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BILLIARD NEWS

THE FULL SERVICE PUBLICATION OF THE BILLIARD WORLD

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*First Ashby Won In
California, then Cianflone
And Rice Took the Collegiate
Titles, Then Varner Qualified*

*In Rockford and Titcomb Did
Likewise in Chicago, Then Letherby
Finished First in Florida, Campos Won in
Jacksonville, The Wisconsin Billiard Congress
Held Their State Championships,*

*Johnson Topped
the Field in Salem,*

And, as if

*That Wasn't
Enough
Bruce*



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LETTERS



TO THE EDITORS

Dear People:

I have long felt that *National Billiard News* is the best publication covering the field of pocket billiards, but I feel that your extensive coverage of the Midwest and West Coast areas seem to leave little room for the activities taking place in the East. I particularly miss the needed coverage in the state of Massachusetts.

There is surely no lack of tournaments and interesting participants. Giving an example, recently there was a Class B tournament held in Quincy, Mass. on December 14, 1975. It was an all male tournament in which I was somehow allowed to participate. It gave me enough local publicity that I am now a candidate for the U.S. Women's Open which will soon be coming up. I broke my high run in the tournament and now I have a new record of 72. I was very much surprised to find that there was no coverage given to this tournament except in the local paper and a sport bulletin. I realize that your representatives cannot cover all tournaments, so this is the reason that I am taking this opportunity to write to you.

It is unfortunate that public mention in the East is only available in local newspapers and limited sports bulletins. It is unfortunate because lack of publicity prevents adequate matching of contending players in the more important tournaments held in different parts of the country. Such a situation is particularly unfortunate with relation to women players

Continued on Page 18

Open Forum

by D. SILVA FAHKS

Having been granted access to the pages of this fine newspaper to express my views in March, I was both delighted and disappointed to see the "rebuttal" by a Mr. Nick Page in April.

I was delighted because it is the free and open exchange of ideas, opinions, and information (even, perhaps especially, if differences exist) that will help educate, inform and stimulate all segments of the sport.

But I was disappointed at the manner in which Mr. Page chose to disagree. He scathingly attacked me personally (although he has never met me and knows nothing about me), drawing upon both inaccurate conclusions he made after reading my letter as well as his own obviously fertile imagination.

In addition, Mr. Page chooses to also crucify a man he describes as "one of the so-called professional players, who is also a proprietor like myself." Mr. Page says that "this individual, because of his inner corruption will be brought up again in another point..."

Very kindly, when that point is made later in the editorial, Mr. Page doesn't identify the player-proprietor in question. He simply tells us that the player finished fifth in his Chicago Open tournament!

The ironic thing is that my letter was not aimed at Nick Page or any other promoter personally. It was a generic criticism based on stated opinion.

Mr. Page: if the shoe doesn't fit, don't wear it. If the shoe does fit, then defend the logic and rationale behind your position in a calm and mature way; don't attack the person or persons who have a different feeling about the issue.

You concluded that I am, to select a few: ignorant, covetous, a purveyor of "infantile thrashings," uninitiated to tournament promotion, and "without a doubt a mediocre player."

Come on, Nick. None of those personal vilifications are true, except perhaps the last. I won't argue about the last, because my playing ability is irrelevant here; you don't have to be President or even run for President to justifiably criticize the electoral college system of general elections.

So let's put personalities behind us and address the issue. And I truly believe, despite the superficial eloquence of your reply, that you failed to properly interpret my comments.

I listed "several probable reasons" why some promoters blatantly juggle the prize money to get a "Major" designation.

Not you personally, not anybody personally, not all promoters. But if you don't believe there are "promoters" who

Continued on Page 24

Ray Reardon Wins World

Professional Snooker Championship

*IPBA Splits in
Director-Player Dispute.*

*Margo-Mizerak Splinter
Group Forms Players' Association.*

(Both sides air their views next issue)

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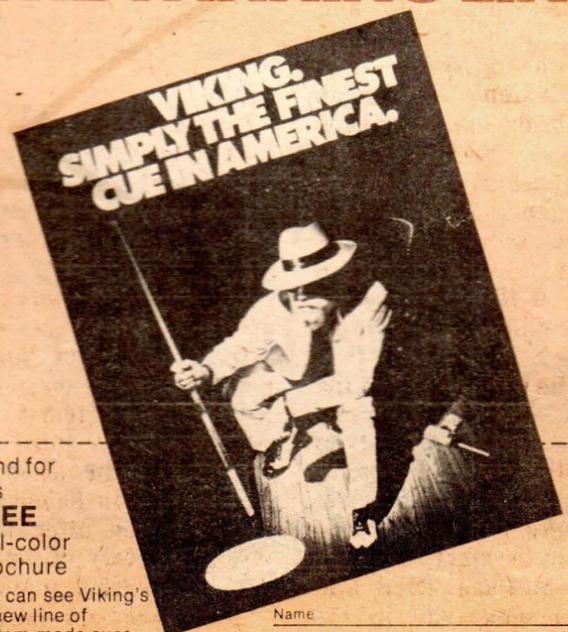
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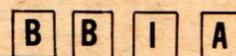
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—THE SECOND FRONT PAGE—

Pabst-ACU-I Tournament

Cianflone, Rice - Collegiate Champions

By BRUCE VENZKE
Milwaukee, Wis—
"When you drink Pabst,
you drink the Best."

That was the advertising slogan used about a century ago when the Best Brewery of Milwaukee changed its name to the one so familiar today: Pabst Brewing Company.

And according to Rich Ratcheson, advertising manager for the Milwaukee-based brewing giant, that assessment of the product is still true today. Is he biased?

I would never argue with a man of Mr. Ratcheson's expertise, particularly after all my enjoyable sampling of the "Blue." I would only suggest a supplementary slogan: "When you go with a Pabst-sponsored event, you go with the Best."

And I'm positive that everyone involved with the 1976 Pabst Blue Ribbon National Intercollegiate Billiard Championships, from players to press and score-keepers to spectators, would agree that indeed, since 1844, the quality still comes through.

Pabst, as co-sponsor with the Association of College Unions-International, helped immensely to produce a truly first class event that will remain a vivid memory for everyone who attended.

Held at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee, the annual BCA-sanctioned event brought together the 15 male ACU-I regional winners from all across the U.S. and Canada, plus an at-large entry from the UW-M region. The women's division consists of the top eight seeds from the 15 regional winners. (It was announced that in 1977 the women's field will be expanded so that all the regional winners can compete at the nationals.)

Double elimination formats were used, and for the first time in the long history of the ACU-I's, both winners came out of the loser's brackets to gain their championships.

The hopes of UW-M students were buffeted around right from the start; with top-seeded Melissa Rice and Doug Amenda both in the Nationals from the host school, thoughts of a sweep of both huge traveling trophies for UW-M were being vocalized.



(Left to right) Kim Gandy, John Cianflone, Melissa Rice, Rich Ratcheson.
ONE BIG HAPPY FAMILY

Those hopes were buoyed when Amenda won his first match 100-41 over Don Paradise U. of Hartford). But in the very next round, as the girls moved in, UW-M fans were dealt a severe blow as Missy Rice lost her first match.

Stephanie Kawaoka (tough to pronounce but very easy to remember) from Cal. Poly - San Luis Obispo upset Rice 50-42, and Missy faced the task of winning 6 in a row if her no. 1 ranking was to hold up.

But she was not No. 1 for nothing, and the second day's last pairings found Missy going after her third win of the day in the loser's side final game. On the next table, Amenda was after his 4th straight victory in the men's winner's bracket final match.

They were both sharp, with Rice taking a 50-28 game from Beth Marietta (U. of Alabama) and Amenda turning back John Cianflone (Rutgers - Camden) 100-55.

Now Amenda, who would have to lose twice to the loser's side challenger to be denied the title, looked a cinch. The UW-M crew now turned their attention to whether Rice could conceivably win 3 in a row (including two over veteran Vicki Frechen of Lansing Community College).

But those who were prematurely crowning Amenda underestimated John Cianflone. John came back to challenge Amenda again, and this time he had enough to win 100-33.

With one loss apiece, the men's title game was a closer 100-70 battle, but again it was Cianflone quite convincingly despite a valiant effort by Amenda to pull it out just before the end. Anyway, the UW-M "sweep" now looked more like a sweep of runner-up spots.

But ... Missy Rice already had an ACU-I runner-up trophy (1975) and Vicki Frechen or not, she came out free-stroking in an effort to get the winner's version this time around.

WOMEN'S RESULTS			
1. Melissa Rice	(6-1)	U. of Wisconsin-Milw.	1.76
2. Vicki Frechen	(3-2)	Lansing Comm. College	1.72
3. Francine Crimi	(2-2)	Queens College	1.13
4. Beth Marietta	(2-2)	U. of Alabama	1.28
5. Lucy Sauer	(1-2)	U. of Texas-Austin	1.51
6. Stephanie Kawaoka	(1-2)	Cal. Poly-San Luis Obispo	1.02
7. Elizabeth Harjo	(0-2)	Wichita State Univ.	1.05
8. Judy Onks	(0-2)	West Virginia Univ.	1.01
High run: 19-and-out, Melissa Rice			
MEN'S RESULTS			
1. John Cianflone	(6-1)	Rutgers-Camden	4.19
2. Doug Amenda	(4-2)	U. of Wis.-Milwaukee	4.37
3. James Turner	(4-2)	Univ. of Alabama	4.54
4. Demetri Angelaka	(4-2)	U. of Cal.-Berkeley	4.00
5. Neil Murray	(3-2)	Syracuse Univ.	4.48
6. James McDermott	(2-2)	Northeastern Okla. State	3.76
7. Steve Cusiok	(2-2)	Univ. of Illinois	3.94
8. Bruce McCarvel	(2-2)	U. of Montana	3.32
9. Jack Austin	(1-2)	Marshall Univ.	4.17
10. Rob Hovick	(1-2)	U. of Wis.-Superior	3.47
11. Darrell Bratteli	(1-2)	U. of North Dakota	2.70
12. Jay Hungerford	(1-2)	Arizona State U.	2.35
13. Barry Hixon	(0-2)	Ohio State U.	1.95
14. Bill Smith	(0-2)	Austin-Peay	1.52
15. Randy Vicknair	(0-2)	U. of New Orleans	1.47
16. Don Paradise	(0-2)	U. of Hartford	1.46
High run: 52, James Turner			

Continued on Page 24

BULL SHOTS

By BOB MULLEN
Co-Publisher



DON'T KEEP IT A SECRET

Guy Little's Family Billiards in Scarborough, Maine wrote us a note that his annual BCA tournaments, two that is, will be played June 4, 5 and 6th and June 25, 26 and 27th. The Littles have been sponsoring players to the U.S. Open since 1968 and they wondered why we did not list the contests in our tournament calendar. We did not know anything about them and Guy Little Jr. took for granted that we would automatically be notified of his sanctions. Well, for his information and all of you others who wish to announce something in the NBN, 'DON'T KEEP IT A SECRET LET US KNOW BEFORE YOUR TOURNAMENT AND AFTER SO THAT YOU MAY BENEFIT FROM OUR WIDESPREAD SUBSCRIPTION LIST. It doesn't even have to be a tournament — it could be some local promotion, a challenge match, a lady having a baby on table three, anything that will be of interest to a pool buff. Keep those cards and letters coming.

THERE'S GOING TO BE ANOTHER PARTY.

JOE BURNS OF DAYTON, OHIO has announced that he is feeling better and may have another party in the early fall. The long remembered Dayton tournament of two years ago just may be repeated if Joe can get his second wind. I suppose that again this proves that we live in a nine-ball or eight-ball world with a little strawberry sky left over for straight pool. Straight, or 14.1, is still the game of great skill and for dyed-in-the-wool pool buffs, you can't beat it, but the crowd goes for the short spurt games.

Yellow stripe fever is contagious and catching. All over this country there are areas where the game is getting more popular than ever. You must save a little space for the black ball plague 'cause it's the biggest. Keep your eye on our pages for all the bar league news and the nine ball battles coming up, more than I could list in this column.

DOROTHY WISE BACK IN ACTION

Nestling in the heart of Santa Clara Valley, California is the largest billiard room yet. In a regionally designed building of over 14,000 square feet, there is a potential of 34 commercial pool snooker and carom tables. The plans call for a pro shop, a coffee shop and a tournament room with built-in spectator seats. A very important fixture in this plan is the great lady of pocket billiards, Dorothy Wise, former U.S. Open champion. Dorothy will be a member of the staff and will give lessons by appointment only in the evenings.

The Room, California Billiards, will open with 28 tables: 3 for billiards and 2 for snooker. Gene Stary will be official Tournament Director and will feature weekly handicap tournaments. Leading off the first-week in May is a planned nine ball contest with plenty of room for seating for spectators.

