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NATIONAL BILLIARD NEWS

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Greatest Of All Greats...

Ceulemans Defend World 3-Cushion Title

World Three Cushion Billiard Championship this 25th World Tournament brings to the United States the greatest three cushion billiard players under the auspices of the Union Mondiale De Billiard which is the governing body of world billiards. The confederations of Europe, Asia, Africa, South American and the United States compose the world organizations, the first truly three cushion championship ever held in the United States is hosted by the Billiard Federation of North America, a member of the world organization.

Raymond Ceulemans of Belgium, consecutive time world champion will defend his title. Players in this year's tournament who will be trying to wrest Ceulemans's Crown will be: Johan Sherz of Austria, Adolpho Tiedtke of Germany; Homberto Sugiumizu of Peru; Martinez of Argentina, Nabih Yousri of Africa; Allen Gilbert and Edward Robin of the United States and two great young players from Japan, Nobuchi Kobayashi and Shigeki Kashiki. Many of today's players throughout the world equal or surpass the records of past greats.

Raymond Ceulemans won last year's World Three Cushion Championship in Tokyo, Japan was undefeated and averaged 1.267 billiards per inning for seven world championships and his best game of sixty points, in 24 innings is unequalled by anyone, including Willie Hoppe, Welker Cochrane and Jake Schaeffer, the past greats of the United States.

This year's World Three Cushion Tournament will be held May 18-23 in Las Vegas, Nevada, in the beautiful South Hall Room in the Hotel Sahara, with comfortable seating for everyone. Tickets will be available at a nominal fee and hotel rates are at a special discount for billiard enthusiasts.



RAYMOND CEULEMANS

Pool Hustler

Turns Gentleman

This is a true story of a pool hustler turned gentleman.

At the age of twelve years young in a small town in Tennessee I



became interested in pool, due to several facts.

My home was broken up and I was living with my father, who was a broken man because of his separation from mother. I was taken out of school at the age of twelve in order to earn enough to eat.

One day I strolled into a pool hall because it was raining, became interested and became a good player in just a few weeks, became the manager at thirteen, and turned hustler. In those days it was dimes and quarters if no one was gambling in a pool game. I would start them with very little conversation, would ask someone to play a game and not mention gambling, force him to make the one ball and say "that's a pay ball" and explain that that was the only way I'd ever played and that each odd ball was worth a dime and I can't remember any one ever refusing to take the dime and if he did his money belonged to me. After twenty years of this and a million pool rooms later, at the age of twenty eight, married and broke, took a job as cabbie in Los Angeles and hustled this for nine years, until an auto accident put me out of commission for several years.

Became interested in pocket billiards again in 1961 when I saw the movie "The Hustler," because I was sure this would clean up the element which had caused me to quit the game of billiards and pool halls.

I found out about an old friend of mine, Minnesota Fats, New York. Fats, Rudolph Wonderone, whatever they call him, he is the daddy of all the Family Billiard Centers. He and I and another promoter of the game, one who is gone

(Continued on Page 8)

Balsis 2nd Kiehle 3rd

CRANE WINS SALT CITY OPEN ALLEN WINS 4-WAY TIE 9-BALL

by SKIP MILLER

The Second Annual Salt City Open Pocket Billiards Tournament, staged at the Holiday Billiard Lounge in Syracuse, N. Y. April 23-26, turned out to be the most gruelling showdown in recent billiards history.

Surprises started happening the first day as the field of 41 of the game's greatest players began vying for the \$5,900 in prize money.



The first day saw the defeat of defending Salt City champ Steve Mizerak Jr. of Cartaret, N. J. by Allen Kiehle of Endicott, N. Y. Kiehle put together a 55 ball run to dump the champ 125-66. Syracusean Dan Antonacci fell before the stick of 18-year-old Allan Hopkins 125-102 as Hopkins (of Cranford, N. J.) cut loose with a 67 ball run.

Hopkins, finishing the tournament in 11th place, later scored wins over heavily favored Frank McGown of Brooklyn, Jack Shumadine of Binghamton, and Joe

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STEVE COOK, STARDUST WINNER

BY Paul Coburn

Youthful Steve Cook, youngest winner of the world's richest billiard tournament, the recent Stardust Open, began his brilliant billiard playing career at the tender age of 14 on a HOME-MADE table!

Recently Steve reminisced about his formative years as a pool player: "I started playing when I was 14. My father built me a table for Christmas just before my 15th birthday and I played on it in our basement for a year almost solid every night. I seemed to pick up most of the basic fundamentals myself and was playing fairly well after hitting the balls for one year. I then was 16 and was able to go to Northland Bowling and Billiards and improve my game even more for the next year and a half. Then I started playing in DePalma's Billiards for another three years before I started play in tournaments and moved to Tampa Florida.

"I lived in Lima, Ohio all these years of playing before I moved to Tampa and since then I have been playing and working at Dale Mabry Billiards with Lefty Goff who has also helped my game immensely."

Steve Cook began making his biggest improvement when he started playing in tournaments at the age of twenty, three years

ago, against all the top notch players in tough competition constantly.

Since Steve started on the tournament trail he has participated in six world tourneys. He has played three "World Hustlers" at Johnston City, Illinois and three at the Stardust in Las Vegas. Not counting the last Stardust he has made a creditable showing having finished 9th and 13th in straight pool, 9th in one pocket and in the top 16

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9-Ball Tourney Ends In Tie

The Long Beach International 9-Ball Tournament ended in a four-way tie Monday night and a sudden-death playoff will be held tonight at Paramount Billiards.

Ed Kelly, Ronnie Allen, Harry McConnell and Jim Mataya wound up with 8-3 records after 11 nights of classic shooting.

In Monday night's play Danny DiLiberto defeated Don Watson 11-3, Kelly disposed of Richie Florence 11-7, McConnell routed Johnson 11-3, Allen subdued Eddie Burton 11-10, McConnell turned back Richie Ambrose 11-4 and Kelly outlasted Mataya 11-9.

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Editor's Notebook

by EARL NEWBY



We had an auto trip on Sunday, April 26th to Syracuse, N. Y., to cover the semi-finals and finals in the Salt City Open 14-1 Pocket Billiard Tournament at the Holiday Billiards, 3033 Erie Boulevard East. This was one of the finest tournaments we have ever had the pleasure of witnessing. All the many fans who saw the final two games between the popular Pennsylvanian, Joe Balsis, from Minersville, and Irving Crane, five times World's Champion, will never forget them. These two games will be written up in history as two of the greatest games ever contested. Crane had lost his first game to Petie Margo and when he reached the finals he had to defeat Balsis twice. Balsis scored 52 points and then scratched, minus 1, total 51, when Crane scored 150 balls without Balsis ever scoring a point. However, in the second game, Balsis quickly built up a big lead, 144 to 57, only to receive a bad break, needing six balls, and Crane got his last chance at the table. He ran 93 and out and closed this 1970 Salt City Open with a spectacular feat.

On April 29th we flew to Las Vegas to attend the Billiard and Bowling Institute of America meeting, and also the "Industry Service" Award to Minnesota Fats, "Man of the Year." We attended the Key-note luncheon at 12 noon on Thursday, April 30, in the Space Center of the Sahara Hotel. On May 1st, the B.B.I.A. breakfast at 8:30 a.m., and also on May 1st at 12 noon the "Industry Service" Award luncheon. You will notice the pictures of Roy Gandy, Minnesota Fats and Yours Truly elsewhere in this paper.

The first person with whom we shook hands was Mike Geiger of the Charles W. House & Sons Inc., of Unionville, Connecticut, manufacturers of Billiard Cloth. The second Billiard Buff we met, truly one of the real gentlemen of the B.B.I.A., membership and Past President of the Billiard Congress of America, Mr. William H. Gunklach, National Billiard Manufacturing Company, Cincinnati, Ohio. We were glad to greet Mr. W. H. Sheffer of the Tweeten Fibre Co. Inc., Chicago, Illinois, manufacturers of billiard accessories, and also in the course of the meeting we were pleased to meet the following members. Gordon Murrey, Murrey & Sons Inc., Los Angeles, the largest billiard distributor in the far west; the popular billiard supply dealer, Robert S. Mullen of Q-Master, Inc., Berkley, Michigan; James Wilhelm, President of the Billiard Congress of America, and executive of the Saunier-Wilhelm Company of Pittsburgh, Pa., Frank Lanza, co-owner of Victor Billiards, Philadelphia, Pa., Leonard Bantz, Executive Secretary of the B.B.I.A., and also Executive secretary of the B.C.A., Mort Luby, Past President of the B.B.I.A., and owner, publisher and editor of the National Bowling Journal and Billiard Review; Ben Shimmel of J & S Sales Company Inc., Mt. Vernon, N. Y., and the Gandys, Elizabeth and Roy, of the Macon Billiard Supplies, Macon, Georgia. We would like to tell our readers about this great Roy Gandy, because he advertises in our Billiard News. He had us run a new Ad featuring his Queen Elizabeth pocket billiard table. We handed him one of the current issues featuring this Ad. He walked across the room and in less than five minutes he returned and told us he had sold ten new Queen Elizabeth pocket billiard tables to one of his fellow members of the B.B.I.A. This all took place at the "Industry Service" Award luncheon.



Roy Gandy, Minnesota Fats, winner of "Man of the Year Industry Service" award, and Earl Newby.

At the luncheon, at the Press table, one of our new acquaintances was Mr. Tok Diskin, Nevada representative for Sports Illustrated magazine.

We learned from the popular billiard supply dealer, Zeb L. Parrish, Charlotte, North Carolina, that he had stopped by the crap table and had a whirl at Lacy Luck. His winnings were \$15.00.

Another celebrity at my table at the luncheon was Peters.

Another gentleman who shook hands with me and is a great booster of the National Billiard News, was Frederick T. Mali of H. W. T. Mali Co. Inc., New York City. To our readers, this is the company that has the franchise for the Belgian billiard cloth which is sold throughout the States.

While staying at the Sahara we had a call from a great billiard buff, an employee of the Sands Hotel in the Fun City, and one of our favorite people, Ed Walters.

It was interesting to note how the well known Jack G. Thomas, Business Manager of the Brunswick Corporation of Chicago, stood out in all groups.

It was nice also to have a chat with Sydney Laner of the Sydney Laner & Co., Chicago, Ill. and we learned that he is the first member of the B.B.I.A., and the person most responsible for starting the B.B.I.A. I was glad to meet again Robert Gebhardt of the Gebhardt Billiard & Bowling Supply Co. of Hazelton, Pa.

I talked on the telephone a few minutes ago with a good friend of billiards, Mr. Clement F. Trainer of Philadelphia. He has had an operation but is up and on the move again. In fact, he is leaving for a month's vacation in Ireland this afternoon.

Congratulations to the Administrative Staff of the B.B.I.A., who worked so hard to put on this membership meeting.

Also I would like to thank my good friend, Irv. Sablowitz and all his associates who made his great cue show possible in his city.

We had a telephone call this morning from Joe Marcus, who has just returned from England. He informed me that my friend, Rex Williams was in Toronto for exhibitions and television appearances for the sport of Snooker. Rex made this trip with another great snooker player from his country, Fred Davis. We will try to run the results of the exhibitions and Television series coverage in the June issue of the National Billiard News. Davis and Williams are returning to England this weekend after a series of exhibitions in our neighbor country at the north - Canada.

Cash Tickles Minnesota Fats

By JIM LEE

"If I want a trophy I can buy one."

Simple words for a man who has been the pitome of the pressure competitor that has no use for the sheer joy of winning for victory's sake.

But if you pin Minnesota Fats down -- which is tougher than to beat him in pool -- the renowned pool hustler, billiard blisterer and candidate in a one-man race for tooting one's own horn, and technical star of the movie "The Hustler" will tell you that "cash" is and will always be his only incentive to compete.

His pool accomplishments, among other things, are legend -- so the most colorful speaker the weekly Sportrayers' have had said Thursday at the Landmark Hotel.

Fatty, as many call him, is as straight a shooter as anyone that has ever lived. And that goes for all things, said Fats.

