MAY 2006

THE NATIONAL

Billiard News

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TIME DATED MATERIAL

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APA

STRICKLAND ENTERS BCA HALL OF FAME

POOL PIC'S BY HOPPE **PHOTO**

CROWNING ACHIEVEMENT*—*'Earl The Pearl' Strickland poses with his plaque, emblematic of his induction into the BCA Hall of Fame (See story Page 5).

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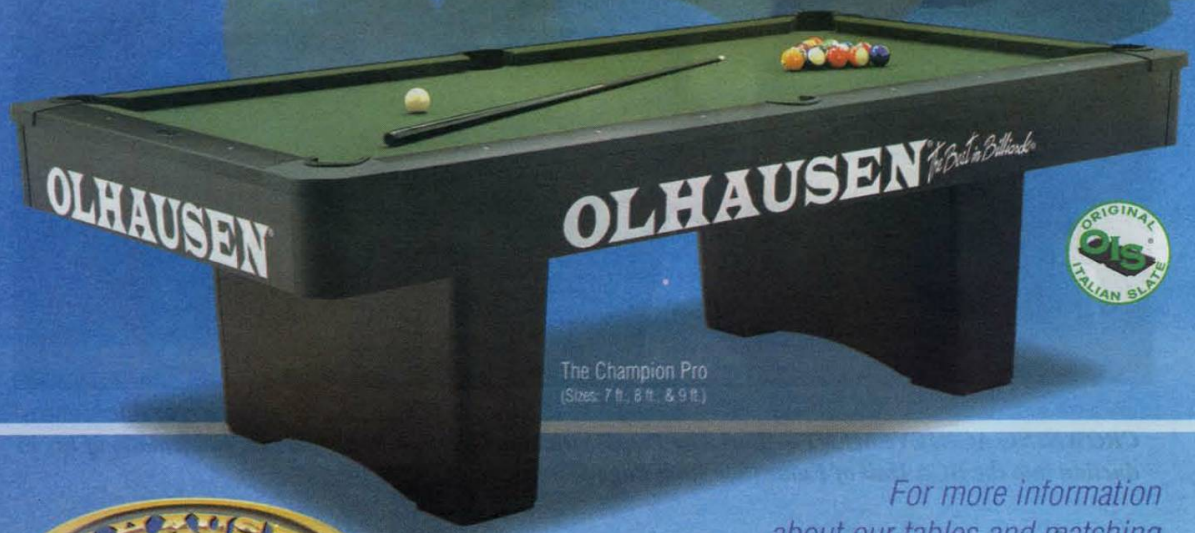

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THE NATIONAL
Billiard News

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by
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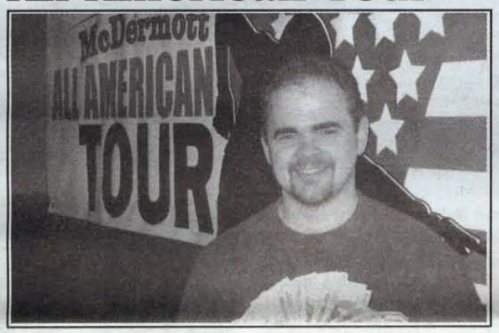
Inside

May, 2006

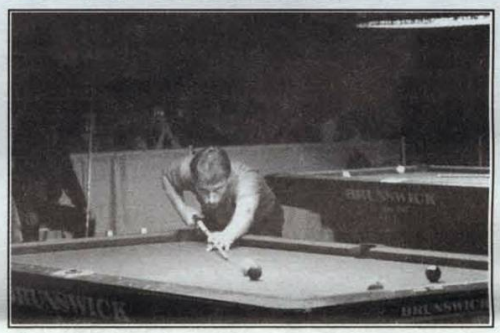
Volume 34 Number 4

All American Tour



Page 2

Earl Strickland



Page 5

WPBA Classic Tour

Page 6

SML 9-Ball Open

Page 8

WHAT'S INSIDE

One-Minute World Pool Briefing.....Page 2
Tournament Trails.....Page 4
Pool Box Scores.....Page 9
Fast & Loose.....Page 10
The Monk.....Page 12

One-Minute World Pool Briefing

QUICKLY, WHAT'S NEW?

The *International Pool Tour* has announced the schedule of qualifications tournaments for the *IPT North American Open 8-Ball Championship* to be held July 22-30 at the *Venetian* in Las Vegas, NV (See related story on Page 7). For further information visit *www.internationalpooltour.com*.

—

The *2006 World Pool Championship* to be held in Manila from Nov. 4-12 has drawn the attention of **Ronnie O'Sullivan**, regarded as the greatest snooker player in the world today. **O'Sullivan** has begun playing 9-ball since there are fewer snooker tournaments being held today.

—

Mike Zuglan, director of the *Joss Northeast 9-Ball Tour,* has announced the cancellation of *Stop 19* scheduled May 6-7 at *Color of Money Billiards* in Niagara Falls, ON due to a sudden closing of the host establishment.

—

Warren Kiamco and **George Breedlove** have become the latest members of the *International Pool Tour* by virtue of their first- and second-place finishes in the fourth qualification event held at *Country Club USA* in Chelmsford, MA.

—

The National Billiard News pays tribute to **Earl Strickland** in an in-depth interview with the latest player to be enshrined into the *Billiard Congress of America (BCA) Hall of Fame*. See the story on Page 5 of this edition and read how **Strickland** tells it like it is on various subjects ranging from his rise to the top of professional billiards to the politics of the day.

POOL

Ga-Young Kim, the reigning two-time *Women's World Champion,* has captured the US $30,000 *1st Enerva Asian Ladies 9-Ball Billiards Tour* title by defeating **Shu-Pin Kao** of Chinese -Taipei 11-4 in the overall finals.

—

George *Ginky* SanSouci avenged his only loss and won the *Joss Northeast 9-Ball Tour* stop at *Comet Billiards* in Parsippany, NJ with a 9-7, 9-2 victory over **Dan Barouty** in the true double-elimination finals.

—

Debbie Schjodt held off a determined **Tracie Hines** to complete and undefeated run through the field at the *Ladies Spirit Tour* stop at *Jumpshot Billiards* in Del Ray Beach, FL by registering a 7-6 *hill-hill* victory to earn the top prize of $750, while **Hines** received $525 for second place and **Veronique Menard** collected $375 for third place.

—

Dan Louie won the 21st stop on the *2005-2006 McDermott All American Tour* (produced by the *American CueSports Alliance—ACS)* by defeating **Mike Zimmerman** 9-2 in the finals of the event hosted by *Owner* **Bill Mildenberger** at *Nite Hawk Billiards* in Portland, OR.

—

Matt Clatterbuck and **Amanda Pasko** won the titles in their respective divisions of the *Tiger Planet Pool Amateur 8-Ball Tour 2006* season-opening event at *First Break Billiards* in Sterling, VA where **Clatterbuck** defeated **Buck Fisher** and **Pasko** beat **Cheree Adams.**

—

Matt Krah won the *Blaze 9-Ball Tour* stop at *Raxx Billiards Bar & Grill* in West Hempstead, NY by defeating **Mark Pantovic** in the overall finals to capture the first-place prize of $700, while **Pantovic** earned $500 as the runner-up.

SHORT RACK

The *2006 WPA World 9-Ball Championship* is scheduled to be held in Manila, Philippines Nov. 4-12.

—

Josh Brothers and **Pamela Treadway** completed undefeated runs through the fields to win their respective divisions in the 4th Stop on the *Tiger Planet Pool 9-Ball Tour* at *First Break Cafe* in Sterling, VA where **Brothers** defeated **Brandon Shuff** and **Treadway** beat **Asia Cycak.**

—

Matchroom Sport has announced the ***2006 Mosconi Cup*** is scheduled to be conducted Dec. 7-10 at a site to be determined in Germany, following the ***2005 Mosconi Cup*** won by ***Team USA*** over ***Team Europe*** at the *MGM Grand Hotel-Casino* in Las Vegas, NV.

—

Chad Vilmont of Clinton, IA won his second successive title on the *2005-2006 McDermott All American Tour* by defeating **Carlos McGill** of Beloit, WI for a free entry into the *ACS National Championships*.

All American Tour

Birkett Wins Free Entry Into ACS National Championship

DAVENPORT, IA—The 18th stop of the *2005-2006 McDermott All American Tour* (produced by the *American CueSports Alliance—ACS)* featured a $500-added purse and 42 players (including 3 women) hosted by owner Terry Anderson at *Miller Time Billiards* in Davenport, IA, Mar. 18.

The event featured double-elimination 8-ball on 7-foot *Valley* bar tables.

Alan Birkett of Clinton, IA, rated a 5 on the regional handicap system, marched undefeated through the winners' bracket, defeating Doug Putz (4) of Bettendorf, IA in the semifinals 5-2 and Jim Hanne (5) of Moline, IL in the finals 5-4.

On the one-loss side, Anthony Garcia (4) of East Moline, IL eliminated Rich Bideaux (4) of East Moline, IL 4-3 in the semifinals and was ousted by Hanne 5-3 in the finals.

Hanne, who had lost previously to Birkett, was afforded another opportunity to reverse that decision.

Birkett, however, kept his perfect record in tact by a 5-2 margin in the overall finals against a persistent Hanne.

Birkett's winnings also included $300 for his first-place finish in addition to the following national tournament options offered by the *ACS*.

By virtue of being the highest-finishing *ACS* member, Birkett won a free entry into either the *2006 ACS National 8-Ball Championships* or the *2006 ACS National 9-Ball Championships*—courtesy of the *ACS*.

Hanne collected $200 for his runner-up finish and was followed by Garcia who pocketed $150 for third place.

Bideaux took fourth place worth $100. Steve Lange of Davenport, IA and Putz each earned $80 for their 5th-6th places tie.

Russ Jett of Davenport, IA and Mark Czerwinski of Moline, IL deadlocked for 7th-8th places to receive $50 each.

In a logjam for 9th-12th places were Brad Fenchel of Moline, IL, Tony Wilson from Moline, IL, Bob Huskey of Silvis, IL and Heidi Frank from East Moline, IL.

Heidi was the highest finisher among the trio of females entered in this tournament.

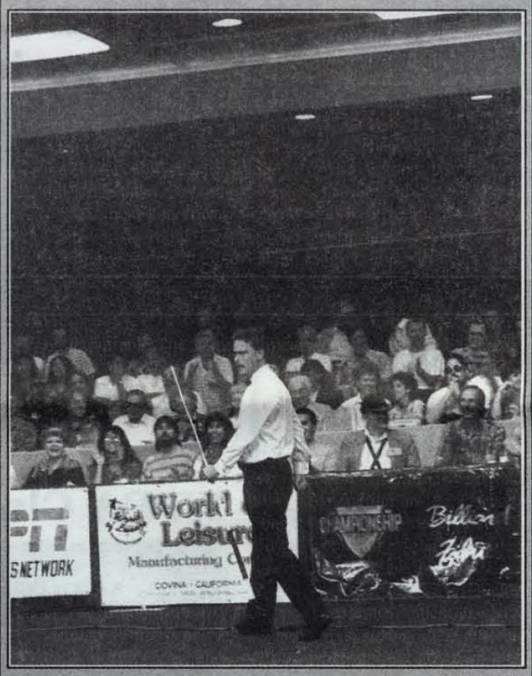
The *ACS* thanks sponsors *McDermott Handcrafted Cues, Silver Cup Chalk, PJ's Billiard Supply Co.* and *Samm's Side Pocket Productions* for their support in donating *Value-In-Kind* product for this and all stops on the *McDermott All American Tour.*

Sponsorship opportunities are still available by contacting the ACS. American Tour are available at *www.americancuesports.org*.

The *ACS* is a non-profit, national organization dedicated to heightening the interest and awareness of cue sports through the support and sanctioning of organized competition through the United States and North America.

The *McDermott All American Tour* is open to any amateur pool players and is in its inaugural season with events held throughout the United States.

A Blast From The Past



NBN PHOTO

WINNING FORM—In this picture from several years ago Earl Strickland struts off after achieving still another professional win.

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Accu-Stats presents bargain basement pricing as these fast paced DVDs are all two-fers yet feature the penthouse of pool prowess.