California Billiards is located in San Jose at 5160 Stevens Creek Blvd. Parking for over 2,000 people. It sounds like a biggie and we will have a review of the facilities written by a famous writer in the area. Imagine...a book review, or a movie review, and now a pool room review.

NEWS FROM UP AROUND THE BEND—OREGON, THAT IS.

The National Billiard News erstwhile columnist, one time billiard room owner, player and pool enthusiast extrodinaire, Jay Helfert reported into our office about the behind the scenes situation at the Bend, Oregon Championship 8-Ball and 9-Ball tournament. Breathlessly and rapidly, Jay told us of

Continued on Page 22

Pinkowski Numero Uno In Hudson Valley Tourney

By JOE CERVONI

Newburgh, N.Y.—

On March 25th., the Empire Billiard Lounge, in Newburgh, New York, a quiet Mid-Hudson Valley community, presented its first Open Men's 9-Ball Tournament. With 3 days of grueling play and expert shot making, we saw such well known names as: Ray Martin, Earl Herring, Toby Sweet, and Ed O'Connell become victims of relatively unknown names as Walter Glass of Long Island, N.Y., and Gary Pinkowski of Binghamton, N.Y.

Glass, playing flawlessly in the loser's bracket after a first tournament, first set loss, which most players agree was accompanied by a slight case of jitters, put his game together and demolished Sweet by a score of 11 to 4, in the loser's bracket semi-final set.

On the other table, inside the Empire's newly opened Exhibition Room, a confrontation of winners was in progress. This match saw Gilbert Black of Conn., who on the way to his undefeated semi-final match with Gary Pinkowski defeated Ed O'Connell and Earl Herring. They played a seesaw battle which saw the lead change hands 5 different times until the score read 7 games a-piece. Pinkowski promptly broke and ran out the next 2 games. Pinkowski broke and the cueball scratched.

Black came to the table needing a win badly. He proceeded to pocket the first five balls and laying rather tough decided to play a combination on the nine. He lined the shot up and hit to what appeared to be perfect, however, the nineball jawed and left a very easy combination for Gary, and he pocketed it rather handily. After another break and run out which left the score at 10-7, favor of Pinkowski, he broke the rack and saw the nine ball trickle into the side pocket, for the win, and sole possession of the winner's bracket.

Black had to play Glass to determine who would meet Gary Pinkowski in the final set for the tournament win. After winning the lag Glass broke and ran the game out. The next three games saw Glass play flawless position and excellent safeties to move out to a 4-0 lead. After Black won the next game he appeared to show signs of pressure getting to him. Black broke, made nothing, and Glass came out firing, winning the next five games. After another win by Black, Glass finished him off with two break and run outs, which set the stage for the finals.

After a few racks of warm ups by each player, during which T.V. taping equipment was quickly set up, each player was interviewed. At this time Tournament Director and Co-Partner in

the Empire Billiard Lounge Joe Cervoni, introduced the players to a jam packed exhibition arena. Taking charge of the refereeing duties, while Joe's partner Richard Tomanio had the commentary of the match with the T.V. announcer, Joe called for the lag.

Glass, after winning the lag, won the first two games. After coming to the table on a foul by Glass, Pinkowski ran the balls off and also the next 3 games flawlessly. Pinkowski playing very well even with a slight case of the Flu gave up the table to Glass on a very well executed safety. After an exchange of kicking at the balls and crafty snookering, Glass ran out the game leaving the score 4 to 3 favor of Pinkowski. Glass immediately broke and ran out the next two games to take a slim lead 5 to 4.

Now came the turning point of the match. Glass broke and got into difficulty on a tough position shot on the four ball, playing what appeared to be a perfect safety. Pinkowski came to the table in sheer amazement at the position in which he was left. After intense moments of thought Pinkowski proceeded to carom the cue ball off two rails and making a good hit on the four ball kicked it in with a perfect shot. For the 5 he ran the balls for a 5-5 tie.

Continued on Page 22

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Byrd's Eye View

By PALMER BYRD
Associate Editor

In collaboration with:

MADELYN WHITLOW and LARRY MILLER

The following article can be defined as a "position paper" of the Women's Professional Billiard Alliance.

The W.P.B.A. does not see its role in billiards as strictly that of a pool players' sorority. Because we are women in a predominantly male sport, we are of the common opinion that on the whole, we are a forgotten sector of the billiard world and share specialized needs. Consequently, we are committed to setting up a solid framework which will eventually benefit all women who participate in the game, whether they are pros or amateurs.

Prior to this time, we placed our future progress solely in the hands of the Billiard Congress, its U.S. Open and qualifying events. Progress has been made through these existing channels over the past ten years, mainly due to the much appreciated support of Joe Farhat, Sy and Dolly Eckstadt, Frank Oliva, Ray Abrams, C. J. Wood, the Lievens family, Mike Asch, Mike Geiger and Fisher Manufacturing. These people have done their share and more, while other sympathetic ears have been few and far between. The time has come for us to seek out assistance from other sources, utilizing our own efforts instead of depending on others who have done too much or too little in the past.

Since the inception of a U.S. Open Women's Division, we have traveled across the country in an attempt to qualify for that event. Our expenses were no less negligible than the men's, and yet we generally played for much less money. As a very expensive hobby, very few of the women who play tournament pool are in the financial position to absorb the costs of travelling, motel bills, entry fees, etc. At a time when everything is more expensive, the inflationary spiral has made it much more difficult for us to compete. Added to that is the fact that the prize fund for our most prestigious event, the U.S. Open, has been cut in half due to financial problems within the B.C.A.

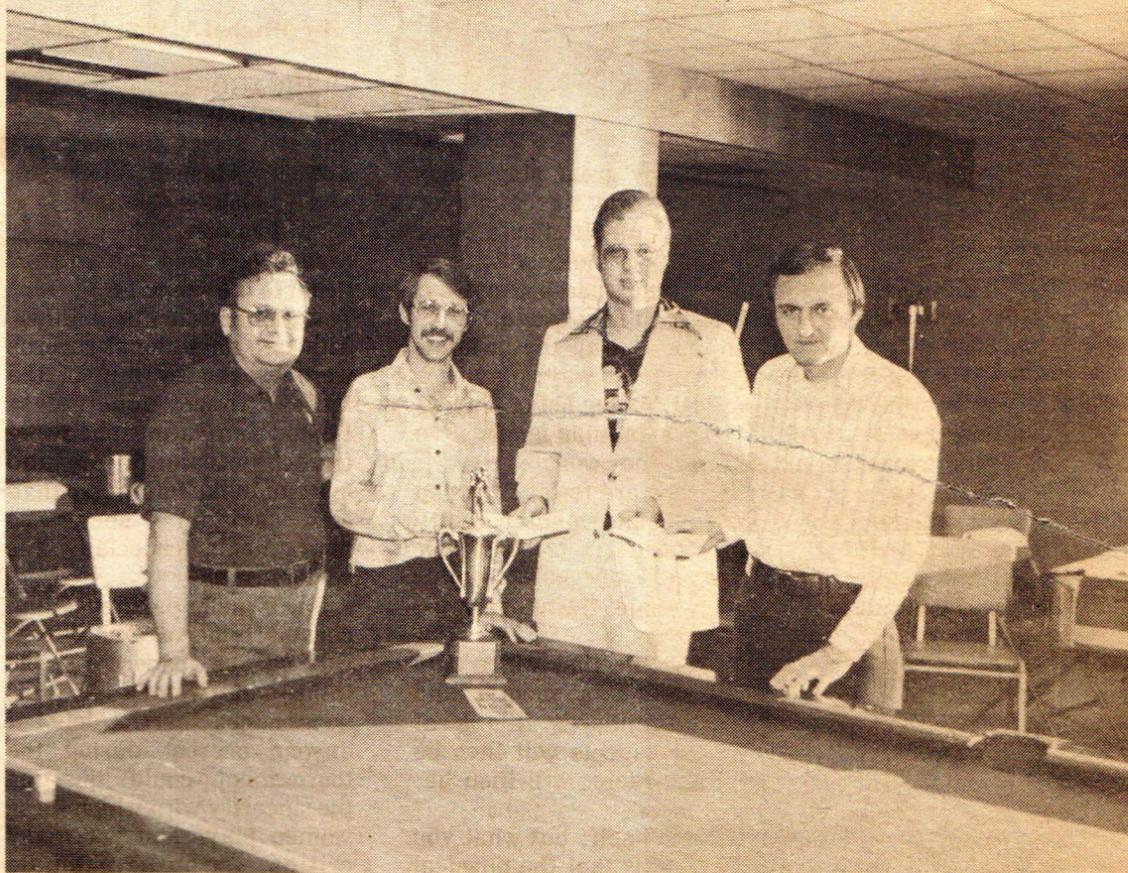
It has often been said that the participants of the Women's Division are "invited guests" at the U.S. Open. We are "invited guests" who have picked up our own tab for ten years, which fact has apparently gone unrecognized by those who "invited" us. As a matter of fact, we are well aware of how close we came to not even being "invited" to the 1976 U.S. Open. It is only through the contribution of Montgomery Wards, a gesture for which we are very thankful, that we were included at all in this year's plans. Montgomery Wards has agreed to subsidize the entire \$5,000 prize fund for this year's Women's Division, which unfortunately is still only half of what we played for in 1975. The generosity of Montgomery Wards is the only factor keeping us alive this year, as we are receiving no financial support whatsoever from the B.C.A. Subsequently, we are not amused by the financial and political wheeling and dealing of the powers-that-be in the billiard world.

The Women's Professional Billiard Alliance has not organized to do battle. Rather, we have organized to define, articulate and implement solutions to the very real needs we can no longer ignore. Because of the now unstable nature of the billiard world, solutions to our problems and the problems of others must be internally forthcoming. The W.P.B.A. has organized out of alarm, and we understand that other groups are doing the same.

As a group, the W.P.B.A. is making a commitment to do for ourselves those things that must be done to assure women a future in our sport. We will play in tournaments, whether they are B.C.A. sanctioned or not. We will seek our avenues of exposure which will be profitable for ourselves and for billiards. We will make ourselves available for private or group instruction. We will make it possible for our membership to take advantage of group discounts and benefits wherever possible. We will offer the members of our group blanket protection, support and recourse whenever necessary. We are going to establish and enforce our own dress codes and standardize playing conditions in our own events.

In essence, our contributions now will be of long range benefit to ourselves and to those who will follow us. We fully intend to make this a profitable venture. As individuals, we have filled our scrapbooks. As an organization, we can also fill our pocketbooks.

Varner Garner's Goodies in Rockford



(Left to right) Bud Lundahl, Nick Varner, Jay Lundahl, Marshall Boelter.
Photo by Sailor of Racine

By F.A. FORTUNE

Rockford, ILL.—

So you want to play with the pros, eh? You want to test your wings with the best? Get your feet wet?

Well, take it from first-timer Gary Fiedler of South Beloit, Illinois, Bud Lundahl's 11th Annual Mid-West Open was not the tournament for a rookie to get his indoctrina-

tion.

In a start that has to be one of those dubious records, Fiedler lost two of his first three games by identical scores of 125 to minus 1, and both were 1 inning games!

First Nick Varner won the lag, and when Fiedler scratched on the break, Nick ripped off 125-and-out. Then in Fiedler's third game against Bob Vanover, Gary

again lost the lag and scratched on the opening break. Sure enough, the Big V also hit him with a handful, scoring his first competitive 125-and-out victory. The V's were hot.

Said Fiedler: "Those guys are nasty," and vowed to work on his lag and break shot. Yeah ... and stay away

Continued on Page 12

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Venzke's View from the Bleachers

By BRUCE VENZKE



Let's talk about something that every great player has (and I don't mean money). It's a big reason why a great player can do things that you and I probably can't. It should be of some help for us to think about it. (If, as is the case with so many NBN readers, you are already great, read on anyway, and I'll remind you of one of the reasons you're so tough.)

I've played for ten years or so, and during the last few have tried to play the game in a more serious way; playing a few tournaments, studying the game, etc. As the list of players who have stomped on me has grown to gargantuan length, I've tried to catalog the main reason I thought they won.

Generally speaking, the basic reasons are fewer than you might suspect. (1) Superior knowledge and mental ability (better strategy, patterns, concentration); (2) superior physical attributes (better stroke, eyesight, nerves, stamina); and (3) superior execution (the application of the above two). That's about it.

Now, let's forget about me and assume that we're only comparing players who have the adequate mental and physical assets to play a decent game of billiards. In a great many games, the mental and physical aspects will then be generally equivalent. The real deciding factor will then be: execution.

That's certainly not earth shaking in itself; but what you may not have really thought about much is that the physical end of execution may be overwhelmingly dependent on the consistency and delicacy of touch.