"Telling it like it is has always been my saying, but I hear it everywhere."

And telling it, besides "breaking" every known great pool player that has lived, is sheer fodder for the fat man's cannon.

There is little, if anything, connected with pool that Minnesota has not done formally or empirically.

Empirically would never be a word that Fats would use to describe himself or his livelihood because the man who is in town to receive an industry Service Award from the Billiard and Bowling Institute of American has a language and argot all his own.

"Ain't got a match" means stone broke and "to make a long story short" means another tangent to a delicious vignette Fats is telling about his varied background.

The industry award is a kick in the pants for Fats since "I haven't worked a day in my life and don't intend to," says the man who knows a "choker" from a real pressure player better than a dog knows a fire hydrant.

"They made me a rich man against my will," Fats extolls kiddingly about how he parlayed 40 years of match-game competition under the pressure of thousands of dollars into a "square J hn" in the world of work by Brunswick Corp.

He may have never worked a day in his life, but at the age of 12 Fats was already thinking in terms of true adulthood wanderlust and plain "walking around money." Walking around money for Fats at 12 in Minnesota was "breaking" every great pool player in the state for bigtime cash some 50 years ago.

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DEDICATED TO BUILDING BETTER SPORTSMANSHIP

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TO ALL OUR READERS

I received a telephone call from one of our subscribers who was at the Stardust World's Richest Tournament just recently won by Steve Cook. He told us that Cook won in the first play off in the 9 Ball. Russo and Cook were tied 10 games each and Steve Cook was running out. However, shooting on the 8-Ball he missed the 8-Ball and the cue ball went safe in back of the 9 Ball. This was

the turning point. The caller went on to say it was the break that best Russo. Russo had to try to hit the ball under the rules that they play under, and he didn't do it. He was so disgusted that Cook had missed and left him tied up and Cook was so lucky. In doing so Russo left Cook an easy shot and Cook had two balls to make it a tie. Otherwise, it would have been over -- there would have been no play off.

US Open Straight-Pool Tournaments To Be Held In Arlington, Va.

by DAVID HATCHER

Two 1970 U.S. Master's Straight-Pool tournaments are planned for June 17 through 27 at the Jack and Jill Cue Club in Arlington, Va.

The matches--one for men and the other for women--will bring together some of the top players in the country to compete for the \$5,000 guaranteed prize money.

Contestants in the men's division will play matches of 14/1 straight pool to 135 points until the final match, which will go to 150 points. The ladies will play elimination matches of 14/1 to 60 points, with the finals being played to 75 points.

The entry fee for men will be \$75, and the first prize will be \$1100. The runner-up will win \$700, and third place money will be \$500. Contestants placing fourth through sixth place will receive \$400, \$300, and \$200, respectively. Seventh and eighth place will carry a \$100 prize each, and there is also a \$100 prize for high run in the men's division.

Women entries will ante up a \$45 fee to compete for a first prize of \$500, with second through sixth taking \$300, \$225, \$150, \$100, and \$75. Seventh place, eighth place, and high run will each pay \$50.

Each division will be playing a double-elimination tournament, with the winner of the loser's bracket being required to beat the victor in the winner's bracket once for championship.

The tournaments are open to any qualified player. Further information will be provided by tournament chairman Bill Staton, or Charlie DeValliere, Jack and Jill Cue Club, 2707 S. Wakefield St., Arlington. The phone entries to date in the men's tournament include:

--Eddie Kelly, Las Vegas. "Champagne Ed" has won national championships in straight pool, nine-ball, and one-pocket.

--Danny DiLiberto, Miami. DiLiberto, who won this event last year, is expected to be one of the top contenders.

--Bernie Schwartz, Pittsburgh. The owner of the "Hawks' Nest" pool room in Pittsburgh, Schwartz was runner-up in the 1970 U.S. Open nine-ball championship tournament.

--Charlie DeValliere, Arlington.



ton, DeValliere, a recently retired insurance executive who is realizing a long-held ambition to own a pool room and play tournament pool, placed fourth in a recent national tournament.

--Bill Staton, Alexandria, Co-owner (with DeValliere) of the Jack-and-Jill, veteran of exhibitions on TV, and well-known personality of the game, Staton is always a tough competitor.

--Howard Barrett, Arlington. Howard is a veteran tournament player who currently holds the Virginia State Championship. Women contestants already entered are:

--Bobbi Jennell, Arlington. The Virginia State Champion on the distaff side, Bobbi is one of the girls to beat.

--Geraldine Titcomb, Cincinnati. Geraldine is a member of the Brunswick Staff of Champions.

--Jane Smith, Scottsdale, Arizona.

Otto Reisel, Age 79, Ex-Billiard Champion

Otto Reisel, former three-cushion billiards champion of the world, died Wednesday night in Misericordia Hospital. A lifelong Philadelphian, he was 79 and lived at 6635 Springfield ave.

Mr. Reisel won the world title in 1926 and again in 1928. He defended it a half dozen times before formally dressed audiences in a plush glass-enclosed World Tournament Room at Allinger's Billiard Academy, 13th and Market sts.

Mr. Reisel played the game's greatest stars, including the legendary Willie Hoppe and was a headliner on the sports pages of the nation in his day. He and Hoppe played cross-country exhibition tours in the 1930s and '40s to standing-room-only crowds.

He underwent brain surgery in 1943 and again in 1961, two years after his retirement as part owner of Allinger's, in which he held an interest for about 50 years.

Surviving are his wife, the former Sue H. Williams; a son, Robert O., and a daughter, Mrs. Bertha McLaughlin.

Services will be at 10 A.M. Monday in the Roche Funeral Home 56th st. and Cedar ave. Burial will be in Whitmarsh Memorial Park.

Victory Werbenick's "Snooker Win over Thorburn.

BY GORDON TEKATCH

Bill Werbenick's victory over Cliff Thorburn in the quarter finals, with the score standing at 3-games to 2-games in Werbenick's favor, the 6th-game was crucial. Bill slammed in two Fantastic pots and then made a fine run of 58 - break was decisive - it knocked Cliff Thaburn out of the tournament. At the end of the match, the English Professionals

Mohawk Airlines Billiards League Takes Off At Hi-Cue

There's nothing new about the Company Bowling League nowadays -- but it's just a little old hat at Newark International Airport where eight Mohawk Airlines employees have found a new twist on the old idea -- A MOHAWK AIRLINES POCKET BILLIARDS LEAGUE.

The idea took shape when eight Mohawk staff members found that they had a common interest in Pocket

Billiards -- the group (ROBERT JACK, PETER AMABILE, ROBERT RYAN, JOSEPH SULLIVAN, LOU CHACHE, WILLIAM DICKS, CHICK RESNICK and JOHN MECCA), organized a League with ROBERT JACK as League Director, and selected Elizabeth's HI-CUE BILLIARD LOUNGE (just 8 minutes from Newark Airport) as the site of their new League.

"We chose HI-CUE because it's considered New Jersey's leading Billiard Lounge -- definitely not a dive!" says JACK. "Mike Asch, the Activities Director, was very helpful in setting up the League and the scoring, and making us feel right at home. It's a place with wall-to-wall carpeting, new equipment and even stereo music in the background, and a very nice crowd of people."

League Tournament play reached the half-way mark on April 22, with trophies for the three top scorers, and a cash prize for the Tournament High-run.

Half-way Standings were:

1. CHICK RESNICK
2. ROBERT JACK
3. JOSEPH SULLIVAN

Rex William and Fred Davis introduced themselves to Bill and Cliff. Fred Davis commented on Bill's playing by saying "You're a good player, Laddie." This gave Bill a real thrill and compensated greatly for his previous losses to Cliff.

4. JOHN MECCA
5. PETER AMABILE
6. WILLIAM DICKS
7. ROBERT RYAN
8. LOU CHACHE

The eight Mohawk men have been making plans for the future, too: They are not only planning to invite more Mohawk Airlines employees at Newark to join their League, but are also making plans to form a Newark Airport Billiards League, playing against teams from the other airlines based at Newark, and even teams from other airports on the Mohawk system -- an all-Mohawk league!

Mike Asch of HI-CUE is as pleased as punch, of course. "The HI-Cue management and staff is going all out for Mohawk Airlines people. We'll not only give them every facility and assistance with League play, but we'll be staging trick shot clinics and Ladies' nights, with special facilities to welcome Mohawk and airlines people from out of town -- so that if pilots and stewardesses, for example, have a few hours to spend, they can enjoy them at HI-CUE in a pleasant refined atmosphere, playing a friendly, relaxing game of Billiards."

It's another sign of how Mike Asch of HI-CUE, with interested and enthusiastic cue fans like these Mohawk Airlines people, are making Pocket Billiards more and more popular -- and better for all of us!

Minnesota Fats

(Continued from Page 2)

"Breaking" simply means to utterly destroy a man playing on the same table with you for more money than he cares to lose.

Born in New York a few years less than 70 ago Fats has traveled the hustler's trail from Albany to Florence, Calif., spreading an unbelievable aura of confidence and mastery, not to mention collecting big money for the head-on matches.

By the time he became a teenager Fats had established a reputation of unbeatability and his cockiness made him a bigger target for shooting down than Matt Dillon.

The man hates pettiness from small-money pool games to parking spaces, or anything that makes Fats go out of his way or makes it appear that he gives a damn. He does, but he won't readily admit it.

"My asset was never being pressured into something I wasn't prepared to do," says Minnesota.

Translation: never play for small stakes, or play with your own money, or play in a tournament where the first prize isn't cash on the barrel-head.

The carefree life is what he's done and claims that he's lived always like a millionaire even with no dollars.

"In my heyday I ate filet mignons like hot dogs," says the fat man, and his build looks it.

In one of his books "Bank Shot and Other Great Robberies" published in 1957, Fats claims that he accused Willie Mosconi of being a great player but who couldn't pay worth peanuts if there was money on it and Mosconi sued him because of it.

Minnesota doesn't have contempt for the greats of his game, but only believes he's the best that's ever lived and has "broken" anyone any good that's ever lived.

The great Willie Hoppe is what Fats considers also a fine player, but who would miscue if Hoppe had to play with his own money.

Forty-five minutes Minnesota spoke before the Sportrayers group and not a minute went by that there wasn't laughter abounding 30 stories above Paradise Road.

There was a slight feeling that Fats was afraid of not communicating with his audience which he had by the nape of its neck, as the living, walking advertisement to the results of pool hustling kept asking those close to him "ya know what I mean?"

"Ya know what I mean," he kept asking as a verbal addendum for fear of losing the crowd.

The crowd wasn't lost and Fats was obviously appreciated by the group that sometimes has bland and nondescript speakers.

Some great philosopher once said that "Show me a good pool player and I'll show you a mis-spent youth."

Even if it were true, Fats claims that he would still do it all over again exactly the same way.

WANTED. Book entitled "3 Cushion Billiards" by Ray Kilgore. Contact Jim Friel, 11818 E. Colfax, Aurora, Colo. 364-9111 (Collect).

JACK AND JILL CUE CLUB

3rd ANNUAL

1970 U.S. MASTERS STRAIGHT POOL TOURNAMENT

June 17 thru June 27

PRIZE MONEY GUARANTEED

\$5000

LADIES' TOURNAMENT PRIZE MONEY LIST

1st Prize	\$500
2nd	300
3rd	225
4th	150
5th	100
6th	75
7th	50
8th	50
High Run	50
Total	\$1500

Ladies' Entry Fee \$40
Straight Pool 60 Points — Final 75 Points
Double Elimination

MEN'S TOURNAMENT PRIZE MONEY LIST

1st Prize	\$1100
2nd	700
3rd	500
4th	400
5th	300
6th	200
7th	100
8th	100
High Run	100
Total	\$3500

Men's Entry Fee \$75
Straight Pool 135 Points — Finals 150 Points
Double Elimination

WINNERS OF THE LOSERS BRACKET MUST BEAT THE WINNER OF THE WINNERS BRACKET ONE TIME FOR THE CHAMPIONSHIP

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FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT BILL "Weeny Beenie" STATON OR CHARLES DEVALLIERE AT THE JACK & JILL CUE CLUB, 2707 S. WAKEFIELD ST., ARLINGTON, VA. 22206. PHONE 703-931-7671.



