Holland, MI	$ 100	$ 25	The Golden Eight Ball	616-394-5830
First Saturday Every Month	Monthly Open	Rack Em Family Billiards, Kokomo, IN Rack Em Family Billiards, Kokomo, IN	$ 100	$ 25/5	Rack Em Family Billiards	317-453-1851
First Saturday Every Month	Monthly Open	Side Pocket Monthly 9-Ball Side Pocket, Pontoon Beach, IL	$ 500	$ 10	Ed Libby	618-876-7665
First Saturday Every Month	Monthly Open	Fat Cat's Monthly Open 9-Ball Fat Cat's Billiards, Mount Dora, FL	60 Percent of Entry Fees	$ 25	Fat Cat's Billiards	904-735-2202
Last Sunday Every Month	Monthly Open	Bill's Billiards Monthly Open 9-Ball Bill's Billiards, Cynthiana, KY	———	$ 17/3	Bill's Billiards	606-234-5903

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Mohegan Sun Casino Plays Host

Ortmann Wins International 'Challenge of Champions'

SPECIAL TO NBN

UNCASVILLE, CT—Oliver Ortmann won the shootout of the year, claiming the *Champion of Champions* crown and $50,000 at the *International Challenge of Champions* billiards tournament July 24 at the *Mohegan Sun Casino* in Uncasville, CT.

Ortmann, of Germany, defeated Fong-Pang Chao, of the Republic of China, for the world 9-Ball title. In a two-set match, Ortmann took the first set 5-4 and the second 5-3 to capture the winner-take-all purse.

The top eight billiards professionals from around the world competed in the *Seventh Annual International Challenge of Champions,* all of which have been televised by *ESPN.*

Among the countries represented were the USA, Germany, Japan, Australia, Taiwan and Finland. The tournament was taped for telecast on *ESPN.*

Matt Braun, president of *Billiards International Ltd.,* promoted the event in conjunction with the *Mohegan Sun Casino,* the *World Pool-Billiard Association (WPA)* and *ESPN.*

Billiards International, ESPN and the *Mohegan Sun* elected to again broaden the 1997 tournament into an international event by inviting champions from countries around the world.

The semifinals matches again proved there are no clear-cut favorites in a tournament of Champions.

Ortmann defeated Allen Hopkins (USA) by a score of 5-2 and 5-4. In the other semifinal, Chao won over Ralf Souquet, the defending champion, by a margin of 3-5, 5-0, with a one-game, sudden-death tiebreaker taken by Chao.

Ortmann and Chao advanced to the final round, where they battled game-by-game for the lead. Ortmann took the crown and the money with aggressive shotmaking that brought cheers from the crowd.

"Every player wants to win the *Challenge of Champions,* and today was my day," Ortmann said of his victory. "I climbed to the top of the mountain in billiards, and won it all."

He blitzed the field of international champions, winning every match by a comfortable margin. The *World Champion* in 1995, Ortmann snared the biggest payday of his career with the *Champion of Champions* title.

The tournament was a two-day venue with preliminary matches conducted the first day.

Hopkins, a five-time *World Champion* and *1993 International Challenge of Champions* winner opened the event July 23 with a 7-5 victory against current *Australian National 9-ball Champion* Greg Jenkins of Sydney, who also holds titles in 8-ball and snooker.

Defending Champ Souquet followed with the most convincing triumph of the opening round, a 7-1 decision over Hisashi Yamamoto, the current Japanese national 9-ball champion who resides in Toyama.

Ortmann eliminated Mike Immonen, the *1996 World Peace Cup* champion who lives in Helsinki, Finland, by one of the three 7-5 opening-round victories.

Chao's 7-5 verdict against five-time *World Champion* and *Player of the Year* Earl Strickland, the Greensboro, NC resident who became the first $1 million player in 1996 by running 10 racks in succession, rounded out the preliminary competition.

With Ortmann, Hopkins and Chao among the four semifinalists, the event had three former *Challenge of Champions* winners vying for the 1997 winner-take-all prize.

That lured standing-room-only crowds at all tournament sessions, as Ortmann received a standing ovation from the packed audience that witnessed the final match.

"I never played in a tourgher tournament," Ortmann said following the event. "We may look calm, but we are filled with emotion.

"This is the toughest tournament ever held. So many things can happen. One shot missed an you can lose $50,000! My feelings went up and down. Like a roller coaster!"

Admission was free for the event that was staged in four different sessions, for the first time hosted by the *Mohegan Sun Casino.*

The *International Challenge of Champions,* sponsored by *Viking Cues, Olhausen Billiards, Sports Wear of Leaders, Rollarack, Silver Cup Chalk, L.E.A.N.I. Slate, Simonis Billiard Cloth, Mikhail Darafeev, Sure Shot Billiards Gloves* and the *Mohegan Sun Casino,* will be televised by *ESPN* in three one-hour shows to air in October.

Camel 8-Ball Team Events, Also

APA 9-Ball National Team Tournament Gets Underway at Riviera in Las Vegas

By JOHN MATHEWS

APA Vice President

LAS VEGAS, NV—*Miscues, Horsemen, Tattletails, Outcasts, Straight Shooters, Afterburners!*

New shows on the *Strip?*

NO, these were just a few of the 111 team names participating the weekend of July 26-27 in the largest *9-Ball National Team Championship* sanctioned by the *American Poolplayers Association (APA).* The action began to rack and roll July 26 at the *Riviera Hotel & Casino* in Las Vegas, NV.

More than 800 amateur players began arriving July 24 from 39 different states plus Canada, to try for the $100,000 in prize money.

An opening ceremony was conducted at 10:30 a.m. July 26 in the huge ballroom in the *Riviera Convention Center,* which was transformed into a sea of billiard tables. Teams had to qualify by winning local and regional competitions across the country.

"The city that never sleeps is a fitting location for this prestigious event as many teams went directly to the practice tables and began sharpening their skills throughout the night," said John Mathews, VP for the *APA.*

Competition officially began with six rounds of matches that led to the quarter-finals July 27. Semifinal rounds were held the morning of July 28, with the final elimination later that same day.

An official awards presentation followed at 7:30 p.m., ending phase one of the next eight days of non-stop competition.

Results of the tournament will appear in the September edition of *NBN.*

Recognized as the *Governing Body of Amateur Pool,* the *APA* has established the official rules, championships, formats and handicapping system that governs amateur pocket billiard team play in league formats throughout the United States and Canada.

The *APA* currently has more than 150,000 members with over 200 franchises throughout the U.S. and Canada. Increasing by 6-10 percent annually, the *APA* is continually growing.

Entrepreneur Magazine has repeatedly ranked the *APA* as one of the top 200 franchise organizations in the country, citing it as 74 in the top 100 low investment opportunities, and the No. 1 *Sports Event Planner* in America.

The *APA 9-Ball National Team Championship* is a modified single elimination event, which is held in conjunction with two other championships—the *Ladies Division* of the *Camel 8-Ball National Team Championship* and the *Open Division* of the *Camel 8-Ball National Team Championship.*

The *9-Ball Championship* awards $100,000 in a cash prize fund! All teams receive last place money of $350

See APA, Page 16

THANK YOU

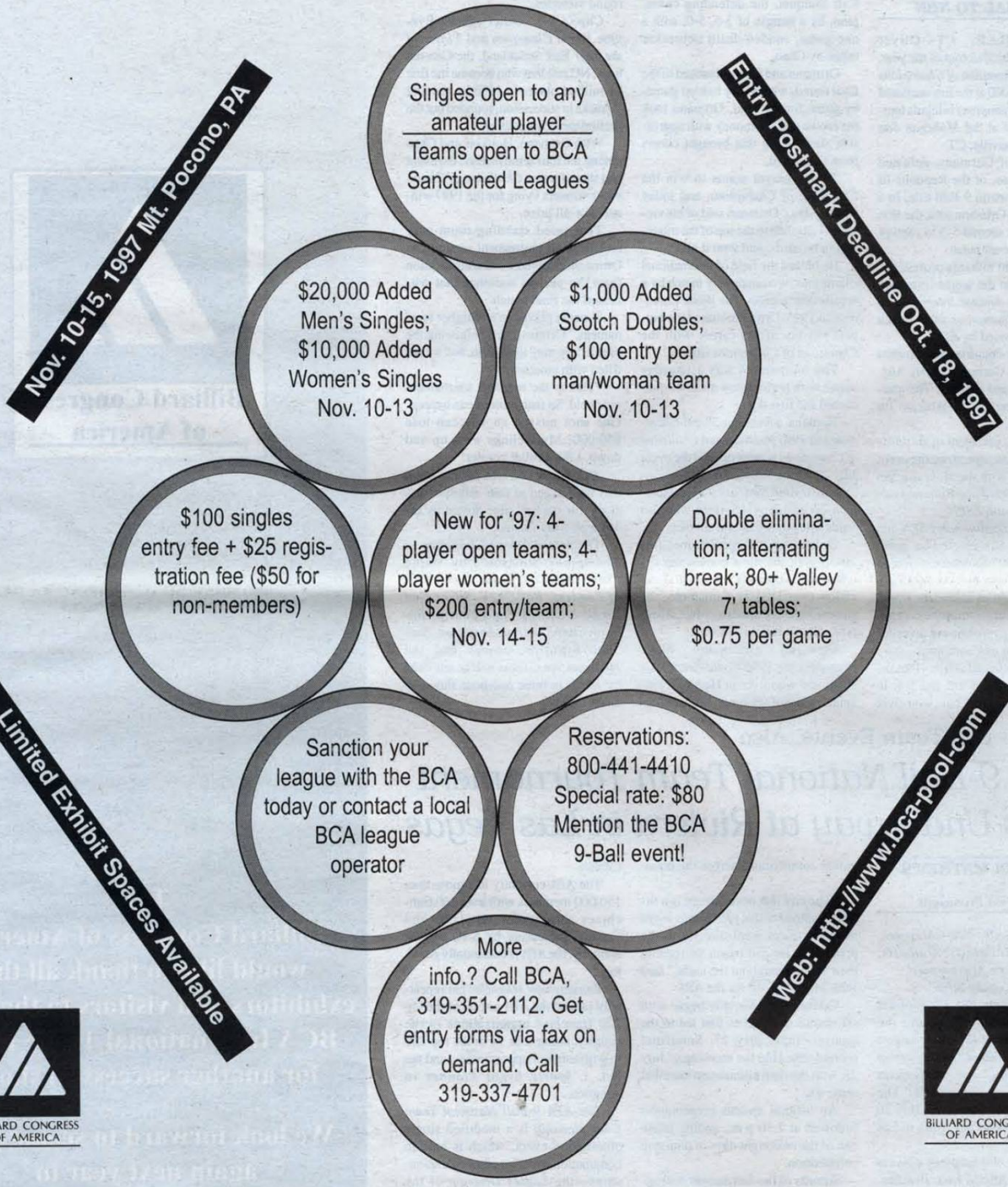
Billiard Congress of America

The Billiard Congress of America would like to thank all the exhibitors and visitors to the 1997 BCA International Trade Expo for another successful show.

We look forward to seeing you again next year in

Orlando, Florida
June 25 - 27, 1998

BCA North American Amateur 9-Ball Championships



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AUG. 16-17 VIRGINIA
FIRST BREAK CAFE
46970 COMMUNITY PLAZA
STERLING, VA. 20164
INFORMATION: 703 444 2551
NEW OWNERSHIP GRAND OPENING
$3500 ADDED - $50 ENTRY FEE
OPEN RACE TO 9 - LADIES RACE TO 7
9' TABLES - DEADLINE SAT. 10 AM

AUG. 15-17 TEXAS
THE COPPER CABOOSE
356 B UNIVERSITY
LUBBOCK, TX. 79413
INFORMATION: 806 744 0183
$3500 ADDED - $50 ENTRY
OPEN RACE TO 9 - LADIES RACE TO 7
DEADLINE FRI. NITE 9 PM - 8' TABLES
PHIL'S FRI DAYTIME GOLF OUTING

AUG. 16-17 IOWA
THE CORNER POCKET
125 MAIN ST. - AMES, IA. 50010
INFORMATION: 515 232 1528
$2500 GUARANTEED PURSE - $30 ENTRY
OPEN RACE TO 9 - LADIES RACE TO 7
BAR TABLES - NO COINS NEEDED
DEADLINE IS SAT. AT 10 AM

AUG. 23-24 NORTH CAROLINA
B G McGEES
4701 HIGH POINT RD
GREENSBORO, N.C. 27407
INFORMATION: 910 299 0042
BENEFIT FOE HOSPICE
$1500 ADDED - $50 ENTRY
OPEN RACE TO 9 - LADIES RACE TO 7
DEADLINE IS SAT. AT 10 AM - 9' TABLES

AUG. 23-24 MISSOURI
SIR GREGORY'S BILLIARD
PARLOR AND SPORTS CAFE
3626 S. CAMPBELL - SPRINGFIELD, MO. 65807
INFORMATION: 417 883 5700
GRAND OPENING TOURNAMENT
$ 3500 ADDED - $50 ENTRY BY SAT. 10 AM
NO COINS NEEDED ON BAR TABLES
OPEN RACE TO 9 ON BAR TABLES
LADIES RACE TO 7 ON 9' TABLES

AUG-SEPT TOUR EVENTS

(PARTIAL SEPT. LISTINGS)

AUG. 30-31 VIRGINIA
FAST EDDIES BILLIARD CAFE
9687 LEE HIGHWAY
FAIRFAX, VA. 22031-2304
INFORMATION: 703 385 7529
$3500 ADDED - $50 ENTRY
OPEN RACE TO 9 ON 9' - LADIES
RACE TO 7 ON 8' - DEADLINE
SATURDAY AT 10 AM

AUG. 29-31 KANSAS
FRED'S SPORTS BAR
3006 W. JONES
GARDEN CITY, KS. 67846
INFORMATION: 316 276 2555
$3500 ADDED - $35 ENTRY
OPEN RACE TO 9 - 9 BALL
LADIES RACE TO 4 - VALLEY 8 BALL
DEADLINE FRI. NITE AT 9 PM

SEPT. 13-14 MARYLAND
ACTION BILLIARDS
1009 S. SALISBURY BLVD.
SALISBURY, MD. 21801
INFORMATION: 410 742 7665
$3500 ADDED - $50 ENTRY
OPEN RACE TO 9- LADIES RACE TO 7
DEADLINE IS SAT. AT 11 AM - 9' TABLES

SEPT. 13-14 OHIO
MISS CUE BILLIARDS
1720 S. REYNOLDS ROAD
TOLEDO, OH. 43614 - MOTEL 419 865 1380
INFORMATION: 419 865 3792
$3500 ADDED - $50 ENTRY
LADIES RACE TO 7 ON 9' TABLES
OPEN RACE TO 9 ON BAR TABLES
FRI. NITE MINIS -DEADLINE IS SAT. 10 AM

SEPT. 25-28 VIRGINIA
FAST EDDIES BILLIARD CAFE
6220 RICHMOND HIGHWAY
ALEXANDRIA, VA. 22303
INFORMATION: 703 660 9444 - $50 ENTRY
$500 ADDED ONE POCKET BY THUR. 9 PM
$3500 ADDED 9 BALL BY SAT. 10 AM
ONE POCKET TO 3-LOSER BREAK-D.ELIM.
9 BALL OPEN TO 9 ON 9'-LADIES TO 7 ON 8'
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LOOK FOR ADDITIONAL SEPT. LISTINGS NEXT MONTH IN THIS MAGAZINE
COMING: OCT. 24-26 THE BAR TABLE U.S. OPEN-SHOOTERS BILLIARDS-OLATHE, KS.