Once you have achieved a certain level of pocketing power and success in "managing" the pattern play of the game, your degree of overall improvement will probably be roughly equivalent to your degree of mastery of touch.

Not all kinds of fancy english, extreme stroke, or high-low-left-right-force-follow-draw concoctions — just plain touch.

Rolling the cue ball 8" when you need to roll 8", not 6" or 10". Being able to draw back a foot or more into a given ball (not a ball next to it) and push that object ball where you want it. Being able to shoot a 5-foot straight-in shot and carry 4" past, rather than 1" or 6".

People with good touch do those things almost routinely. And it's absolutely essential to achieve that level of touch-control if you hope to play good pocket billiards (14.1 particularly).

There are numerous ways to help develop your touch to the highest possible degree, but I know of none that is not basically hard work and practice, practice, practice. A helpful practice drill is to place a poker playing card around the table as a target for the cue ball position. You'll soon learn which shots tax your touch control to the fullest. Then shoot 'em until you've mastered 'em.

Here are some figures that help illustrate how precise your sense of touch must be.

Playing with a 2 1/4" diameter ball on a 4 1/2 x 9 table, each natural roll of that ball will result in a traveled distance of just about 7.069 inches.

Therefore, if you lag for the break from the head string, the cue ball ideally will travel 24.28 revolutions, or 171.625 inches and freeze on the head rail. If you make an error of 5 percent too soft on your speed of stroke, you can expect the cue ball to stop 1.21 revolutions, or 8.58 inches from the rail — enough to lose a good majority of your lags.

If your error is only 1 percent too soft, you still will come

Continued on Page 24

Frechen Runner Up

Titcomb Qualifies in Chicago

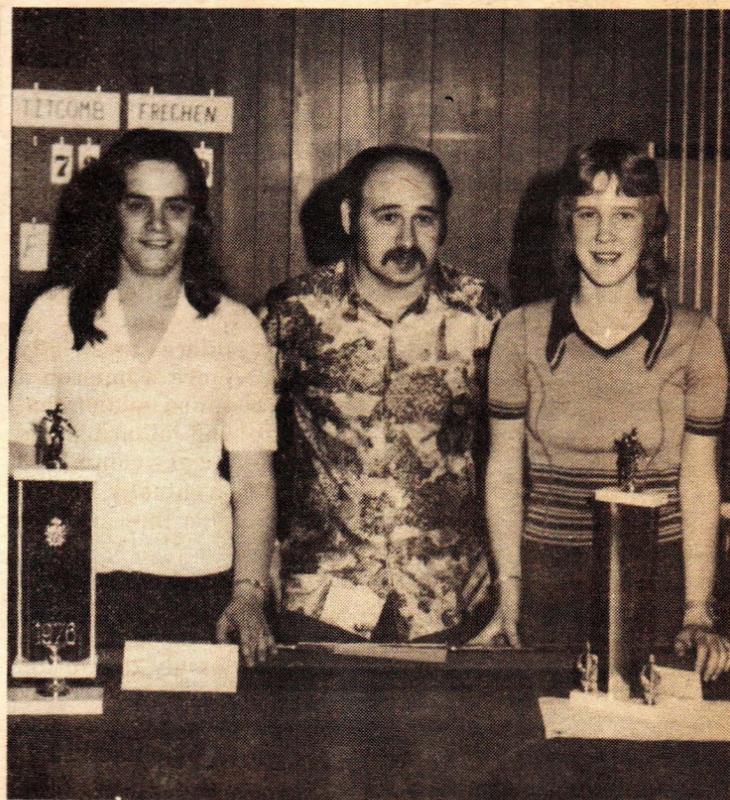
By Mitchel A. Woltersdorf

CHICAGO, ILL.—

On April 3rd and 4th, nineteen select shooters, all women, clashed sticks at Maries Golden Cue Inc., 3342 N. Milwaukee, Chicago, for cash prizes and the coveted ticket to the Annual U.S. Open Tournament in September. Although no national records were broken by any of the ladies, there nonetheless existed an atmosphere of fierce determination and sportsmanlike fellowship that one seldom sees at tournaments, especially this writer.

One issue in particular that constantly permeated the air was one of concern for the future of women in this tremendous sport. I doubt if anyone present during the tournament could question the sincerity with which these women play; and yet many critics on female participation fail to see that this is the true area that all cursory decisions should be based on.

All in all, it was a good tournament. The organization and logistics of the tournament left favorable impressions on everybody, participants and spectators alike. This, however, is not unusual for any endeavor initiated by Maries Golden Cue Inc., as all who are regular readers of the Bill-



Winner Gerry Titcomb, Nick Page, and Vicki Frechen. Photo by Ed Malone

iard News would know. But, enough of this brunch talk; the real story is in the ladies and their tournament.

As mentioned earlier, nineteen ladies, traveling from as far as Endicott, New York and Dallas, Texas, were present to battle their opponents for first place. When the dust cleared the marbles were distributed as such: Geraldine Titcomb,

Cincinnati, Ohio, 1st place and undefeated; Vicki Frechen, St. Johns, Mich., 2nd place; Palmer Byrd, Detroit, Michigan, 3rd place; Bonnie Gums, Chicago, Illinois, 4th place; Gloria Walker, Cheyney, Pennsylvania, 5th place; and Marcia Girolamo, Dallas, Texas, 6th place. Cash prizes

Continued on Page 20

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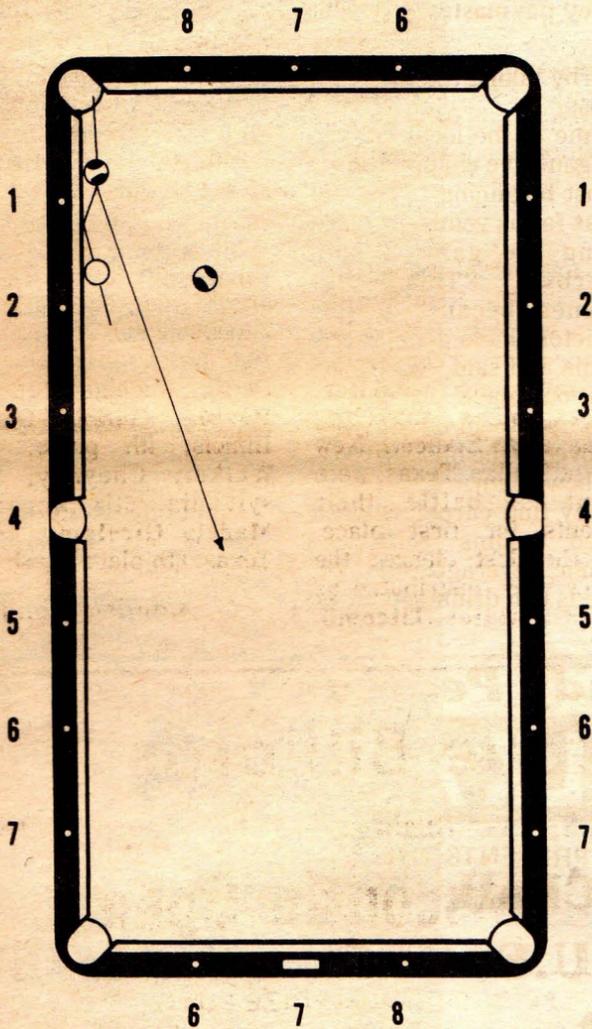


By JOHNNY HOLIDAY

This is a play that confronted me in a game with the N.Y. State Champion. It is a very interesting play as it calls for a carom off the cushion and then to the object ball.

The object ball is placed approximately 1/4 inch off the long rail between the corner pocket and Diamond No. 1. Cue ball is also 1/4 inch off the long rail in the position as the diagram illustrates. To use a follow shot would not give the desired position for break ball. A draw stroke would only place the cue ball close to the cushion somewhere between Diamond No. 4 or No. 5, subject to the run of the cue ball when stroked with a draw shot.

In this play I decided to strike the cushion a fraction before the object ball, so that the cue ball caroms off the rail and into the object ball which is then pocketed. The carom off the object ball allows the cue ball to go in the direction as the diagram illustrates, giving good position for break shot ball. This play calls for a draw stroke, no english.



Be sure not to over draw. Practice this first with short draw strokes. When you are able to judge just what type of stroke is needed to accomplish this play, then just up and do it.

(The solution to last month's column will appear next month)

Larry Johnson First In New England Championship

Salem, Mass.—

Larry "Boston Shorty" Johnson, one of the best all round players in the game, waded through a 32-man field to capture the fourth annual BCA New England Championship and earned himself a spot in this year's Open. Play was in two 16 man brackets with the two winners meeting in a 150 point final match. John Galaris, owner and operator of the Cue and Billiard Lounge in Salem, Mass., hosted the tourney and the contestants were limited to residents of the New England area. Galaris' room consists of 13 4 1/2 x 9 pool tables and 2 5x10 Carom Tables and although space was limited the contests of cue skill drew 250 to 300 people to each of the two days of matches.

Johnson emerged in the winner's bracket by defeating Steve Shimkuss 125-73, Bill Farquahson 125-93, Chris Dzizeck 125-38, and Laddie Mills 125-65. Coming back with one loss from the loser's bracket was Connecticut's Ray Guilbeault. Guilbeault went to work early with runs of 31 and 39 and defeated Johnson 125-45. The final match in this bracket between Johnson and Guilbeault was a classic. Guilbeault lost the lag and broke. After four consecutive safeties by each player, Guilbeault ran 7 balls before getting tied-up. After Guilbeault attempted a safety, Johnson stood up and ran 45

balls finishing the inning with a safety. Guilbeault attempted a safe but left a dead shot in the pack. Johnson stepped up and proceeded to run 71 balls. After a 28 ball run by Guilbeault, Johnson ran 9 and out.

Meanwhile, 3-time defending champion Roger Boucher of Fitchburg was having little difficulty emerging in the finals of the other bracket. Enroute, Boucher defeated Richard D. Boneventura 125-34, Lenny Rummerfield 125-82, Mike Mason 125-62 and Norman Pomerleau 125-54. Pomerleau, after posting a tremendous 125-113 comeback victory over Larry "the Greek" Karalexis, came back from the loser's bracket to meet Boucher, but once again Boucher proved to be too steady as he posted a 125-68 victory.

Now the stage was set for the 150 point showdown

match between Johnson and Boucher. Twice in previous qualifiers Boucher had denied Johnson a U.S. Open berth. Johnson was determined. After a Boucher break Johnson immediately ran 65 balls. Both players settled into playing an extremely cautious game, and with the score 88-23, Johnson appeared to have things pretty much in control. But Boucher, always a competitor, came back with two successive twenty ball runs to make the score 102-75 — Johnson. Sensing he was losing momentum, Johnson became even more cautious, and after a few innings of safeties, Johnson ran 44 and out. Final score, Johnson 125, Boucher 84.

Other awards went to Connecticut's Ray Guilbeault for his third place finish, Maine's Norman Pomerleau fourth place, and Salem's Michael Mason for the high run.

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Letherby Tops in University Bowl Open

Players Speak Out on Pool

Reprinted from the Palm Beach, Florida Times

by BARRY VORSE

BOCA RATON—A mathematics teacher and an ex-pool hustler who finished 1-2 Sunday in the University Bowl Open 3 cushion billiards tourney here feel their sport should be open to children.

"Pool is being kept in the dark because no young people play the game," said North Miamian Vince Corelli who finished second to Robert Letherby of Muskegon, Mich. "There are laws in the state of Florida that keep kids under 16 out. In some bowling alleys, kids can run around and people drink and nothing is said. In this establishment here, they can't go in the pool room. There is no drinking, nothing justifies that."

Corelli won four of his five matches in the finals, losing only to Letherby who was undefeated. Virgil Healy of South Bend, Ind., was third and Howard Hellegaard of Boynton Beach fourth. Aaron Steinberg of Miami was fifth and sixth went to Stan Hardy of Atlanta.

Letherby also had the high run of the finals, eight. He won 10 national points in the seasonal American Billiards Association yearly race. His best game was 40 points in 33 innings or turns.

Players from six different states competed. Total prize money was \$560 with



Two happy people — Bob Letherby (left) and Walt Durkin, tourney paymaster. Photo courtesy Gale Johnson

Letherby taking the top prize of \$205.

"Some of the local laws in Michigan have changed so we are just beginning to see the light as far as younger people playing the game," said Letherby. "This has happened because a few proprietors have gone to city councils and said, 'come and look at our place'. They have had to take them by the hand right over to the billiard room and show them.

"They find carpeting, well lighted rooms with no alcoholic beverages allowed. The kids can drink pop. They

are fully supervised. The man at the desk has nothing else to do unlike the desk man at a bowling alley who has to rent shoes and watch the machines and can't hear what is going on because of the noise."