Paul Colburn

COOK

(Continued from Page 1)

in nine ball in these tournaments.

We asked Steve what, in his estimation, the future holds for the game of billiards. "I think the future of billiards will be good, but it depends to some extent on how much promotion it gets on television and in newspapers. It needs to become more of a spectator sport and more tournaments need to be televised. This will create more interest for the public. There needs to be more good paying tournaments for a pro to make a good living at pocket billiards. A pro can make a living today if he puts on exhibitions and maybe handles some line of billiard equipment, but not just through tournaments alone. More tournaments would also create more interest for the public."

Steve continued, "I think the Billiard News does a wonderful job for the sport. Fans and players should get behind this paper enthusiastically."

Another question we out to Steve Cook which should be of prime interest to many readers is, "how can the average player improve his game?"

Stevens reply: "the average player needs to keep playing and play as much as possible. When you practice, spend some time on your weaknesses such as banks, cross table and table length. Or maybe cuts of various kinds trying for particular postion. Have something definite in mind when you practice and not just bang around a bunch of balls at random."

Also, "Watch the good players when possible. Try to learn something from them. And this is important: when you play, try when possible to play with players who are better than you are. This will really help you to improve because you will strive to play on their level." Steve concluded, "what

made me successful was to play people who were a little better than myself. I kept going up step-by-step until I was playing with top players."

Finally we asked Steve Cook if he had any particular idol or inspiration during the early development of his game. "I didn't have any one idol in the game. I admired all the top players such as Luther Lassiter, Jack Briet, Willie Mosconi, Irving Crane, Joe Balsis, and others. I learned a lot from all players, not just one. And you know, its a funny thing about billiards. Sometimes you'll meet some completely unknown guy who is terrific at some particular part of the game, and can teach you a thing or two you didn't know before. I always have an open mind to learn!"

Recently Steve was the proud recipient of a letter of congratulations from his old home town of Lima, Ohio signed by many old friends and townspeople, as grand champion winner of the three divisions, straight pool, nine ball and one pocket, of the March 1970 Stardust Open!

Steve is looking forward to more tournaments. For the immediate future he plans to stay in Tampa Florida where he is working at Dale Mabry Billiards with Lefty Goff. Bill Watson is owner of this fine quarter of a million dollar establishment which has a tournament room and supply business.

In conclusion we would like to say that Steve Cook is one of the nicest most accomodating men in the game. He is personable, modest, easy to talk to, and the Stardust win has in NO WAY altered the size of his hat band.

Good luck to Steve Cook and we are sure many new fans are waiting to see him in action in future tournaments and exhibitions.

In future columns of Billiard News we expect to devote more space to the subject of "how to improve your game," with opinions from the experts on how to improve your stroke, english, position play, etc. We also want to do a column on coin table pool. In the meantime if you have any comments, ipinions, or views about any aspect of the game of billiards please write me and we'll air them in this column. The Billiard News wants to print things you are interested in and want to read about so please write me at: Paul Coburn, 67 "A" St., Salt Lake City, Utah 84103.



Steve Cook

Join The Federation

P.O. Box 5414, San Jose, California 95150.

In only two years the B.F.U.S.A. has...

Sent an American player to compete in the 1966 World Championship Cushion Tournament in Peru.

Staged the greatest international three cushion tournament ever held in this country (San Francisco, October, 1966).

Staged sectional billiard tournaments in four cities in the U.S.A. in 1967 and again in 1968.

Staged the first national billiard tournament in 15 years, featuring qualifying sectional winners from throughout the U.S.A. (San Jose, Calif., February, 1968).

Sent the U.S.A. champion to the world championship in Germany in April, 1968.

Started plans for the next national tournament, the winner of which will be sent to the 1969 world meet in Japan along with the runner-up.

Started plans for the 1970 world championship tournament to be held in the U.S.A.

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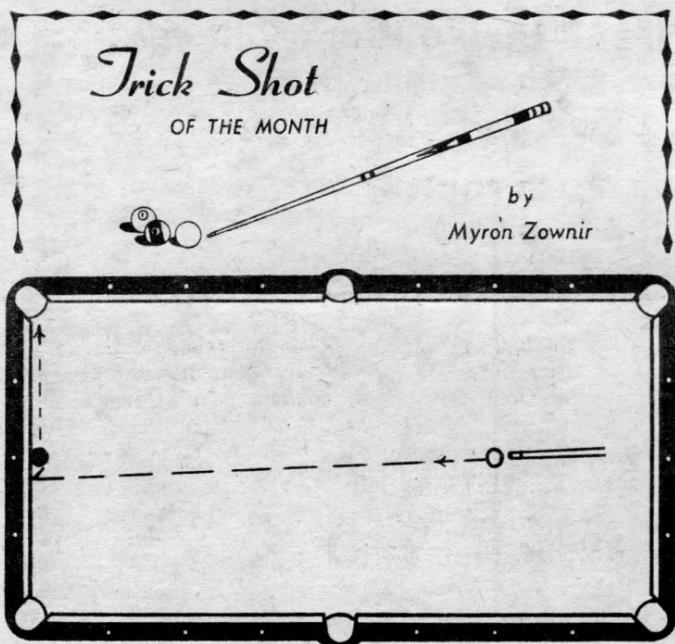
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Trick Shot

OF THE MONTH

by Myron Zownir

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Freeze object ball on rail as shown and place cue ball on spot. Using a moderate stroke with center right hand english, aim to just miss the object ball. English will cause cue ball to go to the right after hitting rail. If hit is close enough, cue ball will nip the object ball and send it toward the pocket. Practice stroking this shot a few times till you get the range. You should be able to make this shot in ten tries. At a social club exhibition, I made this shot at my first try.

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American Billiard Association

Bob Mullen, owner of Q-Master Billiard Supplies, Detroit, Mich. and Ray Abrams, owner of Cushion 'n Cue Billiard Lounge, Oak Park, Mich. have sponsored an annual \$500 award to the 3-Cushion Billiard player of the year. To win this award, you must be the top money winner for the year in sanctioned tournaments. To play in a sanctioned tournament you must be a member of the A.B.A. (American Billiard Assoc.) and the B.C.A. (Billiard Congress of America).

from the regular competition with only two losses. These were at the hands of Strange, 50-42, and Merhl Smith, 50-39. He met and defeated: Joe McDevitt, 50-32; Norm Ross, 50-10; Bob Ameen, 50-27; John Bonner, 50-42; and Mike Donnelly, 50-40. For his winning effort, Mr. Harris received the Harold Worst Memorial Trophy, donated annually by Q-Master Billiard Supplies, and \$350.00 in prize money.

Finishing 2nd for \$250.00 and the runner-up trophy was John Bonner. Bonner's one loss in the playoffs was to Harris. In the regular competition Bonner downed: Joe McDevitt, 50-46; Bob



LEFT TO RIGHT - Norman Ross, Michigan City, Ind. -5th, Robert Strange, Lansing, Mich. - 3rd; Joseph Ameriquian, Dearborn Heights, Mich.-6th; Morton Colburn, Oak Park, Mich.-City Councilman; John Bonner, Hamburg, N.Y.-2nd; Ray Abrams, Host and Sponsor; Jose Campos, Chicago, Ill-4th; and Bud Harris, Chicago, Ill.-1st.

He began by meeting and downing the following players in the preliminary rounds: Phil Lockwood, Lansing, Mich., 35-15; Ben Galyon, Lansing, Mich., 35-26; Bob Mullen, Southfield, Mich., 35-

29; Harold Miner, Lansing, Mich., 35-28; and Ed Silberstein, Detroit, Mich., 35-21.

In the semi-finals Harris defeated: Bob Ameen, Westland, Mich. 35-34; Don Tozer, Decatur,

Ill., 35-22; Bill Smith, Chicago, Ill., 35-32; and Joseph Ameriquian, Dearborn Heights, Mich., 35-33. He then was handed his only loss of the tournament by

(Continued on Page 11)

TOP MONEY WINERS TO DATE 1970

- Bud Harris Chicago, Ill. \$667.50
- Bob Ameen Westland, Mich. \$452.50
- John Bonner Hamburg, N.Y. \$250
- Jose Campos Chicago, Ill. \$195
- Bob Strange Lansing, Mich. \$175
- Mike Donnelly Monroe, Mich. \$112.50

MEMBERSHIP

Enclosed is an application for membership to the A.B.A. We are soliciting membership for the sole purpose of promoting 3-Cushion Billiards and are a non-profit organization. Your \$5.00 membership fee entitles you to play in sanctioned A.B.A. tournaments, compete for A.B.A. awards, receive monthly A.B.A. mailings, which will include statistics on tournaments held, tournaments to be held, entry blanks for tournaments and all other types of 3-Cushion Billiard news.

Officers of the A.B.A. are Mr. Ray Abrams, Detroit, Mich., Mr. Merhl Smith, Chicago, Ill., and Mr. Bob Strange, Lansing, Mich.

NEWS AND INFORMATION

We encourage our members to send us all the Billiard news they deem interesting enough to convey to other members and please do send us your own personal news and experiences.

Harold Brown.....Rochester, Mich. Bob Stange.....Lansing, Mich. Joe McDevitt.....Fisher, Ill. Bill Hawkins.....Decatur, Ill.

1st and 2nd place winners of the tournament will qualify to participate in the World 3-Cushion Billiard Tournament in Las Vegas, Nevada, May 18-24.

LAS VEGAS WORLD TOURNAMENT TOUR -- A Tour is being planned to the World Tournament --\$259 (room and airfare for 7 nights and 8 days). It will originate in Detroit and stop in Chicago if necessary. If interested, contact Ray Abrams, 23137 Coolidge, Oak Park, Mich. 48237 -- Telephone, 541-1608.

The tournament itself, smoothly and efficiently run, was filled with more than the usual number of upsets and resulted in an unexpected three way tie for 1st place. This necessitated a single, round-robin playoff beginning late Sunday evening. Competing for the title in the playoff were Bob Strange, John Bonner and Bud Harris.

At the wee hour of 3 a.m. Monday, January 12, with several dozen spectators still glued to their seats, former U. S. Open Champion Bud Harris downed John Bonner 50-46 and became the first American Billiard Association Champion of Champions. In gaining the title, Harris went unbeaten in the playoffs, his other win over Bob Strange, 50-36. Harris earned his playoff position by emerging

Strange, 50-48; Norm Ross, 40-48; Merhl Smith, 50-47; and Mike Donnelly, 50-44. Bonner's two losses were to Harris, 50-42, and Bob Ameen, 50-42.

3rd place and \$150.00 went to Bob Strange, who was defeated in the playoffs by Harris, 50-36, and by Bonner 50-31. Strange's two losses during the regular matches were to Norm Ross, 50-47, and to Bonner, 50-48. Bob's wins in the regular play were over: Joe McDevitt, 40-30; Bud Harris, 50-42; Merhl Smith, 50-31; Bob Ameen, 50-41; and Mike Donnelly, 50-42. Bob also captured high run for the event with a run of 9.

Out of the playoffs but finishing 4th for \$100.00 was the 1969 U. S. Open 3-Cushion Runner-Up, Mike Donnelly. 5th through 8th places, worth \$50.00 apiece, were taken respectively by Bob Ameen, Norm Ross, Merhl Smith and Joe McDevitt.

Local publicity for the tourney was excellent with particulars on the event carried by both major Detroit newspapers, and several suburban papers. Don Kramer, sportscaster on Detroit's Channel 4 T.V., was on hand with a camera crew to interview Mr. Abrams and tape some of the action. The tape was subsequently shown during the sports segment of the Channel 4 newscast, Sunday, Monday and Tuesday.

Overall? A highly successful tournament with that certain professional touch. Bright, pleasant surroundings coupled with clean, well-kept equipment. The kind of atmosphere that players appreciate and spectators enjoy. The kind of atmosphere that can be found at each and every tournament held by Ray Abrams. The players and spectators have come to expect nothing less from him. It's doubtful that they'll ever be disappointed.