See banks action in **D8-B01** as gutsy runner-up Jason Kirkwood edges out former all-around titlist Larry Nevel. Jason then slips past repeat high finisher Jamie Farrell. In **D8-B02** Miller topples Owen and has Jason one ball from losing it all. Kirkwood battles back to tie it at two only to lose by one ball in the tiebreaker. Tight stuff.

D8-1P2 recognizes Alex Pagulayan as a formidable 1-pocket specialist as he dispatches the talented Tony Chohan. Master Reyes then reminds Alex he still has a move or two to learn.

D8-1P3: World 1-hole authorities Incardona, DiLiberto & Bentivegna have deemed the matches on this 1-pocket DVD the best they have ever seen…ever! When the bouts were over, Reyes got the standing ovation he deserved.

There's some great two-fer 9-Ball here too. **D8-9B2**: Miller/Strickland has twists of fate all the way to the hill. Then every match has a 900+ average to conclude with **D8-9B4:** Luat eliminating Reyes. This may be the best 9-Ball by two players in one match. And couple that with Luat, thinking he's safe, has Souquet run 6 racks from a kick!

Call us for more info. There's action here you don't want to miss. **800.828.0397**

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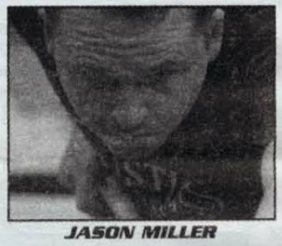
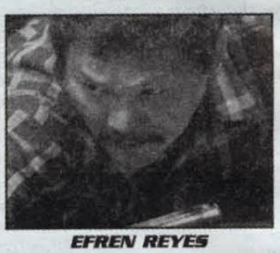
In Banks, Daulton had 80% of the money against Brian Gregg. When the last ball fell, Gregg had 100% of it…for the second year in a row!

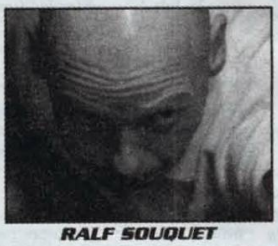
In 10-Ball, Archer was the sole holdout, but Parica proved that he still got game as he truly outplayed the entire field. Visit **accu-stats.com**



JASON MILLER



EFREN REYES



RALF SOUQUET

D8-R1* 10-BALL: Jose Parica defeats Johnny Archer, Charlie Bryant, Shannon Daulton, Corey Deuel, Rob Saez, and John Schmidt. Commentators: Jay Helfert and Danny DiLiberto. 160 min. DVD $26

D8-R2* BANKS: Brian Gregg defeats Freddy Bentivegna, John Brumback, Shannon Daulton, Tony Fargo, Truman Hogue, and Glenn Rogers. Commentators: Grady Mathews and Danny DiLiberto. 120 min. DVD $26

2006 Derby City Classic, Louisville, KY - January 6-14: Bank Pool

Tape #	Contestants				Score	Hosts	Length	DVD
D8-B01*	Jason Kirkwood	def.	Larry Nevel		3-2	DD,GR		
AND	Jason Kirkwood	def.	Jamie Farrell	**Semi's**	3-2	DD,FB	120	$26
D8-B02*	Jason Miller	def.	Gabe Owen		3-0	JH,DD		
AND	Jason Miller	def.	Jason Kirkwood	**Finals**	3-2	DD,GR	120	$26

2006 Derby City Classic: One-Pocket

D8-1P1	Charlie Bryant	def.	Shannon Daulton		3-1	DM,BH		
AND	Efren Reyes	def.	Mark Jarvis		3-0	BI,DD	105	$26
D8-1P2	Alex Pagulayan	def.	Tony Chohan		3-0	BI,FB		
AND	Efren Reyes	def.	Alex Pagulayan		3-1	BI,DD	120	$26
D8-1P3*	Efren Reyes	def.	Alex Pagulayan	**Semi's**	3-1	BI,FB		
AND	Efren Reyes	def.	Jason Miller	**Finals**	3-0	BI,DD	90	$26

2006 Derby City Classic: 9-Ball

D8-9B1	George Breedlove (.885)	def.	Jose Parica (.750)		7-5	JW,DD		
AND	Johnny Archer (.951)	def.	Charlie Williams (.706)		7-2	JF,DD	115	$26
D8-9B2	Jason Miller (.846)	def.	Earl Strickland (.847)		7-6	DD,FB		
AND	Gabe Owen (.890)	def.	Cliff Joyner (.813)		7-4	DD,JS	110	$26
D8-9B3*	Ralf Souquet (.939)	def.	Rodolfo Luat (.896)		7-5	BI,DD		
AND	Alex Pagulayan (.929)	def.	Luc Salvas (.727)		7-2	JW,DD	105	$26
D8-9B4*	Rodolfo Luat (.948)	def.	Efren Reyes (.950)	**Semi's**	7-4	BI,DD		
AND	Ralf Souquet (.929)	def.	Rodolfo Luat (.500)	**Finals**	7-0	BI,DD	120	$26

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Commentators: BH=Buddy Hall, **BI**=Bill Incardona, **DD**=Danny DiLiberto, **DM**=David Maddux, **FB**=Freddy Bentivegna, **GM**=Grady Mathews, **GR**=Glenn Rogers, **JF**=Jerry Forsyth, **JH**=Jay Helfert, **JS**=John Schmidt, **JW**=Jim Wych

(*)Represents best video **Shipping & Handling Charges** U.S. Only. $6.00 for 1 item, $7.00 for 2, $8.00 for 3, $9.00 for 4, $10.00 for 5 or more.

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TOURNAMENT TRAILS

American CueSports Alliance

June 10-17 ***ACS National 8-Ball Championships***
NV—*Riviera Hotel & Casino*, Las Vegas
Amateur 8-Ball
Contact: John Lewis *920-662-1705*
www.americancuesports.org

June 10-14 ***ACS National Jr. 8-Ball Championships***
NV—*Riviera Hotel & Casino*, Las Vegas
Amateur 8-Ball
Contact: John Lewis *920-662-1705*
www.americancuesports.org

American Poolplayers Association

Aug. 18-23 ***APA National Team Championships***
NV—*Riviera Hotel & Casino*, Las Vegas
Amateur 8-Ball
Contact: APA *636-625-8611*

Aug. 18-19 ***APA 9-Ball Doubles Championship***
NV—*Riviera Hotel & Casino*, Las Vegas
Amateur 9-Ball
Contact: APA *636-625-8611*

Aug. 18-20 ***APA Ladies 8-Ball National Team Championship***
NV—*Riviera Hotel & Casino*, Las Vegas
Amateur 8-Ball
Contact: APA *636-625-8611*

Aug. 18-21 ***APA National 9-Ball Team Championship***
NV—*Riviera Hotel & Casino*, Las Vegas
Amateur 9-Ball
Contact: APA *636-625-8611*

Aug. 20-22 ***APA Masters Championship***
NV—*Riviera Hotel & Casino*, Las Vegas
Amateur 8-Ball
Contact: APA *636-625-8611*

Aug. 21-26 ***APA 8-Ball National Team Championship***
NV—*Riviera Hotel & Casino*, Las Vegas
Amateur 8-Ball
Contact: APA *636-625-8611*

Aug. 22-23 ***APA 8-Ball Singles Wheelchair Challenge***
NV—*Riviera Hotel & Casino*, Las Vegas
Amateur 8-Ball
Contact: APA *636-625-8611*

Aug. 23-25 ***APA 8-Ball Doubles Championship***
NV—*Riviera Hotel & Casino*, Las Vegas
Amateur 8-Ball
Contact: APA *636-625-8611*

Sept. 23-24 ***U.S. Amateur Championship Preliminary Rounds***
Various Sites, TBA
Amateur 8-Ball & 9-Ball
Contact: APA *636-625-8611*

Nov. 3-5 ***U.S. Amateur Championship Rounds***
GA—*Mr. Cues II*, Atlanta
Amateur 8-Ball & 9-Ball
Contact: APA *636-625-8611*

Billiard Congress of America

May 14-20 ***BCA Open 9-Ball Championships***
NV—*Riviera Hotel & Casino*, Las Vegas
Men's & Women's Professional 9-Ball
Contact: Amy Long *719-264-8300 x104*
E-mail: *amy@bca-pool.com*

July 5-9 ***BCA Junior National & ACU-I Collegiate 9-Ball Championships***
AZ—*University of Arizona*, Tucson
Contact: Tracy Hart *719-264-8300 x110*
E-mail: *tracy@bca-pool.com*

BCA Pool League

May 12-20 ***2006 BCA National 8-Ball Championships***
NV—*Riviera Hotel & Casino*, Las Vegas
Amateur 8-Ball
Contact: BCA Pool League *702-719-7665*

July 26-30 ***2006 Canadian BCAPL Championships***
MB—*Winnepeg Convention Center*, Winnepeg
Amateur 8-Ball
Contact: Shaun Pilford *250-764-9414*
E-mail: *shaun@playbca.ca*

Independent Events

May 10-12 ***1st Relay for Life 9-Ball Invitational Charity Benefit***
FL—*Capone's Billiards*, Spring Hill
$20,000 Guaranteed Prize Fund
Contact: *352-688-9965*

——

May 24-28 ***Florida Open***
Contact:
www.dragonpromotions.com

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May 30-June 4 ***World 14.1 Straight Pool Championship***
NJ—*Hilton Hotel*, New Brunswick
Contact:
www.dragonpromotions.com

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Sept. 25-Oct. 1 ***31st Annual U.S Open 9-Ball Championship***
VA—*Chesapeake Conference Center*, Chesapeake
$50,000-plus Added (Based on 256-player limit)
$500 Entry Fee
Contact: Barry Behrman *757-499-8900*

——

Sept. 29-Oct. 1 ***Patriot Cup***
Contact:
www.dragonpromotions.com

——

Oct. 17-22 ***Atlanta Open***
Contact:
www.dragonpromotions.com

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Nov. 8-12 ***2006 Glass City Open 9-Ball Championship***
OH—*Clarion Hotel Westgate*, Toledo
$45,000 Guaranteed Prize Fund
$300 Entry Fee before Nov. 1/$350 after Nov. 1
Contact: Tom Gearhart *419-699-0179*

International Pool Tour

July 22-30 ***North American Open 8-Ball Championship***
NV—*The Venetian*, Las Vegas
$2 Million Prize Fund
Contact:
www.internationalpooltour.com

Sept. 2-10 ***World Open 8-Ball Championship***
NV—*Reno Hilton*, Reno
$3 Million Prize Fund
Contact:
www.internationalpooltour.com

Oct. 29-Nov. 5 ***Players 8-Ball Championship***
UK—Venue TBA, United Kingdom
$1,270,000 Prize Fund
Contact:
www.internationalpooltour.com

Nov. 26-Dec. 3 ***Masters 8-Ball Championship***
IL—*Rosemont Convention Center*, Chicago
$1,270,000 Prize Fund
Contact:
www.internationalpooltour.com

Dec. 12-17 ***2006 King of the Hill 8-Ball Championship***
NV—*The Wynn*, Las Vegas
$1 Million Prize Fund
Contact:
www.internationalpooltour.com

Joss Northeast 9-Ball Tour

2005-2006 Schedule

May 6-7 ***Stop No. 19***
ON—*Color of Money Billiards*, Niaga CANCELED
$3,000 Added (All U.S. Funds)
$100 Entry Fee (U.S. Funds)
Contact: Mike Zuglan *518-356-7163*
Color of Money Billiards *905-353-1500*

Aug. 17-20 ***Stop No. 20 Turning Stone Classic VII 9-Ball Open (Season Final)***
NY—*Turning Stone Resort & Casino*, Verona
$25,000 Added
$150 Entry Fee (All *2005-2006 Joss Northeast 9-Ball Tour* members; $200 for all others)
Field limited to first 128 paid entries
Contact: Mike Zuglan *518-356-7163*

J. Pechauer SouthEast Open 9-Ball Tour

2006-2007 Schedule

May 13-14 ***Stop No. 2 The J. Pechauer Palm Beach Open***
FL—*Jumpshots Sports Bar & Billiards*, Delray Beach
$1,000 Added
$50 Entry Fee
Contact: Tommy Kennedy *912-576-2556*
Jumpshots Sports Bar & Billiards *561-265-0777*