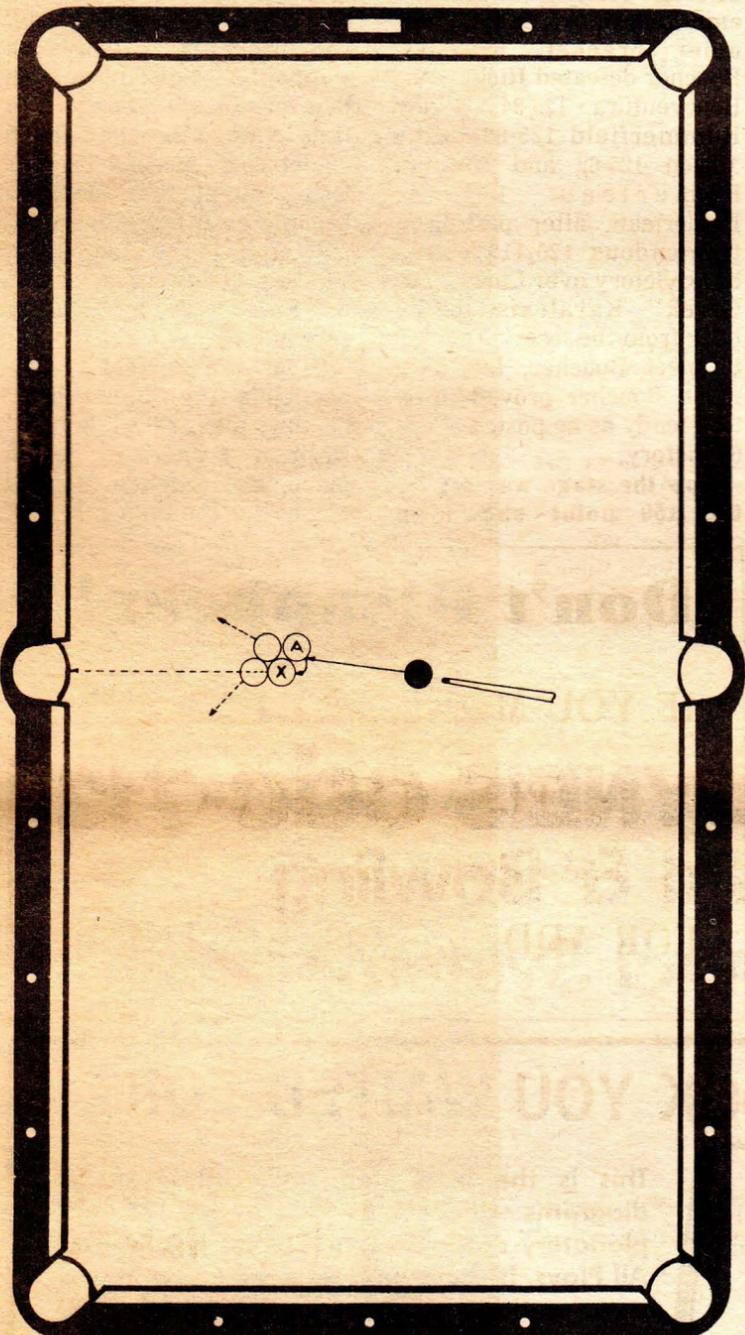
"The laws in the various states will be changed only by the proprietor who takes the effort and really feels this is a great game. These few feel they can change the old image if they can only get the city councilman or state legislator to listen and see

Continued on Page 10

TRICK SHOT of the MONTH



By JIMMY CARAS
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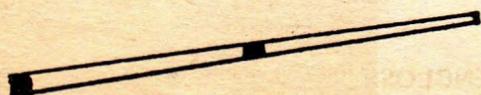


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The BCA Break!



BCA President Kim Gandy met March 21 in Atlanta, Georgia, with Joe Turner, corresponding representative for the International Pocket Billiards Association, and Ray Abrams of the proprietor division of BCA. The purpose was to discuss the recent IPBA protest concerning the reduction of the prize fund of the forthcoming U.S. Open Tournament.

President Gandy informed them that his original public statement was still factual and that there simply were no resources known to him or other BCA officers whereby the demand could be met. Thanks to the efforts of BCA Director Ed DeMeyer of Fischer Billiards, Montgomery Ward & Co. has contributed to the prize fund of the Women's Division of the Open and, if others follow suit, the monies will be made available to the participants. He further noted that BCA had never run the tournament for the purpose of raising funds for itself, but rather for the benefit of the players and the industry. He asked the players for both their patience and support in promoting the future of the game. "We are just as disappointed about the prize fund as the players, and hold no animosity about the petition of nineteen players who signed it. Hopefully, they will join us in putting on a first class tournament," he concluded, "and we can all go on together from there."

NEWEST MEN'S DIVISION QUALIFIERS FOR THE U.S. OPEN, which will be held August 11-14 at the Sheraton-Chicago Hotel were: Marshall Boelter (Marie's Golden Cue, Inc., Chicago); Nick Varner (State & Madison Recreation, Rockford, Ill.); John Cionfloni (American College Unions-International, Milwaukee); Bill Stock (Crown Cue, Anchorage, Alaska); Paul Brienza (Hi Cue Billiard Lounge, Elizabeth, N.J.)

TWO NEW QUALIFIED ENTRANTS FOR THE WOMEN'S DIVISION ARE Melissa Rice (American College Unions-International) and Dorothy Wise, past U.S. Open Champion.

NEW QUALIFYING TOURNAMENTS ANNOUNCED

IN THE MEN'S DIVISION, the following qualifying tournaments will all but complete the final field of 32 participants, with one opening to be filled:

May 8-9: Marie's Golden Cue, Inc., Chicago, Illinois (312-685-2929)

May 12-16: Southeastern Open (Major), Tampa, Florida (contact Bill Stigall at (813-621-1532)

June 4-6: Cue Nique Billiards, Ltd., Madison, Wisconsin (815-727-2724)

June 10-13: Hi-Cue Billiard Lounge, Elizabeth, New Jersey (201-354-8950)

June 11-13: Chalk "N" Cue (Major), Joliet, Illinois (815-727-2724)

June 10-13: Atcheson's-Arizona State championship, Tempe, Ariz. (602-967-9628)

THE WOMEN'S DIVISION, which was increased to a field of 12 for the Chicago finals, has three openings left.

AUSTRALIA, THE NEWEST CHALLENGER IN THE 1976 U.S. OPEN, has written to tell us that they are considering having Americans join them 'down under' next year, to put on demonstrations and to participate in their qualifying tournament. Their current tournament, set for June 14-16, has a field of the best eight professionals in Australia. Top contender Eddie Charlton, who played in the 1968 World's Invitational in New York, states, "I think we can pot the ball as well as any players around. But the Americans see and make shots we think are impossible. Only experience is going to show us how." (American potters beware!)

THE BILLIARD & BOWLING INSTITUTE OF AMERICA will hold its 33rd Annual Convention at The Dutch Inn, Lake Buena Vista, Florida, May 18-22. Located on Disneyworld property, the meeting will include copious amounts of enter-

Continued on Page 26

TOURNAMENT CALENDAR

POOL

WESTERN NEW YORK WOMEN'S QUALIFIER
April thru June
Round Robin
Bob (B) Keu
Kenmore, New York

MEMORIAL DAY OPEN—
8 BALL-9 BALL TOURNEY
May 25th thru May 30th
The Billiard Works
645 N. Euclid
Anaheim, Calif.

BILLIARD NEWS NATIONAL OPEN MAJOR MEN'S & WOMEN'S U.S. OPEN QUALIFIER
May 28th thru May 31st
Cushion & Cue Recreation Center
27630 Schoolcraft
Livonia, Michigan

1976 WISCONSIN OPEN U.S. OPEN QUALIFIER
June 4th thru June 6th
Cue-nique Billiards
317 W. Gorham St.
Madison, Wisconsin

FAMILY BILLIARDS (2) U.S. OPEN QUALIFIERS
June 4-6 & June 25-27
Family Billiards
2 Bunker Ave.
Fairfield, Maine

POOL

MEN'S OPEN PRO 9-BALL TOURNAMENT
June 10th thru June 13th
Empire Billiard Lounge
120 S. Robinson Ave.
Newburgh, N.Y.

CHALK 'N' CUE U.S. OPEN QUALIFIER
June 11th thru June 13th
Chalk 'N' Cue
123 East Van Buren
Joliet, Ill.

CALIFORNIA STRAIGHT POOL OPEN
June 23rd thru June 27th
Jointed Cue Billiards
2375 Fruitridge Road
Sacramento, California

U.S. OPEN POCKET BILLIARD CHAMPIONSHIPS
August 11th thru August 14th
Sheraton Chicago Hotel
Chicago, Illinois

TOURNAMENT OF CHAMPIONS 4 DIVISIONS
September, 1976
Forest Park Billiards
4425 North Main
Dayton, Ohio

3-CUSHION

ROCKHILL OPEN
May 21st thru May 23rd
Rockhill Billiards
Kansas City, Mo.

IBC OPEN
June 26 & 27
Illinois Billiard Club
10329 S. Polaski
Chicago, Ill.

U.S. OPEN
July 1st thru July 5th
Hi Cue Billiards
333 Rahway
Elizabeth, N.J.

NEW ENGLAND OPEN
July 6th thru July 8
Gold Crown Billiards
New London Shopping Center
New London, Conn.

EASTERN STATES OPEN
July 10 & 11
Jacy's Billiard Academy
96-42 Queens Blvd.
Rego Park, N.Y.

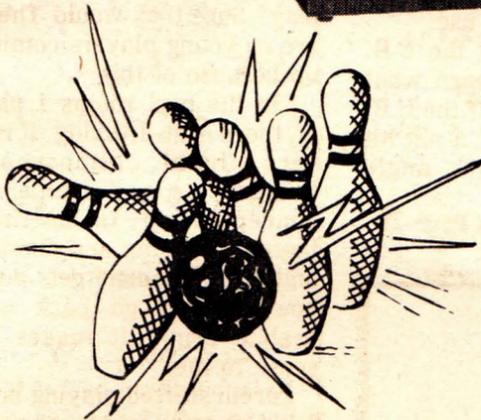
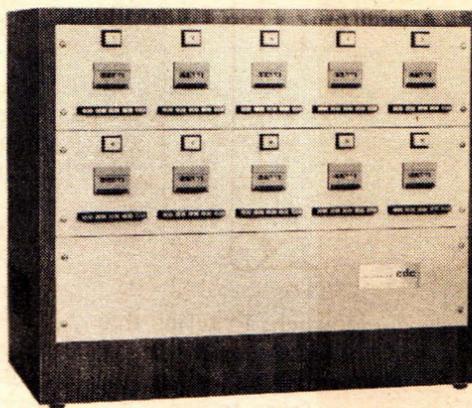
CUE CLUB OPEN
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How To Bank

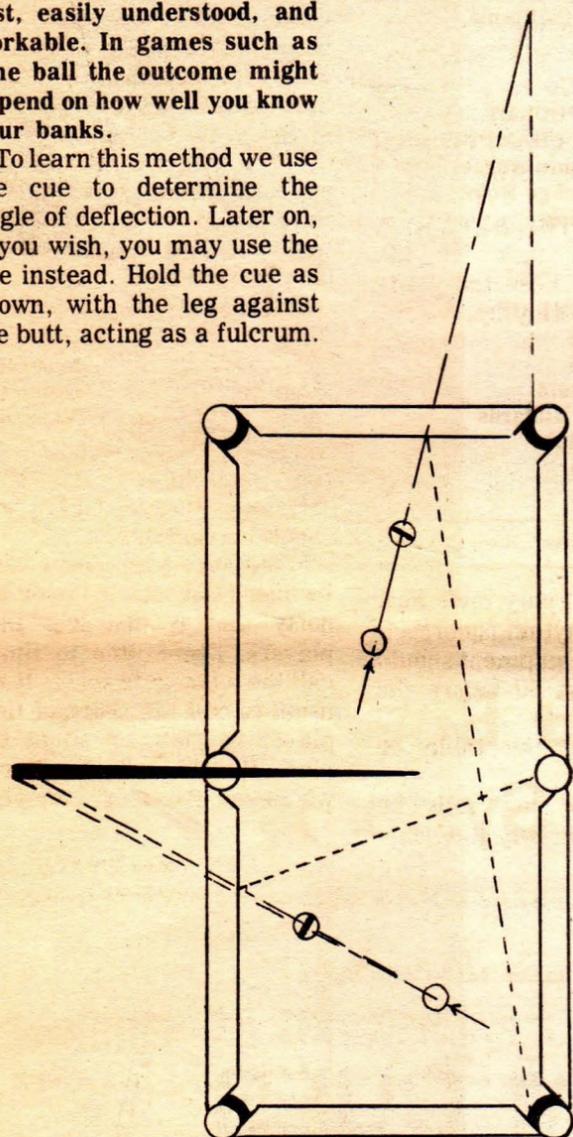
by JOHN LARSEN



This system of banking the O.B. (Object Ball) has never appeared in print, to my knowledge. Instruction books suggest that you bisect the angle, or use several imaginary lines, which is time consuming and confusing. This method is fast, easily understood, and workable. In games such as nine ball the outcome might depend on how well you know your banks.