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Evening Matches 7:00 - 9:00 - 11:00 PM
Sunday, September 21 ~ 2:00 PM ~ **Trick Shot Competition**
1:00 & 3:00 PM ~ **Semi Finals** • 7:00 PM ~ **Finals**

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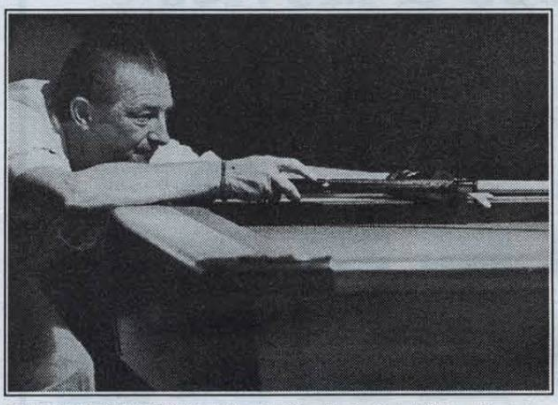
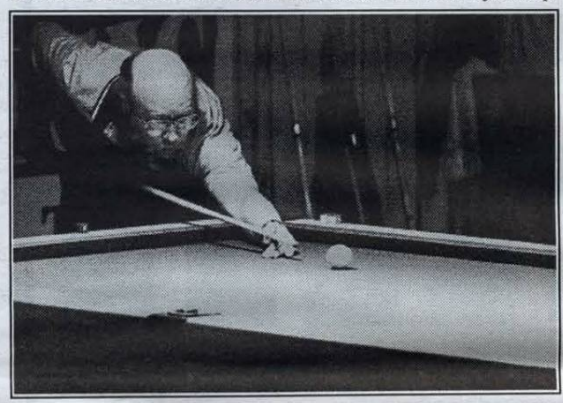
1996-1997 Season Ends with Success at J.O.B. Venue

Massey Rallies to Claim First Triumph on Senior Tour



CLAUDE BERNATCHEZ. . .Wins Milliken Senior Points Title at final stop.



HOWARD VICKERY. . .Steady Ohioan finishes just out of the money at J.O.B.

By CONRAD BURKMAN
NBN Co-Publisher

MADISON, TN — Mike Massey, playing in his first *Senior Tour* event since turning 50 in April, did in the field.

Playing before an enthusiastic crowd at Jim Blaylock's *Hall of Champions J.O.B. Billiards Club* in the Nashville suburb of Madison, TN, Massey won the top prize of $6,000.

The jointly-sponsored *J.O.B.-Kasson Game Tables 1997 Senior Masters Championship* distributed a total prize fund of $25,000 guaranteed for the Steve Mizerak-founded *Senior Tour* stop.

Cover, Index & Page 11
Photos by NBN

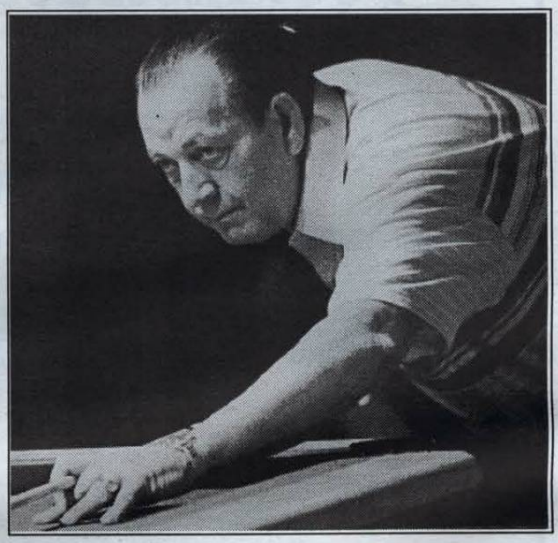
In reaching the finals the *Tennessee Tarzan,* in order, had wins over: Herb Weaver, Charles Fake, Frank Tullos, Willie Munson, Dave Bollman and Grady Mathews on the winners' side.

Claude Bernatchez got to the finals by obtaining victories over Bill Incardona, Mizerak, Buck Sprague and Ralph Guest, before Mathews sent him to the one-loss side.

In the losers' bracket he bested Buddy Hall, Bollman and then reversed his previous loss by defeating Mathews, 11-3, in the finals.

The overall finale was a race-to-13 and early on it looked like Bernatchez would be the first repeat winner on the *Senior Tour.*

Claude won the lag and quickly the first two games. Mike came back to take games 3 and 4. Claude went on to win 5-8 and it looked like he was on his way.



BOBBY LEGG. . .Played very well before losing to Ralph Guest, finished 9th-12th.

However, Mike never gave up. He did what he had to do—string some games together. Massey won games 13-16, dropped game 17, then gained victories in games 18-21 and game 23 to take the title, 13-10.

The match was closer than it should have been early on, as Mike gave away several games, breaking concentration on the 8 or 9-balls to let Claude out.

Bernatchez built a 6-2 advantage and led 8-4 after 12 games before Massey finally got rolling. He tied the match at 8-all and then went on a tear, winning five of the final seven games to secure the victory.

Claude received $4,000 for his runner-up effort, while Grady was awarded $2,500 for third place and Dave earned $1,900 for fourth.

Hall and Guest tied for 5th-6th

See SENIOR, Page 26

Senior Tour Masters Championship

1997 SENIOR TOUR
FIFTH & FINAL STOP
J.O.B.-KASSON
SENIORS MASTERS CHAMPIONSHIP
J.O.B. BILLIARDS CLUB
MADISON, TN
JUNE 26-29, 1997
$25,000 TOTAL PRIZE FUND
$250 ENTRY FEE
(Results of the top 24 finishers in the 72-player field, including final position, players' names and prize money won, are as follows:)

Pos.	Name	Prize
1	Mike Massey	$6,000
2	Claude Bernatchez	4,000
3	Grady Mathews	2,500
4	Dave Bollman	1,900
5-6	Buddy Hall	1,400
5-6	Ralph Guest	1,400
7-8	Willie Munson	1,000
7-8	Giles Darr	1,000
9-12	Bob Newbold	700
9-12	Joe Locigno	700
9-12	Bobby Legg	700
9-12	George Pawelski	700
13-16	Buck Sprague	350
13-16	Mike Lebron	350
13-16	Frank Tullos	350
13-16	Nat Green	350
17-24	Victor Matera	200
17-24	John Stire	200
17-24	Bill Incardona	200
17-24	Gabe Girardi	200
17-24	Mike Betts	200
17-24	Danny DiLiberto	200
17-24	Steve Mizerak	200
17-24	Alan Kiehle	200

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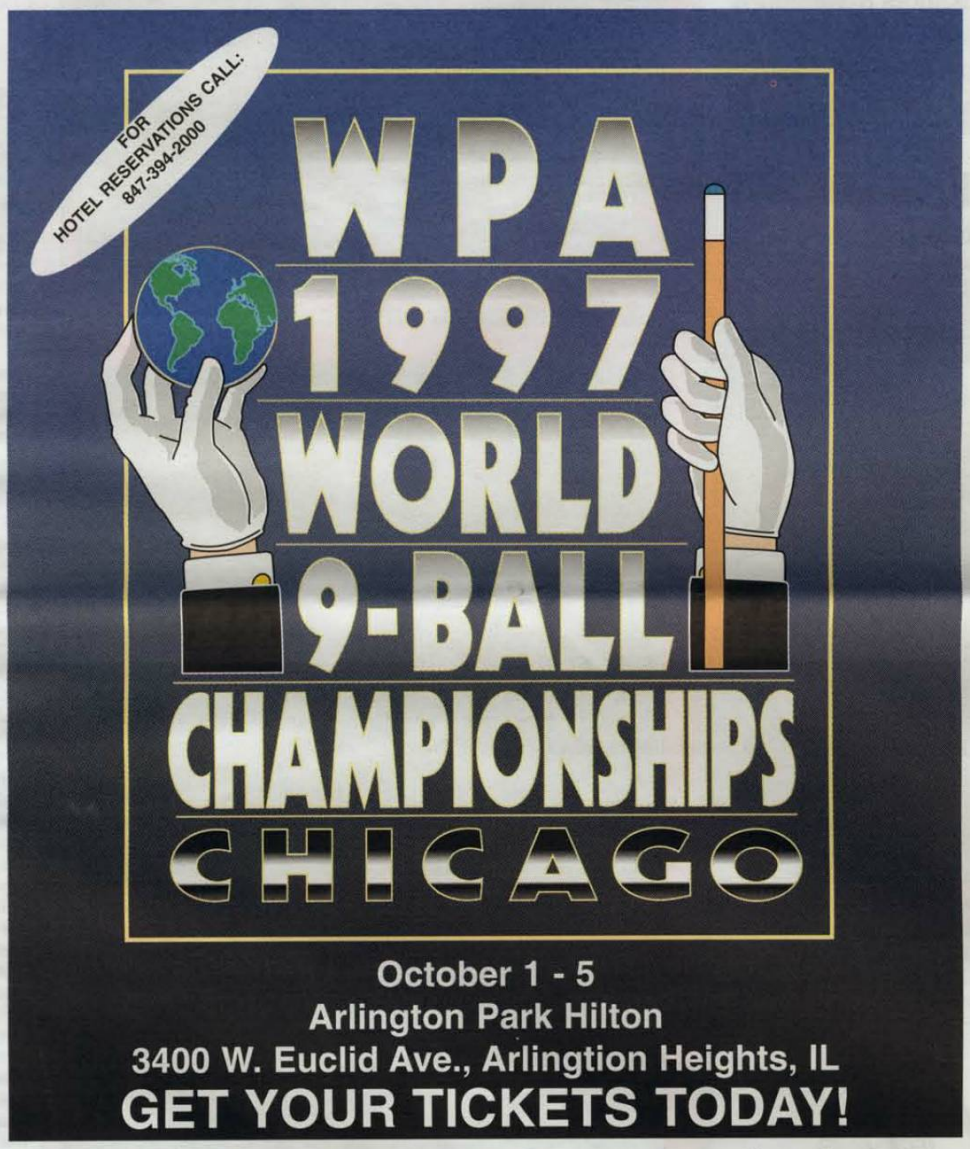
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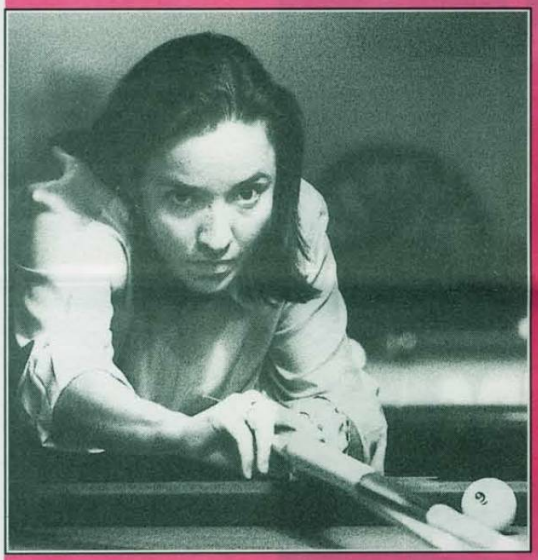
FISHER REVERSES TWO LOSSES

JEANETTE LEE. . .Runner-up 'Black Widow' couldn't contain fast-finishing Fisher in her web.



VIVIAN VILLARREAL. . .Losses to Lee, Dodson relegate 'Texas Tornado' to fourth.

HELENA THORNFELDT. . .Swedish star rises, then falls to surprising Maureen Seto.

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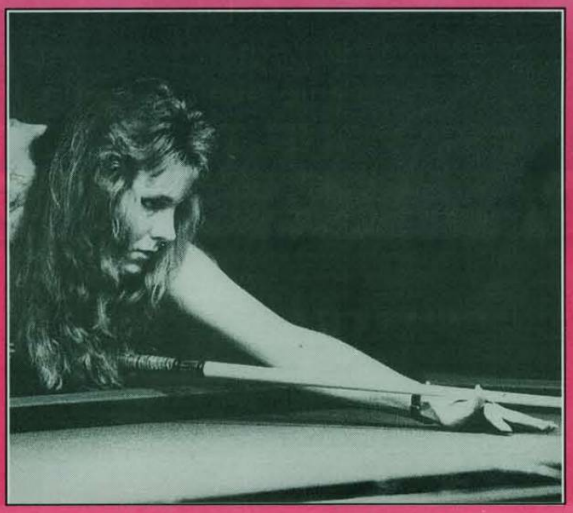


KERRY HARTSFIELD. . .Young Classic Tour regular also among 13th-16th finishers.

NBN Photos

Allison Rallies fro Deficit for 11-8

By JOHN CASI
NBN Editor

ANTON, MI—If a England's Allison Fish *Women's Professional B* she need wonder no lon

The 28-year-old who *Classic Tour* nearly sin 1995, made believers c come-from-behind victo suburb.

Playing before an en ence at the *Shark Club* in Canton, MI, Fisher once ag her current No. 1 rival on tour, Jeanette Lee, 11-8 in venue.

Fisher's victory was her third on the *1997 Classi* a commanding 425-point lead over Lee, winner of

Allison has amassed 1,835 points and also lea $33,500, including the $6,500 first-place prize she c event.

Once again Lee is her nearest competitor. Jeanet stops as well as her $4,500 runner-up check in the *In Shark Club*-hosted *Detroit Classic* improved her 19

Last year's *ESPN Ultimate Challenge Winner* holds the No. 3 position in earnings and is fourth in pro to top the $20,000 figure with $21,600.

Results, Points, Money Standi

Joe Puertas, who along with Mike Mazza owns the distinction as the only proprietor to have hosted a *Billiard Tour* seasons.

Joe's Waterford, MI *Shark Club* was the site th greater Detroit area. Puertas was pleased with the la year's four-day event.

Lee, known as the *Black Widow* on *Tour,* seems game following her 1996 marriage to men's profes

Her twin victories at the *Huebler Cues Nashville* *San Diego Classic* in May propelled this former New No. 2 position on tour.

Ironically, Lee's *Tour* sponsor *Imperial Internat Detroit Classic* and it appeared she would bring hom 9-4 verdict over Fisher in the winners' bracket fina

That was not to be; however, as Allison once ag play and shot-making ability en route to her seventh t

Former two-time *World Pool-Billiard Associatio* Dodson of Garden Grove, CA performed consisten to become the first repeat champion at the Detroit s

Fisher would have none of that, as she registered t the *1995 Shark Club* champ—the first in the winn again in the finals of the one-loss side.

That enabled Allison to have a second oppor adversary Lee. At the beginning of the final match would topple the reigning queen from her lofty thr

However as often is the case in these matches, the momentum and that certainly became evident in thi

Lee quickly seized the advantage in the finale, lea Fisher made one of her patented rallies.

Taking advantage of two crucial scratches by Lee in game No. 13 to take her first lead in the match a

The pair traded victories until the match was ev

Following a scratch by Lee on a successful atte *ball-in-hand* and methodically ran out for a 9-8 adv

Allison then broke and ran the table to gain the

Unfortunately for Jeanette, it was time for another Lee cut the 3-ball in the side, but the cueball went on corner pocket.