PRELIM. "A"				PRELIM. "B"				PRELIM. "C"					
JOHNSON	BROWN	DONNELLY	BONNER	TODD	TOZER	STRANGE	HENDRICKS	LIEBOVICH	SMITH	KALEEL	SCRIPPS	AMEEN	PHILLIPS
35	35	35	35	25	0	0	0	26	35	35	16	22	3
32	24	26	22	35	21	35	35	25	35	35	36	35	1
34	35	25	11	35	35	35	35	25	16	18	12	16	6
32	35	35	35	28	13	11	25	34	22	36	25	35	3
27	35	35	27	35	35	26	35	35	35	35	29	35	2
24	35	23	13	35	5	17	19	35	30	35	22	6	4

PRELIM. "D"				PRELIM. "E"				PRELIM. "F"					
GREEN	FOGEL	GOLDSMITH	AMERQUIAN	GREENGROFF	VAN LOKEREN	ROSENTHAL	ROTT	LOCKWOOD	WALTON	MULLER	MINER	SILBERSTEIN	HARRIS
29	35	14	32	35	35	26	28	35	25	30	0	25	6
35	34	15	35	35	35	26	26	35	35	35	2	25	4
30	35	10	16	35	35	17	35	35	35	2	35	35	3
35	35	35	35	35	35	25	14	34	5	35	35	34	2
35	29	35	29	35	35	35	32	35	35	1	35	17	4
12	15	20	7	16	28	21	23	35	20	35	35	35	1

SEMI-FINAL I				SEMI-FINAL II				FINAL					
AMEEN	TOZER	STRANGE	AMERQUIAN	CAMPOS	STRANGE	BONNER	ROSS	ROSS	BONNER	CAMPOS	AMERQUIAN	STRANGE	HARRIS
32	18	34	0	32	22	35	35	35	2	41	33	50	34
35	22	34	33	26	35	35	29	35	35	50	50	42	31
35	35	35	35	25	20	14	35	35	35	50	45	50	41
35	35	32	30	35	32	35	27	35	35	39	37	34	33
35	35	33	35	30	17	23	26	25	34	17	50	50	27
35	35	35	27	35	34	31	32	19	35	50	50	50	1

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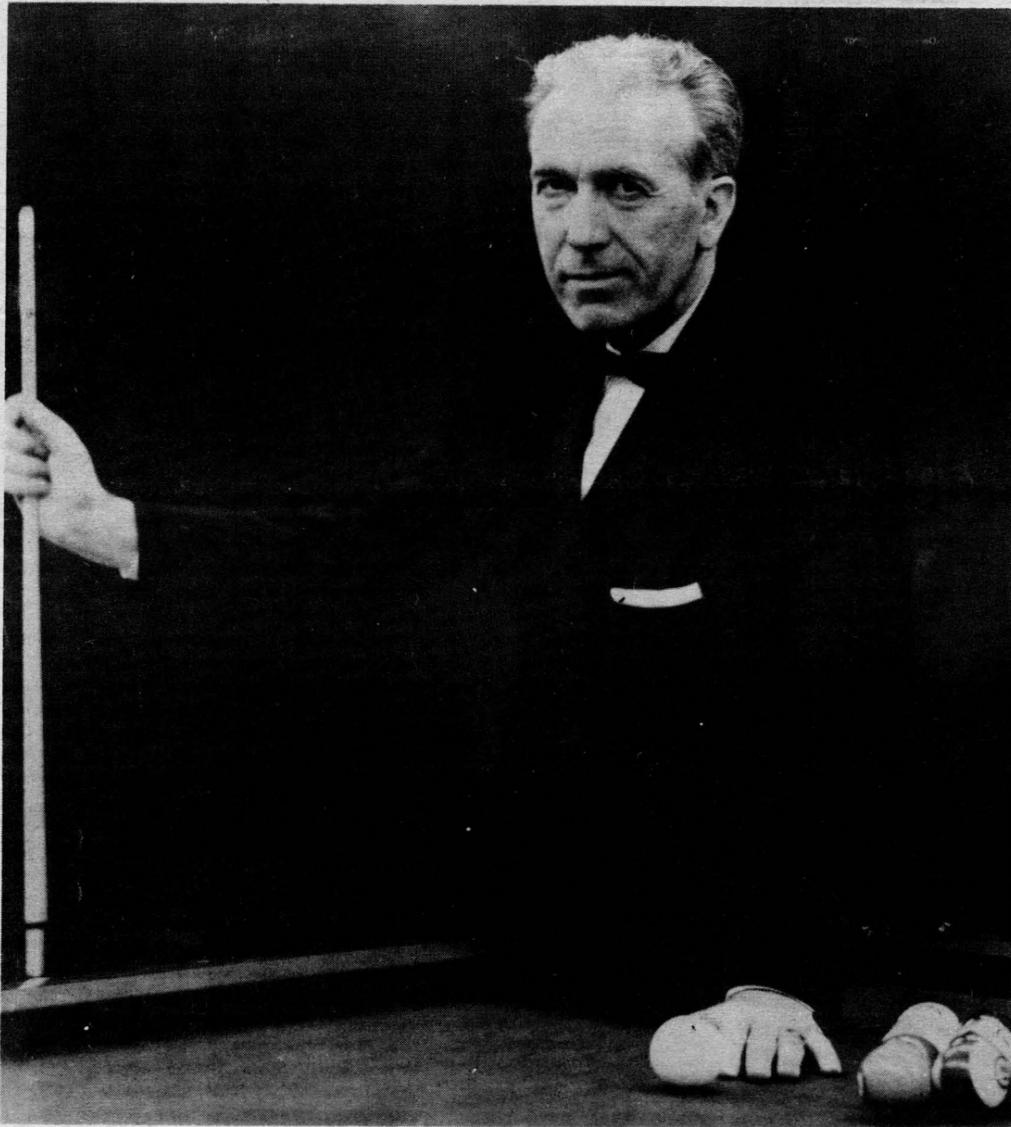
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Crane Wins Salt Lake and



Irving Crane

CRANE WINS

(Continued from Page 1)

Russo of Trenton, N. J. Hopkins' two losses came at the hands of Pete Margo, and Irving Crane in the quarter-finals of the losers' bracket.

Other top name players to meet defeat included Cisero Murphy who was defeated by Ray Martin and Mizerak, Babe Cranfield who dropped to Joe Balsis (125-123) and Irving Crane (125-124). Martin also dealt the crucial blow to Mizerak, but he himself bowed to Kiehle and Crane.

Current Worlds' champ Irving Crane of Rochester, N. Y. emerged from the three days of battle as the tournament champ, but he worked long and hard to gain the \$1,600 in first place money.

The final day of the tournament, and working his way back through the losers' bracket after a 125-14 loss to Margo, Crane played six consecutive matches, pocketing more 800 balls and was on the table for 14 hours. Crane commented that two years ago in Las Vegas, he played six matches, but did not pocket as many balls.

Since the action opened on the final day, Crane had provided the billiard fans with the finest stick work ever seen in the east. He had defeated Ray Martin of Fairlawn, N. J. 125-90; Margo 125-14; Cranfield 125-124; and he was into the finals of the losers' bracket, facing Kiehle.

Crane lost the lag and was forced to break. After an exchange of safety shots, Kiehle came up with the first clear shot, running 29 balls and ending with an intentional scratch.

Crane's 27 ball run ended with a miss on a break shot. Both players, shooting cautiously and not anxious to leave the other a workable setup, continued chipping in a few balls, always managing a good safety.

Kiehle had defeated Crane in the '69 Salt City Open, but the way

Crane had been shooting for the past two days would have made any hustler leary.

Kiehle, attempting a long safety shot, that would have tucked the only open ball behind the rack, couldn't bring the cue ball out safe. Crane made good the break shot, and ran 57 balls to take control of the match 95-64. Kiehle scratched twice, and Crane ran nine making it 106-62. The match ended when Crane ran 33 balls and out.

Crane was now destined to meet Joe Balsis, winner of the winners' bracket, for the tournament's championship. Balsis, having a fairly easy route, had scored wins over Pete Murnak, Onofrio Lauri, Bill Cutler, Jack Colavita, Babe Cranfield, and Allen Kiehle. With a win, Crane would force another match, but Balsis could take all the apples with the first game.

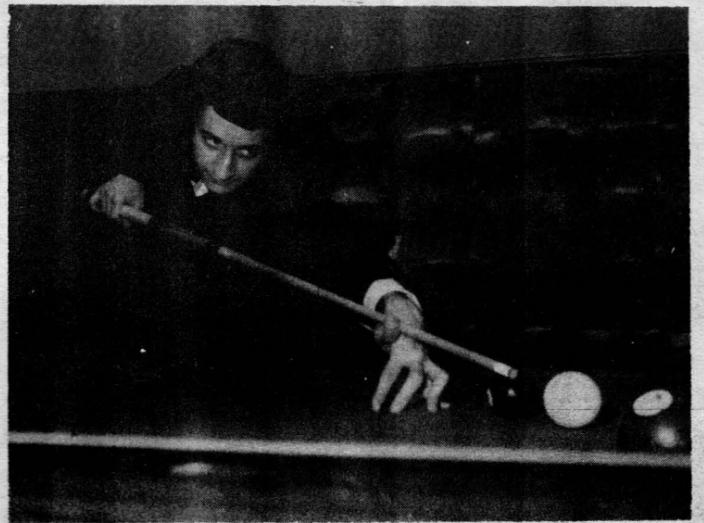
Crane again lost the lag, and on the break, left what looked like a pretty tight table. Starting his run with a tricky three ball combination that allowed him to scatter the rack, Balsis ran 51 balls. The run ended when Joe tried to draw the cue ball back into a cluster on a fairly easy side pocket shot.

Crane, looking worn from his previous four matches, stepped to the table and ran 60 balls, leaving his 61st shot right on the lip of the pocket.

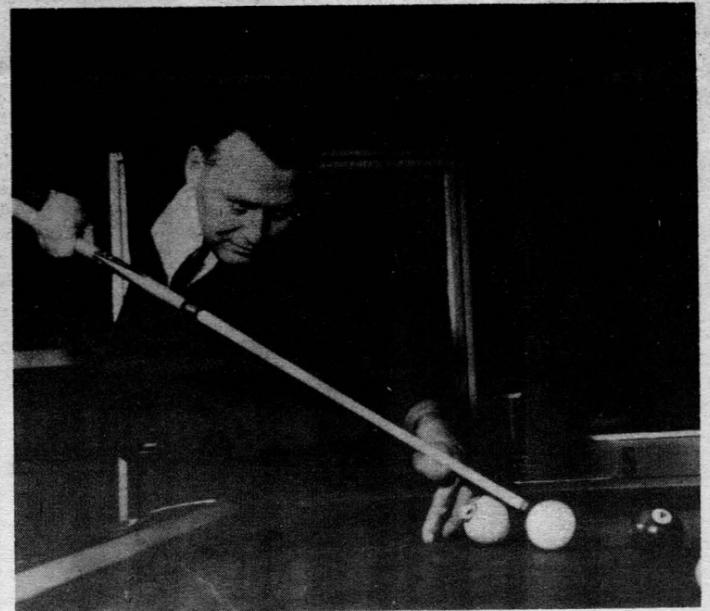
With the score standing at 103-52 in favor of the Rochester boy, the two started swapping safeties. Crane came out on top, and used his first clear shot as a spring board to a 48 ball run that gave him the match. That was Crane's fifth straight win -- sixth counting a night before win.

Now, Crane had won more matches than anyone else in the tournament. Still, there was a possibility he could finish second. He had been on the tables since noon, and it was not approaching midnight. He was uncomfortable due to perspiration and fatigue, and complained about a lack of sleep.