To learn this method we use the cue to determine the angle of deflection. Later on, if you wish, you may use the eye instead. Hold the cue as shown, with the leg against the butt, acting as a fulcrum.

Notice that when too much force is used, the O.B. misses to one side, and too little, it misses on the other. The speed must be just right. Practice the long bank in the same manner, except, that the distance for the fulcrum is



Swing the cue tip over the O.B. If the O.B. follows this line into the cushion, it will carom into the pocket. It would help, during practice, if a chalk line such as this were drawn on the cloth. Place the O.B. and the C.B. (cue ball) on the line, then a full hit, with a little draw, will bank the O.B.

twice as much. Practice this "straight on" bank many times, until you know the amount of force to use.

Next, try moving the C.B. off the line, and learn what must now be done. If the C.B. is an inch or two off, a soft hit might widen the angle

Continued on Page 20

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Send Kids Back to Pool Room

Continued from Page 8

what the game of billiards today is all about."

Corelli, who gave up professional hustling after 15 years to enter the advertising business, feels if youngsters were allowed to play the game at commercial establishments as they can bowl and play golf, that the game would skyrocket in popularity.

"It's the archaic laws that are holding the game back. The game is the toughest there is. In golf there is no defensive play. In golf, I can't put a tree in front of your ball and say 'shoot around it.' In pool what you do depends on what I do.

"Pool is such a great game with all kinds of appeal. You think the kids running around here wouldn't like to get in the pool room and learn how to play? Sure they would. There are no young players coming up because of this.

"In the pool rooms I play at, there is no drinking. It is a very quiet atmosphere because it is a game of concentration. In bowling, there is shouting and cursing and after someone gets done bowling they go back and grab a drink. It makes no sense to me."

Corelli started playing both billiards and pool at the age of 14 in his native New York City. Soon he could beat anyone at his pool room and then conquered all the foes in another and another. He claims to have traveled the country on his cue.

"You can tell he's a hustler," said Gale Johnson, secretary of the ABA, in reference to Corelli. "I saw

him make two points one-handed. Only a handful of players can do that and they're all hustlers."

"If kids could play this game at nine, 10 and 11 years old, it could become the greatest game in the world," said Corelli. "Every town has pool rooms. All kids seem to be fascinated by pool and what the balls do in certain situations. I am contemplating opening a billiards room in South Dade.

"I would like a judge to explain to me why a kid can't come into a pool room. Before I would open a place, I want to make sure I can get young people in there. I believe it is against the constitutional rights of kids under 16 to be prohibited from entering pool rooms.

"Why should they be allowed to bowl in a house where liquor is served and can't go into a pool room where it isn't. That's why pool is a dying game. It has never come into its own and it should. It is the toughest

game there is. If you don't miss, the other guy never has a chance. If you miss, he gains."

Corelli feels that the pool establishments have already proven to most of the general public that they are not the sleazy havens for undesirables as many were years ago. A trend in recent years has put carpets and housewives in the pool rooms but few children.

"Pool room proprietors are battling archaic lawmakers. Their thoughts are back in the thirties. Average age for many of these men are in their sixties. They are not walking into the billiard rooms of today. All they know is that in 1929 a bookmaker hung out in a pool room.

"Pool was played by kings centuries ago. It was brought down to a low level during the depression," Corelli said. "If the lawmakers would come out and look at the game the way it is today and let children play, this sport of kings could become a king of sports."

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Snooker Canada's Chief Referees



Guidelines On Refereeing

by
**GRAHAM W.
DUNCAN**

Editorial Introduction:

Graham Duncan was born in England and was introduced to the game of Snooker by seeing his father play at The Polytechnic in London, England. He was fascinated by the game and started to play when still at school (one of his schools had 6 nine-foot tables for the use of the boys!). He then attended College at the same College where his father had once taught. After graduation he became involved with the Billiards and Snooker Club associated with the Polytechnic and once became involved in a dispute about the rules. To prove he was correct he decided to take the Referee's Examination and applied to the Billiards and Snooker Control Council. In 1961, he was examined and awarded a grade "B" certificate in both Billiards and Snooker.

After taking the examination he joined the London and Southern Area Referees Association and immediately began to referee matches in the London Area. He refereed in most of the National Championships (the English Amateur Billiards, Snooker, the Boys' Championships, the Youths' Championships, and the Ladies' Championships). Soon he was refereeing 4 or 5 times a week with Club matches and in various invitational tournaments (for example, the Finsbury Park Conservative Club's annual Championship for top players in the U.K.). He was soon sufficiently experienced to be invited to referee in a Nationally televised Professional-Amateur Tournament and then in two more tele-

vised Amateur Tournaments.

He was also becoming involved in the administrative side of the game, being Secretary of the Polytechnic Billiards and Snooker Club and Vice-Chairman of the Southern Area Referees Association.

In 1965 he emigrated from England and went to work in the U.S.A., teaching in high schools in Iowa and Wisconsin and for 4 years was out of touch with Snooker. However the Billiards Association decided that he was sufficiently experienced as a referee to be upgraded to grade "A" Examiner and so the first qualified referee entered the U.S.A.

In 1969 he moved to Toronto to teach and started refereeing again. In 1970 he was chief referee in a Tournament in which Fred Davis and Rex Williams were the guest "stars" from England. When Snooker Canada was founded in 1972 by several interested fans of the game his name was put forward as Chief Referee, a position he still holds. As chief referee he organizes the refereeing duties at the annual Canadian National Exhibition Tournament in Toronto. Recently he refereed the taped North American Snooker Championship between Bill Werbeniuk and Cliff Thorburn which should be televised on the CTV Network in Canada this summer.

He is currently actively involved in the organization of the Canadian Billiards and Snooker Referees Association and is acting Secretary to the Association.

His following guidelines are directed mainly at Snooker, but many apply to Pool and Billiards as well.

The best compliment a referee can receive is "I did not even know you were there". For this to happen the referee must be, in the words of John Pulman, "efficient and unobtrusive".

THE REFEREE AND THE TOURNAMENT DIRECTOR

Make sure you know where the match is and be there in good time, at least half an hour before the match starts. Allow for difficulties in getting parking space. If you are delayed, phone the match hall and let them know.

No referee should ever be out of pocket for refereeing a match. He must make sure that his expenses are met. Also if there is any prize money he must receive a reasonable fee. Agree to these before accepting the refereeing engagement.

APPEARANCE

The referee must think about his appearance. He should be smart but not wearing bright clothes. As he will be walking around the table for several hours he should wear comfortable, quiet shoes.

When refereeing (1) do not smoke, (2) do not drink alcoholic drinks, (3) do not sit down during a game.

EQUIPMENT TO BRING

Whenever you referee there are some essential items to have with you.

- (a) A coin: you need this to

determine who breaks first and in case there is a tie game. Never spin a coin so that it falls on the cloth, it can cut the cloth. Simply place the coin on the side of the table and ask one of the players to call.

(b) A rule book. Often someone does not believe a ruling, so show them the official rule AFTER the match is over.

(c) White cotton gloves: these are essential for Championship games. As you know, the gloves help keep the balls clean. A speck of dirt on a ball can make the ball throw off by 5 to 10 degrees.

DUTIES OF THE REFEREE

The main task for the referee is to keep the game running smoothly by:

- (a) ensuring that the equipment is satisfactory,
- (b) counting and marking the score,
- (c) observing any fouls,
- (d) interpreting and applying the rules,
- (e) controlling the players and spectators.

All players play their best when their rhythm is correct. For this the equipment should not be faulty. So before the game

- (1) ask that the table be brushed,
- (2) ask that the balls be cleaned, especially the white ball,

(3) check that the rests (rakes) are in position and fit to use,

(4) know where the long rest and cue are,

(5) see if the scoreboard is complete

(6) make sure there is a chair and ashtray for the players.

You might have to do (1) and (2) yourself.

It is also good manners to introduce yourself to the players and to make sure you know which player is which. You should also know how many games are to be played, if there is to be a break between games and how long any such break shall be. You should also make sure that the players know these details.

See if you can get a good marker to look after the scoreboard. The marker must be able to count and should NOT be an associate of the players. The accuracy of the scoreboard is the referee's responsibility, so check it regularly.

Make sure your count can be heard but that it is not so noisy that it distracts the players. From time to time call the aggregate score. It is usual to call the score of the player in play, or about to play, first. I call the score whenever the lead changes

Continued on Page 26

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Snooker Scene

by JIM JAUSMAN

I will try to cover a lot of ground in a hurry — as the back-up of my regular work is so bad after the two weeks in Bermuda.

First off—The tournament was a great success — great play — new players doing well — large crowds in the six Bermuda Clubs where the matches were played — Joe Davis' presence adding a lot of interest — great publicity (it was a major sports event for Bermuda) — a great improvement in the quality of the Snooker (Joe Davis was surprised at the quality and the seriousness of the matches) — close matches strategically played (for amateurs) — a number of surprises such as New York's Number One man (new this year) beating both Miller-Chivers (London) and Budge (Ottawa) in the same day and the same man (Herbert Lehmann) being the only man to win all of his Class A team matches during the whole team-play tournament — Miller-Chivers again won the Singles Knockout play.

Conservative and defensive play negated the possibility of large breaks but breaks of 54, 41, and 31 won the Class A, B, and C Divisions High Break competition respectively, made by Budge (Ottawa), Tressidor (London) and Olson (Ottawa) in the ABC order.

Final team standing was — London, Ottawa, New York Athletic Club, Bermuda, South Africa, Toronto, Bermuda II and New York II. The latter made of Eric Connolly as a NYAC Guest Member and two NYAC men to replace the missing Trinidad team. Connolly was to be a member of the North of England team — which apparently got lost — a Maurice Hayes group — Bermuda II replaced them.

Lehmann of NY was top player in the A Section of the League team play. Brian Tressidor of London top man in B Section. Charlie Smith of London tops in C Section.

The eight finalists in the Individual Knockout Competition were — Miller-Chivers of London, Steve Dunleavy of Bermuda, Gerry Seed of Ottawa, Eric Connolly of New York, Brian Tressidor of London, Gert Swart of South Africa, Ervin Budge of Ottawa, Charlie Smith of London. Semi-finalists were Miller-Chivers vs Gerry Seed and Ervin Budge vs. Brian Tressidor. Miller-Chivers defeated Budge in the final — a repeat of last year's final. (Lehmann of NY who has played snooker for only ten months — he is the Connecticut Amateur Pocket Billiards Champion — seemed to tire at the end of the team competition — the tournament was his first tournament competition in Snooker.) He lost to Tressidor after two very close frames in the Knockout Competition before the quarter-finals.

BACARDI presented many fine trophies—not only to the winners of the above but also to Joe Davis for his presence and assistance—One to the writer for "untiring efforts in founding the International Snooker League"—etc.

Next year's tournament was awarded to the Eccentric Club in London — to be held in mid-April in 1977. The 1978 tournament was awarded to Toronto, Canada.

The 1977 League will be eight "NATIONAL" teams — no city teams — Canada's two teams will be formed into one team and there will be no two teams from New York or Bermuda. Trinidad will again be eligible for 1977 if application is made — at present the matter is in a "suspended" classification. We have inquiries from a number of new teams but 1977 is limited to eight definite teams. Applications should be made to this office.

In the USA we will still be after players, etc., from Tulsa, Detroit, etc. Both of those areas could only muster up two players for this year.

We may form a North American Snooker Competition — teams from Tulsa, Oklahoma, Denver, New York, Toronto, Ottawa, Montreal, etc. This to be apart from the ISL. It could be the start of a North America Control Council.

That is the major news to date.

Varner Garner Goodies In Rockford Tourney

Continued from Page 5

from those quiet Southern guys who speak softly but carry a big stick.

Though the personable Vanover finished at 2-2 and failed to get out of the prelims, his run of 125 won him \$75 (\$50 for HR out of the money, and a half share with Varner of the \$50 for tourney high run).

Twenty-three players from 6 states were on hand for Lundahl's perennially fine tournament (a late illness left one of the 4-man brackets a man short). There was \$3000 plus a U.S. Open entry up for grabs in this Major qualifier, with two men from each bracket advancing to the semis. There the 8 were drawn into two 4-man brackets, and again round robins were contested. The top two from those semi brackets then squared off in a final 4-man round robin.