Sensing her first tournament victory in three trie

See FISHER, Page 27

TO LEE WITH DETROIT WIN

s

om 3-Game Triumph

H

nyone even remotely thought
er was slipping from atop the
Billiard Association ladder, he or
ger.
literally has dominated the *WPBA*
ce her arrival in the U.S. in late
of everyone with a convincing,
ory June 19-22 in this Detroit

thusiastic, knowledgeable audi-
gain rose to the occasion to defeat
the overall finale of this $50,000

c Tour. After five events she has
the other two 1997 stops.
ds the money earnings list with
laimed in this latest *Classic Tour*

te's victories in the previous two
nperial International-sponsored,
997 total to $24,550.
Vivian Villarreal, who currently
the points race, is the only other

ngs, See Page 27

the *Shark Club* in Canton, holds
n event in each of the five *Classic*

e first three *Classic* stops in the
rge, ardent following during this

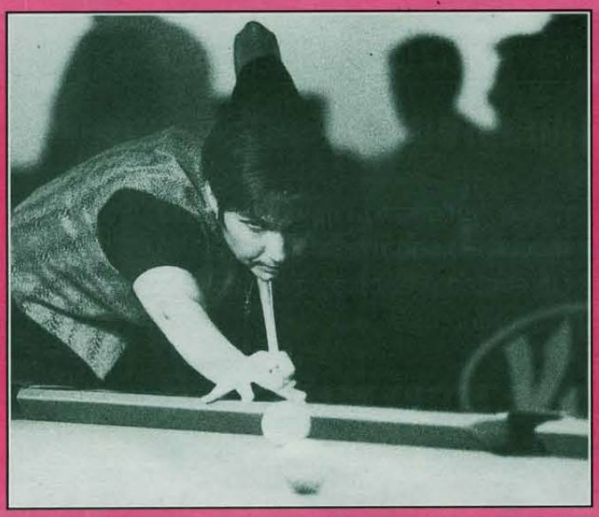
to be at or near the zenith of her
sional player George Breedlove.
Classic in April and the *Olhausen*
York-based 26-year-old into the

ional was the site sponsor for the
e a third successive title after her
ls.
gain displayed her solid position
itle in the past nine *WPBA* events.
n World 9-Ball Champion Robin
tly in this event and was a threat
stop.
two decisive 9-3 triumphs against
ers' bracket semifinals and then

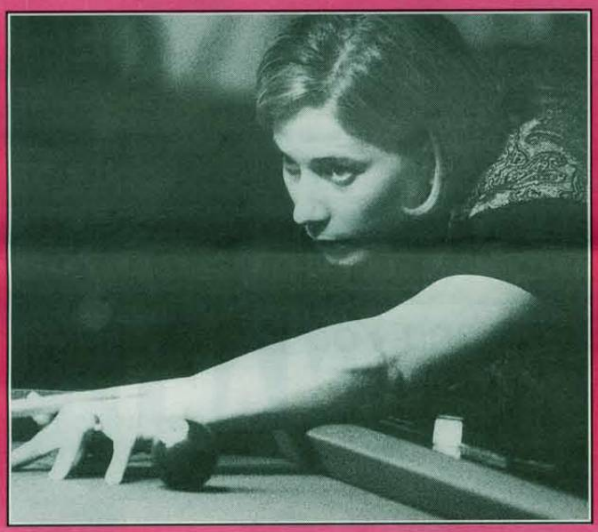
tunity against her newest chief
it appeared Jeanette once more
one.
slightest error can halt a player's
is instance.
ading 3-0, 4-1 and then 5-2 before

, Allison navigated a difficult run
t 7-6.
en for the final time at 8.
mpt to cut the 2-ball, Fisher took
vantage.
hill, leading 10-8.
r mistake, this one proved deadly.
e rail and rolled into the diagonal

es, Fisher calmly approached the



ROBIN DODSON. . .Former two-time WPA World 9-Ball Champ displayed old form.



GERDA HOFSTATTER. . .Ousted by improving Aileen Pippin to tie for 13th-16th.

LAURA SMITH. . .Usually steady veteran was among those tied for 13th-16th places.

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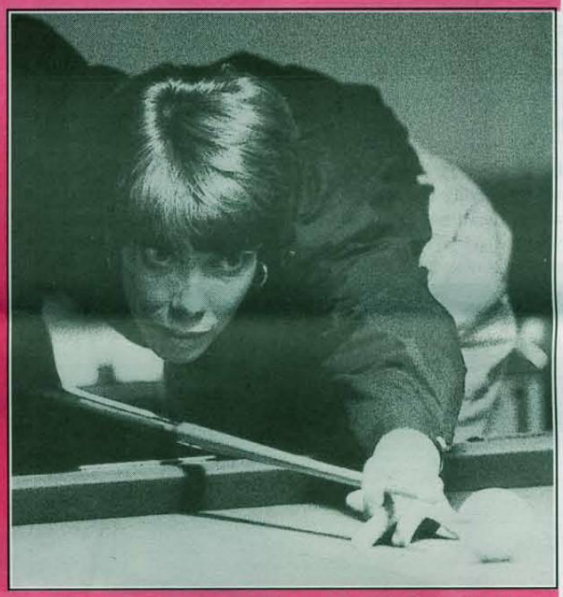

MARY GUARINO. . .Finished in deadlock with Ewa Mataya-Laurance for 5th-6th.

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APA

Continued from Page 7

when they arrive, and the winning team takes home a total of $10,000. With prizes like that for amateur players, everyone can afford to compete!

Vonda George of the *APA* team *The Little Chicago Gangsters* couldn't think of a single reason why she or her teammates would be doing anything else this weekend.

"We're all so excited just to be here in Las Vegas! This is our first time to compete in the *APA 9-Ball National Team Championships,"* George exclaimed. "We're looking forward to the challenge and the money."

Vonda and her teammates were able to win their way into the finals by playing under the *APA's* unique *Equalizer* handicapping system, which allows players with different skill levels to compete on an equal basis.

In order to qualify for the *National Team Championship* tournaments, players must have an established *Equalizer* skill level, and the team must participate in the *Spring Session* of play prior to the *National Team Championships.*

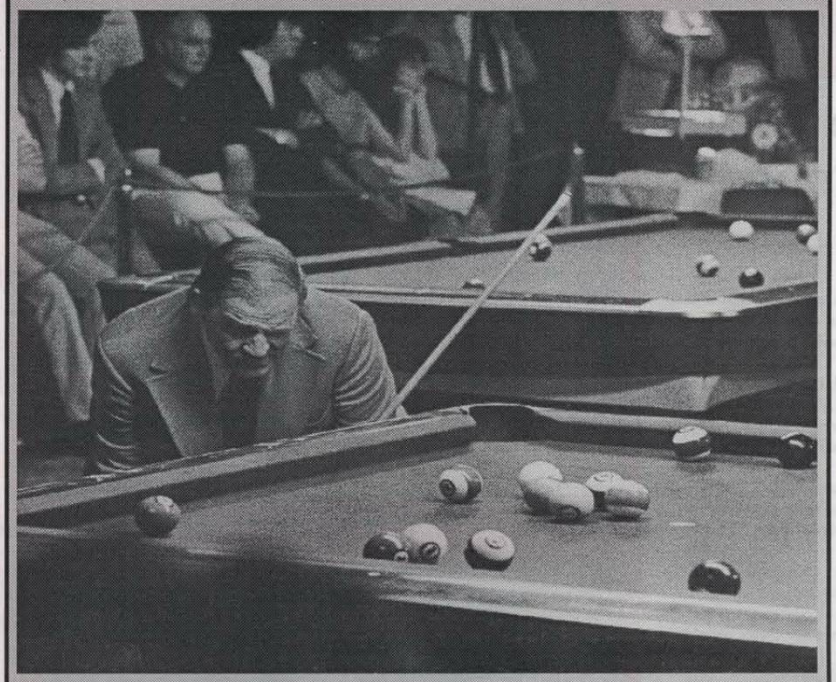
That is precisely the path *The Little Chicago Gangsters* took and found their journey ending in Las Vegas.

All 800 players have their own story to tell about their journey to Las Vegas and the road to *the APA National Team Championships.*

A new concept called the *Camel Corner Pocket* was introduced the night of July 25. Several large sections of space near the convention registration lobby were transformed into vendor booths sporting all types of pool paraphernalia, plus a charity event to benefit the *Red Cross* mid-west flood relief kicked off.

The area rocked with music, fun and excitement. During the eight-day span of these combined *APA-Camel* events, there's a whole lot of rackin' and rollin' going on!

Do You Remember When. . .



. . .Joe Balsis looked for an opening on his way to 47-and-out against young Jim Rempe? He defeated Rempe 150-149 for the U.S. Open title. Rempe missed the 9-ball, Balsis ran 47-and-out!

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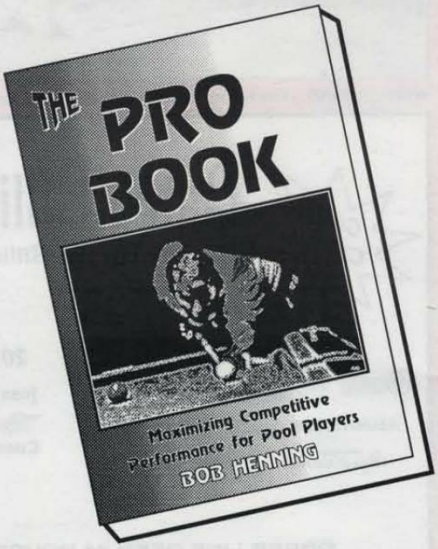

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8-BALL

7TH ANNUAL
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SIOUX CITY CONVENTION CENTER
SIOUX CITY, IA
JULY 11-13, 1997
TEAM FINAL STANDINGS

(Results of the top 8 teams, including team names, players' names for first place only, *Charter Holder* names, city and state or province and prizes awarded, are as follows:)

YOUTH DIVISION
(AGES 9-13)
1ST PLACE

Manford's Screwballs (Derick Hofer, Robert Pugh, Riley Pugh), *Manford Music & Vending*, Huron, SD ($1,500 savings bond, 3 two-piece cues, individual trophies)

2ND PLACE

Shar's #3, *D & R/Star*, Rochester, MN ($1,050 savings bond, 3 two-piece cues, individual trophies)

3RD PLACE

8-Ball Xpress, *Automatic Vendors*, Pierre, SD ($600 savings bond, 3 two-piece cues, individual trophies)

4TH PLACE

St. James Legion #6, *C & N Sales*, Mankato, MN ($300 savings bond, 3 two-piece cues, individual trophies)

5TH-6TH PLACES

Madsen's #3, *Amusement Services*, Lincoln, NE ($225 savings bond, 3 cue cases, individual trophies)

Owatonna Wagner's Lunch #2, *D & R/Star*, Rochester, MN ($225 savings bond, 3 cue cases, individual trophies)

7TH-8TH PLACES

Warner Warriors, *Warner Coin Machines*, Erie, PA ($150 savings bond, 3 cue cases, individual trophies)

Blooming Prairie Cue Co. #11, *D & R/Star*, Rochester, MN ($150 savings bond, 3 cue cases, individual trophies)

MINORS DIVISION
(AGES 14-17)
1ST PLACE

Q & Feather Ducks (Derek Benson, Brad March, Cody Hodgins), *River City Amusement*, Sioux City, IA ($1,500 savings bond, 3 two-piece cues, individual trophies)

2ND PLACE

Young Guns, *Western Automatic Amusements*, Ontario, Canada ($1,050 savings bond, 3 two-piece cues, individual trophies)

3RD PLACE

Who's Next, *Automatic Vendors*, Pierre, SD ($600 savings bond, 3 two-piece cues, individual trophies)

4TH PLACE

Blooming Prairie Cue Co. #3, *D & R/Star*, Rochester, MN ($300 savings bond, 3 two-piece cues, individual trophies)

5TH-6TH PLACES

Q & Feather Falcons, *River City Amusement*, Sioux City, IA ($225 savings bond, 3 cue cases, individual trophies)

Legion #8, *River City Amusement*, Sioux City, IA ($225 savings bond, 3 cue cases, individual trophies)

7TH-8TH PLACES

Cline, Roth & Simmons, *D & R/Star*, Rochester, MN ($150 savings bond, 3 cue cases, individual trophies)

Shar's #1, *D & R/Star*, Rochester, MN ($150 savings bond, 3 cue cases, individual trophies)

MAJORS DIVISION
(AGES 18-20)
1ST PLACE

Billiards On Broadway—Lucky Players/Big Shooters (Jerrod Bernath, Tyler Depew, Julian Bernath), *United Music*, Fargo, ND ($1,500 savings bond, 3 two-piece cues, individual trophies)

2ND PLACE

Natural Born Killers, *Western Automatic Amusements*, Ontario, Canada ($1,050 savings bond, 3 two-piece cues, individual trophies)

3RD PLACE

Q & Feather Condors, *River City Amusement*, Sioux City, IA ($600 savings bond, 3 two-piece cues, individual trophies)

4TH PLACE

McGrath, Suits & Schultz, *Joe Abraham & Sons*, Peoria, IL ($300 savings bond, 3 two-piece cues, individual trophies)

5TH-6TH PLACES

Faribo Billiards, *C & N Sales*, Mankato, MN ($225 savings bond, 3 cue cases, individual trophies)

Horseshoe #1, *C & N Sales*, Mankato, MN ($225 savings bond, 3 cue cases, individual trophies)

7TH-8TH PLACES

Q & Feather Goldfinches, *River City Amusement*, Sioux City, IA ($150 savings bond, 3 cue cases, individual trophies)

Sharp Shooters, *Twin States Music*, Hudson, WI ($150 savings bond, 3 cue cases, individual trophies)

HARDLUCK DIVISION
YOUTH
(AGES 9-13)
1ST PLACE

Cowboys, *Automatic Vendors*, Pierre, SD (3 *Valley* cues)

2ND PLACE

Q & Feather Owls, *River City Amusement*, Sioux City, IA

MINORS
(AGES 14-17)
1ST PLACE

Vanishing Point, *Game Farm Amusement*, Circle Pines, MN (3 *Valley* cues)

2ND PLACE

Owatonna Winning Streak, *D & R/Star*, Rochester, MN

MAJORS
(AGES 18-20)
1ST PLACE

Williams Enterprises, *Williams Enterprises*, Carmi, IL (3 *Valley* cues)

2ND PLACE

User Friendly, *United Music*, Fargo, ND

BEST-DRESSED TEAM
UNIFORM AWARD

Cowboys (Jordan Gourneau, Tucker Gourneau, Jacob Brouse, *Automatic Vendors*, Pierre, SD (Acrylic statues)

Cline, Roth & Simmons (Jade Cline, Adam Roth, Jeremiah Simmons), *D & R/Star*, Rochester, MN (Acrylic statues)

SINGLES FINAL STANDINGS

(Results of the top 8 finishers, including players' names, *Charter Holder* names, city and state or province and prizes awarded, are as follows:)

YOUTH DIVISION
(AGES 9-13)
1ST PLACE

Chad Nelson, *D&R/Star*, Rochester, MN ($500 savings bond & individual trophy)

2ND PLACE

Brandon March, *River City Amusement*, Sioux City, IA ($300 savings bond & individual trophy)

3RD-4TH PLACES

Chad Lund, *Madison Coin Machine*, Monona, WI ($150 savings bond & individual trophy)

Brady Lyons, *C & N Sales*, Mankato, MN ($150 savings bond & individual trophy)