Crane again lost the lag. He had not won a lag in his last three



Pete Margo



Leo Galli

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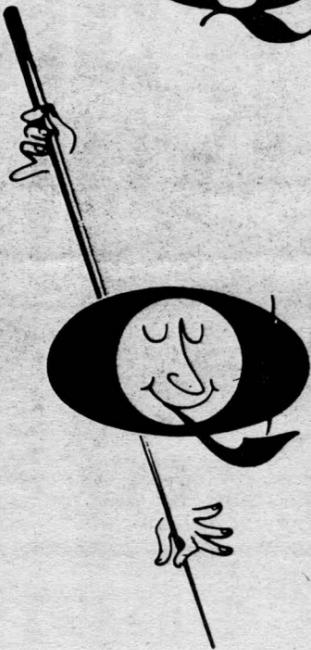
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Montreal 2100 Point Match

sessions, something unusual for a man with his control.

Crane's break was good, and Balsis was forced to shoot for safety. With the score minus 1 to minus 2 in favor of Balsis, Balsis asked for a new rack, giving him a minus 16.

Joe broke the new rack, and left what looked like a fairly open table. Crane missed, turning the table over to Balsis who ran 35 balls to capture the lead, 19 to -2.

Fatigue and the pressure of the tournament began to show on Crane. He began worrying in his shots, not shooting with the crisp authority he had displayed all day. He managed an eight ball run, leaving the table in what appeared to be pretty tight shape.

Balsis pulled another one of the combination shots out of his hat, and wearing a perpetual frown, he rattled off a 99 ball tally.

The score was now 118-13. Crane slumped in his chair, his cue clasped between his knees. He stayed alert as the score progressed to 130-57, but while Balsis was running off 14 balls, Crane's head began nodding. Referee Tom DeSantis aroused him, telling him he was up and that the score was 144-57.

Standing like the tired master, Crane wearily looked over the table. Then he proceeded to show the still full house why he was five times and current Worlds' Champion. Working with complete concentration and faultless precision, Crane ran 93 balls and out to capture the title. Joe could do nothing but shake his head in disbelief and congratulate the yawning king.

The tournament staff sends best wishes to "Cue Ball" Kelly who is recovering from a major operation. Cue Ball's absence as referee was partially made up by the dean of pool, Onofrio Lauri.

Plans for the 1971 Salt City Open include an extra day, to take the load off from the players going into the final rounds. Prize money is guaranteed to be in excess of \$5,000.

Tournament director Irving Sablowitz also announces that the player mailing list has been increased, and that any room contacting him at the Holiday Billiard Lounge, Erie Blvd. East, Syracuse, will receive publicity on the 1971 tournament.

PRIZE LIST

- 1. Irving Crane \$1,600
- 2. Joe Balsis \$1,100
- 3. Allen Kiehle \$700
- 4. Babe Cranfield \$500
- 5. Pete Margo \$400
- 6. Dick Leonard \$350
- 7. Jack Colavito \$250
- 8. Ray Martin \$200
- 9. Pete Murnak \$175
- 10. Steve Mizerak \$125
- 11. Allan Hopkins \$100
- 12. Max Kleindwort \$100

High Run Prizes

- Thurs. 90 --- Hopkins, \$25
- Frid. 98 --- Mizerak, \$25
- Saturday 79 --- Murnak \$25
- Balsis
- Sunday 93 --- Crane \$25
- High Run In Mondy
- 98 --- Mizerak, \$100
- Out Of Money
- 71 --- Tom DeSantis, \$100

Montreal Match

Promoter - Mr. Rene Beaupre, Druggist and Owner of Dante's Drug Store, Montreal.

His Assistant - Mr. Paul Paquin, General Contractor for Housing Projects.

Mr. Beaupre raises some questions and gives some answers as follows:

1. Why bring to Montreal the two best players in the World of Pocket Billiards 14-1?

2. Why promote a week long program, March 16th to March 22nd inclusive?

3. Why Mr. Irving Crane and Mr. Joe Balsis faced each other throughout that week rather than battle local competition.

ANSWERS:

I was an athlete for many years. I was playing hockey, Baseball, La Crosse, Pocket Billiards 14-1. At 30 years of age I kept Tennis as my favorite sport. I stopped at 42 years old, playing my last game in Toronto for the championship of Canada. My love for the sport and my admiration for a champion and a gentleman as Mr. Joe Balsis were the factors why a match of 2100 points was played by Mr. Irving Crane and Mr. Joe Balsis. I wanted to give to the Province of Quebec people a chance to admire the two best players of the world.

Considering the situation in Canada, there is no one around here who could match them. In fact there is no way of really knowing if there is any one who is very good around here. We haven't had championship tournaments here for 35 years and no one seems interested in starting one. There are a lot of pocket billiards players but none seems to stand out.

Mr. Newby, I describe to you the first match on the first game of 300 points played by Mr. Crane and Mr. Balsis on March 16th.

Mr. Irving Crane is quiet, calm and nerveless. This 56 year old Champion walks about the Billiards table like a golfer lining up a putt and studies the position of the balls like a chess player planning three moves in advance.

The referee, Mr. John Mauriello, has a stature as he could easily pass for the city's major.

Mr. Joe Balsis is the colorful of the three Tuxedoed gentlemen. Friendly one minute and snarling the next, shooting right handed or left, rubbing baby talcum on his



hands between sets, he hustles around the table with Fred Astaire flair.

Some 450 crowded into the fourth floor converted Pool Hall this first night and most liked what they saw. Crane opened up the series with a run of 43. Balsis followed that with 45 consecutive pockets. Crane bounded back into the lead with a run of 36. He missed his 37th shot when a young miss pranced by in a jumpsuit. Crane didn't blink an eyelash when he missed but somehow you felt he wasn't thinking sweet thoughts about the gal. After a few safeties and scratches, nice technical terms meaning the players got themselves into a hole and couldn't

pocket a ball, Balsis started a string that was to reach 155. It was the High run of the night. The run gave him a big 202-98 lead however, and it looked like he would have no trouble reaching the 300 ball plateau that would end the evening's play. But Crane came back with runs of 74 and 70, and on his final run he had only two balls to put in the corner cup. He missed. Balsis came on with a late charge and ended it with the final score 300-298 for Balsis.

Each evening till Sunday afternoon was a terrible fight, a continuous struggle, a silent tension, a big desire to win, between those two players. As the meaning of the words said by Mr. Crane about

his feeling during the match he hates his rival, and I believe him. His humour, his walks, his expression, his moves by talking to himself, prove the honesty of the game.

Continuing the game of the first night or giving you the points till Thursday night, Mr. Balsis was leading 600 to 340. But Thursday night Mr. Crane caught up with many good high runs of 70-85. Friday and Saturday the games were so close that Sunday afternoon Mr. Balsis was leading by 10 points. This final game was so excited that a complete silence prevailed during 3 hours. This game was for the two players the

(Continued on Page 10)



Allen Hopkins



Dan Smith

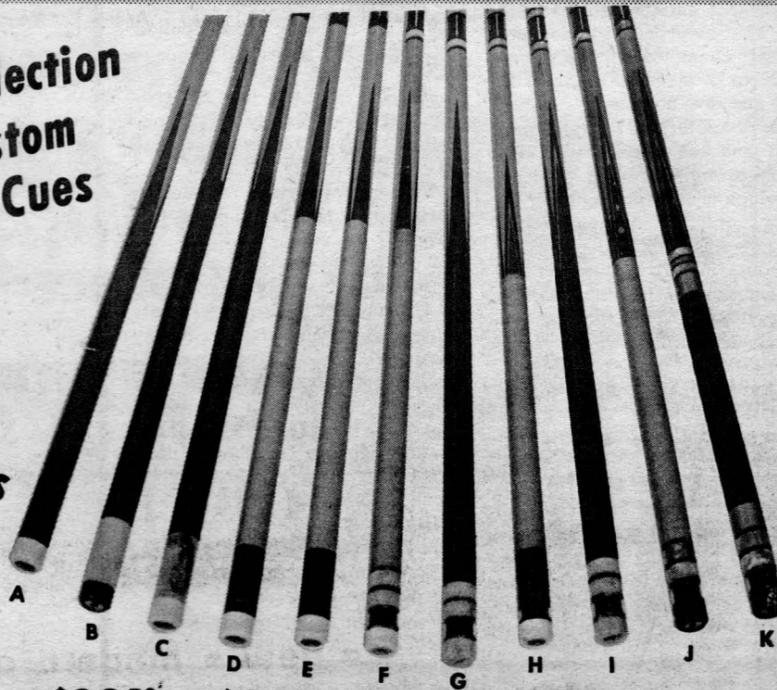


Jerry Kauffman

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GENTLEMAN

(Continued from Page 1)

now, are responsible for the game being as popular as it is.

At the age of fifty finally got enough financial backing to own my own Room in the city of Long Beach - The Golden Cue, which is known from coast to coast. What a proud owner I was; had a room that the original cost of was \$80,000.00, which I had obtained for \$12,600.00. It has been closed for a while and four operators had gotten broke trying to promote it. I was about convinced by all the local citizens that I had no chance. But I didn't give up because I knew, or thought I knew better. Because no one knew how to promote was the reason.

I got some help from several dear friends, which I'm proud of. I was introduced to the finest bunch of sports writers by Mr. George Main of the Herald Examiner, and Mr. Hank Hollingsworth of the Long Beach Independent Press Telegram, and another very good friend, Mr. Dave Lewis of the same newspaper. Also my thanks to Mr. Al Larson and Rich Roberts of the same newspaper. With their help it was a complete success.

Also I owe an awful lot to Lieutenant Jacobson of the Long Beach Police Dept. which is the finest in the world that I've ever been involved with and I've had some experience in several cities in my younger days.

Now I have one goal in life which I started fighting for in 1967 February; that is to form a Pocket Billiard Players Guild and elevate the game much further something like the P.G.A. of golf. I'm convinced that it would be all ready if I hadn't been the owner of a Billiard Room. Now that I'm free of a job and have had nothing to do for two and a half years, I'm after it again, with the help of Mr. Bill Pierce, an attorney who will donate his legal advice until it gets under way.

I would like to give all the younger professional players this message. Mr. Lassiter, Kelly, Florence, Burton, DiLiberto are convinced as I am that it is the only way. What is wrong with the game is that champions have always wanted to take something from the game and give nothing.

The promoters of the game want it all and the only way to stop hungry promoters is an Association which is for the benefit of the players only. I guarantee that I will get financing and put all of my effort into it and improve all the conditions if the other players will write me and join the Association at no cost until we get started. We will set up a soliciting office and general publicity for all the players.

Just give Mr. Pierce and me the authority to represent you to all promoters who want a Tournament in this or any area at no cost and no desire to stop you from competing any place any time you wish, and we guarantee to get all a better life as players. And when the financial backing is available, if you will help boycott a few Tournaments we will guarantee much better Tournaments and more prize money. If you are worried about that we will lend you the money from the Association so we can negotiate for much better conditions. If you don't, the game will always be what it is now, with the promoters keeping all the money and the players broke. If you don't, forget the game. You haven't got a chance - get a job.

If any professional players are interested, please contact or write - Charles Milliken, Bill Pierce and Leslie B. Joseph, Attorney at Law, at either one of the following addresses:

William Pierce, Attorney-at-law, Leslie B. Joseph, Attorney-at-Law; 2545 Pacific Avenue, Long Beach, California.

Charles Milliken, 4433 Palo Verde Avenue, Lakewood, California.



The above picture was taken at the 1949 Regional Tournament qualifying for the World's 3-Cushion Championship. It was held in the fabulous Cochran and Zimmerman's Room 924 Market Street, San Francisco, California. From left to right: Mr. Lundberg, Minneapolis, Minn.; Walter Franklin, Kansas City, MO.; John Fitzpatrick, North Hollywood, CA.; Ray Kilgore, Los Angeles, CA.; Charles Millikien, Lakewood; Walker Cochran, San Francisco, Cal.; Jay Bozeman, Vallejo, Cal.; Lex Zimmerman, San Francisco, Cal.; Gene Skinner, Houston, Tex. official referee.

Pool Players Go Respectable

by HANK HOLLINGWORTH

Billiards and pool stepped up in class Wednesday when the Professional Pocket Billiards Players Assn. was formed in Long Beach.