In the "A" bracket, Marshall Boelter (fresh off a win in the Marie's Golden Cue Major qualifier a month earlier) went 4-1 to lead the way into the semi-finals.

Charlie Cacciapaglia, Wendell Weir, and Walt Brummett were all tied with 3-2 records, and since Cool Charles had the top ball count, he advanced to the

semis. Charlie also had a run of 99, while Weir also stirred things up a bit with a run of 83.

Bracket "B" was all Mark Beilfuss as he charged through unscathed to a 5-0 mark. Bob Dickerson and Frank Thompson were next at 3-2; Bob's runs of 76 and 60 gave him a substantial edge in a ball count, so he moved on with Beilfuss.

"C" bracket was a two-way tie for first with Varner and Leon Ledford, so they were into the semis. Vanover's perfect game wasn't enough, as he and Tom Kollins finished 2-2 and were left behind.

"D" was Judex James all the way to a perfect 5-0 slate. Willie Munson lost only to James in posting a 4-1 performance, and they joined the group of 8 semi-finalists.

The draw for the two semi-final brackets put Dickerson, Ledford, Varner, and Cacciapaglia in "A" and Beilfuss, Boelter, Munson, and James in "B".

The crafty veteran Cacciapaglia couldn't be touched during Saturday's semi-final action, and he breezed into the finals by winning all 3 matches. Varner came up only 18 balls short of the same accomplishment, so he would also

be seeing action in Sunday's finals.

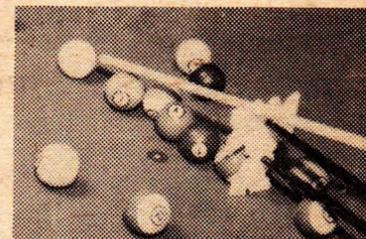
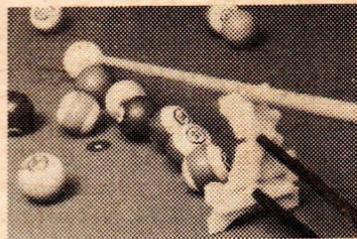
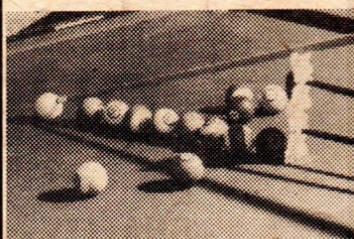
In the "B" semi, Beilfuss, continued his undefeated romp for a second day and thus was the only player to make the final four without taking a loss. His run of 110 against Munson dropped Willie into a 3-way tie for second place with James and Boelter. When they did the ball count trick yet again, it was Boelter who slipped into the finals with Beilfuss.

The finals were Varner, Varner, Varner; that is, Varner over Beilfuss (150-122), Varner over Cacciapaglia (150-36), and Varner over Boelter in a 150-147 squeaker when Boelter had a tough scratch in the side while on his way out. That deposited the \$1200 first prize and 1976 U.S. Open berth in Nick Varner's pocket. Boelter, Beilfuss, and Cacciapaglia were all 1-2 with ball count determining the finish positions.

Rockford results:

1. Nick Varner, \$1225; 2. Marshall Boelter, \$600; 3. Mark Beilfuss, \$350; 4. Chas. Cacciapaglia, \$250; 5. Judex James, \$125; 6. Leon Ledford, \$125; 7. Willie Munson, \$125; 8. Bob Dickerson, \$125; HR (tie) Bob Vanover, \$75.

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FORMAT

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Down to 1 Flite of 8

Pre-Lims = 125 Points Finals = 150 Points

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- 1st - \$1,000 + Trophy + U.S. Open Entry •
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MATCH & TICKET INFORMATION

FRIDAY, MAY 28, 7 p.m., 9 p.m., 11 p.m., 24 Matches	\$3.00
SATURDAY, MAY 29, 2 p.m., 4 p.m., 16 Matches	\$2.00
SATURDAY, MAY 29, 7 p.m., 9 p.m., 11 p.m., 24 Matches	\$3.00
SUNDAY, MAY 30, 2 p.m., 4 p.m., 14 Matches	\$3.00
SUNDAY, MAY 30, 8 p.m., 10 p.m., 14 Matches	\$3.00
MONDAY, MAY 31, 2 p.m., 4 p.m., 14 Matches	\$3.00
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Ashby Wins B.F.U.S.A. National

By **BOB BYRNE**
Mill Valley, Ca.

Young George Ashby of Jacksonville, Illinois, friendly, unassuming, and modest away from the table and a relentless, finely-tuned scoring machine at the table, won the ninth Billiard Federation national three-cushion tournament and with it an all-expenses paid trip to Belgium to compete against the world's best. In winning the ten-man, round robin meet, which was held the second week of April at the Elks Lodge in San Jose, Calif., Ashby set two BFUSA records; his brilliant average of .995 tops Al Gilbert's .936 (set in 1972) and his best games of fifty points in 38 and 37 innings break the previous standard of 41 innings established in 1971 by Eddie Robin and Jack Josephson.

Not bad for a 26-year-old who was making his west coast debut. His victory is the realization of a long-held dream, to play in a world tournament against Ceulemans and the great European, South American, and Japanese masters. It's a kind of a dream come true for Doc Erickson and the other BFUSA officials as well: at last the United States is sending a champion to the big show with a world-class average. (The year — Gilbert averaged .936 he finished second; Robin won with an average of .846.) With the coolness and precision he displayed in San Jose, Ashby will give the other national champions plenty of trouble.

There were several disappointments for fans and organizers before the tournament began. First was the absence of Frank Torres, who arrived at the Long Beach, Calif., sectional qualifier too late to compete. Torres won the national amateur title two years ago, gave a good account of himself in the World, and has blossomed into a near 1.000 average player in the meantime. Second was the withdrawal of Neal Olson, one of the fine young players from the Northwest and runner-up in the Portland, Oregon, sectional, who caught the flu at a most inopportune time. Finally, the saddest blow of all, defending champion John Bonner, just hours before his first game, received word of the sudden illness of his wife and was forced to return home.

Taking the places of the two scratched entries were Frank Howard, third-place finisher



— George Ashby —

another battle-scarred hero of many billiard wars, Carl Baldwin of Oakland, Calif., who at one point was only 14 points away from the national title that he has publicly stated is one of his chief aims in life. Going into the final match of the tournament Baldwin had been beaten only by McFarlane, his teammate at the Alameda Elks Lodge, and tied only by Harry Sims. Ashby, who had lost only to Sims and who was untied, needed a win or tie to take first place. (It had been decided 'at the players' meeting that in case of a tie for first the winner would be the player with the best average — an effort to comply with a new World Union of Billiards ruling that a national champion must average at least .850 to advance to the World Tournament.) At the end of 42 innings the score was 37-36 in favor of Baldwin. Ashby stepped to the table and ended the suspense with a flourish, running an eight and a four back-to-back and winning the game 50-37 in 46 innings.

Taking fourth place was affable Harry Sims, whose consistent play and solid .804 average establish him as a force to be reckoned with in the forthcoming Midwest tournaments. He was the only man to beat Ashby, turning back the young wizard 50-30 in 53 innings.

Homero Valdespino of San Francisco, returning to competitive billiards after an eight-year absence, never seemed to get his game together, yet still managed to average .734 and win the high-run trophy with a 10.

Bill Spadafore of San Jose, finding out what it's like to share the worries of tournament management while trying to play, came in a disappointing seventh, followed by San Francisco's Earl Whitehead.

Bruce Thompson of Los Angeles and Dave DePasquale of Lompoc, Calif., playing in their first national tournament, nailed down the last two spots. Thompson lost three games by a total of four points; De Pasquale lost two by a total of three.

All in all, despite the conspicuous absences, a great tournament — excellent for Sims, Baldwin, and McFarlane, sensational for Ashby. The American billiard world awaits the results from Ostend, Belgium with bated breath.

Ninth National Amateur Tournament Billiard Federation of the U.S.A.						
★	PLAYERS	W L T	BG	HR	AVG.	★
	Ashby	8-1-0	37	8	.995	
	McFarlane	7-2-0	57	6	.648	
	Baldwin	6-2-1	47	6	.787	
	Sims	5-2-2	53	5	.804	
	Valdespino	5-4-0	52	10	.734	
	Howard	4-5-0	61	9	.673	
★	Spadafore	3-6-0	50	7	.598	★
	Whitehead	1-6-2	59	6	.640	
	Thompson	2-6-0	61	7	.551	
	DePasquale	1-7-1	54	8	.610	

in the Portland sectional, who has now participated in six consecutive BFUSA nationals and Jim McFarlane next in line from the San Francisco

sectional. Howard, starting cold, lost his first three games but rallied to finish with a 4-5 record and sixth place. McFarlane, lost only

two games to come in second, a very fine showing for the Bay Area Elks League veteran.

Third place was taken by

Wisconsin Billiard Congress Scores Again

7th Annual Wisconsin Championships

by F. A. FORTUNE

Milwaukee, Wisc.—
The Milwaukee Sentinel Sports, Travel and Boat Show was again the host and co-sponsor for the Billiard Congress of Wisconsin state championships held March 12-21 at the giant MECCA complex in downtown Milwaukee.

For the seventh consecutive year, champions were crowned in four separate divisions following qualifying tournaments at 15 BCW member rooms: juniors (19 and under), women, men's Class A, and men's pro invitational.

The juniors led off the double elimination 14.1 battles for a total of \$1,500 in cash prizes plus trophies and weekend vacation packages.

The top seeds were defending champion Kevin Stanelle and Kelly (Skiff) Stellman (Sailor's of Racine). As happens so often, they met in the first round, with the Skiff torpedoing Stanelle's chances severely by virtue of a 75-68 win.

But the tough Stanelle was very busy and very effective in the loser's bracket, bagging 6 in a row (and the high run of 39) to challenge Stellman again. His 7th straight caught the Skiff amidst, sinking him 75-49. One apiece, with the showdown last match to come.

In that final, the last bombardment belonged to Stellman 75-55, and the 1976 Wisconsin junior championship cup was on its way to Racine for at least one year (the Skiff is but 16).

The junior division:

1. Kelly Stellman (5-1) ...\$70
2. Kevin Stanelle (7-2) ...\$55
3. Jay Fletcher (3-2) ...\$25
4. Jim Karamanis (40-2)

The women moved in next, with the battle expected to be between the 1-2 finishers of a year ago, Missy Rice and Cindy Taylor (West Allis Pool and Supply).

And indeed that was the story, but with the roles reversed: Cindy Taylor breezed to an easy 5-0 record and the title. The diminutive shot-maker was never really pushed, winning her first four matches by an average score of 50-18. In the final she dispatched Rice to second place with a 50-40 victory.

Rice's chances had dimmed with her 48-50 loss in the second round to Julie Bentz (Cue-Nique Billiards). But then Ardith Barry (McDermott Cues), a relative newcomer to big-table battle, dropped Bentz into Rice's loser's bracket 50-34. Rice



(Left to Right) Joe Schardt, director; Cindy Taylor, women's champ; Randy LaMar, Class A and Pro Champ; Kelly Stellman, Jr. Champ. Photo by Sailor of Racine

promptly revenged her earlier loss, 50-32, to eliminate Bentz. But the damage had been done for Rice, as the task of beating the sharp-shooting Taylor was too much for Melissa this time around.

Debbie Doss (Carom Room, Beloit), though finishing 1-2 and in 11th place, posted the high run of 18. That was worth \$15.

The women's division:

1. Cindy Taylor (5-0)\$70
2. Melissa Rice (6-2)\$40
3. Ardith Barry (3-2)\$25
4. Judy McLimans (3-2)
5. Dollie Williams (3-2)
6. Julie Bentz (2-2)
7. Ann Bendoritis (2-2)
8. Debbie Ronayne (2-2)

Men's Class A competition to 100 points (a sort of semi-pro classification) was next on the busy agenda.

Randy LaMar (Cue-Nique Billiards) assumed the role of pre-tourney favorite, and did nothing to dispel the tag; he played in top form as he marched to a 5-0 finish and a well deserved championship. LaMar's first round run of

51 got him started, and he was in no real trouble until Bill Hart came out of the loser's bracket to challenge in the finals. In that match Hart had left LaMar at the 60 mark and appeared to be running out to force a second match for the title.

But Hart missed the 98th ball and gave LaMar a last chance. He responded as a champion should with a 40-and-out, and the title was his. For the steady Hart, it was his second year in a row as runner-up. It was LaMar's first title after several years of coming close.

High run honors went to Chuck Olla (Capitol Billiards) for his 65.