5TH-8TH PLACES

Blake Larson, *Amusement Service*, Lincoln, NE ($75 savings bond)

Troy Stewart, *V.V.S.*, Lincoln, NE ($75 savings bond)

Chris Zeman, *River City Amusement*, Sioux City, IA ($75 savings bond)

Robert Pugh, *Manford Music & Vending*, Huron, SD ($75 savings bond)

MINORS DIVISION
(AGES 14-17)
1ST PLACE

John Zender, *C & N Sales*, Mankato, MN ($500 savings bond & individual trophy)

2ND PLACE

Darcy McGinley, *Western Automatic Amusements*, Ontario, Canada ($300 savings bond & individual trophy)

3RD-4TH PLACES

Bryan Fisher, *C & N Sales*, Mankato, MN ($150 savings bond & individual trophy)

Tim Hanuschik, *N.T.S.*, Omaha, NE ($150 savings bond & individual trophy)

5TH-8TH PLACES

Bryan Bliss, *Advanced Amusement*, Fargo, ND ($75 savings bond)

Derek Benson, *River City Amusement*, Sioux City, IA ($75 savings bond)

Kurt Sabin, *V.V.S.*, Lincoln, NE ($75 savings bond)

Brad March, *River City Amusement*, Sioux City, IA ($75 savings bond)

MAJORS DIVISION
(AGES 18-20)
1ST PLACE

Tony Merksick, *N.T.S.*, Omaha, NE ($500 savings bond & individual trophy)

2ND PLACE

Jamie Nichols, *Stansfield Vending*, LaCrosse, WI ($300 savings bond & individual trophy)

3RD-4TH PLACES

Jarrold Harris, *Cheyenne Music & Vending*, Cheyenne, WY ($150 savings bond & individual trophy)

Jeremy Frost, *Manford Music & Vending*, Huron, SD ($150 savings bond & individual trophy)

5TH-8TH PLACES

Jesse McGinty, *River City Amusement*, Sioux City, IA ($75 savings bond)

Tim Blake, *Central Distributing*, Omaha, NE ($75 savings bond)

Anthony Schultz, *Joe Abraham & Sons*, Peoria, IL ($75 savings bond)

Dustin Boyle, *River City Amusement*, Sioux City, IA ($75 savings bond)

DOUBLES
ADULT/JUNIOR
SCOTCH DOUBLES

(Results of the top 2 finishers in each division, including players' names, city and state or province represented and prizes won for 1st places only, are as follows:)

YOUTH DIVISION
(AGES 9-13)
1ST PLACE

Dana Tonjum-Rick Tonjum, Rochester, MN (*Valley* cues)

2ND PLACE

Beau Runningen-Tom Runningen, Fargo, ND

MINORS DIVISION
(AGES 13-17)
1ST PLACE

Jerrod Bernath-Marc Oelslager, Fargo, ND (*Valley* cues)

2ND PLACE

Dustin Sheedy-Pat Sheedy, Rochester, MN

MAJORS DIVISION
(AGES 18-20)
1ST PLACE

Jeremy Peck-Larry Peck, Rochester, MN (*Valley* cues)

2ND PLACE

Jesse McGinty-Ron Denney, Sioux City, IA

9-BALL

MALI FLORIDA
PRO OPEN
9-BALL TOUR
KISS SHOT BILLIARDS
JUPITER, FL
JUNE 21-22, 1997
64 PLAYERS
$2,000-ADDED
$6,000 TOTAL PRIZE FUND

(Results of the top 16 finishers, including final position, players' names and prize money won, are as follows:)

Pos.	Name	Prize
1	Tom Kennedy	$1,350
2	John Forster	875
3	John DiToro	675
4	Jon Dovinsky	500
5-6	Andy Tennent	400
5-6	Toby Sweet	400
7-8	Rob Melrose	325
7-8	Steve Knoll	325
9-12	Phil Fasciana	250
9-12	Grover Lines	250
9-12	Ray Martin	250
9-12	Shawn Putnam	250
13-16	Chito Burno	200
13-16	Mario Cruz	200
13-16	Paul Lordi	200
13-16	Luis Vierra	200

FLORIDA STATE
9-BALL CHAMPIONSHIP
KISS SHOT BILLIARDS
JUPITER, FL
JULY 5-6, 1997
64 PLAYERS
$2,000-ADDED
$14,600 TOTAL PRIZE FUND

Pos.	Name	Prize
1	Buddy Hall	$4,500
2	John DiToro	2,000
3	Ray Martin	675
4	John Forster	500
5-6	Bill Ferguson	400
5-6	Steve Knoll	400
7-8	Tom Kennedy	325
7-8	Shawn Putnam	325
9-12	David Grossman	250
9-12	Chris Machuga	250
9-12	Martin Broder	250
9-12	Toby Sweet	250
13-16	Mario Cruz	200
13-16	Steve Fiat	200
13-16	Morse Dugger	200
13-16	Bruce Pou	200

FLORIDA STATE
ONE-POCKET CHAMPIONSHIP
KISS SHOT BILLIARDS
JUPITER, FL
JULY 4, 1997
16 PLAYERS
$1,000-ADDED
$2,600 TOTAL PRIZE FUND
(Results of the top 4 finishers)

Pos.	Name	Prize
1	John Ervolino	$1,000
2	Buddy Hall	700
3	John DiToro	500
4	Al Koklys	400

MALI LADIES
FLORIDA TOUR
STOP NO. 4
BEACH CLUB BILLIARDS
KISSIMMEE, FL
JUNE 28-29, 1997
44 PLAYERS
$1,850 TOTAL PRIZE FUND

(Results of the top 12 finishers, including final position, players' names and prize money won, are as follows:)

Pos.	Name	Prize
1	Ming Ng	$500
2	Sandy Hamor	300
3	Bonnie Coats	250
4	Sabra Mac Arthur Beahn	200
5-6	Marvel Rossner	125
5-6	Dawn O'Brien	125
7-8	Denise Khidirian	75
7-8	Corinne Hoffman	75
9-12	Roberta Khork	50
9-12	Laura Lindauer	50
9-12	Tina Akard	50
9-12	Ann Brown	50

THE VIKING CUE 9-BALL TOUR

THE VIKING CUE
9-BALL TOUR
REGULAR EVENTS

(Results of the top 12 finishers, including final position, players' names and prize money won, are as follows:)

PRIZE MONEY INCLUDES
PLAYER AUCTION TOTALS
STOP NO. 18
McGAFFER'S CAFE & BILLIARDS
MERRILLVILLE, IN
JULY 12-13, 1997
$1,000-ADDED
($30 ENTRY FEE)
57 PLAYERS
$4,130 TOTAL PRIZE FUND

Pos.	Name	Prize
1	Leil Gay	$1,480
2	Steve McAninch	900
3	Brandon Ashcraft	600
4	Tom Stathis	400
5-6	Mark Pratico	200
5-6	Norm Wines	200
7-8	Tim Lilek	75
7-8	Jim Engles	75
9-12	Jamie Ferrell	50
9-12	Arthur Zulueta	50
9-12	John Zaksas	50
9-12	Claude Marie	50

NATIONAL 9-BALL TOUR RESULTS
REGULAR WEEKLY EVENTS

[Results of the top 24 finishers (or less), including final position, players' names, bonus points accumulated and prize money won, are as follows:]

JABATS BILLIARDS
COLUMBUS, GA
JULY 12-13, 1997
64 PLAYERS
$5,075 OVERALL PRIZE FUND
OPEN DIVISION 9-BALL
$4,375 TOTAL PRIZE FUND

Pos.	Name	Pts.	Prize
1	Larry Price	100	$1,150
2	Rodney Bishop	75	725
3	Monroe Jones	50	500
4	Mike Gulyassy	30	350
5-6	Bill Anderson	15	250
5-6	Jimmy Curt	15	250
7-8	Earl Kellum	10	175
7-8	Bill Wilson	10	175
9-12	Craig Houghton	8	125
9-12	Travis Summers	8	125
9-12	James Parr	8	125
9-12	Scotty Townsend	8	125
13-16	Jim Jennings	6	75
13-16	George Rothrock	6	75
13-16	Todd Noble	6	75
13-16	John Brewer	6	75

LADIES DIVISION 9-BALL
$700 TOTAL PRIZE FUND

Pos.	Name	Pts.	Prize
1	Diane Crane	100	$375
2	Donna Strickland	75	225
3	Tracie Wagner	50	100

SUPER TOAD
ENTERTAINMENT CENTER
DES MOINES, IA
JULY 12-13, 1997
65 PLAYERS
$3,500 OVERALL PRIZE FUND
OPEN DIVISION 9-BALL
$2,800 TOTAL PRIZE FUND

Pos.	Name	Pts.	Prize
1	Darren Everett	100	$800
2	David Matlock	75	550
3	Larry Nevel	50	350
4	Greg Fix	30	290
5-6	Gene Albrecht	15	190
5-6	Mark Robey	15	190
7-8	Coy Lee Nicholson	10	100
7-8	Darryl Smith	10	100
9-12	Andy Griedhofen	8	50
9-12	Gordon Peterson	8	50
9-12	Scott Phillips	8	50
9-12	Jeff Olney	8	50

LADIES DIVISION 9-BALL
$700 TOTAL PRIZE FUND

Pos.	Name	Pts.	Prize
1	Julie Mason	100	$350
2	Gail Lave	75	210
3	Ginny Keeler	50	140

VENUS BILLIARDS
ARLINGTON, TX
JUNE 28-29, 1997
81 PLAYERS
$3,500 OVERALL PRIZE FUND
OPEN DIVISION 9-BALL
$3,100 TOTAL PRIZE FUND

Pos.	Name	Pts.	Prize
1	Bob Vanover	100	$800
2	T.J. Davis	75	500
3	Jeff Gayle	50	350
4	Scott Downey	30	250
5-6	Mando Canales	15	200
5-6	Lance Sullivan	15	200
7-8	Brian Pitts	10	150
7-8	Tony Sulsar	10	150
9-12	Chris Jeanis	8	75
9-12	Will Cornell	8	75
9-12	Amos Bush	8	75
9-12	Gustauo Andrade	8	75
13-16	Jack Lynch	6	50
13-16	Woody Woodworth	6	50
13-16	Walter Hawley	6	50
13-16	Leslie Rogers	6	50

LADIES DIVISION 9-BALL
$400 TOTAL PRIZE FUND

Pos.	Name	Pts.	Prize
1	Karen Boutin	100	$225
2	Leslie Anne Rodgers	75	125
3	Gina Felix	50	50

SHOOTER'S BILLIARDS
OLATHE, KS
JUNE 25-29, 1997
132 PLAYERS
$9,600 OVERALL PRIZE FUND
OPEN DIVISION 9-BALL
$6,090 TOTAL PRIZE FUND

Pos.	Name	Pts.	Prize
1	Gene Albrecht	100	$1,250
2	David Matlock	75	850
3	Ike Runnels	50	650
4	Greg Fix	30	450
5-6	L.V. Abernathy	15	320
5-6	Cecil Tugwell	15	320
7-8	Larry Nevel	10	225
7-8	Gabe Owen	10	225
9-12	Larry Price	8	175
9-12	Mike Banks	8	175
9-12	Bill Mulloy	8	175
9-12	Rick Thompson	8	175
13-16	Larry York	6	125
13-16	Joe Salazar	6	125
13-16	Hank Lawson	6	125
13-16	Steve Hassell	6	125
17-24	Tevor Smith	4	75
17-24	Steve Sones	4	75
17-24	Tony Piazza	4	75
17-24	Steve Wilder	4	75
17-24	Scott Frost	4	75
17-24	Tom Watters	4	75
17-24	Mark Robey	4	75
17-24	Gordie Smith	4	75

LADIES DIVISION 9-BALL
$1,530 TOTAL PRIZE FUND

Pos.	Name	Pts.	Prize
1	Julie Mason	100	530
2	Ginny Keeler	75	380
3	Connie McBride	50	230
4	Peggy Clark	30	150
5-6	Alice Rim	15	120
5-6	Becky Smith	15	120

OPEN DIVISION ONE POCKET
$1,980 TOTAL PRIZE FUND

Pos.	Name	Pts.	Prize
1	David Matlock	100	$750
2	Steve Hassell	75	550
3	Ike Runnels	50	360
4	Joe Salazar	30	170
5-6	Cecil Tugwell	15	75
5-6	Larry Price	15	75

RIVER BEND BILLIARDS
JERSEYVILLE, IL
JUNE 21-22, 1997
33 PLAYERS
$3,500 OVERALL PRIZE FUND
OPEN DIVISION 9-BALL
$3,100 TOTAL PRIZE FUND

Pos.	Name	Pts.	Prize
1	Larry Nevel	100	$990
2	Rich Sager	75	650
3	Ike Runnels	50	460
4	John Wilson	30	300
5-6	Mike Dunklin	15	225
5-6	Mike Vergere	15	225
7-8	Randy Pope	10	125
7-8	Dawayne Pearson	10	125

LADIES DIVISION 9-BALL
$400 TOTAL PRIZE FUND

Pos.	Name	Pts.	Prize
1	Gina Strader	100	200
2	Kim Pearson	75	100
3	Angela O'Bea	50	75
4	Amanda Carmora	30	25

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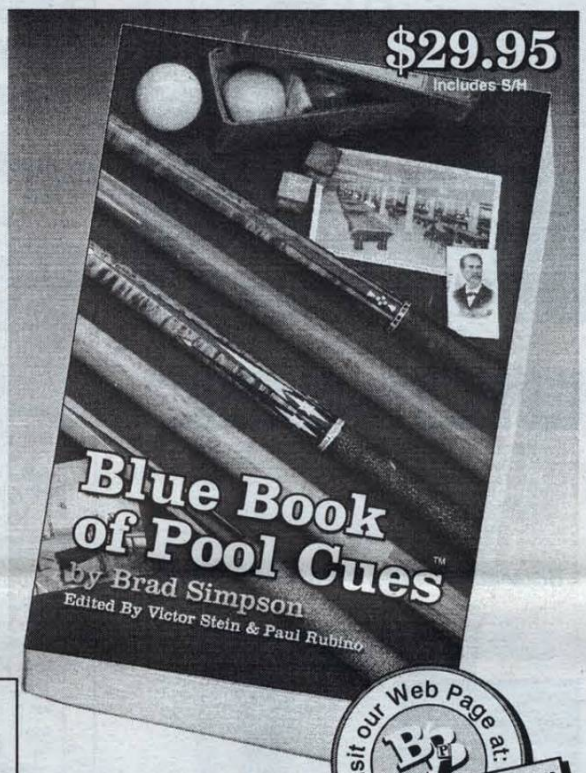

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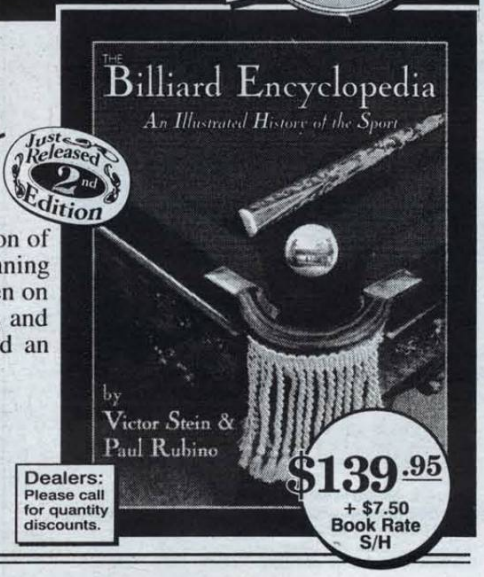

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Mother Doesn't Always Know Best

By BEN G. CARRUTHERS

The arena is set. The combatants have chosen their weapons. The bell sounds. The contest begins.