May 21 ***Stop No. 3 (One Day Only) The Pechauer Charlotte County Classic Open***
FL—*Veterans Billiards*, Port Charlotte
$1,000 Added
$50 Entry Fee
Contact: Tommy Kennedy *912-576-2556*
Veterans Billiards *941-764-1958*

June 3-4 ***Stop No. 4 The J. Pechauer Davie Open***
FL—*Beyond Billiards*, Davie
$1,000 Added
$50 Entry Fee
Contact: Tommy Kennedy *912-576-2556*
Beyond Billiards *954-434-3487*

June 10-11 ***Stop No. 5 The Pechauer Palm Beach Open***
FL—*Victory Billiards*, West Palm Beach
$1,000 Added
$50 Entry Fee
Contact: Tommy Kennedy *912-576-2556*
Victory Billiards *561-686-4127*

July 15-16 ***Stop No. 6 The J. Pechauer Mid-Florida Open***
FL—*Stix N Stones*. Palatka
$1,000 Added
$50 Entry Fee
Contact: Tommy Kennedy *912-576-2556*
Stix N Stones *386-326-3605*

Aug. 12-13 ***Stop No. 7 The Pechauer Waynesville Classic 9-Ball Open***
NC—*Crooked Cue*, Waynesville
$1,000 Added
$50 Entry Fee
Contact: Tommy Kennedy *912-576-2556*
Crooked Cue *828-456-2802*

Aug. 19-20 ***Stop No. 8 The J. Pechauer Sevier County Open***
TN—*Sevierville Billiard Club and Main Street Cafe*, Sevierville
$1,000 Added
$50 Entry Fee
Contact: Tommy Kennedy *912-576-2556*
Sevierville Billiard Club and Main Street Cafe *865-300-7957—Rusty*

Aug. 26-27 ***Stop No. 9 The J. Pechauer South Carolina Bar Box Open***
SC—*Yauhannah Billiards*, Georgetown
$1,000 Added
$50 Entry Fee
(Played on 7-foot *Valley* bar tables, 75 cent per game charge)
Contact: Tommy Kennedy *912-576-2556*
Yauhannah Billiards *843-545-5220*

Sept. 16-17 ***Stop No. 10 The Savannah Open***
GA—*Southside Billiard Club*, Savannah
$2,000 Added
$50 Entry Fee
Contact: Tommy Kennedy *912-576-2556*
Southside Billiard Club *912-925-5398*

Oct. 21-22 ***Stop No. 11 The J. Pechauer South Florida Open***
FL—*Play-Boy Billiards*, Lake Worth
$1,000 Added
$50 Entry Fee
Contact: Tommy Kennedy *912-576-2556*
Play-Boy Billiards *561-357-5522*

Feb. 24-25, 2007 ***Stop No. 12 The J. Pchauer Alabama Open***
AL—*Pockets Billiards*, Dothan
$1,000 Added
$50 Entry Fee
Contact: Tommy Kennedy *912-576-2556*

(*—*Tour* stop numbers are subject to change depending upon the addition/subtraction of events.)

Midwest 9-Ball Tour

June 24-25 ***3rd Annual Bobby Wells Memorial 9-Ball Classic***
KS—*Side Pockets*, Wichita
$2,500 Total Added
Open & Ladies 9-Ball—$35 Entry Fee (Both Bar Tables)
Contact: Evelyn Dysart *316-371-5805*
Side Pockets *316-729-4000*

July 15-16 ***Riverbend Billiards Open***
IL—*Riverbend Billiards*, Alon
$2,500 Total Added
Open & Ladies 9-Ball—$35 Entry Fee (Both Bar Tables)
Contact: Evelyn Dysart *316-371-5805*
Riverbend Billiards *618-462-4435*

Aug. 5-6 ***3rd Annual Oklahoma State 8-Ball Championship***
OK—*Tulsa Billiard Palace*, Tulsa
$2,000 Total Added
Open Division $35 Entry Fee
Ladies Division $25 Entry Fee
Contact: Tulsa Billiard Palace *918-627-3486*

WPBA Classic Tour

May 14-20 ***Enjoypool.com BCA Open 9-Ball Championship***
NV—*Riviera Hotel & Casino*, Las Vegas
$100,000 Prize Fund
$500 Entry Fee
E-mail: *PLPromotions@aol.com*
Website: *www.wpba.com*
www.Enjoypool.com

June 28-July 2 ***Florida Classic***
FL—*Seminole Hard Rock Casino*, Hollywood
$75,000 Prize Fund
$500 Entry Fee
Website: *www.wpba.com*

July 26-30 ***Midwest Classic***
IL—*Par-a-dice Hotel & Casino*, East Peoria
$75,000 Prize Fund
$500 Entry Fee
Website: *www.wpba.com*

Oct. 18-22 ***U.S. Open 9-Ball Championship***
NM—*Sandia Casino*, Albuquerque
$100,000 Prize Fund
$500 Entry Fee
E-mail:marketing@sandiacasino.com
Website: *www.wpba.com*
www.sandiacasino.com

Nov. 8-12 ***WPBA National 9-Ball Championship***
OR—*Chinook Winds Casino*, Lincoln City
$100,000 Prize Fund
$500 Entry Fee
Website: *www.wpba.com*
www.chinookwindscasino.com

Pool Superstar Gets Inducted at BCA Ceremonies in Houston

Hall of Famer Earl Strickland 'Tells It Like It Is!'

Earl *The Pearl* Strickland recently was inducted into the *Billiard Congress of America (BCA) Hall of Fame* in the greatest players category during ceremonies held in conjunction with the *BCA International Expo* in Houston, TX.

Prior to his induction, the often-controversial Strickland offered various comments regarding the game, his status among the greatest, as well as some political observations.

Earl may not be the most affable personality or well liked among his peers, but his talent has never been questioned. Some so-called *experts* believe him to be the best 9-ball player ever.

Strickland was born June 8, 1961 in Clinton, NC and grew up in Roseboro, NC. "It is a little tobacco farming town." Earl said.

"My dad got me started (in pool)," Strickland said. "I began playing in 1970 when I was 9 years old. I knew it was time (to turn professional) when I was 19."

NBN: Where do you rate the BCA Hall of Induction among your list of accomplishments?

EARL: "It's probably one of the nicest things you can get. I rate it pretty prestigious to be rated among the best playing the game."

NBN: Does this honor rate on the same level as your world championships and U.S. Open 9-Ball titles?

EARL: "Yes it does."

NBN PHOTO

EARL STRICKLAND. . .

. . .Often very vocal

NBN: You've said you were at the top of your game earlier in your career, but as time passed you have become a better overall player because of the experience you've gained. Have you lost anything talent-wise along the way?

EARL: "(I think) the biggest tool I've lost over the years is my break. Years ago when I'd be playing a match, when a guy had me 6-2, I never felt I was going to lose because with my break I felt I could always come back.

"Of course they're trying to shorten the matches now. It used to be a standard race-to-11. I think that favored me. Now they want to play races-to-7 or races-to-9. I think that discredits my ability. I'm a great player and I don't care what anybody says, I am a better player with the older rules—without the alternate break, the jump cues.

"I won most of my games breaking from the middle of the table, breaking hard and sending the balls down the table. Then the balls were lighter. The end balls would slide and not go directly into the corner pocket.

NBN FILE PHOTO

YOUNG EARL. . .

. . .His break was his best weapon.

"I think the real change was when they made the balls heavier. Then I couldn't defend myself. They didn't want to change it (the rules). They liked to beat me up with that. You were allowing players to beat greater players. I had a great break and I could generate a ball. That was a great advantage. I was a great shot maker and nobody was a better shot maker than I was. They leveled *the* playing field with slick felt and big pockets."

NBN: Are these changes specifically related only to pool?

EARL: "That's one of the things I've noticed is in golf they don't tinker a lot with the course. They don't change the size of the hole, the type of grass. There are a lot of idiosyncrasies in pool that they don't have in golf."

NBN: Other than those previously mentioned, what rule you most like to see changed?

EARL: "Jump cues. I just don't like that thing! (Allen) Hopkins and (Buddy) Hall changed those things (previously stated rules). They want to alter the game for their own benefit. Sigel is done. His nerves are shot. Once your nerves are shot, you're through. Once your nerves go, your hands go. That's why I wear gloves. You can't pull the trigger (with shattered nerves). You can't slow roll. If your break goes, you can alter the game and make it alternate breaks. I can't break no more (with the new rules). We've got to change the game."

"I think pool players are dead inside. Do they really care about pool?"

NBN: Other than yourself, whom do you consider your toughest opponent?

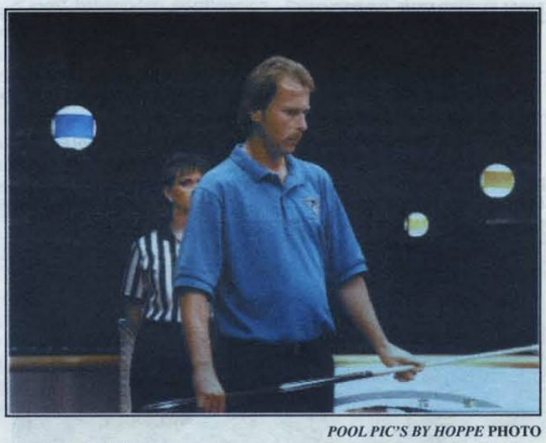
EARL: "Efren Reyes is still a great player. He has an amazing amount of knowledge, but his appearance doesn't fit the description of a great player. I don't like the guy.

"I think pool players are dead inside. Do they really care about pool? Do they care where it (the game) goes or are they just trying to line their pockets?

"I love the game. The reason I'm playing pool is for the love, not for money, not for greed, but for love. I started out as a gambler, but I don't gamble any more. These guys don't play pool for the love; they play for the money.

"In the beginning they (Sigel, Hall and Mizerak) beat me every time they played me."

"Sigel was one of my most difficult opponents. Buddy Hall. And (Steve) Mizerak was very difficult in the beginning. In the beginning, they (Sigel, Hall and Mizerak) beat me every time they played me. Then I beat Buddy twice in Dayton (OH, 1982)."



POOL PIC'S BY HOPPE PHOTO

THOUGHT PROCESS. . .'The Pearl' studies his shot at World 9-Ball.

NBN: Why is it you have been able to win so many events several times in succession at different venues?

EARL: "I won at Akron *(Akron Open) 9* times. The races were to 11. I was in the finals 5 times in a row at the *Glass City Open* (Toledo, OH). The races were to 13. I've won many times in the *World Championship* and the *U.S. Open 9-Ball*. The races were to 11 or 13."

NBN: How come you play so well in the Mosconi Cup?

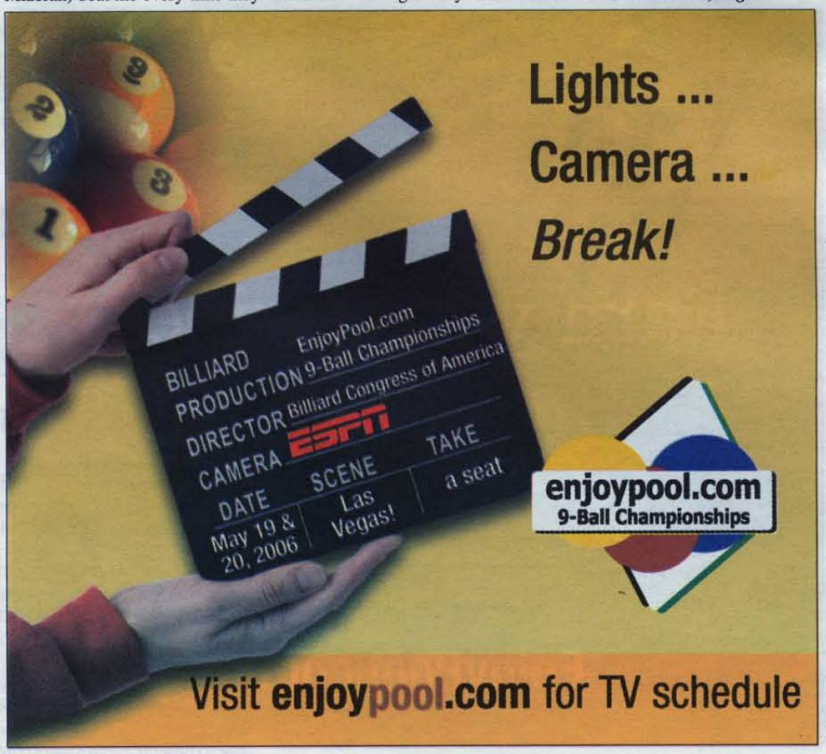
EARL: "The reason I've played well over the years in the *Mosconi Cup* is I try to be in better form there. I train vigorously for those events. Pool players are basically degenerates. I'm a degenerate, too, but I train harder than anyone else. I played tennis every day in the 1970s and 1980s. It was an asset. It kept my legs stronger, gave me more stamina.