The class A division:

1. Randy LaMar (5-0) ..\$200
2. Bill Hart (6-2)\$100
3. Tim Mlachnk (3-2) ...\$50
4. Bruce Venzke (4-2)
5. John Culver (2-2)
6. Chuck Olla (2-2)\$25
7. Dick Hahn (2-2)
8. Norm Jones (2-2)
9. Bob Bidot (1-2)
10. Craig Powers (1-2)
11. Bob Treffieson (1-2)

12. Dan McGimmis (1-1)
The Pro Invitational division finishes the 10 days of competition, and usually provides some surprises. 1976 was no exception.

Playing 100 points in double elimination, with a blind draw, the top "seeds" are not assured of anything except a tough time; 6 years of 14.1 competition have produced 6 different champions.

For the past three years, a few top Class A competitors have been included in the 16-man Pro field to help temper their games and promote confidence and competition.

That practice proved itself sound this year, as Mr. Randy LaMar, winner of the Class A crown on Thursday night, stayed in his best stroke from Tuesday right through Sunday, and became an unprecedented double division champion.

His Pro Division performance was virtually identical to that in Class A; undefeated with a 5-0 record. Not only that, but he repeated the 40-and-out trick (this time

against John Brannon) when behind 60-90 in the winner's side final match.

That put him in the driver's seat with no losses, but with the overwhelming favorite, 1973 champion George Pawelski (Antler's), challenging him from the loser's side.

Pat Vincent, 1975 runner-up, had put Pawelski in the loser's bracket with a second round 100-81 victory over the Racine star.

But following that, Pawelski had looked unbeatable, posting wins of 100-69, 100-13, 100-11, and 100-68 during a short-game rampage through the loser's bracket.

But in Sunday's final, the usual Pawelski sharpness wasn't quite there, and LaMar knew what to do. It ended 100-68 for Madison's LaMar, who said with a smile:

"We like it in Milwaukee."

Pawelski easily grabbed high run honors and money with his 80-and-out; Bruce Venzke (Plush Pocket) was next with 56; Vincent carded a 52; Brannon and Jerry Jamieson each posted a 51.

The Pro Division finish:

1. Randy LaMar (5-0) ..\$400
2. George Pawelski (6-2)\$275
3. John Brannon (3-2) ..\$100
4. Bruce Venzke (3-2) ...\$50
5. Bob Bidot (3-2)
6. Pat Vincent (2-2)
7. Willie Munson (2-2)
8. Jerry Jamieson (2-2)
9. Mark Wilson (1-2)
10. John Culver (1-2)
11. Jim Talsma (1-2)
12. Chuck Olla (1-2)
13. Tod Convington (0-2)
14. Edgar Mathis (0-2)
15. Andy Wawiorka (0-2)
16. Luis Rodriguez (0-2)

With 64 players competing and 121 games played in the four divisions, the Fischer tables provided by Aqua-Spray Billiard Supply were pretty busy for 10 days, as were members of the volunteer work staff.

Joe Schardt and Dave Batchelor ran the show, and it went without a hitch. Head ref Doc McCann, Gary Engelbert, and Dick Rice reffed nearly every round for 10 days, and when they got an hour or so off, it was certainly deserved. Butch and Toots Meyers again headed the scorekeeping team. Players are easy to come by, but these are the people you need to make a tournament a success. A nice job by all those who worked at the show.

And the NBN thanks Sailor of Racine for his photography of the tournaments.

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Mielke Tops in TV Billiards

Milwaukee, Wis.—

Bill Mielke, a 22-year-old sharpshooter appearing in his first television competition, captured the title of Milwaukee's third season of "Championship Billiards."

Mielke bested a select field of 8 area pocket billiardists in the single elimination tournament seen weekly on ABC's WITI-TV6.

The championship match aired on April 17, with Mielke turning back 16-year-old Kevin Stanelle (also in his first appearance on the Billiard Congress of Wisconsin-sanctioned event) by a score of 39-29. A perfect score in the 3-inning modified 14.1 format used for the competition would be 45 (it hasn't been done yet).

For the second year, a perfect score in any one match would have been nicely rewarded indeed: a 1976 Buick Skylark provided by Don Jacobs Buick-Opel in Waukesha. Maybe next year.

Chuck Olla, the series' defending champion, had two

perfect innings behind him in first round action and was seemingly on his way to pick out the car's color when he got a bit out of line on ball no. 43 and narrowly missed it.

Similarly, Mielke had two perfect innings chalked up in the championship match; but his break for the third inning was much less than he'd have liked, and in trying to break up the clusters, he got in a tough spot and missed a long table cut.

Mielke reached the finals by defeating two veterans of U.S. Open competition, Tod Covington (Kenosha) and Willie Munson (Milwaukee).

The Munson match was a real thriller, with Willie running all 15 in the top half of the third inning to take a 14 point lead. So Mielke was faced with needing a full 15 also to win.

Firing in a bunch of superb shots, Mielke bagged the perfect 15 and a 41-40 victory, with the last ball dropping when only one second remained of his two minute

allotment. Overall, Mielke averaged 12.78 out of the possible 15.00 points per inning.

Aqua-Spray Billiard Supply again participated with WITI TV in the production of the show, which was co-sponsored by the participating members of the Billiard Congress of Wisconsin.

Sailor of Racine presented each player with a \$50 certificate toward the purchase of one of his exceptional cues — the handcrafted Sailor of Racine originals. (The winner received a \$100 certificate.)

In addition, the BCW presented the champion with a handsome trophy to go with the \$225 cash first prize.

The complete results: 1. Bill Mielke (3-0), \$225; 2. Kevin Stanelle (2-1), \$150; 3. Chuck Olla (1-1), \$75; 4. Willie Munson (1-1), \$75; 5. Jerry Jamieson (0-1), \$25; 6. Steve Black (0-1), \$25; 7. Jim Talsma (0-1), \$25; 8. Tod Covington (0-1), \$25.

Taylor Undefeated In Nine Ball Tourney

Milwaukee, Wis.—

Cindy Taylor of West Allis went undefeated to top a field of 10 in the Capitol Billiards Women's Nineball tournament held on April 4th in Milwaukee.

Capitol Billiards' owner Dave Batchlor generously added \$100 to the entry fees, as well as absorbing the expenses of the tournament, to reach a prize fund of \$450.

Taylor knocked down everybody in her prelim bracket to gain the finals. Julie Bentz (Madison) lost only to Taylor, 3-5, to also make the final four.

In the other bracket, Debbie Ronayne (Milwaukee) also was undefeated in the prelims. But the second final's spot had to be played off between Kathy Collard (Madison) and Orlana Schulz (Oshkosh), who had finished the round robin with 2-2 records.

Collard easily took the tie-

breaking 7-game set, 4-1, and moved on at the expense of Schulz.

Tournament Director Doctor Dan McCann then drew the four finalists into a single elimination chart for the best 7-of-13 finals.

There it was Bentz over Ronayne 7-3, and Taylor squeaking past Collard when the latter hung the game-and-match-nineball in the jaw of the pocket. So Taylor took it 7-6.

Collard then got on the better end of a 7-6 score as she beat Ronayne by that tally in the 3rd place match.

The championship match was also close, but Taylor finished her unbeaten campaign by dropping Bentz 7-5 to grab the first place goodies.

The money winners:
1. Cindy Taylor \$200
2. Julie Bentz \$125
3. Kathy Collard \$75
4. Debbie Ronayne \$50



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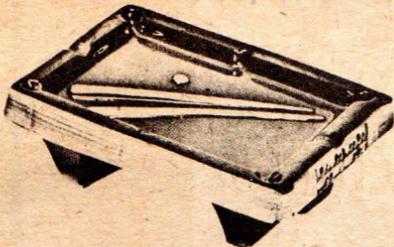
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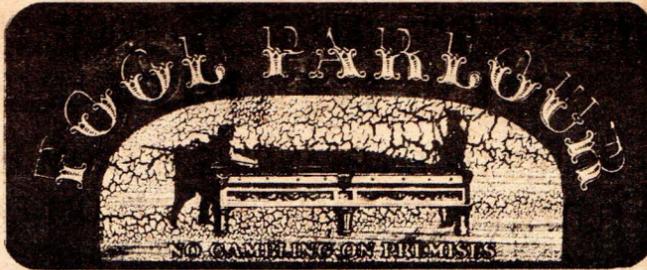
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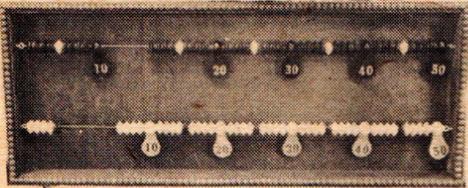
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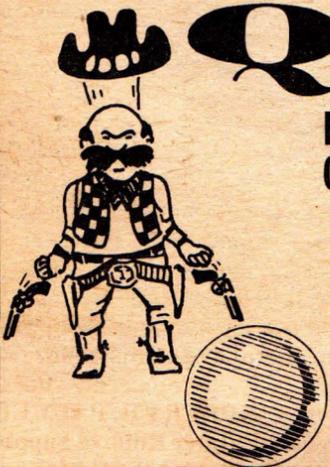
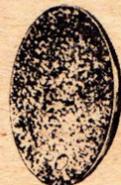
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LETTERS TO THE EDITORS

Continued from Page 2

such as myself. I have been playing pocket billiards for almost two years and now find myself in a position to qualify for the Women's US Open. I have plenty of local competition, but it's all male. I cannot find any female players locally that will compete with me, and consequently my professional advancement in the sport is severely limited.

I admire the well-known

professional player, Jean Balukas, and look forward to competing with her soon. Of course, I've read of other female players in your magazine, however, almost without exception these women are located in the Western part of the country or in New York.

I started playing pool in Saratoga Springs, New York while I was in college, and never gave up the idea of going professional. It was at this time that I had the

pleasure of meeting Mr. George Balabushka, and also purchased one of his cues. I returned to Mass. and began to pursue a professional career in pool.

I am under the instruction of some of the best, if not the best pool players in existence, i.e.; Boston Shorty and Paul Melnichuk from the Day Street Pool Hall in Somerville, Mass.; Bob Ingersoll from Malden; and last but not least, my inspiration, Johnny Marko

and Willie Mosconi. I had the pleasure of meeting Willie Mosconi through Johnny Marko not too long ago, and have received an inspiration from both these gentlemen to continue a professional career.

I will be attending some of the qualifying rounds for the US Men's Open with these men and hope not only to learn more about the game but to meet some of the other great men players in the sport.

I play pool seven nights a week, 4-5 hours a night, and also take instructions quite frequently from Johnny Marko.

In conclusion, I feel that *National Billiard News* is the best publication dealing with pool. I would appreciate your printing this message in the hope that a greater field of competition for women pool players will result.

I thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,
TERRY DI SESSA
Winchester, Mass.

☆ ☆ ☆

Sirs,

On page eleven of your March issue there is a picture of Pete Margo shooting a trick shot. The picture shows the cue ball jumping what appears to be a foot off the table. Certainly this can't be possible with a legal stroke. Or can it?

Thank you,
MICK FUHRMANN
MILWAUKEE, WIS.

Dear Mick,

The ball jumping in the Margo shot was the result of an elevation of the cue butt and a firm hit. Perfectly legal and it happens often during an average game when the player either purposely or inadvertently elevates his butt to play a shot. There is also a trick shot in the Caras collection using the jump. Try it, you'll like it.

☆ ☆ ☆

Dear People:

I have intended to write for some time, but business is booming and we are all very busy. I enjoy the "News" so much. I would like some time soon to run an ad with a picture. Please send me prices for eighth page, quarter page, and half page ads.

If any of your staff are ever down this way, let me extend an invitation to come by and visit with us. What would be the chance of getting Palmer Byrd down to do some exhibitions in this area? She is a very pretty lady, writes an excellent article, and has a great name!

I am the second generation of our family to own and operate this business. It was founded by my father nearly 28 years ago and is still growing. Among the people who know us, the name PALMER means quality, reliability, and honesty. Please let me hear from you on the above items soon.