Who will emerge victorious? The strongest? The smartest? The quickest? The most skillful?

History shows us the outcome can never be predicted. Our heroes come in all sizes and shapes and their victories are elusive and rarely consistent.

If we could always predict the winner, games of contest would be unexciting.

You've often heard the expression, "We located the enemy and discovered it was. . .us."

In competition we are often our greatest enemy. Or so it seems.

Why?

Competition is uncomfortable. Out of 32 entrants in a tournament there are 31 losers. Agony is uncomfortable and each of us has a built in *protector* to urge us to avoid uncomfortable situations lest we bring necessary grief to ourselves.

The Great Protector

This is the paradox of the playing field. The desire to succeed, and the desire to escape the sting of self-punishment do not like living together.

The *Great Protector* within us all is continually sending out warning signals: "You'll get hurt if you continue. . ." Discretion is the better part of valor, so we usually take a detour.

If you've ever tried to lose weight, learn a new language or memorize a speech, you've experienced the *Great Protector* at work.

You'll hear a dozen logical and convincing reasons why you should quit immediately and get back to your comfort zone.

Every beginning competitor has bumped into this paradox. An inner voice says, "Go for it! You can do it! Victory is sweet."

Another voice says, "Discontinue! Pull the plug! Bail out! Quit! You're only inviting more pain!"

The enemy is not ourselves, but the inability to recognize our natural reflexes are warning us to avoid disaster. It's natural to avoid pain.

The challenge becomes more one of figuring out a way to say to the brain, "There, there, brain. . .everything is going to be OK. Just go over there and sit down and enjoy the ride."

Avoiding pain is not only a cause and effect thought process but an inbuilt instinct we all have.

When you attempt to convince your brain to do the opposite of what common sense tells it to do, you are engaged in the process of readjusting your instincts.

Not an easy task! And not many people have been able to accomplish this.

Mother Doesn't Always Know Best

If you persist, your *Protective Self* will begin to trust you and you will overcome that warning voice of retreat.

The turning point in your career as a competitor often comes with your recognition of this paradox in the human makeup.

No longer do you consider *the voices* as your enemy or your *Lesser Self* or some facet of your personality with which you have to wrestle and pin it to the ground.

You recognize this mysterious paradox as a mother voice trying to be kind to you.

But mothers don't always know best.

Once you recognize it as your great distracter and not a cowardly trait or spineless flaw in your character, you have turned the corner.

You know the opponent within you is not a grotesque monster you have to wrestle into submission, but a friendly mothering figure that is just *looking out for your comfort.*

It's a continuing challenge. As you climb higher on the ladder of performance and your victories mount, your *Great Protector* discovers more reasons to offer you to jump off before the fall gets too costly.

The enemy then is not your opponent, but yourself. The *Great Protector* within you. It's your main distraction and your opponent's best friend.

Each match offers you the opportunity to become stronger in your defense against the *Great Protector.*

It exists in all of us to one degree or another. And when you think you have become the master, it resurfaces to remind you you are human.

Don't fight the realization it exists. The first victory is to recognize it. It's an uphill battle and no champion has ever avoided it.

Convert it to work with you toward your goals. Seduce it. Demonstrate the courage of your convictions. Overcome it and victory will seem a simple matter.

When the final presentations of the tournament are made and the winners are announced, you may not be in the circle. But if in your own matches you are satisfied at having won your own personal battle against the *Great Protector,* you've won a personal victory.

No doubt, you'll be joining those in the *Winners' Circle* soon.

Mali Florida Pro Open Tour

Hall Wins Florida State 9-Ball Tournament with 13-11 Victory over DiToro in Finals

By RANDEE PARASKEVOPOULOS
Special to NBN

JUPITER, FL—The fireworks flew over Florida during the *Mali Florida Pro Open 9-Ball Championship* weekend.

Paul Johnson's *Kiss Shot Billiards* was ready for the display, with bleachers and plenty of food and drink on hand.

The weekend kicked off with the crowning of the *Mali Florida Pro Open 9-Ball Tour's Player of the Year.* Jon Dovinsky received the honor and a glass trophy. Steve Knoll was named *Most Improved Player.*

The sparks started flying July 4 with the *Invitational One-Pocket* tournament. John Ervolino put on a one-pocket clinic, as he dazzled the crowd with his showmanship and skill. Buddy Hall took home second-place honors. John DiToro and Al Koklys finished third and fourth, respectively.

A full field of 64 earned the chance to compete in the 9-ball championships by qualifying in the points battle after a full 16-tournament schedule.

See Results, Page 17

Saturday was a day of close matches, with 23 going *hill-hill.*

It was *The Rifleman* Hall defeating DiToro on the winners' side in a very close 9-7 match on Sunday. DiToro went to the one-loss side and eliminated Ray Martin in a 9-2 finals match.

Before the Hall-DiToro overall finals, Mrs. Al Koklys sang the national anthem so beautifully, it set the stage better than at any *Super Bowl* or championship prize fight.

The finals—one race-to-13 that would decide it all—was a match that had everything a spectator, pro or non-pro could ever want.

With the score 6-6, Buddy started playing his methodical style earning him perfect position on every shot. He seemed to have everything within his grasp, as *The Bull* DiToro seemed to be all but dead.

John started his comeback like a charging bull, as his name implies. He was down 11-12, but with the crowd on his side cheering *The Bull* to victory, DiToro was running out to bring the score to *double-hill* and send the championship match into a one-game playoff.

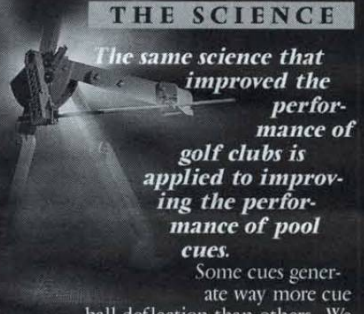
What if changing your shaft could change your game?

THE PROBLEM

Cue ball deflection- Less is better. Way less is way better.

The vast majority of all pool shots are missed when the player uses english or hits the shot hard. This is why. The more sidespin you put on the cue ball and the harder you hit the shot, the more the ball squirts or deflects off line. Consequently the more you have to adjust or compensate your aim. The less cue ball deflection you have to deal with, the more precise your game will be.

THE SCIENCE



The same science that improved the performance of golf clubs is applied to improving the performance of pool cues.

Some cues generate way more cue ball deflection than others. We undertook a two-year research and testing program and launched the first truly scientific analysis of the performance dynamics of a pool cue.

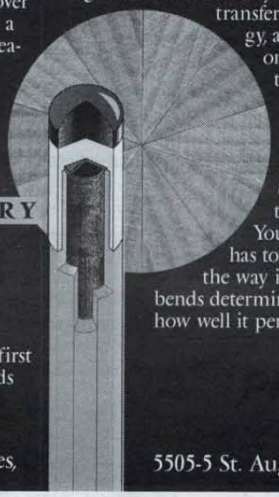
The backbone of our research is a robot we developed, called "Iron Willie." What makes him special is that he can absolutely reproduce the same stroke over and over. We also developed a very accurate method of measuring cue ball deflection—so exact that we can see the effect the shape of your tip has on performance.

THE DISCOVERY

Many old theories on what made a pool cue play well were disproved.

We found that the way the first 10 inches of your shaft bends on impact is the key to how well a cue performs.

Conventional shafts have a tendency to buckle or break down on impact. This buckling has a big effect on how well your cue transfers energy, and is one of the major causes of cue ball deflection.



Your shaft has to bend; the way it bends determines how well it performs.

Utilizing state-of-the-art composites and polymers allowed us to control the way the shaft flexes.

The engineering in the front end of the 314 shaft serves two purposes: (1) to absorb and dissipate the compression generated on impact, and (2) to control the shaft's stiffness.

The 314's ferrule is made of an indestructible polymer designed for its special properties of stiffness and hardness. Internally, the first five inches is reinforced with a composite material fortified with micro-fibers. Together, these patent-pending technologies alter the shaft's natural tendencies to buckle and allow for a more efficient bend.

314 SHAFTS

It can.

The 314 Shaft is the only technologically advanced pool cue in the world. More importantly, it will make you a better pool player, whether you're a beginner or a professional.

THE RESULTS

The 314 shaft improves performance in the four major categories

Accuracy:
The least deflecting cue we measured generates at least 25% more cue ball deflection than any butt with a 314 shaft. This dramatic reduction is guaranteed to make your game more precise.

Consistency:
One piece shafts can be stiffer in one direction than in another. The 314 shaft is composed of ten pieces which are radially aligned to produce a 360° sweet spot. You will never get this degree of consistent performance with a one piece shaft.

Power:
The 314 shaft produces considerably more spin. This increased power makes it much easier to move the cue ball around the table. You simply won't have to stroke as hard to draw and follow the cue ball. *We guarantee your game will be more powerful.*

Feel:
Traditional shaft's vibrate on impact and distorts the natural feel of the cue. The purer transfer of energy in the 314 shaft produces less vibration and leaves the player with a very solid feel.

If you are serious about the game of pool, try on a 314 shaft. You will play better pool.

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Book Excerpt

The Pro Book: Reference Training Often Can Assure Maximizing Competitive Performance

(The following is an excerpt from the *Pro Book: Maximizing Competitive Performance for Pool Players* by Bob Henning. It is published by *Bebob Publishing.*)

Reference Training

There are two different ways to gain mastery of a performance art.

The first way is to engage yourself in the art and keep doing it day after day, month after month and year after year. If you keep doing it long enough, you will accumulate a vast background of experience you can call upon while performing.

"The second way to gain mastery is called Reference Training."

The second way to gain mastery is called *reference training*. In this method you learn the basic forms inherent in the art, train until you can execute each one flawlessly and then learn how to adapt and connect them to create a performance. This way of learning is superior to the first.

In figure skating, for example, skaters learn maneuvers like the spread eagle, the camel spin, the axle and many more. When they skate a routine, they string these maneuvers together in creative ways.

The same concept applies to musicians who learn chords, scales, keys and rhythms. All musical performances are made up of these components.

Although pool players have been talking about different shots and moves since the beginning of the game, the concept of reference training in pool is relatively new.

One of the first people to think in terms of standardization was Ray Martin in his book *The 99 Critical Shots of Pool*, first published in 1972. This book is a collection of shots, many of them applicable to Straight Pool.

The greatest breakthrough in reference training for pool players, however, came from Bert Kinister in his video *The 60 Minute Workout for Eight Ball and Nine Ball*, which was introduced around 1991.

In this revolutionary tape, Bert broke position play into 27 shots a player could learn and use as reference shots in competition.

This video had an enormous impact on the skill level of developing players. A whole population of pool players elevated their games in dramatic fashion.

Bert, an advanced level *BCA* instructor, continues to offer some of the most advanced training and coaching material available in pool.

The Power of Naming

When you name something it becomes an entity exclusive of itself and separate from all other things. This process of naming is related to the process of distinction we looked at in *Chapter One*.

The power of naming dates back to the beginning of time and mankind has always associated the act of naming with mastery and authority.

In the *Bible*, Adam was granted dominion over and the right to name all living things. When you name something, based on your knowledge of it, you put yourself in a position of authority.

When you can consistently execute a reference shot ***and*** know it by name, you have that same authority and mastery.

You can call it forth in your mind by name and get an instantaneous and perfect mental picture. Your muscles recognize it and know how to produce.

Knowing Your Percentage

You have probably heard the old saying, *Knowledge is power.* Knowing your percentage to successfully execute any reference shot is also power.

You can gain this knowledge by charting the results of your practice sessions. Charting you percentages *periodically* allows you to track your progress and to compute an average.

The simple act of putting attention on your percentages in practice puts pressure on you similar to the pressure you face in competition.

You probably will not perform as well when you are charting your results as you do when you are not. The act of measuring brings an *observer* into the practice session in the form of your own mind.

Your best performance when charting with this *observer* is a good indication of how well you can play under pressure. Measuring brings reality to your estimation of your ability.

"Your best performance when charting is how well you play under pressure."

Charting will also increase your understanding of other players. Assessing percentages is a type of focus and the more you exercise it, the more efficient it becomes. The more accurately you can assess the proficiency of others, the better you can formulate your strategy to win.

The Pro Book Reference Series

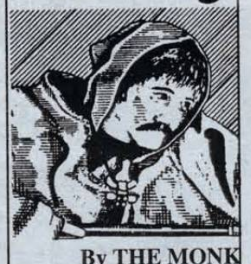
The Pro Book Reference Series is designed for training purposes. It breaks the game of pool down into basic tools that can be used to respond to any table situation.

There are sections of position shots, safeties, kicks, kick safeties and banks. There is an additional section on drills.

Each reference shot is named and laid out on a table graphic complete with cueball hit, notes and a chart for recording your performance.

The purpose of this system is to make your practice time more effective, your memory more efficient.

Point The Way



By THE MONK

Once we send in our entry fee we are basically on our own. It's like diving off a cliff. No turning back. Our cards are on the table. We like it this way.

To put yourself on the line and take a chance is what you are all about. Both male and female relish the uncertainty of a match. We spend our entire pool-playing careers seeking uncertainty.

Often times we are left with great disappointment. Still we are ready to send in our entry fee for the next tournament and begin the process all over again.

Pool players spend their entire lives holding onto something out of reach. That's the way we are.

From one dream to the next, we follow the lover who is sure to be moving on.

It would be nice to have someone to lean on, but it only works for a little while. Everything we seek is just out of reach.

Faith in the face of defeat is the gift of the chosen.

At the time of this writing I am in the mountains of Utah. A heavenly place.

Las Vegas, NV is 300 miles behind me. The *VNEA* championships are over.

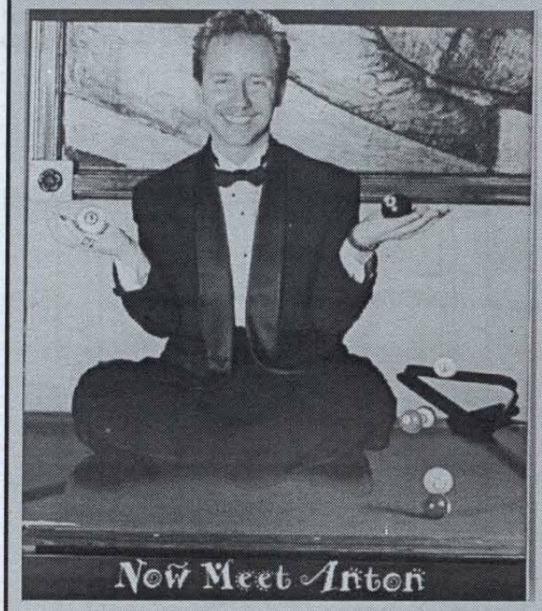
The sun is coming up over *Bryce Canyon*. A spectacular sight.

The vastness of this place puts a new perspective on the pursuit of our dreams.

As I watch the sun rise from my motor home, sipping a great cup of coffee, my thoughts are drawn to a tournament in Minneapolis, MN.

That's the way it's gotta be. One more stop. One more test. See you on the trail.