"The one thing I did in my life is exercise."

"Tennis doesn't have the longevity pool does. After you've been playing a long time, you wear down. I once played with Stan Smith (professional tennis player). He was incredible!

"The one thing I did in my life is exercise. It was a great asset to

See STRICKLAND, Page 11



'Duchess of Doom' Defeats Villarreal for Title

Allison Fisher Is in Top Form at Great Lakes Classic

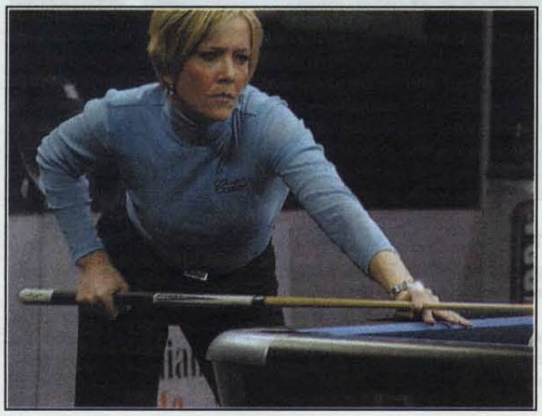
***NBN* INTERNET SERVICES**

MICHIGAN CITY, IN—Allison Fisher proved she still has what many believe to be the best talent ever to play on the *Women's Professional Billiard Association Classic Tour.*

competition, rebounded from a first-round loss to unheralded Chinese newcomer Xioating Pan to patiently navigate to the championship match in the $90,000 event.

Fisher collected the top prize of $13,000, while Villarreal settled for the runner-up portion of $8,000.

In the *ESPN* televised semifinal



WPBA PHOTO

ALLISON FISHER. . .She analyzes the possibilites of a title match shot.

The *Duchess of Doom* from England rallied from the one-loss side to defeat the *Texas Tornado* Vivian Villarreal 7-4 in the overall finals of the *Great Lakes Classic*.

The event was conducted Mar. 8-12 at the *Blue Chip Casino* in Michigan City, IN.

Fisher, rated the No. 1 player in the world in women's professional matches, Fisher defeated Texan Kim White 7-4 and Villarreal won a 7-6 battle against *The Black Widow* Jeanette Lee.

Prior to the conclusion of this event, Fisher waged an uphill battle en route to the title. She defeated Sharon Weis 9-4, Melissa Herndon 9-4, Stacy Hurst 9-3, Wendy Jans 9-7, Jennifer Barretta 9-1, Ewa Laurance 9-2 and White 7-4 to reach the championship match.

Meanwhile, Villarreal moved toward her tournament goal of capturing the championship by defeating Vicki Paski 9-3 before losing to Alice Rim 6-9. She recovered to defeat Darlene Stinson 9-3, Orietta Strickland 9-6, Sarah Rousey 9-7, Kelly Fisher 9-3, current *WPA World Champion* Ga-Young Kim 9-6 and Lee.

White reached the semifinals by opening with a 9-5 victory against Caroline Pao and followed with a win over Kim Shaw 9-8 before losing to Pan 2-9. She then moved to the one-loss side where she defeated Jennifer Chen *hill-hill* 9-8 and then nearly blitzed Rim 9-1 before falling to Allison Fisher to finish tied for 3rd-4th with Lee.

Meanwhile, Lee opened with a 9-0 shutout against Jeri Engh and then lost to Laurance 6-9. She rallied on the one-loss side to defeat Liz Ford 9-5, Sueyen Rhee 9-3, Hsin Huang 9-2, Gerda Hofstetter *hill-hill* 9-8 and Pan 9-2 prior to her loss to Villarreal 6-7.

White and Lee each earned $5,300 for their deadlock.

In the overall finals, Allison Fisher seized the advantage and never looked back as she once again conquered one of her chief rivals over the years on the *WPBA Classic Tour.*

Allison's victory improved upon her showing in the *WPBA Classic Tour* opener won by Corr in the *Carolina Women's Billiard Classic* on the campus of *Nash Community College* at *Brown Auditorium*.

The *Tour's* No. 1-ranked player had to settle for a tie for places 3-4 with Monica Webb in that event where she earned $5,300.

However, for Allison her effort was not good enough to surpass either winner Corr or second-place finisher Kelly Fisher.

This threesome have represented the British Iles or United Kingdom well on the *Classic Tour,* as each has won one of the three events held so far.

Pan, Kim, Rim and No. 2-rated Corr finished in a tie for fifth-eighth places to receive $3,000 apiece.

Laura Smith, Hofstatter, Kelly Fisher, Belinda Calhoun, Helena Thornfeldt, Barretta and Laurance were in a logjam for places 9-16, as each pocketed $2,100.

British Snooker Star Edges Corr

Kelly Fisher Prevails in San Diego Classic

***NBN* INTERNET SERVICES**

ALPINE, CA—With her new edgier look, deadly stroke and natural confidence, Kelly Fisher beat Karen Corr 7-4 in the finals of the *2006 WPBA San Diego Classic* held at the *Viejas Casino* in Alpine, CA.

This is the second year in a row Kelly Fisher has won this event.

Initially the match appeared to be all Corr, with the *Irish Invader* taking a quick 3-0 lead.

However, in the fourth rack, Corr made an error that allowed Fisher the opening she needed to take control of the table.

Methodically and conservatively Fisher worked her way to a 3-3 tie. Then her more characteristic fast and confident style of play emerged.

In rack No. 7 it was Fisher who made the error this time that allowed Corr to score another game and bring the match to 4-3.

However, Corr appeared to be hesitant and not fully in stroke. Not only did Fisher seem more confident in the match, but the break gods were also on her side.

With the alternating break format that the *WPBA* adopted, it was Fisher next up to break and with a snap and a little help from a ricocheting 7-ball, the 9-ball slowly plopped into the left corner pocket to tie the match at 4-4.

In response, the next rack Corr saw her break open the table but not leave a great opening shot. Again she had to play strategically instead of being able to run out.

Now it was a brief safety game until Fisher caught a shot on the 1-ball and ran out to take a 5-4 lead.

Next in rack No. 10, it was a case of *deja vu* when Fisher again made the 9-ball on the break.

The audience gasped then applauded, Fisher shrugged her shoulders, smiled and then nodded in sympathy to Corr. Karen looked stunned.

While still in shock over the two 9-ball breaks in a row by Fisher in the alternate break format, Corr broke in game No. 11 and then missed a cut shot to a side pocket that allowed Fisher back to the table to complete a somewhat routine 5-ball run to secure the first-place finish.

Fisher, a six-time world snooker champion, is currently ranked 3rd in the United States behind Corr and top-rated Allison Fisher who combine for a United Kingdom Alliance across the *Atlantic Ocean.*

Kelly Fisher navigated her way to the overall finals and remained undefeated throughout the tournament.

She opened with a 9-1 victory against Darlene Stinson and followed with wins over Melissa Herndon 9-6, Jeanette Lee 9-5, Gerda Hofstatter *hill-hill* 9-8, Lee again 9-5 and Allison Fisher 7-4 in the *ESPN* televised semifinal.

Meanwhile, Corr was equally impressive en route to the championship match as she began with a 9-3 verdict against Anna Kostanian and followed with victories over Ellen Van Buren 9-6, Belinda Calhoun 9-6, Jennifer Chen 9-7, Jennifer Barretta 9-7 and Sarah Ellerby 7-2 in the abbreviated semifinal contest.

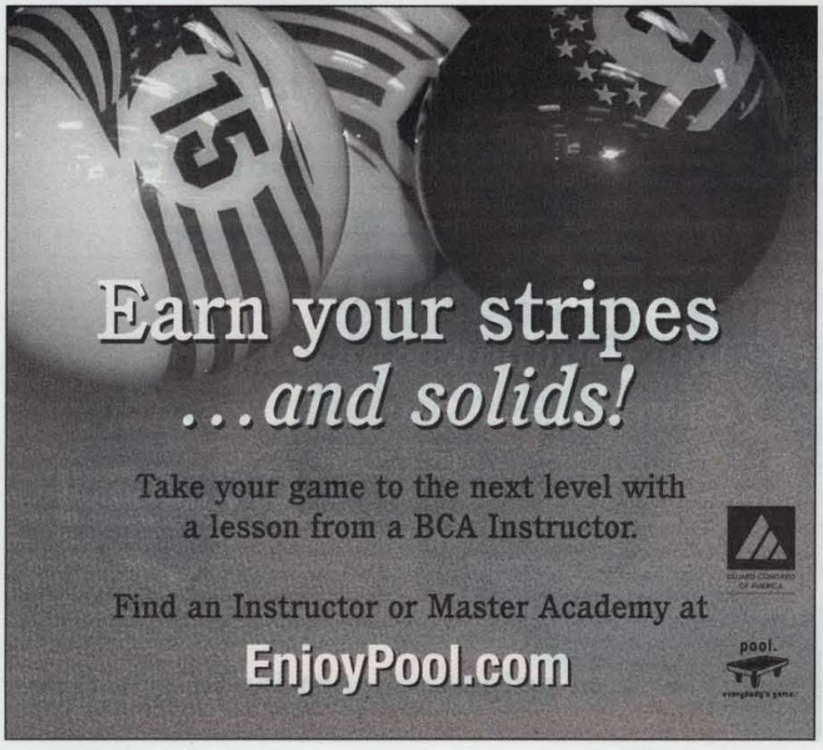
Karen earned $8,000 for her runner-up effort, while Allison Fisher and Ellerby each collected $5,300 for their tie for places 3-4.

Dawn Hopkins, Lee, Alice Rim and Barretta were in a deadlock for places 5-8 to pocket $3,000 apiece.

A group consisting of Hsin Huang, Herndon, Hofstatter, Ga-Young Kim, Van Buren, Kim Shaw and Xiaoting Pan finished in places 9-16 to receive $2,100 each.

The event featured a $90,000 total prize fund and these were the top 16 finishers in a field that totaled the top 64 players on this season's *WPBA Classic Tour.*

It was the third tournament on the *2006 WPBA Classic Tour.*



IPT Update

Officials Say They're Committed for the Long Term

PRESS RELEASE

The *International Pool Tour (IPT)* has undergone incredible growth over the last few months.

Building a profitable international pool tour is a huge undertaking. It takes tremendous commitment in financial resources, manpower and time.

Something of this magnitude does not happen overnight. The *IPT* is fully committed for the long term. We have the financial resources, business expertise, long-term vision and exciting future corporate partners that will ensure the *IPT* continues to grow and expand for many, many years to come!

Here are some updates on various issues:

1. **Worldwide TV Contracts—** There has been tremendous worldwide interest in the purchasing of the *King of the Hill* TV series and acquiring rights to broadcasting the entire 2006 *IPT* season.

The bidding war and negotiations among all the television broadcasters has been exciting and time consuming. We have made our decisions and will be announcing the exact times and networks that will handle the *IPT* 2006 tournament schedule within the next two weeks.

The *King of the Hill Tournament* will be six one-hour episodes and a two-hour finale. Each episode is designed to appeal to the 95 percent of the people who do not watch billiards on television. These episodes will be run in primetime in America, the UK, Europe and Asia.

The 2006 *IPT* tournaments will include three hours per day of live broadcasting on television in primetime in Europe and Asia. Recorded broadcasts will be in Prime Time in America.

This is unprecedented television coverage and it is only the beginning of bigger and better things to come. We are turning pool into a true *sport*.

We are also working on finalizing broadcasting rights in Canada, Australia, Mexico, South America and several other worldwide markets. We will be announcing the TV broadcast schedule within the next two weeks.