The formation was completed by Charlie Milliken of Long Beach and Fred Whalen of Hollywood, a man of some 50 years' experience in the game of chalking the cues.

"Our billiards association will be like golf's PGA," said Milliken, who just completed an international tournament at Paramount Billiards, 211 E. 4th St. Milliken, a top three-cushion billiards man himself "before I lost my eyesight," remarked additionally: "We're going to have police action in billiards ranks."

Milliken already has 24 professional pool players under contract, which is a heckuva start to say the least.

What is the reason for such an association? Milliken supplies this answer:

"Promoters of pool and billiards tournaments pocket too much of the money. The players, although they aren't starving by any means, don't receive anywhere near as much as they should. After all, they're the competitors. Baseball, basketball, football and hockey players can form their associations and demand certain sums, so why not pool?"

His attorney, Leslie Joseph, agreed. So the papers were drawn.

The new association (PPBPA) has definite aims.

"Our first objective," said Milliken, "is to gain better playing conditions. Some of our places are terrible. Most, however, are excellent. We have family parlors, special schools and the incentive to interest the younger people. The professionals won't play in old, tarnished places, so that means if a pool hall operator wants to attract the top players, and also nice people, he'll have to clean up and refinish his place.

"Also, we want to establish a better image of the professional player. At every event we will insist -- and also under the contract demand -- the players wear tuxedos. Most of the boys dress up well, but some times the younger players dress sloppily.

"The whole idea of the association is to elevate our game. Golf, for instance, had its initial bad times. But it has been elevated to more-or-less, a society status. That's what we'd like billiards and pool to achieve.

"I'm not saying that just anybody can drop in at any place and not play a game or two, but our new status could eliminate the riff-raff."

In the pool vein is a character known as Minnesota Fats, whose personality has sparked the nation. Fats, a longtime friend who must weigh about 250 and stands (!) about 5-by-5, was on the horn the other day to announce that he was named as Las Vegas' man-of-the-year.

His testimonial will be staged May 5 in Casino City.

"How," Fats was asked, "can you be the man of the year in any city? Did you defeat Howard Hughes, for example? Or what?"

"I don't know nothing about Hughes," replied Fats.

Pressed to the question, Fats played honest, for once.

"I was named man-of-the-year in Las Vegas for industry."

Oh, baby. What industry.

"No, really," continued the little round man. "I can understand why they gave me the honor. Not only am I the world's most renowned pool player and one who was used in movies, but I also set up the Stardust Hotel Tournament.

which Harry The Horse, Fast Eddie, Cornbread Red, Weanie Beanle, Boston Shorty and Liverpool Leo considered the best in the world. Now it's an honor to accept such a tribute. They picked a deserving man."

George Allen, coach of a professional football team, dearly would love a Long Beach organization composed of elderly gentlemen.

That would be the Long Beach Masters volleyball club which will engage in the 26th annual National AAU Tournament Friday and Saturday. All players are old men.

The youngest is a baby named All Hoisington, only 36, but a

(Continued on Page 9)

ANYONE Who Wants to Run a Tournament? CONTACT Charles Milliken or Fred Whalen

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Handicapper

PERSONS WHO make a habit of going to horse races, be they harness or thoroughbreds, no doubt, have seen hucksters in front of the track pushing their cards. These cards are supposed to give you inside information on who will win that day. Usually they are qualified guesses, not much better than yours or the track's handicapper.

Recently, while vacationing in Rome, N. Y., we spent an evening with Rome Sentinel Sports Editor Francis Regan at the Vernon Downs Ract track as a guest of publicist Don Evans. Early in the evening Regan introduced us to a gentleman named Tony Froio. He is in the business of publishing tout cards like the ones to which we refer. There is only one slight idfference. Frio is a miracle man.

HE DID NOT mean to boast, but he said matter of factly that he is the best handicapper in the country. "People here make the line by how I pick the races," he stated. What he meant was that when he selected a horse the people would bet so much on the nag that he would usually wind up favorite or near favorite.

"I average five or six winners in nine races. I have had eight for nine this year and last night had seven-out-of-nine. I once picked ten winners in nine races and Mr. Regan here will vouch for me."

THIS TURNED out to be true. On one of his more selective evenings, he picked all nine winners. And on one race, he had selected one horse as his best bet and the other as the best longshot. They came in a deadheat so he actually did have ten winners in nine races.

Now for a few moments we thought Froio was putting us on. But he handed us one of his cards and said, "Check me out tonight and see how I do."

CHECKING HIM OUT SINCE WE DO not go to the races very often, mainly because we have five kids and some bankers who like to get their notes paid reasonably on time, we did not follow Froio's selections. Since we don't go often, we like to pit our own skill (Ha!) against the betting public.

But we did check him as we went along. The card for the record, is called A. J. Froy's Daily selections.

THE FIRST RACE he had a horse called Pine Hill Mary, which was 3 to 1 on the morning line, which made her second favorite. She went off at 2 to 1 and breezed in easily, paying \$6.40.

His second race, he picked Meadow Ike, 3-1 favorite, to win and Foxytown, 5-1 horse, for second. Foxytown won over Meadow Ike in a deadheat. Froy had daily double selections and his combinations included Pine Hill Mary, linked with Meadow Ike, and Pine Hill Mary, linked with Foxytown. His double paid \$44.20. Foxytown paid \$15.00 to win.

In the third race, he had second favorite Corn Booze as his selection and he breezed in easily to pay a handsome \$9.20. He followed that up with H. A. Lehigh, the 3-1 line favorite. H. A. Lehigh had no trouble winning and paid \$7.60.

IN RACE NUMBER five, he had a 6-1 horse -- Ohio Dan. He romped in for a tremendous \$13.80 pay-off. In the sixth race, he had the longest shot in the race, Scotch Lobell. But the fans bet him down to favorite and the horse finished second, paying \$4.00 for second.

In the seventh race he had his lone run-out a longshot named Randa Hanover, which failed to show. His second choice Edgewood Billy, won the race, paying \$1.20.

In the eighth, his best bet of the day, Garcia, won by a mile. And he finished up his evening's work with Wilmington Spur, which paid \$10.20 in a winning effort. Thus he

had six outright winners with a seventh losing a photo finish. In each case that his horse didn't win, his second choice did.

And, as we said, we didn't follow him.

SMALL BETTOR HOW DOES A. J. FROIO do it? "I've been interested in horses all my life. I've always hustled a little. When I was sixteen, I was in Erie. I was selling magazines then. Later I drifted to Chicago. I was working at a hotel and became friendly with Ted Lewis and members of his band. They took me out to the race track.

"After betting and losing on other peoples' advice, I decided to study the horses. I found out you could make money. It cost me money to learn, but in the long run it was worth it.

I BECAME so adept at handicapping that I soon became barred in the horserooms. I was barred in Utica, Saratoga and other places. All the guys started taking my advice and beating the book-makers.

"I keep a file on from three to four thousand horses. I know what they can do. I work hard on these horses. It's not just guess-work. But I'll admit it's a labor of love and a profitable one."

DOES HE BET heavily? "Ten dollars is a big bet for me. Especially on the trotters. Sometimes the guys who drive trotters you get a bum ride. They'll pull the horses. So I play them carefully and steadily. I don't plunge on any of them.

"When I got to Saratoga for the flat racing, I might bet a little more because I know the jockeys have to be in good shape or the trainers wouldn't let them ride."

Froio, who admits to being sixty-years-old, but looks closer to fifty, runs a billiard parlor-newsroom in Rome. He says he has toyed with the idea of going into handicapping on a full-time basis. "But I'm happy doing what I'm doing right now."

HE SHOULD BE. There was an evening on which he picked a \$5,000 twin double. He also had a \$2,100 twin double. The track doesn't have twin doubles any more, but runs exact races.

Now exactas don't pay the big prices that the twin doubles did, but Froio does all right. He has had a \$1,300 and a \$560 winner, plus as he puts it, "about 60 small ones."

If we were him, we wouldn't leave Rome either.

POOL

(Continued from Page 8)

bruising former football player. If you think that his joints are creaking, just rry these others for size, George.

In ascending order are Joe Riddick (38) Dick Hammer (39), and both Howard Walker and Al Larson (40).

Now the age of the last participant is interesting. "Baby Face" has confused many people through the years. Although he has worked diligently for us through the years. He looks the same as I first saw him 20 years ago. He remains a bachelor, if that's any indication of his secret.

The older members are Jim Montague (41), Vern Gragson (44), and gads! Windy Skelton (48). (P.S. Tell me YOUR secret, Windy.)

Anyway, the "kids" will participate in the U.S. National Tourney May 6-9 in Hawaii after the AAU event.

You're only as old as you feel. The thinking is that these "old men" don't feel nearly as old as they should feel.

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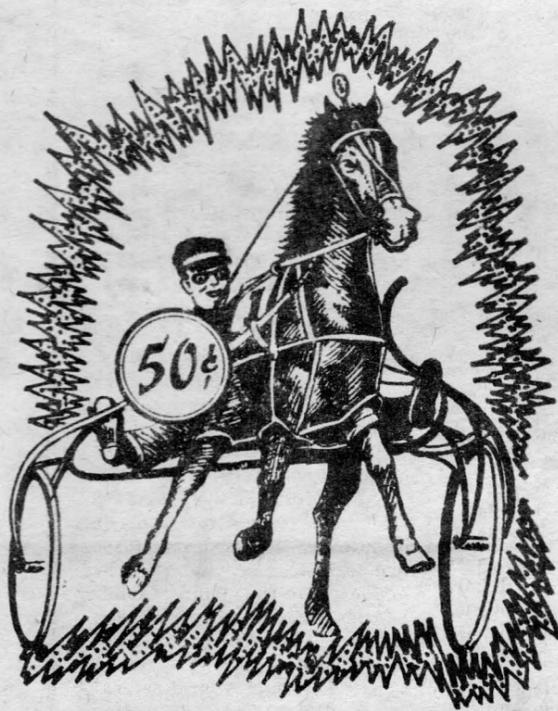
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A.J. Froio, Prop.

Montreal

(Continued from Page 7)

game of the year and the final score was 2100 points for Mr. Crane and 2070 for Mr. Balsis. The two players were so applauded that for the people the two players were winners.

Furthermore, the Canadian Brewery of Canada representing many kind of Beers, especially DOW, gave two trophies, one for the winner and one for the loser.

Mr. Rene Beaupre, Businessman and Sportsman, of Montreal, Canada, recently promoted a 2100 point 14-1 Straight Pocket Billiard Exhibition between Mr. Joe Balsis of Minersville, Pennsylvania, and Mr. Irving Crane, of Rochester, New York at La Paestra National in Montreal. Mr. Paul Paquin was manager of the Event for Mr. Beaupre and the referee was our own John "Wyoming Fats" Mauriello, Wyoming, Pennsylvania. The dates were March 16th through the 22nd.

Montreal is Snooker country but the audience really enjoyed the game of Pocket Billiards. The contestants and the referee stayed at the Hotel LeChateau Champion. They had an interpreter with them all the time for most of the people there speak French. Mr. Balsis, we learn, got along pretty well for he speaks a little French, but Mr. Crane and Mr. Mauriello had difficulties. They met the Mayor of Montreal, were escorted over the city, visited the Exposition site, the Arena where the Montreal Canadiens play (it seems as though every one plays Hockey in Montreal), the Blue Bonnet Race Track, the best night clubs in Montreal, signed the Guest Book of Renown at the City Building, and were treated royally by every one.

The Presentation was made by Mr. Poulin, a representative of the company. This cooperation was the originality of Mr. Bob Dagenais, General Manager of the Promotions of the Canadian Brewery. A Big Thanks to the Television Channel No. 2 directed by Mr. Paul Marcel Raymond. This Channel is combined with Channel No.



Wyoming Fats, Official Ref at Montreal Match.

6. This Television program is cable Television Radio Canada, or Canadian Broadcasting Station. It was a big success and I am sure to awake the interest of the Canadians for this sport overlooked.