Chef Anton



Welcome back to the latest delicacy in ***Chef Anton's Magical Menu of Pool Ball Wizardry.***

This has certainly proven to be an exciting year. I just got married to Bonnie *The One* Stephens and this fall I will be appearing on the live sports show following *Monday Night Football.*

Here's one I will perform. . .*LIVE!!!*

This shot is known as ***Mark the Mark.*** This is one of my favorite pool *betchas* which I created. The challenge is to make the 7-, 8- and 9-balls in one shot in numerical order.

Of all the shots I *cook up,* this is certainly the *Chef's Choice.* It's quick, easy and has a surprise ending.

When presented with an ingratiatingly unctuous personality like mine, you are sure to leave your marks perplexed and penniless. . .*Bon Appetit.*

Set the shot as diagrammed. As you can tell by my sophisticated drawing, the 9-ball is balanced on top of the 7-ball. If you would like to learn the secret to this mind-boggling and drink-winning proposition, I can be contacted at *909-483-0970.*

Strike the cueball with high outside English. *Old Whitey* will go off two rails and then strike the inside of the cuestick which you will lay down as the shot is moving.

DO NOT lay the cue down before the shot or you will give away the secret ending. The cueball will then gracefully glide toward the 9-ball, thus triumphantly pocketing the yellow striped demon in the side pocket.

SEND A *BETCHA* AND WIN A FREE VIDEO AUTOMATICALLY

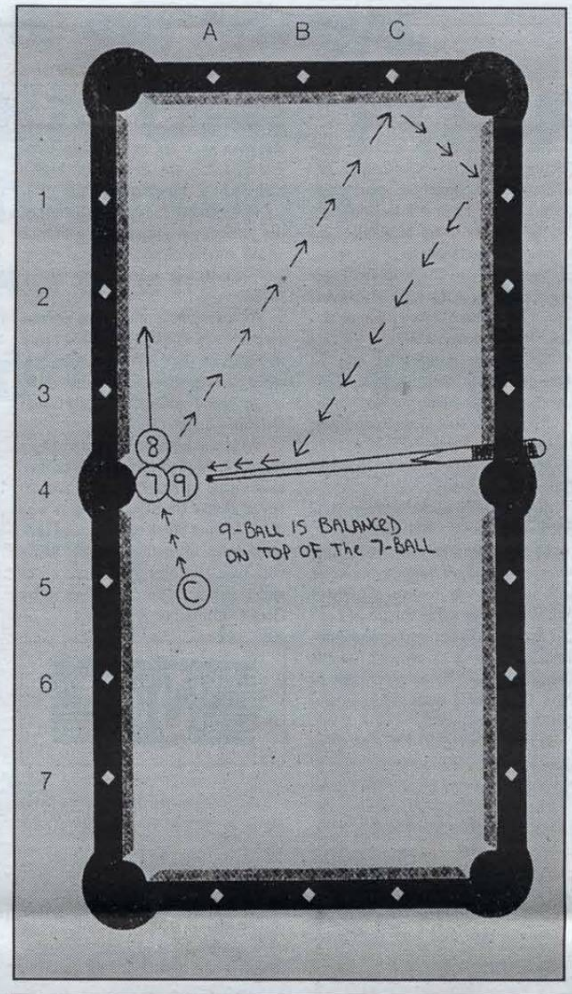
I need your help. I am in search of learning every *betcha* in existence. For example, the oldest pool *betcha* known to man is where three balls are balanced on the end rail in a pyramid configuration and you bet your mark you can hit the top ball without knocking it off the table and without touching the other two balls first.

This is exactly what I want. So if you know any *grifts*—even if they do not apply to pool—send them to me immediately.

I will give you an autographed video for every *betcha* sent to me that I have not seen before. If you are not sure if I have seen it, send it anyway.

Please mail your entries to: ***Chef Anton's Trick Shot Contest, 6213 Sacramento AV, Alta Loma, CA 91701.***

Thanks and *Bon Appetit.*



BCA North American 9-Ball Events Slated for Poconos, Nov. 10

CORALVILLE, IA—The *Billiard Congress of America (BCA)* is pleased to announce the *5th Annual North American 9-Ball Championships* will be held at the *Mount Airy Lodge Resort* in the *Pocono Mountains* of eastern Pennsylvania, Nov. 10-15, 1997.

This year's event is expanding to include both the $31,000-added *Men's/Women's* singles and *Scotch Doubles* divisions (open to any amateur player, Nov. 10-13) and a new four-person *9-ball Team Men's* and *Women's* divisions (open to *BCA* league players only, Nov. 14-15).

The host community of Mt. Pocono, PA is ideally situated for convenient access from nearly anywhere in the northeastern United States.

Play will be on 80 *Valley* 3-1/2x7-foot tables and feature formats of double-elimination, races-to-11 *($20,000-added Men's Singles),* races-to-9 *($10,000-added Women's Singles),* races-to-5/4 *($1,000-added Scotch Doubles)* and races-to-17 in both the 100-percent payback *Men's/Mixed Team* and *Women's Team* divisions.

Singles entry fees are $100 in each division, with a $25 registration fee for *BCA* members and a $50 registration fee for non-members. Fields are limited to the first 512 men and 128 women.

Scotch Doubles entry is $100/team and is limited to the first 64 teams entered with teams composed of any man and woman partners.

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BILLIARD FANATIC!

VNEA

Continued from Page 2

weekend, world renown pool instructor and strong supporter of the *VNEA*, Jerry Briesath gave instruction and individual attention to the many youth who surrounded his practice table.

Briesath, *Academic Dean* at *The Pool School* in Madison, WI, spent countless hours with the juniors helping them with everything from cueball control to the correct break speed.

Along with Briesath, two other pool aficionados took the weekend's stage. *Speed Pool* expert David Pearson *(The Ginger Wizard)*, dazzled the young players with his lightning quick table runs.

The *Ginger Wizard* is the world record holder for running a table (15 balls) in a time of 26.5 seconds. *Wizard* played several challenge games of 8-ball and 9-ball, performed some amazing trick shots and offered any of the youngsters $1,000 if he or she could beat his world record *Speed Pool* time.

In addition and adding a terrific bit of spice to the weekend's events, was the *2nd Annual VNEA International Junior Speed Pool Championships.*

Nearly every junior took a crack at the title and a chance to advance to a race-to-3 format in *The Pocket.* The following speedy marksmen triumphed per division:

Youth Division—Riley Pugh, *Manford Music & Vending,* Huron, SD

Minors Division—Andrew Schietstel, *Western Automatic Amusement,* Ontario, Canada

Majors Division—Ruben Kubista, *D &R/Star,* Rochester, MN.

VNEA's final pool treat for the juniors was *Dr. Cue* Tom Rossman. This guy is a pool genius who conducts very highly-spirited shows that are always a terrific source of playful, yet instructive entertainment.

Dr. Cue travels the country conducting *Artistic Pool Challenges.* After showing his audiences hundreds of unique shots, the doctor sets up shots for the players to try in a fun-filled competitive atmosphere.

The *Sioux City Convention Center* was a perfect setting for *The 2nd Annual VNEA International Junior Artistic Pool Championships.*

Splitting the competition into the three divisions, the results were as follows:

Youth Division—Beau Runningen, *United Music,* Fargo, ND

Minors Division—Jerrod Bernath, *United Music,* Fargo, ND

Majors Division—Matt Benton, *D &R/Star,* Faribault, MN

The *Official Team Opening Ceremonies* kicked off Saturday morning with an extremely colorful display of flags. Marching to the sounds of *Let's Get Ready to Rumble,* 13 excited juniors, led by *VNEA's Mascot Charlie Cougar,* began a classy procession of state flags along with the U.S. and Canadian flags.

On hand were *VNEA Executive Director* Gregg Elliott and *Assistant Executive Director* Brian Elliott, both of Bay City, MI and *Tournament Director* Craig Dumdei of C & N Sales in Mankato, MN.

Also, Huebler from *Huebler Industries* of Linn, MO welcomed the players and graciously raffled a beautiful *Huebler* cue and case worth more than $500.

The *VNEA Junior Tournament Committee* members, consisting of Bill Lane, Linnea Rowley and Bert Olson also were there as a major part of this year's *Championships.*

With his arms full of give-aways and a smile on his face, *Charlie Cougar* made his way through the crowd making new friends every step.

Throughout the day on Saturday, the juniors participated in a unique added dimension to the junior event. This challenge was called *Speed Break.*

As the name implies, the players set out to see who had the fastest break in the *VNEA.* The *Speed Break* is measured by a consistently accurate, dual-lasered speed meter provided by *Guido Orlandi Custom Cues.*

With hundreds of players taking a shot at the highest speed and a chance to compete in *The Pocket* for the *1st Speed Break Championships,* it was the following break blasters who captured titles in their divisions, along with tube-like *New Image* cue cases and a terrific *Mali Cue* donated by Greg O'Connor of *Mali Cues:*

Youth Division—Kris Radley (21.4 mph), *River City Amusement,* Sioux City, IA

Minors Division—Dustin Sheedy (31 mph), *D & R/Star,* Rochester, MN

Majors Division—Matt Decker (27.1 mph), *United Music,* Fargo, ND

After a long day of rugged team competition Saturday, the evening brought a special feature to the tables—the *Adult-Junior Scotch Doubles.*

The junior shooters had the opportunity to pair with their adult counterparts to vie for championships in their divisions and beautiful *Valley* cuestcks donated by *Valley Recreation Products.*

Final results were as follows:

Youth Division (75 teams)—Dana Tonjum-Rick Tonjum, Rochester, MN

Minors Division (88 teams)—Jerrod Bernath-Marc Oelslager, Fargo, ND

Majors Division (43 teams)—Jeremy Peck-Larry Peck, Rochester, MN

An incredible 412 participants (206 teams) joined forces for this fun-filled yet very competitive *Scotch Doubles* event.

When the *Team* competition resumed on Sunday afternoon, all of the finals matches would now be played in *The Pocket* and broadcast in a shot-by-shot fashion by professional poolcaster Jim Stevens of San Diego, CA.

All of the colorful finals action, along with the play-by-play documentary would be available to players to purchase on video for their *VNEA* history shelves.

At the end of the day, only one team stood atop its respective division. The following *7th Annual International Junior Champion* were proudly crowned the best in the *VNEA:*

Youth Champion—Manford's Screwballs (Derick Hofer, Robert Pugh, Riley Pugh), *Manford Music & Vending,* Huron SD

Minors Champion—Q & Feather Ducks (Derek Benson, Brad March, Cody Hodgins), *River City Amusement,* Sioux City, IA

Majors Champion—Billiards On Broadway—Lucky Players/Big Shooters (Jerrod Bernath, Tyler Depew, Julian Bernath), *Madison Coin Machine,* Monona, WI

As in years past, the *Best Dressed Team* competition was filled with color and spice. The winners of beautiful acrylic statues were:

•Cowboys, *Automatic Vendors,* Pierre, SD

•Cline, Roth & Simmons, *D & R/Star,* Rochester, MN

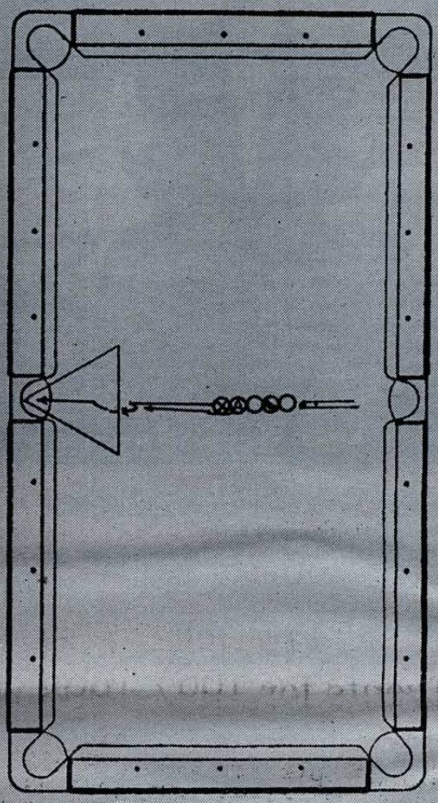
Congratulations to the winners and all of those who participated for making the *7th Annual VNEA International Junior Championships* an event to remember forever.

Also, a very special thank to all of the terrific sponsors:

•Valley Recreation Products•Huebler Industries•C & N Sales•River City Amusement•Viking Cues•MaliCues•Falcon Cues•McDermott Cues•Paragon Cues•Predator•New Image•Exclusively Billiards.

Wright Angles

The Leap Frog Shot



This shot will have to be categorized as a proposition shot. It is speed and triangle sensitive.

By triangle sensitive I mean you need a flexible plastic triangle with a lip on it. Be sure to set the side with the highest ridge toward the called ball. This will give it more lift after contact.

At first you wouldn't think that ball X could be pocketed, but it can.

Be sure to set the triangle straight and that goes for the row of balls, also.

When you strike the cueball, make a direct center-line hit with a moderate speed stroke.

Ball X moves forward with ball A trailing close. When ball X contacts the lip of the rack and starts up in the air, ball A is there to push it over and into the side pocket.

Rick Wright

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U.S. Open 9-Ball Championship to Begin '97 PBT Tour in Chesapeake Sept. 16-21

CHESAPEAKE, VA—The *1997 U.S. Open 9-Ball Championship* is the first event of the year on the *Pro Billiards Tour,* Sept. 16-21, and is sponsored by Barry Behrman's *Q-Master Billiards, Brunswick Billiards* and various other sponsors.

This is a non-sanctioned *PBT* event and is open to any bonafide player.

It is appropriate this year's *Open* will be the inaugural event in the brand new convention center in Chesapeake, Va.

There will be 20,00 square feet with seating for more than 1,000 spectators.

Behrman and his staff has worked harder than ever to produce the best *U.S Open* ever!

The *22nd Annual U.S. Open 9-Ball Championship* will include *Q-Master's* initial $50,000, plus added monies of other sponsors for a total of $100,000 in prize money based on a full field. The field is open to 128 players.

U.S. Open Defending Champion Rodney Morris will be trying to repeat. Back-to-back wins have only been accomplished once in *U.S. Open* history, by Nick Varner in 1989-1990.

Some previous champions include Reed Pierce—1995, Efren Reyes—1994, Tommy Kennedy—1992, Buddy Hall—1991, Mike Lebron—1988, Jimmy Reid—1985, Earl Strickland—1984, 1987 and 1993, David Howard—1982 and 1986, the late Louie Roberts—1979, Steve Mizerak—1978, Allen Hopkins—1977 and 1981 and Mike Sigel, 1976, 1980 and 1983.

For player information or registration, phone the *Pro Billiard Tour Headquarters* at *888-PRO-POOL.* Send your entry fee of $500 to the *PBT* (No other fees required).

There will be a mandatory players' meeting on Tuesday Sept. 16 at 1 p.m. Play is scheduled to begin on the same date at 7 p.m.

For ticket and seating information, phone *Q-Master Billiards* Norfolk location at any time, 24 hours daily at *757-853-8900* or the Virginia Beach location at *757-499-8900* after 10 a.m. EDT daily.

For hotel reservations phone the *Holiday Inn* at *757-523-1500.* The hotel is offering single or double occupancy for $69, ask for *U.S. Open* rates.

Vendors interested in participating in this event should phone *Q-Master Billiards* at one of the above numbers.

Match times for matinee at 11:30 a.m., 1:30 p.m. and 3:30 p.m. Evening times are 7 p.m., 9 p.m. and 11 p.m.