2. ***IPT* Staff—** The *IPT* staff has grown to more than 15 full-time people in the U.S. We continue to recruit and hire top quality staff members for our Chicago office and plan on opening offices in Europe and Asia very soon. Within the next few months we anticipate more than 50 *IPT* staff in offices around the world.

3. **DVDs—** It is our intention to have available on DVD and for downloading, every match from the *King of the Hill Tournament*.

The editing and production will take several more months. At each major tournament we intend on filming feature matches and having those available on DVD and for downloading as well. Our complete library of taped matches should be current by fall 2006.

The *IPT* will be producing several more instructional DVDs featuring top *IPT* players. Look for these DVDs by the end of the year. Any comments and suggestions on how to shoot the matches to make them better for pool aficionados would be appreciated. We want to produce DVDs of the matches the pool public will be excited about.

4. ***IPT* Website—** We are in the process of bringing the required resources to produce a website with more features than any other website in billiards. These will include:

Real time scoring of all qualifying tournaments and major tournaments.

Live video streaming from all tournaments.

Interactive online pool matches and tournaments. These will include:

Million dollar online tournaments, as well as real money matches.

Billiard equipment and training aids at the best prices anywhere in the world. We intend to be the No. 1 billiards supply site in the world.

Huge photo galleries and player profiles, audio and video interviews and lessons with the top players.

Live call-in shows with top players.

Message boards, chat rooms and much more.

5. **Announcers and Hosts—** Within the next three weeks we will be announcing the TV broadcast team for the 2006 season.

6. **Healthcare for Players—** We are working on details for providing health insurance for all *IPT* players.

7. ***IPT* Pension—** A pension and retirement program will be announced at the *North American Open* at the *Venetian*. This is designed to provide security for players who dedicate their life to the game.

This, combined with health insurance and guaranteed annual income for *IPT* members, should dramatically increase the number of players who decide to make playing pool a career on the *IPT*.

8. **Corporate Partners—** The rumors are true! In the last several months several multibillion-dollar organizations have expressed interest in acquiring the *IPT* in full or in part.

Having a major worldwide multibillion-dollar organization as a partner in the *IPT* has many advantages. It would provide additional security and peace of mind to the players with the knowledge the *IPT* will be here for many, many years to come.

There are also many other marketing and financial advantages for the *IPT* players as well.

All discussions are highly confidential and any announcements regarding this will be made at the appropriate time. There is a good chance we will be making a major announcement at the players' meeting at the *North American Open* at the *Venetian* in Las Vegas, NV.

9. ***IPT* Cloth—** *Gorina* has been selected to manufacture our tournament cloth to our very unique and specific requirements. There is no cloth in the world currently that is identical to the *IPT Tournament* cloth.

This slow nap cloth combined with the tight pockets of the *IPT Diamond* table, and with no breaking from the side rail, means it is difficult to make balls on the break. This is the most significant reason this cloth was selected.

With fast worsted cloth, even on a table with tight pockets, it is relatively easy to pocket two or three balls on the break.

In our testing it was shown on the same *Diamond* table, the worsted cloth produced 97 percent of the time at least one ball was pocketed. This was compared to only 52 percent of the time a ball was pocketed with the *IPT* slow nap cloth.

On the worsted cloth 65 percent of the time two or more balls were pocketed. This compared to only 22 percent of the time where two or more balls were pocketed with the *IPT* nap cloth.

On the worsted cloth balls were tied up only 18 percent of the time. On the *IPT* nap cloth balls were tied up 42 percent of the time. In this test, the nap cloth had been broken in for three weeks of solid play; it was not new cloth.

What this means is breaking and running out on the *IPT* cloth is much more difficult. In order to break and run out on the *IPT* nap cloth you must possess a very powerful break, knowledge of running patterns, pinpoint cue ball

See IPT UPDATE, Page 11

Dan Janes *Stephen Janes*

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Gollan Captures Final Stop Victory on Inaugural Stan James Canadian Tour

SPECIAL TO NBN

VALLEYFIELD, QB—Sunday the *Stan James Canadian Nine Ball Tour* finale at *Dooly's Billiards* in Valleyfield, QB began with 12 men still in the hunt.

This stop, sponsored by *Stan James Bookmakers, Simonis Billiard Cloth, Aramith Billiard Balls* and *Canada Billiards*, held the toughest field of the *Tour* to date.

The day began with an unusual father-son match-up. Mario Morra found himself opposite his son, Jon. As seems to so often be the case in this game, youth had its day and the son bested the father.

At the same time Alex *The Lion* Pagulayan was ending the quest for Jason Holdaway, Alain Martel put the parking brake on Al Logan and Nicholas Guimond sent Marco Rodier home.

The next round held out a bit of a surprise when young Morra beat former *World Champion* Pagulayan, forcing Pagulayan to settle for a disappointing 7th-8th finish.

Guimond joined Pagulayan in that tie after Martel blasted through him with his uncanny speed and devastating break shot.

On the winners' side Erik Hjorliefson came back to win his match against Danny Hewitt and Tyler Edey also came from behind to defeat Brady Gollan.

Hewitt would only last one more round, as Martel again showed his best. Gollan would continue on, as he defeated Jon Morra and sent Morra into a tie for 5th with Hewitt.

See STAN JAMES, Page 10

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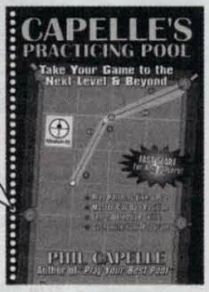

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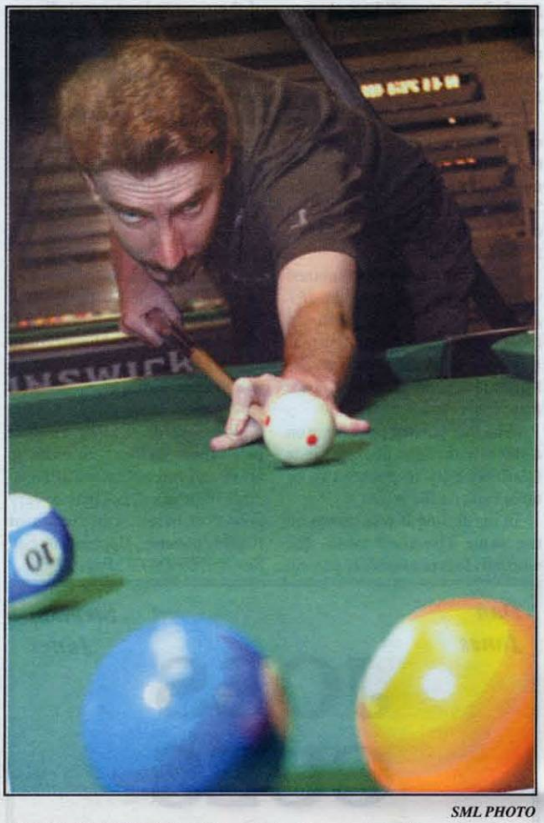
'The Scorpion' Wins His Second Title in This Event

Archer Rebounds to Defeat Pagulayan for SML Title



SML PHOTO

'SCORPION STINGS—Johnny 'The Scorpion' Archer rebounded to sting Alex 'The Lion' Pagulayan 15-11 to capture the SML Open 9-Ball Championship after losing earlier to Alex 11-2 for the 'hot seat' in the event held in Calgary, AB.

By NEIL BOUSQUET

Special to NBN

CALGARY, AB—In a morning match-up on the final day competition, Alex *The Lion* Pagulayan maintained his winning streak by downing Johnny *The Scorpion* Archer 11-2 in a battle for the *hot seat*.

Pagulayan advanced to the final while Archer was sent to the one-loss bracket.

Archer then battled his way back by defeating Canada's Edwin Montal 11-4 to earn the right to face Pagulayan again in the overall finals of the *SML 9-Ball Open Championship*.

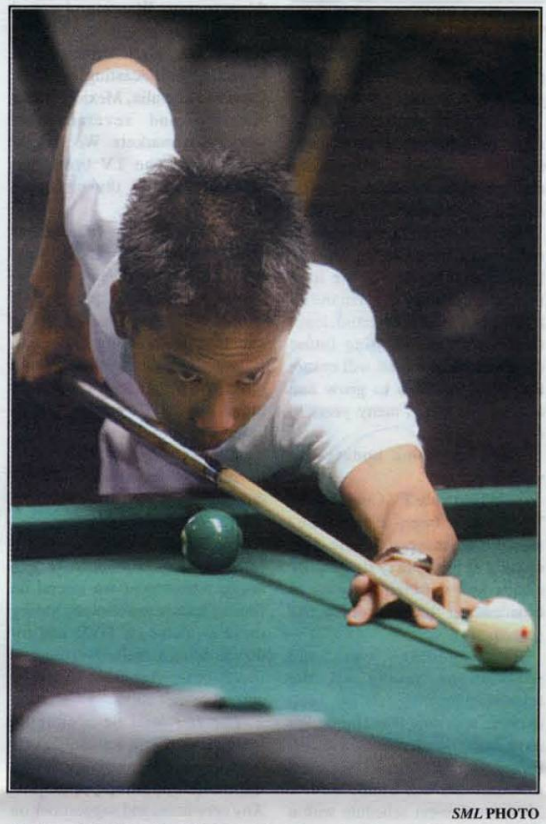
Following a four-hour marathon match, Archer's accurate shooting was too much for Pagulayan, who fell in the decisive contest 11-15.

The victory was worth $15,000 to Archer, who registered his second victory in the *SML Entertainment 9-Ball Open Championship*.

Calgary-based *SML Entertainment* operates Canada's largest pool leagues and hosts the country's premier tournaments.

The company is recognized as western Canada's premier supplier of entertainment products and has offices in British Columbia, Alberta, Saskatchewan and Mexico.

SML provides a variety of sports-related products and accessories.



SML **PHOTO**

THE LION SLEPT THIS TIME—After winning the 'hot seat' 11-2 over Johnny 'The Scorpion' Archer, Alex 'The Lion' Pagulayan fell victim to 'The Scorpion's' sting, 15-11, in the overall finals of the SML Open 9-Ball Championshp at Calgary, AB.

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Troy Frank, Theresa Nunez, Nathan Rose Prevail in VNEA Event at Seminole Venue

NBN INTERNET SERVICES

TAMPA, FL—With $25,000 in guaranteed money, the players flocked to tribal-owned and operated *Seminole Hard Rock Hotel & Casino* in Tampa, FL Apr. 13-16 for a *VNEA*-sanctioned tournament.

Troy Frank of Ohio won the $3,500 guaranteed added *Pro-Master* round-robin tournament. He went undefeated throughout the event, losing just 9 of 40 games to claim the top prize of $1,800.

Glen Olson finished second worth $1,000 and Dan Briggs was third to earn $600.

Thee were 22 players in the women's division, with a $3,000 guaranteed added prize fund and first place going to Theresa Nunez, a *Seminole Tribe of Florida* member.

Nunez came from the one-loss side after losing to Elishia Huson in a winners' bracket match to defeat Huson twice in the overall finals.

The victory was worth $1,300 for Nunez, a Florida native. This stunning 35-year-old woman lives on *The Brighton Indian Reservation* with her 4 children ages 5-12.

She has been playing pool for the past 10 years and operates a floral business, *Best Buds* that serves the *Seminole Tribe* exclusively.

Last year she finished second in the *Seminole Sunshine Tournament* and won her division in the *Valley State Tournament*. She also is in the top 20 in the *VNEA*.

Theresa's love for the game and dedication to the tribe inspired her to put together an *Elders* team for this event. The team, *Natives* that consists of 5 team players over 60 years of age, had never competed before in tournament play.

Nunez led them through the ins and outs of team play competition, with the highs of victory and the agony of defeat.

Nathan Rose, a 21-year-old from Stewart, FL, won the top prize of $1,700 in the 139-player *Open Singles* event that had a $3,000 guaranteed added total prize fund of $10,225.

Bob Stonewater finished second for $1,000, followed by Howie Van Pelt in third place worth $800 and Randy Settle, a $500 winner for fourth place.

Rose, who resembles bar table whiz Jesse Bowman of East Moline, IL, has the complete game to play nearly even with one of the Midwest 's sharpshooters.

Wrecking Q from Bradenton, FL won the *Masters Division* in team competition over *Team Hustlin* from Naples, FL.