The final game of the series, on Sunday, March 22nd, was televised over the Canadian C.B.C. network. During the Intermissions each day Mr. Balsis alternated with Mr. Crane in thrilling the audience with trick shots, aided by John "Wyoming Fats" Mauriello, on alternate days, and on the fourth day, Thursday, March 19th Canada's champion, George Chenier, was introduced and dazzled the crowd with an exhibition of trick shots.

BILLIARD LOUNGE WATERVILLE, MAINE

- APRIL 25-26
18 PLAYERS
1st Jose Valdes, Brookline, Mass - \$125.00
2nd Don Edwards, 16 yrs., Waterbury, Conn. - \$85.00
3rd Norm Webber, 42 yrs. old Lewiston, Maine - \$60.00
4th Maurice Johnson 48 yrs. Rockland, Maine - \$35.00

SCORE BY BLOCK

Day	Innings	Score	Player	Score
1st. Monday, March 16, 1970	10 Innings.		Balsis	300
			Crane	298
			Balsis	150
High Run Attendance: Approximately 500. During intermission: Trick shots by Joe Balsis.				
2nd. Tuesday, March 17, 1970	24 Innings.		Balsis	600
			Crane	530
High Run - Crane 62 Attendance: approximately 600. During Intermission: Trick shots by Crane.				
3rd. Wednesday, March 18, 1970	13 Innings.		Balsis	900
			Crane	660
High Run - Balsis 179 Attendance - approximately 400. During Intermission: Trick shots by John "Wyoming Fats" Mauriello				
4th. Thursday, March 19, 1970	21 Innings:		Balsis	1200
			Crane	935
High Run - Balsis 80 Attendance - approximately 600 During Intermission: Introduced George Chenier and Mr. Chenier dazzled the crowd with trick shots.				
5th. Friday, March 20, 1970	27 Innings.		Balsis	1500
			Crane	1491
High Run - Balsis 116 Crane had runs of 58-70-96-68-52. Attendance - approximately 700 During Intermission: Trick shots by Mr. Balsis.				
6th. Saturday, March 21, 1970	33 Innings.		Balsis	1800
			Crane	1795
High Run - Balsis 107 Attendance - approximately 600 During Intermission: Trick shots by "Wyoming Fats" Mauriello.				
7th and last. Sunday, March 22, 1970, Game televised by Canadian A.B.C. network.	19 Innings.		Mr. Crane	2100
			Mr. Balsis	2070
Two baskets of flowers - on one end of hall wishing Mr. Balsis luck - on other end of hall, wishing Mr. Crane luck.				

BILLIARD TOUR

The days are hot but cooled slightly by the ocean breeze.

At night the town really cools off-- weatherwise -- but heats up with its many nightclubs, stirring dances and never ending flow of music.

That's Kingston in the Island of Jamaica and few other cities can claim more enthusiasm for the few billiard rooms than the natives and tourists display

when playing either snooker, pocket billiards or three-cushion billiards.

That's this month's stopover in the National Billiard News' continuing tour of various cities around the world.

"This is a great game even though I've been playing it for only a few months," Theis Arhbold said to this reporter when interviewed in a room that only name over the door was Billiards.

"You see these youngsters over there," he said pointing to a group of three youngsters watching a veteran make some impressive snooker shots. "They'll stand there for about an hour looking at the man play and then they'll try to duplicate some of his shots. "But you know what's really funny?", he asked and when I said I didn't see anything funny he laughed.

"Let them play snooker for an hour and then let some guy come in here and start playing either 14.1 or three-cushions and they're right back off the table watching that guy and when after awhile they get tired of watching they ask me for a pocket billiard or three-cushion table and they try this other form of the game.

"They're what I say real hungry for knowledge of the game and they try and get ahold of as much literature on the sport as possible.

They try and follow the various diagrams in the instructional books and when one of them finds a new book in some obscure book

shop he runs down here and shows the book to all his friends.

"Pretty soon the whole room is looking at the book and trying to duplicate some of the shots."

What's Theis prediction of the future of the sport not only in Kingston but in some of the other big cities on the Island?

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ILLINOIS STATE OPEN

ROUND ROBIN
POCKET BILLIARD TOURNAMENT
JUNE 5-7, 1970

OUT OF STATE PLAYERS WELCOME

GENERAL INFORMATION AND FORMAT

- GAME** — 14-1, 125 points, Round Robin — 4 brackets of 5 players.
- RULES** — Official B.C.A. Rules except let Interference Rule read "cue ball fouls only."
- PURPOSE** — To qualify a player into the U. S. Open to be held at the Hotel Sheraton, Aug. 25-29, where a field of eight women and thirty-two men will vie for \$21,000 in cash prizes.
- ENTRY DEADLINE** — Field will be limited to twenty. Entries will be accepted up to 2 a.m. day of tournament if vacancy still exists. Due to the limited field in the U.S. Open there will be no At Large entries so we are expecting a capacity field in this tournament, so we advise all entrants to enter as soon as possible to avoid being locked out.

- SCHEDULING** — Play will start Friday at 6 p.m. and continue at two-hour intervals. All players must be ready to play at time posted. It will be the players' responsibility to see when they are scheduled to play. Dress will be the same as prescribed for the U. S. Open.
- Entry Fee** — \$30.00.
- Ties for bracket winner will be played off.
- Three-way tie in finals will be played off.
- Two-way tie in final will be played off — 3rd and 4th place to be determined by total points.
- Winners of all former "Mid-West Open" and "Illinois State Open" will be seated. If four former winners are entered 2nd place players will be seated.

AWARDS

FIRST—\$300 Paid entry into U. S. Open plus \$125

SECOND—\$75 THIRD—\$50 FOURTH—\$30

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DOWNTOWN ROCKFORD

Billiard Assoc.

(Continued from Page 5)

Norman Ross of Michigan City, Ind., 35-25.

In the finals Harris was victorious over: John Bonner, Hamburg, New York, 50-31; Joseph Ameriquian, 50-26; Jose Campos, Chicago, Ill., 50-49; and Bob Strange, Lansing Mich., 50-27.

For his winning efforts Harris received \$490.00 in prize money, the Michigan State Championship Trophy, and paid entry into the 1970 U.S. Open and 1970 Champ of Champs tournaments.

Finishing 2nd for \$350.00 and entry into the 1970 Champ of Champs tournament was John Bonner of Hamburg, N.Y. Bonner finished the preliminary round with only one loss and in the semi-finals defeated Bob Strange, 35-29; Harold Miner, 35-25; and Leonard Rosenthal, Oak Park, Mich., 35-19. Bonner's two losses in the semi-finals were to Jose Campos, Chicago, Ill., 35-33, and to Gene Johnson, Lansing, Mich., 35-27. In the finals, Bonner had wins over Norm Ross, 50-41; Jose Campos, 50-45; and Joseph Ameriquian, 50-37. Bud Harris and Bob Strange handed Bonner his two losses, 50-31 and 50-42, respectively.

Capturing 3rd place for \$280.00 was Bob Strange. Strange was undefeated in the preliminary rounds and suffered only one loss in the semi-finals. In the finals he downed Bonner, 50-42; Jose Campos, 50-41; and Joseph Ameriquian, 50-33, while losing to Bud Harris, 50-27, and Norm Ross, 50-17.

High run for the tourney was taken by defending Michigan State Champion, Bob Ameen. In his first game of the meet, against Bob Phillips of Chicago, Ill., Ameen stepped to the table with the score 21 to 6 and ran a record 14 and out!!! From here it appeared that Ameen would repeat again this year as Michigan Champ as he advanced to the semi-finals. But the old flu bug got Bob as the semi-final play began. In an effort to continue in the competition Ameen was constantly taking a variety of pills, but to no avail. His game noticeably affected, Bob was unable to get rolling, and Sunday morning found him bedridden with a high fever and unable to complete his matches.

Finishing 4th, 5th, and 6th, for \$140.00, \$70.00, and \$70.00 respectively, were Jose Campos, Norm Ross, and Joseph Ameriquian. Ross had the best game of the meet as he downed Bob Strange 50-17 in 47 innings!

Rounding out the field of 36 players were: Gene Johnson, Lansing, Mich.; Harold Brown, Rochester, Mich.; Mike Donnelly, Monroe, Mich.; John Machetta, Detroit, Mich.; Allan Kaminsky, Oak Park, Mich.; Don Todd, Detroit, Mich.; Don Tozer, Decatur, Ill.; John Hendricks, Troy, Mich.; Merhl Smith, Chicago, Ill.; Ron Hanselman, Detroit, Mich.; Carl Liebovich, Rockford, Ill.; William Smith, Chicago, Ill.; Joe Kaleel, Detroit, Mich.; John Scripps, Detroit, Mich.; Ron Phillips, Chicago, Ill.; Gordon Green, Beloit, Wisc.; Norm Fogel, Chicago, Ill.; Lou Goldsmith, Oak Park, Mich.; Bud Eby, Fraser, Mich.; Bob Gregoroff, Inkster, Mich.; Dave Van Lokeren, Grosse Pointe Farms, Mich.; Leonard Rosenthal, Oak Park, Mich.; Elliott Rott, Oak Park, Mich.; Robby Levin, Detroit, Mich.; Phil Lockwood, East Lansing, Mich.; Ben Galyon, Lansing, Mich.; Bob Mullen, Southfield, Mich.; Harold Miner, Lansing, Mich.; and Ed Silberstein, Detroit Mich.

Overall, another highly successful tournament held by Mr. Ray Abrams. Players and spectators alike expressed their enjoyment of the three day meet and all are looking forward to the Motor City Invitational 3-Cushion Tournament to be held in August this year.

Colavita Faces Challenge Of "Masked Marvel"

"THE MASKED MARVEL," a Billiards Player whose real identity is one of Billiards' most closely guarded secrets, will face JACK COLAVITA, New York State Pocket Billiards Champion, in a 2-day Exhibition Match at HI-CUE Billiards, 333 Rahway Avenue, Elizabeth.

The Match, to be held Tuesday and Wednesday evenings, May 26 and 27, beginning at 7:30 p.m., in HI-CUE's \$15,000 Exhibition Center, will be sponsored by the Livingston, N.J. Chapter of UNICO National, for their Mentally Retarded Children's Aid Program.

An added attraction of the pro-

gram will be a performance by CHOCO, the famed Clown Magician.

The true identity of "THE MASKED MARVEL" is known only to his closest associates, and not even Mike Asch, HI-CUE's Activities Director knows his identity. Speculation in Billiard circles over his true name is constant, but he is known to have passed the "100-ball" milestone many times. He has met and defeated many of the

game's top players, but will not participate in Title matches.

"THE MASKED MARVEL" will be met by members of the HI-CUE staff at Newark Airport on Tuesday evening, and will travel to HI-CUE by motorcade through Elizabeth.

Tickets for this exciting event will be available through any member of UNICO's Livingston Chapter, or at HI-CUE Billiards thru match time each evening.

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But, Oh What Memories

Mizerak-Madison Rec Finale

By CHARLES J. READ JR.
News Tribune Sports Writer
PERTH AMBOY — You could hear the stillness.

The familiar click, click, click of ivory balls echoing over a hum of voices and accented by an occasional laugh was gone. Steve Mizerak still sat in his worn pine chair with the extra cushion, the long cigar darting from hand to mouth. But the background had changed.

"We even lit candles," he joked. Three votive candles stood on a side table, mute testimony to a little ceremony that officially marked the closing of the Madison Recreation Billiards hall last Saturday. Many of the 13 pool tables are gone, sold to customers. Marks from the giant wooden feet remain, the vinyl tiles worn through to the old ceramic tile floor.

The pale green upper walls show rectangles of darker paint, spots that were protected by huge framed pictures of Willie Hoppe, Luther Lassiter, Willie Mosconi, Irving Crane...

Steve Mizerak, referred to as Sr., to differentiate him from his billiards champion son, Steve Jr., knows Lassiter, Mosconi, Crane not merely as enlarged photos and legends, but as people. He has closed the door to Madison Recreation after 10 years' because his lease has run out. His memory never will.