VIP seat prices for the entire event are $130. For Wednesday through Sunday, $120. For Thursday through Sunday, $100 and for Friday through Sunday, $80.

General Admission seat prices for the entire event are $100. Wednesday through Sunday, $90, Thursday through Sunday, $70 and Friday through Sunday, $50.

Daily seating, general admission (sold only at the door) for an all-afternoon or all-evening session is $10.

There will be 10 *Brunswick Gold Crown III* tables used with *Simonis #860* cloth and *Centennial* ball sets. These tables will be sold either before or at the show for $3,500 each and will include the cloth and ball sets.

For information or to reserve one of these tables, contact Stan at *Q-Master's Showroom* at *757-499-8940* Tuesday through Saturday between 11 a.m. and 7 p.m. EDT.

Coinciding with the *U.S. Open* will be an *APA* amateur event in a separate 7,200-square-foot arena which will be open to 600 players. For *APA* event information, phone Tony Salvati at *757-249-1964.*

Q-Master Billiards looks forward to all of the greatest players and knowledgeable fans for the 22nd edition of the *U.S. Open 9-Ball Championship.*

Camel Pro Billiard Series Schedules Seven Events for 1997-1998 Season's Tour Slate

WINSTON-SALEM, NC—Events in Las Vegas and Denver are among the seven tournaments set for the seven-event *Camel Pro Billiards Series* schedule released by series sponsor *R.J. Reynolds Tobacco Co.*

This is the *Camel Brand's* second year of professional billiards sponsorship. Nearly $600,000 is at stake, including $251,500 in the year-long point fund an additional $320,000 in event purses.

The *Camel Pro Billiards Series* kicks off with a rare 8-ball contest, the *Riviera Hotel Pro 8-Ball Open,* July 28-Aug. 1 at the *Riviera Hotel and Casino* in Las Vegas.

The *U.S. Open 9-Ball Championship,* pool's longest-running and most prestigious professional contest spanning 22 consecutive years, is the second event of the *Series,* Sept. 16-21 in Chesapeake, VA at the *Chesapeake Convention Center.*

The *Camel Series* then heads to Nashville, TN, suburban Boston, southern New Jersey and Tulsa, OK.

The final event, Dec. 7 in Denver, concludes with the *Camel Pro Billiards Series* awards banquet.

"We're pleased to provide an opportunity to all professional players with the *Camel* program of guaranteed purses and the year-end point fund,' said T. Wayne Robertson, president of *Sports Marketing Enterprises,* the sports marketing arm of *R.J. Reynolds Tobacco Co.*

The *Camel Series,* open to qualified professionals, will test the skills of the country's top billiards players with a variety of formats, including 8-ball, 9-ball and 10-ball.

Camel will sponsor qualifying events at selected venues where winners will advance to the professional tournament.

Several of the events will also feature major *Camel Pool League-American Poolplayers Association*-sanctioned amateur tournaments in addition to the professional competition.

The guaranteed purses, which range from $40,000 to $75,000 will be paid out to no fewer than the top 24-place winners at each event.

The top professional pool players will also compete for a share of the quarter-million-dollar *Camel Series* year-long point fund.

The eventual champion will receive $50,000 from *Camel* at year end.

The *Camel Series'* defending champion, Johnny Archer, last year pulled ahead of Efren Reyes in the final *Camel* event to take top honors for 1996.

The entry fee is $250 for qualified professional players at all *Camel Professional Billiards Series* events except the *U.S. Open 9-Ball Championship,* which is $500. Each tournament features a double-elimination format.

Official sponsors for the *Series* include *Diamond Billiard Products, Inc.,* for the official tables and lights and *Simonis 860* for the official cloth.

"The *Camel Pro Billiards Series,* along with the *Camel Pool League,* links professional and amateur billiards competition to increase the visibility of the sport," Robertson said.

"We'll be bringing major events to the pool-playing public in some of the strongest billiards markets in the U.S."

Viking 9-Ball Tour Will Expand to 36 Events

CLEVELAND, OH—*Viking Cue 9-Ball Tour* originator Mike Janis has announced the 1997-1998 *Tour* will expand to 36 events.

Now in its third year and rapidly expanding, the current season consisted of 24 $1,000-added tournaments. The *Tour* will conclude in October with the $5,000-added *Tour Championship,* at which time all of the players who played in the regular tour events over the season will be invited to participate.

In the next season all 36 events will continue to be $1,000-added 9-ball tournaments.

The tour also will have a $5,000-added tour championship at the end of the season.

In addition, the *Viking Cue 9-Ball Tour* will begin a national tour that will consist of eight $5,000 events in the new season and will take place at different billiard establishments throughout the country.

If anyone is interested in sponsoring an event for the 1997-1998 season or requests additional information regarding the *Viking Cue 9-Ball Tour,* those individuals are requested to contact Janis at 1-800-POOL (7665).

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Major Sponsors, Larger Prize Funds Needed Most

Mizerak Forsees Very Bright Future for Senior Tour

(Editor's note—Steve Mizerak, founder of the Senior Tour, sat down with National Billiard News Co-Publisher Conrad Burkman. In the following exclusive interview The Miz gave his thoughts on the past, present and future of the relatively new Senior Tour:)

NBN:* How did you come up with the idea of the *Senior Tour?

MIZERAK: I traveled all over, played a lot of pool and every time I came up to bat I was either facing Archer, Reyes, Strickland, one of the great players. I consider them the great three. I got tired of playing them the first round, second round. Then I thought if golf did it, bowling did it, tennis did it, everybody else was doing it. Why can't billiards do the Senior Tour? So from that idea I proceeded to actually get the word out that the Senior Tour is coming.

***NBN:* When did your events actually start?**

MIZERAK: In 1996 we started with our first event in Milwaukee at Romine's. It was a great event. It had right around 60 players. Crowds were standing room only, and I believe you even did an article on that one. So that's when we actually started. And this season, it's over with this (the J.O.B. Seniors Masters), the 1996-1997 season. We start the 1997-1998 season soon, after July 1.

***NBN:* Every event we have been to has been successful, why?**

MIZERAK: I don't know. You'd have to answer why. Everybody is friendly. Nobody is at each other's throat. It's a more relaxed atmosphere. We're not playing for an over abundance of money. We need more sponsorship. Everybody gets along. We're old-timers. We're over 50, but we can still play.

***NBN:* The *PBT, PCA* and several others have been struggling, yet you seem to be able to attract sponsorship from outside the industry, why?**

MIZERAK: In my 30 years of being in the business end of billiards, I've met thousands of people and I still do meet thousands of people. So with the contacts I have and the knowledge of who to talk to, who to call, what to say and how to say it, I attract some small donations from companies outside our industry, such as Taylor Made Golf, such as American Tourister and many other companies such as that.

***NBN:* Would you like to see more Senior tournaments run? How about more money in the prize fund?**

MIZERAK: I think I either would like to see more tournaments run or see more money put into the six or eight tournaments we run a year. This answers this question and the next one combined. I would like to see more money put into these tournaments. I'd like to get it up to somewhere between $35,000 and $50,000. That would give my guys an opportunity to make a living, to make some money in their old age, instead of waiting for Social Security.

***NBN:* In the beginning did you basically fund the *Senior Tour* yourself?**

MIZERAK: Yes, I basically funded it myself, along with the room owners that we began with and along with some of the small sponsors. I didn't put it all up, but some money was mine, yes.

***NBN:* Most of your events have been in poolrooms instead of ballrooms. Has this helped your success?**

MIZERAK: There are two different types of tournaments. In the poolrooms the poolroom owner pays a fee to run this tournament. In the ballroom you have to pay for setup, you have to pay for the ballroom, you have to pay everything else and it gets very, very expensive. I feel sorry for the pro tour, the PBT tour because I know they have a big expense in running tournaments in ballrooms.

***NBN:* We haven't noticed any heavy politics at your events or for that matter tension, how do you control that?**

MIZERAK: We leave out politics. We're a group of guys over 50 playing in pool tournaments around the country. We have fun. We don't belong to any other political organizations, pool organizations. I don't restrict my players from doing anything. They can do whatever they want. Play where they want. To have fun. There is no tension. That's why we're one big happy family. We're like a group 70 or 80 kids that just want to have fun.

***NBN:* You mentioned some time ago that you were putting together a Hawaii event. Is that still possible?**

MIZERAK: Yes it is possible and very likely may happen, but there are many factors that you have to put together before you do an event in a place like Hawaii. You have to go over and see where the tournament is going to be staged. See if I can put together a hotel deal. See if we can put together an airline deal. An then I have to bring it to my players. A lot depends upon how much prize fund we have put inside so this deal can be made ideal for my players to want to go all the way to Hawaii.

***NBN:* If you put that together could you attract players from other countries?**

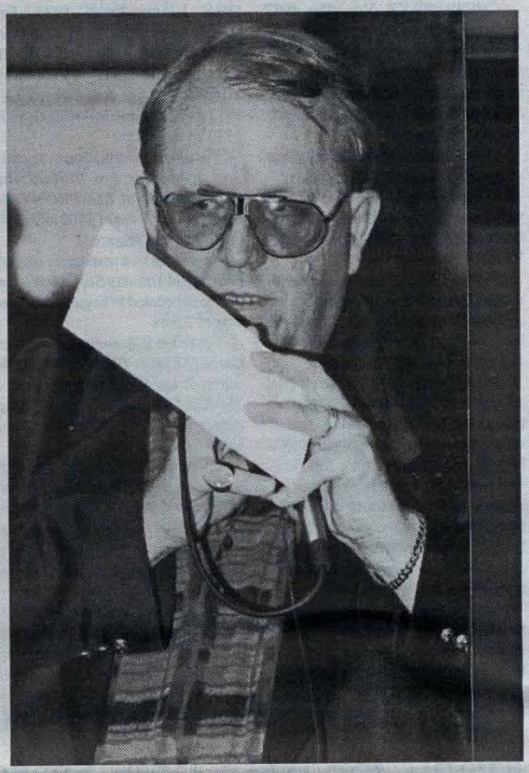
MIZERAK: Yes. I've already gotten letters from Japan and Australia. They would like to send six representatives, four from Japan and two from Australia.

***NBN:* Is it possible down the road to have *Senior Tour* events in foreign countries?**

MIZERAK: How about a 3-on-3 team event where three of my Senior guys would play three Senior guys maybe from France. Play them in pool and maybe play them in 3-cushion billiards so they feel they have an even chance to halve the match so to speak. Pool's our game and 3-cushions billiards is their game, so who knows? Maybe that may come off. . .in Europe.

***NBN:* What do you think is going to happen on the pro tour *(PBT)*? Will they ever be successful?**

MIZERAK: I think they're successful now. They made pool a lot better than it has been in the past. They've had some stumbling blocks, they've had some headaches, they've had some aggravation. I think Don Mackey has done a lot for pool and for his players and I think once he straightens out the final mess that he's in right now and the players do get paid, I don't think the players will let what happened last year ever happen again. If they do it's their fault. It's up to them. The players are their own worst enemy.



NBN PHOTO

STEVE MIZERAK. . .Hands out prize money at one of Senior Tour stops

***NBN:* It seems like every time someone is unhappy with what's going on, they start their own tour. Can this go on?**

MIZERAK: It can't go on. It only divides the sport. Everybody should be allowed to play everywhere. Have fun. Relax. Otherwise we're not going to get anywhere. The PCA tour, the PBT tour, the World Tour. Each organization can run their own tour. But each organization should let their players go out and play any place they want. That is my humble opinion.

NBN:* What do you think about getting pool into the *Olympics?

See MIZERAK, Page 27

SENIORS

Continued from Page 11

Hall and Guest tied for 5th-6th places, each receiving $1,400. Then came Munson and Giles Darr in 7th-8th. Each collected $1,000. Prize money was paid through the usual 24 places.

The field was large—72 players, many new faces and some played very well, Bobby Legg among them.

Being the culmination of the *1997 Tour,* there were some awards given out. At the top of the list was the *Milliken Points Champion,* sponsored by *Milliken Cloth.*

Going into this event it was a very close race between steady Bob Vanover and Bernatchez. Vanover had other commitments and wasn't present, allowing Bernatchez to grab the No. 1 spot and the $3,150 top prize money.

Other awards were given out to Weaver, *Sportsmanship Plaque for 1997* and Al Koklys for the *Rookie of the Year* award.

As you may or may not know, the winner and runner-up at each *Senior Tour* event receive beautiful crystal awards.

Bill Incardona won the Chicago stop and received one, also.

After the event Bill called Steve and complained he hadn't won a trophy since 1972. At the *J.O.B.* tournament he got a trophy for his Chicago win.

Several players in addition to Massey and Bernatchez played very well: Mathews, Munson, Bollman, Guest, Hall, Darr and George Pawelski.

The second year of the *Senior Tour* is in the history books. Outside of Chicago the *Tour* has had excellent fields and has drawn good crowds. It looks from here like they are on their way.

Now, the industry needs to help with sponsorship. Mizerak's group has proven it can draw people, now the billiard industry needs to come forward.

Good luck in 1998!

Senior Points

(Latest *'97 Senior Tour* points standings through 23 places including ties, as of the *1997 Steve Mizerak's Senior Tour 9-Ball Championship,* held May 22-25, 1997 at *Cue-Can-Do Billiards,* Schaumburg, IL, including all 1996-1997 events, current position, players' names and points earned, are as follows:)

Pos.	Name	Pts
1	Bob Vanover	740
2	Claude Bernatchez	695
3	Danny DiLiberto	625
4	Paul Thornley	580
5	Dave Bollman	450
6	Mike Lebron	445
7	Steve Mizerak	430
8	Dallas West	400
9	Buddy Hall	385
10	Willie Munson	340
11	Larry Hubbart	325
12	Grady Mathews	300
13	George Pawelski	295
14	Bill Incardona	280
15	Ralph Guest	215
16	Wade Crane	205
17	Peter Tascarella	165
18	Nat Green	150
19	Mike Xiarhos	135
20	Don Steele	130
21	Bobby Legg	125
(tie)	Victor Matera	125
23	Chuck Absher	120

Milliken Awards

1997 SENIOR TOUR
MILLIKEN POINTS CHAMPIONSHIP
TOP 10 FINISHERS

(Final *'97 Milliken Cloth Senior Tour Points Standings* through the Top 10, as of the *1997 J.O.B. Billiards Club-Kasson Game Tables Seniors Masters Championship,* June 26-29, 1997 at the *J.O.B. Billiards Club,* Madison, TN, including final position, players' names, points accumulated and prize money won, are as follows:)

Pos.	Name	Pts.	Prize
1	Claude Bernatchez	850	$3,150
2	Bob Vanover	740	2,700
3	Danny DiLiberto	655	2,100
4	Paul Thornley	580	1,800
5	Dave Bollman	550	1,500
6	Mike Lebron	485	1,050
7	Buddy Hall	465	900
8	Steve Mizerak	460	750
9	Grady Mathews	425	600
10	Willie Munson	405	450

WPBA

Continued from Page 14

table and ran out from the 4-ball to secure another of her many *Classic Tour* titles in the past two-plus seasons.

She joined a very elite list of *Detroit Classic* champions that includes 1996 defending titlist Villarreal, Dodson (1995), Mary Guarino (1994) and 1993 inaugural winner Loree Jon Jones.

In order to reach the overall finals Lee marched through her portion of the 48-player field by opening with a resounding 9-2 victory against Ramona Biddle.