Over The Top from Stewart, FL won the *Expert Division* in team action by defeating *Jagged Edge* in its undefeated run to the title.

In the *Sportsman Division*, *Dolly's Big Dogs* from Deland, FL defeatd *Motown Boy's* from Immokalee, FL

The event was a class act from OB Osceola, liaison of *Naples Community Seminole Tribe of Florida*, whose group has done everything possible to make this event truly a players' tournament!

Pool Box Scores Around America

8-BALL

McDERMOTT/ACS ALL AMERICAN TOUR

2005-2006 SEASON

[Results of the top 16 finishers (or less), including final position, players' names, city/state represented (in parentheses, when available) and prize money won, are as follows:]

STOP NO. 20
MISS-A-BAMA COUNTRY PALACE
MOSS POINT, AL
APR. 14-15, 2006
$820 TOTAL PRIZE FUND
(PAID THROUGH 6 PLACES)

Position	Name	Prize
1	Mike Jones	$350
2	Todd West	250
3	David Nelson	100
4	Joey Knight	80
5-6	Bob Walker	20
5-6	Ralph West	20

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STOP NO. 18
MILLER TIME BILLIARDS
DAVENPORT, IA
MAR. 18, 20006
$930 TOTAL PRIZE FUND
(PAID THROUGH 12 PLACES)

Position	Name (City/State)	Prize
1	Alan Birkett (Clinton, IA)	$300
2	Jim Hanne (Moline, IL)	200
3	Anthony Garcia (East Moline, IL)	150
4	Rich Bideaux (East Moline, IL)	100
5-6	Steve Lange (Davenport, IA)	80
5-6	Doug Putz (Bettendorf, IA)	80
7-8	Russ Jett (Davenport, IA)	50
7-8	Mark Czerwinski (Moline, IL)	50
9-12	Brad Fenchel (Moline, IL)	30
9-12	Tny Wilson (Moline, IL)	30
9-12	Bob Huskey (Silvis, IL)	30
9-12	Heidi Frank (East Moline, IL)	30

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STOP NO. 17
GREENFIELD'S POOL & SPORTS BAR
LAKEWOOD, CO
MAR. 18-19, 2006
$1,820 TOTAL PRIZE FUND
(PAID THROUGH 15 PLACES)

Position	Name (City/State)	Prize
1	Sam Cordova (Pueble,CO)	$640
2	Rich Cunningham (Burnsville, MN)	325
3	Rick Field (Lakewood, CO)	210
4	Steve Knight (Aurora, CO)	145
5-6	Bob Garcia (Arvada, CO)	105
5-6	Chad Pointer (Aurora, CO)	105
7-8	Katrina Gaines (Fountain, CO)	85
7-8	Alex Kanapilly (Lakewood, CO)	85
9-12	Victor Solano (Pueblo, CO)	65
9-12	Ray Padilla (Denver, CO)	65
9-12	Steve Flanigan (Colorado Springs, CO)	65
9-12	Frank Baca (Pueblo, CO)	65
13-16	Jim Blakeman (Lakewood, CO)	40
13-16	Bob Winter (Wheat Ridge, CO)	40
13-16	Eddie Kemm (Denver, CO)	30

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STOP NO. 14
LASSITER'S BILLIARDS
CLINTON, IA
FEB. 25, 2006
$950 TOTAL PRIZE FUND
(PAID THROUGH 8 PLACES)

Position	Name (City/State)	Prize
1	Rich Mager (Aurora, IL)	$400
2	Kevin Donner (Dixon, IL)	230
3	Keith Helfrich (Sterling, IL)	120
4	Rich Bideaux (Moline, IL)	80
5-6	Phil Fulsang (Clinton, IA)	40
5-6	Jim LaFavre (Sterling, IL)	40
7-8	Kyle Knight (Dekalb, IL)	20
7-8	John Smith (Aurora, IL)	20

9-BALL

McDERMOTT/ACS ALL AMERICAN TOUR

2005-2006 SEASON

[Results of the top 16 finishers (or less), including final position, players' names, city/state represented (in parentheses, when available) and prize money won, are as follows:]

STOP NO. 22
THE CAROM ROOM
BELOIT, WI
APR. 22, 2006
$1,024 TOTAL PRIZE FUND
(PAID THROUGH 16 PLACES)

Position	Name (City/State)	Prize
1	Chad Lund (Madison, WI)	$230
2	Dave Coles (Beloit, WI)	162
3	Ken Harvell (Broadhead, WI)	110
4	Bill Spatafora (Rockford, IL)	78
5-6	Bob Shepard (Rockford, IL)	59
5-6	Dan Schneider (Madison, WI)	59
7-8	Carlos McGill (Beloit, WI)	45
7-8	Donovan Oswald (Rockford, IL)	45
9-12	Dave Noble (Sterling, IL)	34
9-12	Jim LaFavre (Rock Falls, IL)	34
9-12	John Brannon (Beloit, WI)	34
9-12	Jerry Follis (Rockford, IL)	34
13-16	Tom Cox (Madison, WI)	25
13-16	Duane Tuula (Rockford, IL)	25
13-16	Steve Jero, Jr. (Beloit, WI)	25
13-16	Rudy McGill, Jr. (Janesville, WI)	25

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STOP NO. 21
NITE HAWK BILLIARDS
PORTLAND, OR
APR. 21-23, 2006
$2,650 TOTAL PRIZE FUND
(PAID THROUGH 8 PLACES)

Position	Name (City/State)	Prize
1	Dan Louie (Mercer Island, WA)	$1,000
2	Mike Zimmerman (Kent, WA)	650
3	Stan Tourangeau (Vancouver, BC)	400
4	Jesse allred (Vancouver, WA)	250
5-6	Todd Marsh (Seattle, WA)	110
5-6	Bob Zack (Portland, OR)	110
7-8	Al Perez (Vancouver, WA)	65
7-8	Kenny Dodd (Hillsboro, OR)	65

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STOP NO. 19
YOGEE'S BILLIARDS
ROSEBURG, OR
APR. 8-9, 2006
$2,290 TOTAL PRIZE FUND
(PAID THROUGH 16 PLACES)

Position	Name (City/State)	Prize
1	Mike Cront (Myrtle Creek, OR)	$700
2	Tom Hynh (Roseburg,OR)	350
3	Ken Cavener (Grants Pass, OR)	225
4	Greg Christensen (Bend, OR)	150
5-6	Jesse Christensen (Bend, OR)	125
5-6	Randy Baker (Coos Bay, OR)	125
7-8	Bruce Deal (Roseburg, OR)	100
7-8	Brent Galloup (Coos Bay, OR)	100
9-12	Bret Baker (Grants Pass, OR)	70
9-12	Carlos Rodriguez (Coos Bay, OR(	70
9-12	Rich VanBerger (Roseburg, OR)	70
9-12	Alberto Ayala (Coos Bay, OR)	70
13-16	Jay Krause (Eugene, OR)	35
13-16	Eric Baird (Roseburg, OR)	35
13-16	Joey Christensen (Bend, OR)	35
13-16	Dave Butler (Roseburg, OR)	35

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STOP NO. 16
RICH'S ROADHOUSE
FREEPORT, IL
MAR. 18, 2006
$755 TOTAL PRIZE FUND
(PAID THROUGH 6 PLACES)

Position	Name (City/State)	Prize
1	Chad Vilmont (Clinton, IA)	290
2	Carlos McGill (Beloit, WI)	200
3	Rich Mager (Aurora, IL)	140
4	Iowa Bob (Rockford, IL)	75
5-6	Mike Lyght (Dubuque, IA)	25
5-6	Rudy McGill, Jr. (Beloit,WI)	25

J. PECHAUER SOUTHEAST OPEN 9-BALL TOUR

2005-2006 J. PECHAUER SOUTHEAST OPEN 9-BALL TOUR RESULTS

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

STOP NO. 25
SEASON FINALE
MR. CUES II
ATLANTA, GA
APR. 8-9, 2006
$4,680 TOTAL PRIZE FUND
(PAID THROUGH 12 PLACES)

Position	Name	Prize
1	B. J. Ussery	$1,400
2	Stevie Moore	890
3	Cliff Joyner	590
4	Tommy Kennedy	400
5-6	David Grossman	300
5-6	Louis Ulrich	400
7-8	Jon Hennessee	200
7-8	Mike Destefano	200
9-12	Wade Crane	100
9-12	Ron Park	100
9-12	Jeff Aberrantly	100
9-12	Darrell Caldwell	100

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STOP NO. 24
SEVIERVILLE BILLIARD CLUB & GRILL
SEVIERVILLE, TN
APR. 1-2, 2006
THE PECHAUER SMOKEY MOUNTAIN CUP
28 PLAYERS
$1,000 ADDED
$2,000 TOTAL PRIZE FUND
(PAID THROUGH 6 PLACES)

Position	Name	Prize
1	Tommy Kennedy	$650
2	B.J. Ussery	400
3	Haskell Brown	300
4	Kyle Jenkins	250
5-6	Craig Houghton	200
5-6	Justin Harris	200

—

STOP NO. 23
PARKWAY BILLIARD CLUB
BLUFFTON, SC
MAR. 4-5, 2006
43 PLAYERS
$1,500 ADDED
$2,900 TOTAL PRIZE FUND
(PAID THROUGH 12 PLACES)

Position	Name	Prize
1	Tommy Kennedy	$1,000
2	Tony Watson	500
3	Mike Staubes	400
4	Glenn Smith	300
5-6	David Crocker	150
5-6	Ron Park	150
7-8	Kevin Caruso	100
7-8	Billy Sikes	100
9-12	Donnie Seagraves	50
9-12	Greg Little	50
9-12	Will foster	50
9-12	Chris Zayas	50

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STOP NO. 22
PLANET 9-BALL
TAMPA, FL
FEB. 18-19,2006
THE PECHAUER TAMPA OPEN
39 PLAYERS
$1,000 ADDED
$2,460 TOTAL PRIZE FUND
(PAID THROUGH 8 PLACES)

Position	Name	Prize
1	Mike Destefano	$1,000
2	Brian Davalos	500
3	Nomar Paula	300
4	Travis Lasswell	200
5-6	Tommy Kennedy	150
5-6	Bob Otto	150
7-8	Dan Briggs	80
7-8	Wade Crane	80

JOSS NORTHEAST 9-BALL TOUR
2005-2006 SEASON

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

STOP NO. 18
COMET BILLIARDS
PARSIPPANY, NJ
APR. 29-30, 2006
$100 ENTRY FEE
$2,000 ADDED
4,720 TOTAL PRIZE FUND
(PAID THROUGH 8 PLACES)

Position	Name	Prize
1	George SanSouci	$1,400
2	Danny Barouty	920
3	Ryan McCreesh	750
4	Mike Zuglan	550
5-6	Victor Nau	350
5-6	Earl Herring	350
7-8	Frankie Hernandez	200
7-8	Sam Frangle	200

—

STOP 17
GOLDEN CUE BILLIARDS
ALBANY, NY
APR. 22-23, 2006
$100 ENTRY FEE
$3,000 ADDED
$6,840 TOTAL PRIZE FUND
(PAID THROUGH 12 PLACES)

Position	Name	Prize
1	Dave Pinkston	$1,640
2	Chance Chin	1,200
3	Jeff Smolen	900
4	Keith McCready	700
5-6	Dave Fernandez	500
5-6	Danny Hewitt	500
7-8	Tony Ruberto	350
7-8	San Frangi	350
9-12	Mike Zuglan	175
9-12	Kevin Ketz	175
9-12	Ken Felton	175
9-12	Dave Verano	175

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STOP 16
CLASSIC BILLIARDS
ROCHESTER, NY
MAR. 25-26, 2006
$100 ENTRY FEE
$2,000 ADDED
$4,560 TOTAL PRIZE FUND
(PAID THROUGH 8 PLACES)

Position	Name	Prize
1	Mike Zuglan	$1,300
2	Dan Doerner	960
3	Shane Winters	700
4	Tom D'Alfonso	500
5-6	Hongsavady Vongxay	350
5-6	Tony Morrison	350
7-8	Ryan McCreesh	200
7-8	Ron Casanzio	200