TIRED OF TRAVEL

The old pool hall in the Market Building on Madison Avenue is just part of Steve's memories. For a decade before that, he ran a pool room on the adjacent corner where the Wilentz law firm now operates. Mizerak, after 20 years of playing and managing minor league baseball, "got tired of traveling," and bought the billiards business of Jim Crover for \$15,000 — \$10,000 down from his baseball savings.

"I owe everything to my wife Sonya. I thought maybe I should buy a house instead of the pool hall. After all, it wasn't easy for my wife all those years with me on the road playing hall. But she said it was my money and I should do what I want with it."

"It was the best thing I ever did," Steve says. "I built the business up have given a college education to my two kids and we have a home in Edison now."

Oddly, Jim Crover dropped by as Steve was reminiscing, and was surprised that Mizerak was closing the place. It was Crover's father, George (Pop) Crover, that taught Steve Sr. how to play pool. Steve, then a teenager, would run errands for "Pop" who had bowling lanes and four pool tables upstairs in the Market Building.

"I would ask him, 'how do you put that English on the ball and how do you get it to come back,'" recalled Steve. "He took a liking to me and taught me all I knew."

A REAL HUSTLER

Jim Crover chuckled. "Pop was a real hustler in the old days, traveling all over the country in the 1890's to make a buck with pool. Later he was Connecticut state champ when he lived in Meriden."

Mizerak and Crover lapsed into the old days and talked about when Minnesota Fats and his boys came to town.

Crover began the story, but Steve's memory is sharp at 57, and he corrected the version. It sounded like a Damon Runyon tale, repeat with a pool game that began in Port Reading, was broken up by the police at 1 a.m. and con-

tinued in Perth Amboy. Mizerak, playing "Fats" right-hand man, lost the first night, but recouped the next day and Fats was furious.

"But Fats stayed a month and left with everything," Crover added. "That's right," Steve said, "Fats took about five grand out of this city."

Those early days were a springboard to more legitimate appearances in Perth Amboy by the famous names of the sport. The noted sports columnist Jimmy Powers wrote, "Perth Amboy is the Green Bay of the billiards world," and that line is proudly quoted by Steve and his colleagues.

The type of match that prompted Powers to pen that prose was one like Mosconi and Crane in 1942. Crane was world champion then and Mosconi was just out of the service. They agreed on a 2,000-point championship, 1,000 points to be played here and 1,000 in Chicago.

RETURNED BY AIR

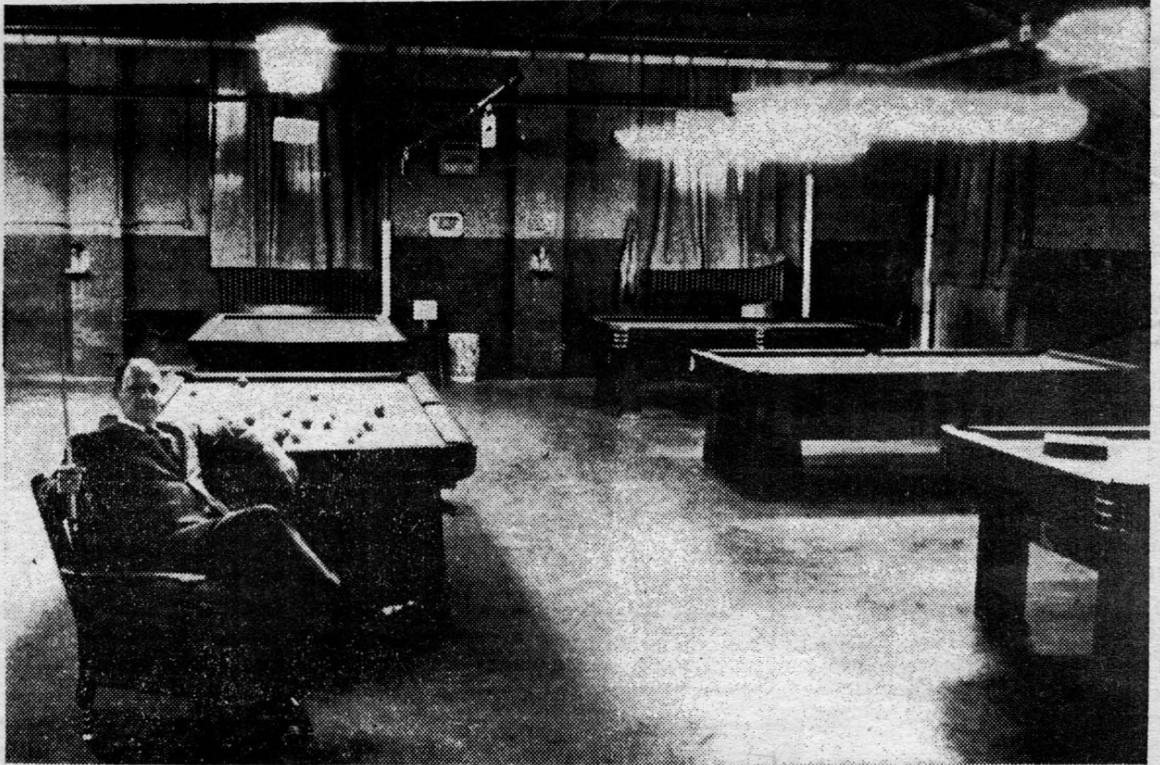
It was at Jim Crover's place in the old building, and the pool table was flown in from Chicago, then returned by air for the match there.

"Mosconi swamped him," Crover said. The News Tribune, then the Evening News, covered the match and George Molnar was the photographer. "There was no love lost between those two. They really cussed each other out," the veteran cameraman recalled.

So it went through the years — Seven days a week and 365 days a year Steve Mizerak opened shop," except for a few days when I got tired and hung a sign on the door, 'Gone Fishin.' Even then I'd come back and open in the evenings.

"There have been a lot of good players at Tournament Table No. 9," he said, nodding towards the back room. The reason the place was split into a front and back room, with the rear portion a step higher, is that it was a garage for trucks. There was a drain in the center so the floor was not level, necessitating a revamping.

"A split level pool room!"



A Quiet Final Moment for Mizerak and Madison Recreation

Mosconi exclaimed when he first entered.

TAUGHT FUNDAMENTALS

Mosconi made many appearances. He got to know Mizerak when Steve was a baseball player. Steve taught Willie's son diamond fundamentals and in turn Mosconi tutored Steve Jr. with the cue.

"Luther Lassiter is the only top player who has never been here," Mizerak said. "I offered him \$150 to come and play an exhibition, but he didn't want to play on our 5-by-10-foot table. That's the old style, and Lassiter would only play on the 4½-by-9 modern table that became popular in the south."

Even up to last year Mizerak was bringing the famous to Perth Amboy. Onofrio Lauri, 67 years old

and called the "Dean" of pocket billiards, played an exhibition against Steve Jr. and drew 400 people for the benefit of St. Mary's Church. Msgr. James S. Foley, pastor, was impressed.

"He had never seen tournament billiards before," said Mizerak, "and said they had the skill of surgeons."

If an intermingling of the terms "Pool" and "Pocket Billiards" appears confusing, take your pick.

DIFFERENT IMAGE

"Mosconi emphasizes that the game be called pocket billiards, not pool," explains Mizerak. "The old card-paying kind of element in the pool room is out. It's a different image. Everyone is buying their own \$50 stick and prizes it. Billiards parlors are carpeted, air conditioned with

music piped in and even women play there."

That's the kind of place Mizerak envisions and plans to open soon in downtown Perth Amboy, in business with Steve Jr. and his brother-in-law Pete Margo of Union City. Margo, only 23, is one of the hottest young players in the country, recently defeating Lassiter at the World's Invitational in Los Angeles, where Steve Jr., is also participating.

But Steve Mizerak Sr., still calls it pool when he's not concentrating on the term billiards. Carpeting and air-conditioning won't change rugged Steve's experiences overnight.

"This is the last of the old-style pool halls," said Dr. Ralph Deutsch, a dentist from Fords and a regular customer at Madison Recreation. "When I first came here I felt a bit funny about it. But Steve really knows how to handle the kids. He can beat all of them on the tables, and they respect him for that," said the doctor who specializes in three-cushion billiards.

USES DISCIPLINE

"I use discipline," Steve said. "These are the same aged kids I handled as a baseball manager. On Christmas and Easter vacations we get the college kids in and would have 75 to 90 people with a long waiting list. They would even do their homework in here."

Along the wall of the front room there is a book case with

various novels, text books and a dictionary. If you were tired of pool or on that long waiting list for a table, it could help.

The unique decor had not been completely removed. A sign hung under one light: "John (Buz) Balogh's Snooker Gardens" in tribute to a favorite customer. The list of high runs remained, with Mosconi at the top with 309, although that was actually shot 12 years ago at the old place.

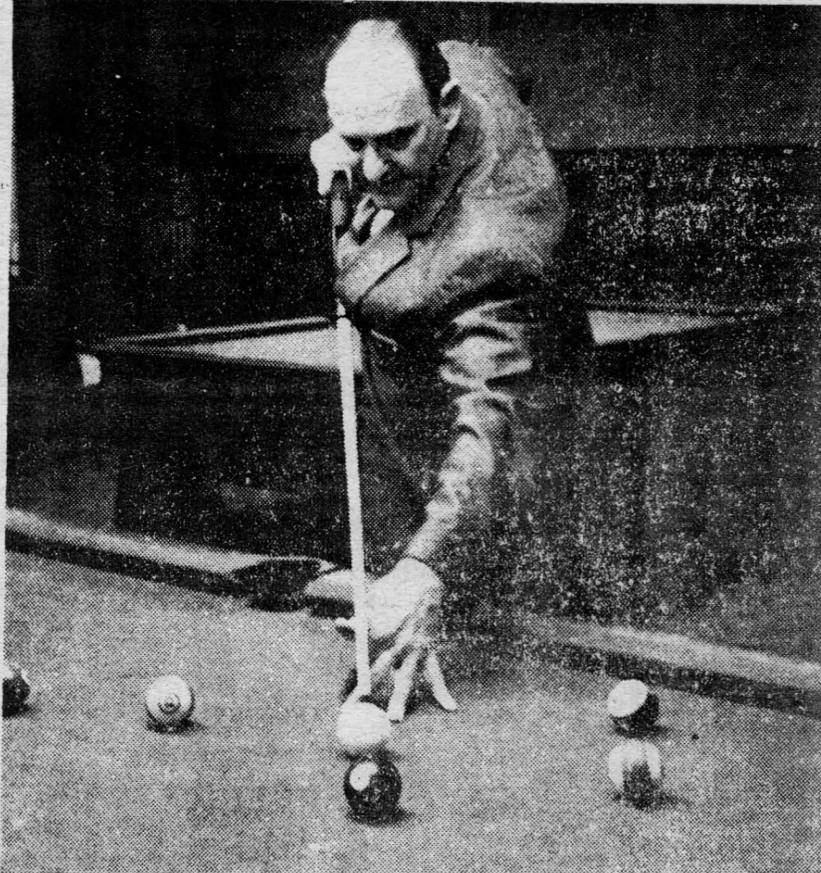
Steve Jr. holds the record for the newer hall, 201. Steve Sr., is up there with 179 and names like Young Greenleaf of Newark with a 107, shot in a match against Steve Sr. "But I won," he relates. Whitey Mizerak had 72 in a row, and that's the brother of Steve Sr.

MORE REMINDERS

A coat rack stands behind the ancient cash register. On a hanger is a faded baseball jersey with "Sailors" sewn across the chest. It was the Erie (Pa.) Sailors of the Middle Atlantic League who set a record that still stands, .700 average baseball for the season under Manager Mizerak.

There are postcards with the edges curled, newspaper clippings that have turned brown. Madison Recreation was more than a pool hall. It was a museum of sports memorabilia, a place where the kids could belong. And the ghosts die hard.

"Rack 'em up Tony, let's have one more game!"



Steve Mizerak Gets in Final Shots

News Tribune Photos by George Molnar



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