Jeanette followed with a *hill-hill* triumph over Mataya-Laurance (9-8), thumped Laura Smith (9-5), edged Villarreal (9-7) and played near-flawless pool to send Fisher onto the one-loss side (9-4) with her winners' bracket finals win.

Meanwhile, Allison began with a decisive 9-3 victory against improving Kerry Hartsfield, nudged Aileen Pippin (9-7) and overpowered by Guarino (9-4) and Dodson (9-3) prior to her lone loss to the *Black Widow.*

After suffering her 5-9 defeat to Dodson, Villarreal earned fourth-place money of $2,500.

Mataya-Laurance and Guarino shared 5th-6th places, each receiving $2,000.

Nikki Benish and Canadian Maureen Seto—who has lived a success story of her own with a highly-impressive performance this season after conquering a physical disability in the past—were recipients of $1,600 apiece for finishing in a 7th-8th place deadlock.

Next came former *WPBA* two-term *President* Vicki Paski, Pippin, Michelle Fleetwood and Sweden's star Helena Thornfeldt, all pocketing $1,300 for their 9th-12th berths.

Once again the *WPBA Classic Tour* stop at the greater Detroit area was an astounding success—from the special baby shower for regular pro Patricia Tipton and husband Steve, better known as the *WPBA* tournament director and emcee, to the scintillating finishes of eventual winner Fisher and runner-up Lee.

This Michigan venue truly has become a landmark on the annual *WPBA* circuit!

★★★

WPBA Amateur Nationals Slated for Miss Cue Billiards

TOLEDO, OH—*Miss Cue Billiards* in Toledo, OH will host the *1997 Amateur National 9-Ball Championship* Aug. 16-17.

Plans for the annual tournament are progressing rapidly. "We can't believe the positive response we received from industry members,' *Tournament Coordinator* Kathy Woodward said.

"First of all, *Viking Cues* signed on as title sponsor and has been very helpful as the official cue sponsor. "Secondly, *Brunswick* has been designated the official table and ball sponsor. Therefore, all games will be played on *Brunswick Gold Crown* tables with *Centennial* balls.

"Finally, *Silver Cup Chalk* has signed as sponsor for the official chalk we will use."

In addition to the official sponsors, donations have been received from many industry representatives, including *Sir Joseph Gloves, Billiard Library, Elephant Balls, Laramie Embroidery* and a national billiard publication.

Masons Billiards, the local *Brunswick* dealer, in cooperation with *Brunswick,* has agreed to donate a 8-foot *Brunswick* home table to the prize fund (the table will be given away at a drawing so all entrants have an equal chance to win!)

With all the industry help plus the outstanding support and financial commitment from the *WPBA,* the prize fund is more than $10,000 in cash and merchandise.

"This truly makes this tournament a worthwhile event for women amateur players all over the country," Woodward said.

Along with the prestige this tournament always has had, the prize fund makes it truly exciting.

"Our goal is to make this tournament a fun-filled weekend for all lady players," Woodward added. "We are having minis on Friday, *Scotch Doubles* on Saturday and a second chance tournament on Sunday.

★★★

WPBA—Detroit Results

1997 WPBA CLASSIC TOUR
THE IMPERIAL INTERNATIONAL
5TH ANNUAL
DETROIT CLASSIC
THE SHARK CLUB
CANTON, MI
JUNE 19-22, 1997
$50,000 TOTAL PRIZE FUND

(Results of the top 24 finishers in the 48-player field, including final position, players' names and prize money won, are as follows:)

Pos.	Name	Prize
1	Allison Fisher	$6,500
2	Jeanette Lee	4,500
3	Robin Dodson	3,500
4	Vivian Villarreal	2,500
5-6	Ewa Mataya-Laurance	2,000
5-6	Mary Guarino	2,000
7-8	Nikki Benish	1,600
7-8	Maureen Seto	1,600
9-12	Vicki Paski	1,300
9-12	Aileen Pippin	1,300
9-12	Michelle Fleetwood	1,300
9-12	Helena Thornfeldt	1,300
13-16	Jennifer Chen	1,050
13-16	Gerda Hofstatter	1,050
13-16	Laura Smith	1,050
13-16	Kerry Hartsfield	1,050
17-24	Ramona Biddle	800
17-24	Belinda Campos	800
17-24	Dawn Hopkins	800
17-24	Sabrina Anderson	800
17-24	Nesli O'Hare	800
17-24	Deanna Kniola	800
17-24	C.J. Freshour	800
17-24	Loree Jon Jones	800

Fisher Endorses Championship Staff

CHICAGO, IL—Allison Fisher, the leading money winner on the *Women's Professional Billiard Association (WPBA) Classic Tour,* has joined the *Championship Billiard Fabric* advisory staff, it was announced by *Championship's Pro Tour Coordinator* Ed Adler.

MIZERAK

Continued from Page 26

MIZERAK: *(It's) a long way off. Too much has to be worked on, too much has to be done, what game to play, how to play it, team event, individual event, whatever.*

NBN: **Why don't we go to a single-elimination format like all other sports?**

MIZERAK: *I think it's a good idea, but. . .if you have a tournament in New York and someone comes in from Phoenix, they want two shots for their money. They don't want one shot. On the other hand, if you seed out the good players until Friday or Thursday and have the 'A' players play on Thursday, the 'B' players play on Wednesday and the 'C' and 'D' players play on Tuesday and work down to the finals like the British do their snooker championships, then there's a good possibility it may work.*

NBN: **Wouldn't this help with TV coverage?**

MIZERAK: *No. I don't think it has anything to do with TV coverage. TV coverage should be more innovative. TV coverage should be more fun. TV coverage should be more exciting as I tried to do in Biloxi.*

NBN: **Speaking of TV, what's in the future for the *Senior Tour* and TV coverage?**

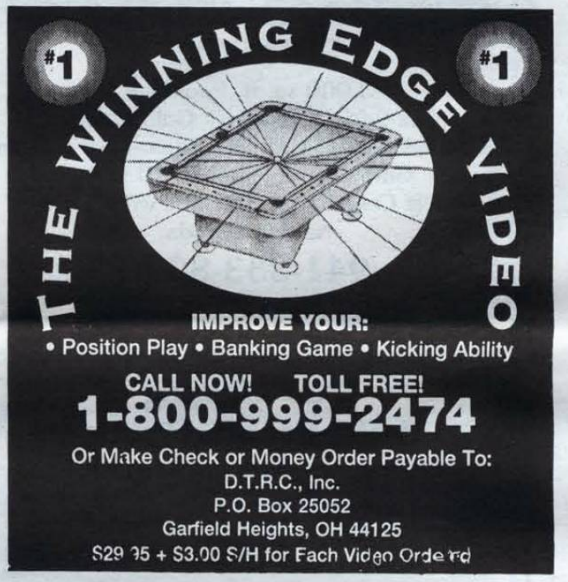
MIZERAK: *We have one more TV show to do till the end of the year. That will possibly be the Hawaii tournament. We're signed with Prime (TV). We're there and we can still do it.*

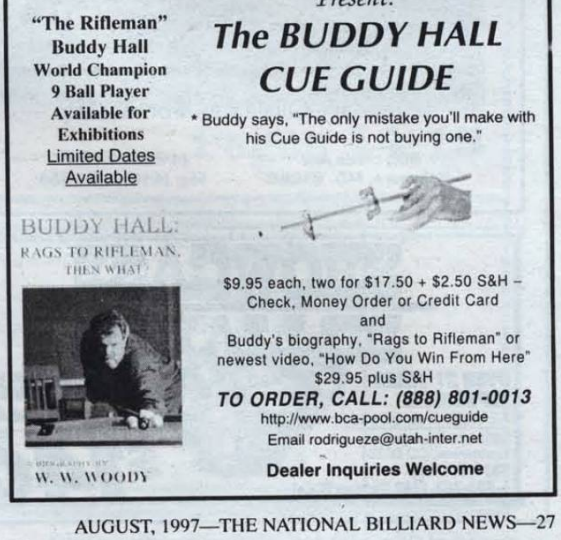
NBN: **Do you intend to keep the bulk of the events in poolrooms or would you like to see more hotels used?**

MIZERAK: *I'd like to see a lot of casinos used because* **casinos** *put up more money than anything else and they have hotels you can use. They have staff that can be used. They have so much more people to do things for them instead of you having to go find those people. Hotels and* **casinos,** *yes. Poolrooms. . .certain ones. Certain poolrooms that are conducive to running a big major tournament, yes I'd like to see those come along with the hotels (and casinos). You can't forget the grass roots. You have to stay in the poolrooms. You can't forget about where you were born. You were born in a poolroom and I was born under table No. 6 on Madison Avenue in New Jersey. So you know what I mean.*

NBN: **Five years down the road what do you envision for the *Senior Tour?***

MIZERAK: *Success. Period. That's enough with success. I think if we get the cooperation from the players and some sponsors from the industry come into it, it will go far beyond anyone's imagination. That's it from the Senior Tour, from the Commissioner or the Director or whatever you want to call it of the Senior Tour, that's it. Rack 'em up!*





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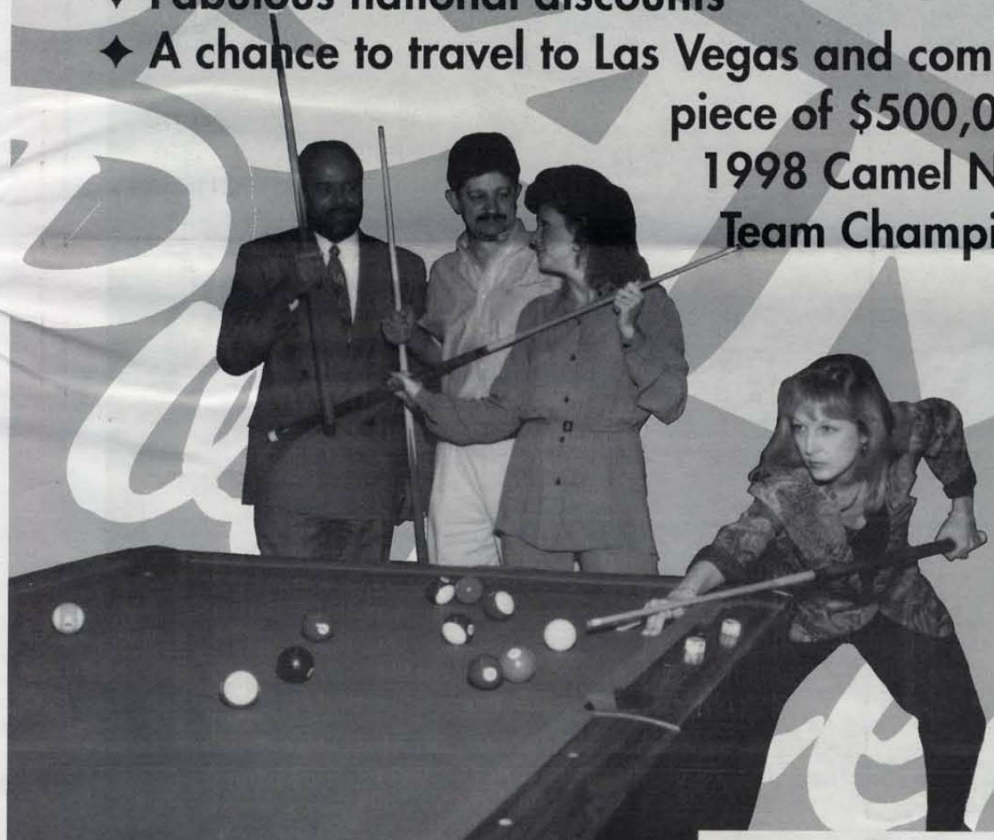

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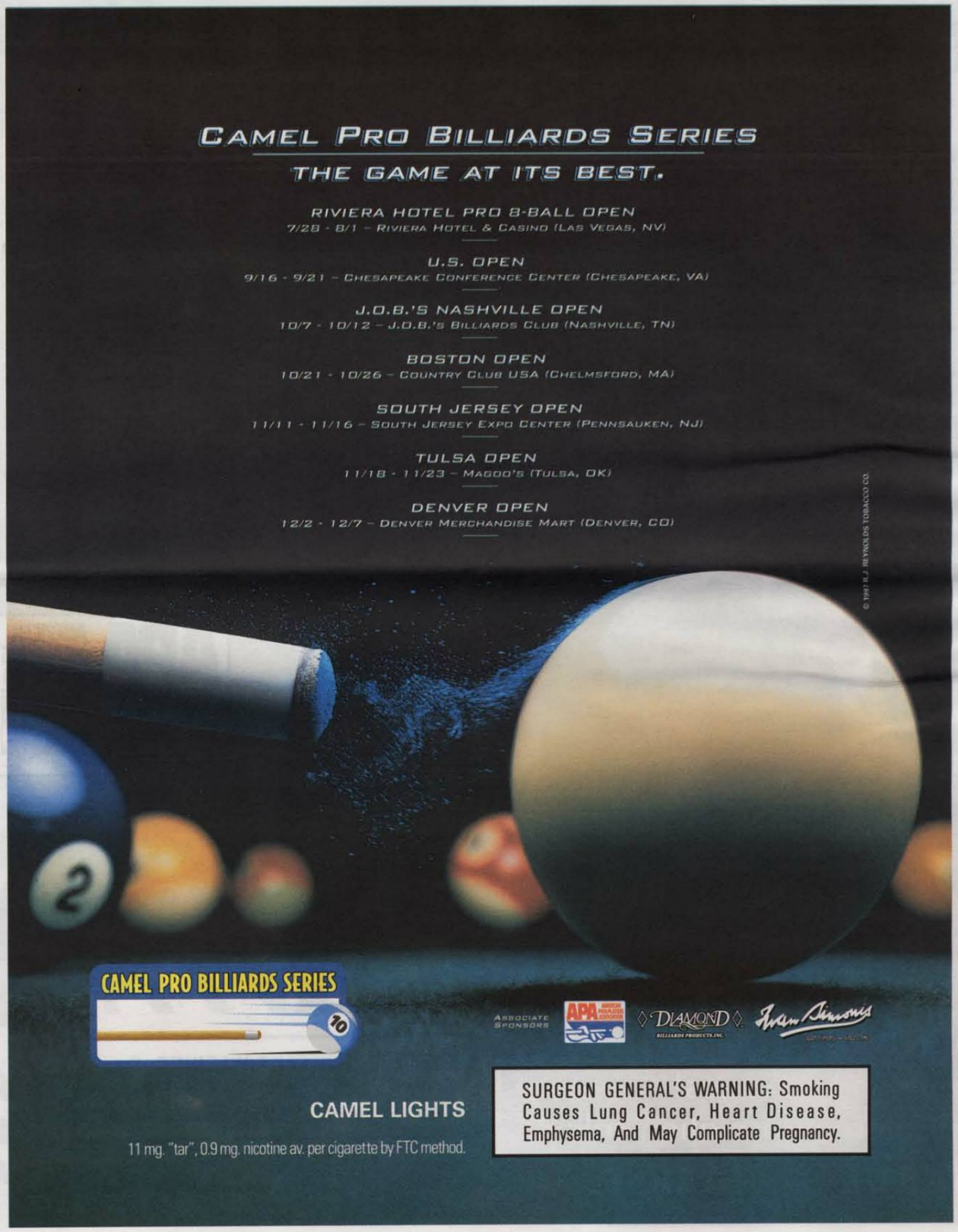
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