—

STOP NO. 15
PRO BILLIARD LOUNGE
ROTTERDAM, NY
MAR. 11-12, 2006
NORTHEAST 9-BALL OPEN XIX
32 PLAYERS
$100 ENTRY FEE
$2,000 ADDED
$4,560 TOTAL PRIZE FUND
(PAID THROUGH 8 PLACES)

Position	Name	Prize
1	Dennis Hatch	$1,360
2	Tom D'Alfonso	900
3	Mike Zuglan	700
4	Greg Antonakos	500
5-6	Bruce Carroll	350
5-6	Paul Rozonewski	350
7-8	Tony Ruberto	200
7-8	Frank Sorriento	200

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STOP NO. 14
MICHELLE'S BILLIARD CAFE
BALDWINSVILLE, NY
MAR. 4-5, 2006
$100 ENTRY FEE
$3,000 ADDED
$5,640 TOTAL PRIZE FUND
(PAID THROUGH 8 PLACES)

Position	Name	Prize
1	Dennis Hatch	$1,600
2	Erik Hjorliefson	1,140
3	Eric Hildebrand	850
4	Joey Korsiak	650
5-6	Jose Mendez	450
5-6	Evan Broxmeyer	450
7-8	Dave Grau	250
7-8	Jon Morra	250

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STOP NO. 13A
TURNING STONE CASINO & RESORT
VERONA, NY
TURNING STONE CLASSIC VI
128 PLAYERS
$150 ENTRY FEE
$25,000 ADDED
$40,360 TOTAL PRIZE FUND
(PAID THROUGH 32 PLACES)

Position	Name	Prize
1	Thorsten Hohmann	$8,000
2	Keith McCready	5,260
3	Ralf Souquet	3,600
4	Sam Ferrell	2,500
5-6	Mika Immonen	2,000
5-6	Jonathan Smith	2,000
7-8	George SanSouci	1,500
7-8	Danny Basavich	1,500
9-12	Dennis Hatch	1,100
9-12	Dave Fernandez	1,100
9-12	Danny Hewitt	1,100
9-12	Kim Davenport	1,100
13-16	Johnny archer	800
13-16	Adam Smith	800
13-16	Joe Tucker	800
13-16	Tom D'Alfonso	800
17-24	dave Grau	500
17-24	Rich Orem	500
17-24	Karen Corr	500
17-24	Mark Pantovic	500
17-24	Joey Korsiak	500
17-24	Dave Verano	500
17-24	Mike Wallace	500
17-24	Corey Deuel	500
25-32	Randy Labonte	300
25-32	Mike Zuglan	300
25-32	Jennifer Baretta	300
25-32	Jason Robichaud	300
25-32	Mike Davis	300
25-32	John Fernandez	300
25-32	Rodney Cuillerier	300
25-32	Dan Kolacz	300

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STOP NO. 13
CAP'S CUE CLUB
SYRACUSE, NY
FEB. 11-12, 2006
$100 ENTRY
$1,500 ADDED
$4,060 TOTAL PRIZE FUND
(PAID THROUGH 8 PLACES)

Position	Name	Prize
1	Dave Grau	$1,200
2	Gary Empey	800
3	Dennis Hatch	600
4	Tom D'Alfonso	460
5-6	Mike Zuglan	325
5-6	Hongsavady Vongxay	325
7-8	Bruce Carroll	175
7-8	Kirk Rutherford	175

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STOP NO. 12
SNOOKER'S CAFE & BILLIARDS
PROVIDENCE, RI
JAN. 28-29, 2006
17TH OCEAN STATE 9-BALL CHAMPIONSHIP
60 PLAYERS
$125 ENTRY FEE
$5,000 ADDED
$11,900 TOTAL PRIZE FUND
(PAID THROUGH 16 PLACES)

Position	Name	Prize
1	George SanSouci	$2,500
2	Allen Hopkins	1,800
3	Joe Tucker	1,400
4	Danny Basavich	1,000
5-6	Mike Keith	800
5-6	Gary Abood	800
7-8	Mike Zuglan	600
7-8	Keith McCready	600
9-12	Al Lapena	400
9-12	Dom Souza	400
9-12	Marc Vidal	400
9-12	Ray McNamara	400
13-16	Jay Stevens	200
13-16	Jay McCaughey	200
13-16	Mike Dechaine	200
13-16	Ryan McCreesh	200

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STOP NO. 11
COMET BILLIARDS
PARSIPPANY, NJ
JAN. 21-22, 2006
52 PLAYERS
$100 ENTRY FEE
$3,000 ADDED
$6,160 TOTAL PRIZE FUND
(PAID THROUGH 12 PLACES)

Position	Name	Prize
1	Danny Basavich	1,500
2	Karen Corr	1,060
3	Al Lapena	850
4	Sean Morgan	650
5-6	Allen Hopkins	450
5-6	Dennis Spear	450
7-8	Frankie Hernandez	300
7-8	Eddie Vazquez	300
9-12	George SanSouci	150
9-12	Joey Korsiak	150
9-12	Rob Staskowski	150
Eric Grasman		150

STAN JAMES CANADIAN 9-BALL TOUR

2006 SEASON

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

SEASON FINAL
DOOLY'S BILLIARDS
VALLEYFIELD, QB
$14,650 TOTAL PRIZE FUND
(PAID THROUGH 12 PLACES)

Position	Name	Prize
1	Brady Gollan	$5,000
2	Erik Hjorliefson	2,750
3	Tyler Edey	1,750
4	Alain Martel	1,250
5-6	Danny Hewitt	750
5-6	Jon Morra	750
7-8	Alex Pagulayan	500
7-8	Nicholas Guimond	500
9-12	Marco Rodier	350
9-12	Al Logan	350
9-12	Mario Morra	350
9-12	3Jason Holdaway	500

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Q-CLUB
EDMONTON, AB
70 PLAYERS
$14,650 TOTAL PRIZE FUND
(PAID THROUGH 12 PLACES)

Position	Name	Prize
1	Edwin Montal	$5,000
2	Tom Finstad	2,750
3	Felix Beardy	1,750
4	Tyler Edey	1,250
5-6	Jeff White	750
5-6	Benny Onyschuk	750
7-8	eddie Gallati	500
7-8	Glenn Cameron	500
9-12	Charlie Brown	350
9-12	Rob Phillips	350
9-12	Brady Gollan	350
9-12	Dan Lallier	350

MIDWEST 9-BALL TOUR

2005-2006 MIDWEST 9-BALL TOUR RESULTS

[Results of the top 24 finishers (or less), including final position, players' names, city/state represented (in parentheses) and prize money won, are as follows:]

THE BREAK
CAHOKIA, IL
MAR. 11-12, 2006
74 OVERALL PLAYERS
$2,500 OVERALL ADDED
$3,980 OVERALL PRIZE FUND
OPEN DIVISION 9-BALL
64 PLAYERS
$2,150 ADDED
$3,340 TOTAL PRIZE FUND
(PAID THROUGH 16 PLACES)

Position	Name (City/State)	Prize
1	Chad Vilmont (Clinton, IA)	$1,000
2	Lars Vardaman (Belleville, IL)	600
3	Randy Enlow (St. Charles, MO)	400
4	James Baraks (Rock Island, IL)	240
5-6	Brad Ogborn (Sunnyland, IL)	150
5-6	Jeff Beckley (Indianapolis, IN)	150
7-8	Rich Sager (St. Louis, MO)	125
7-8	Josh Ulrich (Indianapolis, IN)	125
9-12	Dan Wallace (San Diego, CA)	100
9-12	Shan McMinn (Tulsa, OK)	100
9-12	Jon Hennessee (Manchester, TN)	100
9-12	Nate McGaha (Fairfield, IL)	100
13-16	Mike Durbin (Sullivan, IL)	60
13-16	Jesse Bond (Eureka, MO)	60
13-16	Paul Verhulst (St. Peters, MO)	60
13-16	Jery Terbrock (Manchester, MO)	60

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SHOOTER'S BILLIARDS
OLATHE, KS
FEB. 23-26, 2006
140 OVERALL PLAYERS
$5,000 OVERALL ADDED
$11,465 OVERALL PRIZE FUND
OPEN DIVISION 9-BALL
95 PLAYERS
$3,400 ADDED
$8,150 TOTAL PRIZE FUND
(PAID THROUGH 24 PLACES)

Position	Name (City/State)	Prize
1	Brian Jones (Tulsa, OK)	$2,000
2	James Baraks (Rock Island, IL)	1,250
3	chuck Raulston (Poplar Bluff, MO)	900
4	John Johnson (Bettendorf, IA)	600
5-6	Jon Hennessee (Murfreesboro, TN)	350
5-6	David Matlock (Lenexa, KS)	350

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LADIES DIVISION 9-BALL
17 PLAYERS
$600 ADDED
$1,195 TOTAL PRIZE FUND
(PAID THROUGH 4 PLACES)

Position	Name	Prize
1	Rhonda Pierce (Tulsa,OK)	$500
2	Karen Lincoln (Kansas City, KS)	350
3	Allison Hardwick (Evansville, IL)	240
4	Julia Gabriel (St. Charles, MO)	105

Fast & Loose

LESSON LEARNED

By PERRY FISHER

The Hitman

The afternoon sun laid its warming rays of light across the beds of the antique *Brunswicks*.

It was mid March and day's activities were routine in the life of young *Fast*. Setting his cue on the corner table, he approached the counter to hand out a set of balls.

A group of young men exchanged hellos and moved to match up on the nearby table. The young *Fast* briskly walked to his table and commenced running balls again.

Over and over, he imagined himself playing one of the men he had met in Johnston City. With each pocketed ball, he congratulated himself out loud.

Though *Fast* found this perfectly normal, the other young men in the pool room began to mimic him. The laughter and carrying on caught *Fast's* attention.

Anger came over him as he watched the other table of players. They exaggerated his mannerism at the table and cheered out loud.

Just then, *Fast's* father entered the room and walked calmly behind the counter. His expression never changed as he turned to notice his son's reaction.

Young *Fast* walked briskly to the counter and glared at the annoying young men. His father smiled and asked, "You been beating everyone in Johnston City, again?"

Fast dropped his eyes and became flush with color. His silence was interrupted by the laughter of the young men again. It seemed to be louder this time.

Fast returned his glance toward the table. "Why don't you move those boys, son?" his father asked. "You told me you were and are going to be a hustler!"

Fast began to speak but no words came out. His father replied, "You catch bears with honey don't you think?" Fast just nodded.

"Now, you just go over there and start laughing and don't stop until you have them all laughing with you," his demanding father said. "Then I ask them to play, right?" *Fast* asked. His father just smiled.

After only a few moments each of the young men were laughing hysterically. Fast moved toward his practice table to retrieve his cue. The young men took turns racking and shooting; yet at the end of every game, *Fast* assumed position at the head of the table to break. After about an hour, the boys bid farewell.

When they exited the room, *Fast* turned toward his father. "I told them I'd cover the time for them being how they were broke!"

Fast's father rang the register and replied, "That will be $2.35, son!"

Fast laughed and so did his father. Then his father replied, "That will be $2.35, son!" With a surprised look *Fast* replied, "But Dad!"

The man did not change his expression. Slowly *Fast* removed nickels and dimes and came down to empty pockets. He was 23 cents short.

His father never said a word as he counted each coin. *Fast* watched in hopes of reaching his dad's satisfaction. The man finally spoke, "You're short on cash. I'll take if from your wages."

Fast was stunned and stomped off toward his practice table. He started slamming balls into the pockets and flopped into the wooden chair in the corner of the room.

The man calmly walked toward the table and retrieved the balls. He placed hem into the rack and tightened them onto the headspot. After doing so he placed *Fast's* cue on the table.

The boy looked up at him with a glare and said, "I'll pay you for it!" His father smiled and said, "Okay with me, son."

Fast broke and ran through the 5-ball. The lay on the table was easy. The man looked *Fast* in the eyes and addressed the ball. *Fast* watched his dad stroke at the cue ball. His prized *Rainbow* became part of his arm as he steered through the rack effortlessly. Coming to rest with a straight-in shot on the 9-ball.

Fast hung his head not wanting to see the result. Suddenly he felt a hand on his shoulder. He looked up toward his father with tearful eyes.

"Now son, I'm not always going to be her to cover you," replied the man. Continuing he said, *"Fast,* this is a very important lesson for you, son. The fact that you played brilliant against those boys means absolutely nothing."

Fast stood and unscrewed his cue. Placing both halves on the table he turned and replied, "I still don't understand why you made me pay?"

The man responded, "You said you'd cover their time, right? So this is my business and you owe the business. Hustlers don't have family, they don't have friends!"

STAN JAMES

Continued from Page 7

Gollan seemed to improve throughout the day. He went *double-hill* with Martel and then survived a late-game safety battle to persevere.

Martel laid claim to 4th place as Edey and Hjorliefson were deciding who would take the *hot seat*. Hjorliefson took that one and relaxed as Edey moved over to battle the now energized Gollan.

Early in this match Edey could gain no comfort, as he simply had very few opportunities. Gollan was controlling the table and winning the early rounds consistently.

Before long Gollan led the match 5-1 and the tension began to show in Edey's face. The next game took a full 20 minutes as the table broke out ugly and safeties were returned with safeties. Edey had the first go at a shot and appeared to have the out well in hand but hung the 6-ball in the corner pocket to deliver the win to Gollan.

The marathons had begun. The next rack also broke into nothing but clusters and traps and the balls disappeared ever so grudgingly. Twenty minutes after the rack came apart Gollan stroked the 9-ball into the corner and led the match 7-1.

It was time for Edey to throw caution to the wind and come out firing. Gollan would give him no chance in the next game as he once again prevented any opportunities for Edey.

In the next rack Edey twice had shots on the 3-ball that he would normally convert. But the frustration of the match had now turned his usually sharp stick dull and witless and both shots failed to meet the mark.

Gollan took the table at the 3-ball and ran through the remaining balls to gain his berth against Hjorliefson in the overall finals, while Edey had another of his series of high finishes to complete the day in 3rd place, albeit in disappointing fashion as a result of this 1-9 drubbing.

Hjorliefson was determined to avoid that type of fate. He broke and ran the first rack in the expanded overall final race-to-11 games format.

But he could not retain control in the next and Gollan tied the match at 1. Brady then missed a tough cut on the 1-ball in the third rack and Hjorliefson ran through the rest of the balls to go back out in front 2-1.

The see-saw was in full tilt when Hjorlierson came up dry on the next snap. This resulted in a very lengthy safety game that saw neither player giving quarter.

After more than a dozen hidings the 2-ball finally went into the corner for Hjorliefson. From there he finished out the rack and increased the spread to 3-1 in his favor.

Another dry break in rack No. 5 resulted in Gollan coming back to the table. The balls were available to Gollan as he took full advantage to reduce the margin to one game and trail 2-3.

Rack No. 6 was another clumsy layout. But when Gollan moved things around a bit as he lucked the 1-ball off the 2-ball, the table opened with possibilities. Brady took the chance home and tied the match at 3.

He pounded the rack and made four balls on the next break but the 1-ball was only available for a long-rail bank-combo on the 9-ball. Gollan made it to gain the lead 4-3.

His break and run in the next rack showed a quickened pace and a great display of confidence. Now leading 5-3 he once again bent to break.

This time two balls vanished but the 1-ball again had no cut available. The bank shot was a win or sell-out proposition and so he elected a safety.

Hjorliefson returned it, obviously frustrated at the lack of recent opportunities. This was made all the worse when Erik scratched and handed the ball over to Gollan.

Brady finished the rack off as well to extend his lead to 6-3 and now a string of 5 consecutive wins. Hjorliefson could not catch a break.

Gollan missed the 2-ball in the side but the cue ball rolled up into a snooker Erik could not escape. Once again Brady had ball-in-hand. He finished the rack early with a 5-9 combination.

Rolling now, Gollan broke and ran the next rack to extend his lead to 8-3. He repeated that feat in the next rack to stand within two games of victory.

Finally, he came up dry on the next break. Hjorliefson raced through the rack, eager for the win and a little momentum. After 8 successive losses he finally sank the 9-ball to stand at 4-8 with the break.

Early rack safety play again blossomed in the next game. This time was Hjorliefson who gained the ball-in-hand advantage. He drew a little closer at 5-9.

But bad luck returned quickly to Erik when he scratched on the ensuing break shot. The resulting run put Gollan *on the hill* and breaking.

Two balls dropped on his break and the rest were in the clear. He ran the rack and took his first victory of the year, 11-5.

The win was worth $5,000 for Gollan, while Hjorliefson received $2,750 for his runner-up finish. Edey finished third worth $1,750, followed by Martel who pocketed $1,250. Hewitt and Jon Morra tied for 5th-6th to earn $750 each.

The four points leaders at the end of this year's *Tour* are, in order, Montal, Edey, Gollan and Hjorliefson. Edwin and Tyler have, through their efforts, gained seats in the *2006 World 9-Ball Championship*.

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STRICKLAND

Continued from Page 5

me to play other sports. I don't think you have to stay in shape to be a great player. I think you have to be lucky (too)."

NBN: What would you do to improve the game of pool?

EARL: "The tables should be heated. The matches are way too short. They allow every gimmick in the world. The pockets are too big. The slate is too shallow. The slates don't roll straight; it's cracked or warped.

"I think the most important thing is to heat the table."

"The reason why a pool table isn't straight is the slate is too thin. (Let's) take a snooker table for example. The cue ball doesn't veer a fraction. I don't see why they can't make a pool table level like a snooker or 3-cushion table.

"I think the most important thing is to heat the table. When the tournament room is set up, the table is dry. As soon as you fill the tournament up, the tables become wet. It's the humidity from peoples' bodies.

"We don't want the level of play to go down. I'm speaking of pool in general. You're defeating the purpose. Now you're talking about not being able to run 3 balls. You've got to make it where we look good all the time. When the table gets wet, the spin goes off the balls real quickly. You do real stupid stuff. You don't want people saying that about you."

NBN: How many tournaments have you won?

EARL: "I don' know. We don't have any records. How many times have I scratched in my life (professionally)? How many times have I won? How many times have I lost? "I've complained about these things all my life. Where has it gotten me? I've been called the Dennis Rodman of pool, the John McEnroe of pool. Where has it gotten me?

"I tried to stop the players from gambling in 1984. You know what I got from that? They threatened to break my legs. You can't go very far on your own. You have to have someone behind you. They (the players) don't want to stop because they're all gamblers."

"I'm not worried about dying broke. I care about the trees, animals, the insects, what goes on eco-wise in this world.

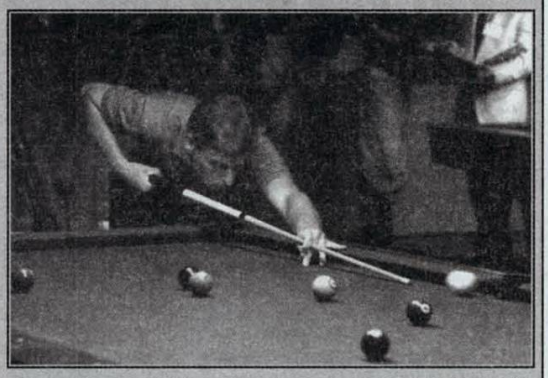
"I think it's wrong when pool players are playing a game together and they don't agree on anything. I don't have a buddy. Pool is an individual sport. Pool ain't never had a guy like me. They haven't seen a guy like me. I'm sorry that I

"Pool ain't never had a guy like me. They ain't never seen a guy like me."

care. It's just what I'm supposed to do.

"A lot of people think I'm just some maniac pool player. I care about the world. I care about my country. I hate terrorists. If they're interfering with my livelihood, I don't like them.

"All those countries over there are terrorist. I think George Bush is doing a wonderful job. We don't need a liberal president in this country. We get one and he will (expletive) it up.



NBN FILE PHOTO

STRAIGHT SHOOTER. . .Strickland aims at the heart of the matter.

NBN: Overall, how would you characterize yourself?

EARL: "I'm not a bad person and I mean well. I know I am a very vocal person, but pool is a game I'm here to protect. I want to do something in pool, to make a difference. Playing with a jump stick or shortening matches or making pockets bigger, they (adjustments) are in my way.

"I'm not here to leave pool in the same disaster it's in. You have to make icons of the greatest players. I want to say to the people out there if I've infringed upon your mentality in any way, I'm sorry. But I'm not making the rules. If I'm making the rules, you'll never hear another word out of me!"

IPT UPDATE

Continued from Page 7

control and incredible accuracy with a powerful stroke.

It has been proven the harder you hit the cue ball the less accurate the shot becomes. These factors dramatically reduce luck. These conditions will mean the better player will more consistently win.

IPT Tournament Conditions, like the *U.S. Open* golf conditions, are designed to make luck much less of a factor. To win an *IPT Tournament*, a player must have tremendous physical and mental stamina, ability to handle pressure, knowledge of running patterns, a high degree of accurate shot making, a powerful stroke, a powerful break and excellent cue ball control. The winner must possess all of these skills.

IPT Champions will not be lucky. They will be true athletes who have the mind, knowledge, skills and physical fitness to be the best.

10. ***IPT Tournament* Balls**—*SALUC* of Belgium has been selected to manufacture *IPT Tournament Balls* to our very specific requirements. These will be the highest quality, longest lasting and truest playing billiard balls in the world. These will be released in June.

11. ***IPT* Chalk**—The *IPT* has commissioned a major manufacturer to produce the *IPT's* official chalk. This chalk uses the most expensive and highest quality ingredients and manufacturing process available anywhere in the world. It is by far the highest quality chalk in the world. It is ideal for multiple environmental conditions.

12. ***IPT Sardo Rack***—The *Sardo Rack* has been selected as the official rack of the *IPT*. Using this rack guarantees fairness. Every player gets the exact same perfect rack every time.

13. ***IPT Tournament* Table**—*Diamond* has been selected to manufacture the *IPT Tournament Table* to our unique specifications. These tables are designed to last. They play consistently the same year after year. They are also designed to play tougher than other tables. Players must be accurate, guaranteeing the more skilled and accurate player will more consistently win.

14. **Corporate Sponsors**—The *IPT* has generated interest for major corporations including insurance, financial services, automobiles, beer and liquor companies, credit cards and several other industries. They are huge worldwide corporate interests in providing long-term sponsorship agreements for the *IPT*.

Since the *IPT* is fully funded, we are being prudent in evaluating all sponsorship offers currently being presented. We may choose to accept outside sponsorship in the future.

More announcements on this will be made at the *North American Open* at the *Venetian* in Las Vegas, NV.

15. **Wagering on Tournaments**—On-line sports books and casino sports books are discussing the possibility of accepting wagering on the major tournaments and possibly qualifiers.

There are many legal and jurisdictional issues that are being reviewed. More details will be forthcoming.

Look for many more announcements to be coming within the next two months.

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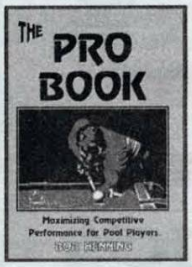

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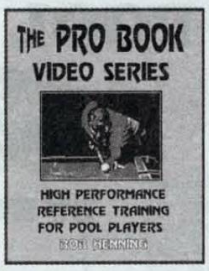

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CROSS THE GAP

There is a space between our desires and our reality.

"I want to be a pro" you may say, but your reality is you are a beginner. We must take the steps to cross that gap. If you want to gain consistency, you must deal with your inconsistency and what it is that causes you to be *on* one day and *off* the next. In order to solve a problem you must first acknowledge you have one. Once you cross this gap, you will create another gap, as you will reach another level. So our journey is filled with gaps. We must find a way to bridge these gaps and connect them together so we can find a better way to travel this incredible journey called pocket billiards.

Let me warn you I am going to share things that are not written about by the so-called experts in this field. They gained the education from other players. I gained my skills, not in the art of getting a good game in the poolroom, but in the art of hitting a cue ball. So don't be surprised if I share things with you that are hard to believe. There may be a conflict with what I share with you as it goes against all you have been taught in the past. For now, you need only to listen with an open mind and move toward the personal goals you have set for yourself.

You do not need to learn shots to master this game.

You need to develop your skills. Once you acquire the skills to pocket balls, you will then develop a long list of shots you personally favor. You will evolve into your own game. I can't choose those shots for you. They must come from your experiences. I would be the worst of masters if I taught you at the expense of your experiences. Therefore, your journey with *The Monk* is all about skill development.

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