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# 4	Preliminary Flites			7:30 PM	\$4.
# 5	Preliminary Flites	Saturday	July 3	1:00 PM	\$3.
# 6	Semi-Final Flites			7:30 PM	\$5.
# 7	Semi-Final Flites	Sunday	July 4	1:00 PM	\$3.
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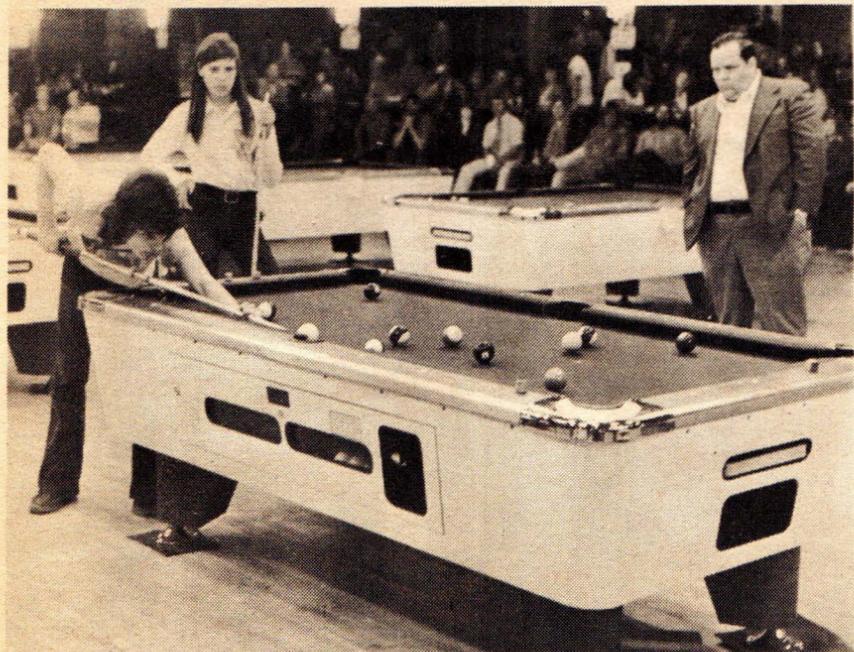
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Kaufman Tops in Nebraska Tourney



Randy Kaufman lines up a shot enroute to his win over Marty Heldenbrand in the best-of-five series finals in the Midwest Amusement 8-Ball Billiard Tournament in Omaha, Neb., April 4. The tournament, played on Ebonite Billiards "Play-Right" coin-operated tables, was sponsored by Ebonite Billiards, Miami Lakes, Fla., and Midwest Amusement Association of Omaha. Kaufman, 20, of Lincoln, Neb., won \$2,500 while Heldenbrand, 18, of Cameron, Mo., took down \$1,300 as runner-up. Trophies and checks were presented by

Willie Mosconi, 15-time world billiard champion who now heads the Ebonite Billiards Pro Staff. The tournament drew 186 entries from a five-state area.

Kaufman, seemed stunned when he received the \$2,500 check from Mosconi for winning the Midwest Tournament. Heldenbrand won \$1,300 as runner-up. Omaha Mayor Ed Zorinsky looks on at the conclusion of the 12-hour tournament. The 186 entries had to qualify by winning local tournaments throughout the five-state drawing area.

After a lengthy illness, I have been working on the
New Tournament of Champions
which will be held in September of 1976.

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Carom Corner

by BOB MULLEN

James Catrano, Sr., the operator of the New Jacy's Billiard Academy on Queens Blvd. in Rego Park, New York, reports that Dick Reid won the playoff against Jimmy Catrano in the March 20th tournament held at the new digs. Quite an impressive field for the first of many tournaments to be held at the recently reopened Academy. In addition to the two stars already mentioned, Paul Melnichuk, Marv Waldman, Vinnie Sbarbatti, Tom Reid of Salem, New Hampshire, Chris Bartzos and Joseph DeLorenzo also attended.

On the first day there were five players who had high runs of 7 and on the final day of the contest, Jimmy Catrano ran the high 9. Catrano and Reid were tied for first place with each having 4 wins and 1 loss. Reid won the playoff game by a score of 50 to 42. The final games were played to a packed house.

The capacity crowd observed the trophy presentation to Reid in addition to the \$300.00 check. Jimmy Catrano, in the midst of a comeback, picked up \$187.50 and 2nd place trophy. Paul Melnichuk was 3rd, Chris Bartzos, 4th, J. DeLorenzo 5th, and Marv Waldman picked up the 6th place prize money. Jimmy Catrano picked up high run money for the final day in addition to another trophy. It looks like Jim is back in form and we would like to know more about Dick Reid and his style of play.

James C. Sr. always signs his letters to us "Yours for better billiards" and our only comment is that with both the Catranos back in the game billiards is better.

AN UNKEPT WEST COAST SECRET

We have made mention about the fact that Al Gilbert has not been able to make the midwest tourneys and we have forgotten about another great player who has not been able to travel the country, Bud Harris. The National Billiard News Three Cushion Tournament missed Bud Harris. Harris, when living in Chicago, was always a factor in any tournament in which he played. A truly great player now hampered by geography.

I want to emphasize that I am by no means being critical of any player in three cushion who can't make the trip - anywhere. After all, the money isn't all there yet. I suppose that when players of the skill and knowledge of Al Gilbert and Bud Harris cannot show their talents to all the billiard buffs, three cushion is still not at the point of development that it could be. One of these days????

BOUNTIFUL BILLIARDS

JACKSONVILLE, ILLINOIS is a small town in Illinois made up of a few excellent billiard players and some other citizens who just happen to live there. The Drexel Open was a fiercely fought tourney in the Jacksonville billiard emporium and Ed Beavers, tournament director, can be proud of the crowd reaction.

A first place play-off game between Luis Campos and George Ashby was near perfection. Ashby was behind 12 points and closed the gap to two when he scored 16 points in 6 innings. Campos made 6 in those six innings, and that isn't all bad.

Campos made his 40th point in the 30th inning for an avg. of 1.333. Ashby was shooting at a 1.000 avg., which is class billiards in any league. Latin Luis was the winner and in the course of his demonstration of point production had the high

Continued on Page 22

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Titcomb, Frechen Finish 1-2



Gerry Titcomb, Gloria Walker, Bonnie Gums, Vicki Frechen, Palmer Byrd.

Photo by Ed Malone

Continued from Page 6

were paid through sixth place with all prizes awarded as advertised prior to tournament time.

Geraldine Titcomb absolutely sparkled as she gallantly went through the ranks undefeated with an envious 3.00 balls per inning average. Vicki Frechen lost her first game in the fifth round to Geraldine, whom she met again in the semi-finals (how unlucky can you get!), and again failed to raise her cue victoriously as Geraldine reigned supreme once more. Palmer Byrd lost her first game in the third round to Gloria Walker and did not lose again until she smashed head on with Vicki. Palmer lost to Vicki who was on her way to 2nd place, but smiled enthusiastically with her third place finish.

Some interesting side notes

and trivia, and perhaps some personal glimpses concerning the tournament are also worth relating. Vicki Frechen has just entered her third consecutive tournament, has placed in the money in all three, and has also won one of them. How many men out there wish they could say the same about themselves? I know I wish I could! Gloria Walker also ran away with the jackpot for High Run with a total of 31 consecutive balls pocketed. Bonnie Gums, our own Chicago lady, batted an impressive 2.00 balls per inning average as she fought valiantly for first place.

As a final note, this writer would like to add one very

important observation. After all the cliches and pseudo-superiority of males have been ignored, hopefully, the real truth might be on the horizon. If more proprietors would run Women's Qualifier Tournaments, so they themselves could see firsthand the refreshing aspect of womens participation, there would be less second hand gossip regarding their unworthiness in this professional sport. Maries Golden Cue Inc., did not have a financially successful tournament, far from it; but what they did have was an emotionally successful tournament, for themselves, and more importantly, for the ladies.

How To Bank

Continued from Page 10

enough, or, a hard hit might close it. Side English will act the same way. You must study and practice. Generally, when the C.B. is quite a bit off the line, you must aim the O.B. at that spot on the cushion where the cue crossed. It is important to mark an "X" under the C.B. so that you can practice the same shot over and over.

Next issue we will study banks where the O.B. is on the cushion, and how to come off the cushion, with the C.B. to be able to get your "hit".

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BULL SHOTS

Continued from Page 4

the remarkable job that **Ronnie Allen** is doing at this beautiful resort town. Ronnie has ingratiated himself with the local business people by bringing in fresh money with free wheeling spenders on the right side of the rubber band. **The Inn of the Seventh Mountain is full up and has been two weeks prior to the contest's start.**

A week prior to the gun, there were 100 player signed and sealed. To allay fears of mismanagement and non payment of prize money, Ronnie and his group got a letter of credit from the local bank guaranteeing the prize money. (A copy of this letter of credit was sent to the east to minimize the promotional problems that occurred after Burlington.)

Lassiter, Mataya, Ervolino, Florence and Ronnie Allen are some of the names represented in the tournament. **Billy Staton, Jay Helfert, Vern Peterson** and many others are also in the starting gates. There will be eleven pool tables from **Gandy Industries**, 3 in the tournament room and eight in the warm up area. There will be no action room as we have known it in the past. The warm up room will be available for fun and games but not open to the public...only friends and associates of the registered players.

The people of Bend, Oregon are impressed with the athletes coming to town similar to the reception that Olympic people get from the towns that they invade. Using this tournament as a pilot, the group sponsoring the action at Bend are interested in spreading out to the mid-west. St. Louis and Burlington have been mentioned and again I must repeat that this organization had nothing to do with the promoters of the last tournament held in Burlington.

We were misled in believing that Gary Davidson of World Hockey, World Football League and the ABA was the promoter. He is not involved at this time but will be there as an observer.

If all of this develops as planned, Ronnie Allen will deserve all the plaudits possible from the "Game". And they may even elect him Sheriff of Bend, Oregon. Details of the contests are on the way.

THE BCA CONDITION OR WE'RE DOING THE BEST WE CAN WITH WHAT WE GOT.

An increase in the Ladies' prize fund and plans for a complete re-evaluation of the tournament scene immediately after the '76 tourney.

THE MONEY OR DOES "THEY" OR DOESN'T "THEY" ONLY THE SHADOW KNOWS.

Fortunately for billiards and pool and the other related names of games, there will be a US Open this year in spite of

Continued on Page 24

Pinkowski

Continued from Page 4

Breaking with a force that seemed to crush the balls, Pinkowski ran out the next 3 games giving him a comfortable lead of 8 to 5.

After an exchange of games the score was 9 to 6 favor of Pinkowski. Glass after being corner hooked, and making a successful hit on the nine ball, left Pinkowski a difficult rail shot which he missed. Glass made it and the score was 9 to 7. After Glass broke and no balls were pocketed. Pinkowski weaving in and out of balls and playing excellent position ran off the rack, posting his 10th game. On what was to be his final break shot Pinkowski scratched the cue ball. Along with two other balls the one ball was spotted. Glass electing not to shoot for lack of an open pocket, relinquished the cue ball to Pinkowski who had to place it behind the head string and shoot. Pinkowski, after some measuring and intense thought, played what was to have been one of the tournament's finest carom billiard shots, pocketing the ball, and giving him the tournament championship.

After the game, Pinkowski was congratulated by Glass and the officials for an amazing display of shot making and Billiard knowledge.

Richard Tomanio and Joe Cervoni hope that their next tournament in May of this year will prove to be this successful and rewarding for both the players and spectators.

CAROM CORNER

Continued from Page 20

run of the weekend, 9. Ashby showed his strength but fell short this time.

Bill Hawkins finished third, Bill McClelland was 4th, Jim Blesse finished 5th and Ernie Presto was 6th. In the finals there were three players from Jacksonville, 2 from Chicago, and 1 from Decatur.



(Left to right) Luis Campos, Ed Beavers and George Ashby.

B.F.U.S.A.

Rumors were going cross country about Dr. Erikson, long time czar of the west coast based Billiard Federation of the U.S. We had heard that Erickson had resigned as head of the organization and that the leadership of the group was up for grabs. We will investigate and find out the facts before our next issue.

I never could understand why some players are regarded as amateur and others professional in the eyes of this group. I have never seen a truly amateur billiard player, one who has never played for money, marbles or chalk. This country has no truly professional billiard players whose income is completely derived from playing the game. If they ever tried that there would be an increase in the percentages of people existing in the poverty level. I doubt the existence of any purity either way, whether it be in the U.S. or in Europe or Japan. There is not enough money involved in three cushion billiards to make an issue but we are suffering from a lack of prestige when our best players are barred from so called "amateur" play due to the idiosyncrasies of a small group.

American billiards needs all these groups pulling together to improve the status of the game, and the BFUSA should welcome the cooperation of the ABA and then make their stand to the CBA together to get some national recognition for three cushion. Complicated, no, just a mess that needs teamwork. ABA has done a fine job in the past two years bringing the game back to the point it is today and this organization is not turning a deaf ear to the necessary changes and-or suggestions from its constituency.

A.B.A.

Leo M. Walch is a member of the board of governors of the American Billiard Association and as such receives no remuneration for his efforts in behalf of the carom game. Leo has worked in conjunction with Gale Johnson, longtime secretary of the organization, and knows first-hand of the many personal sacrifices made by Gale so that three cushion will be perpetuated. Mr. Walch came up with a great suggestion and I quote:

"I have today issued a check in the amount of \$25.00 in favor of the American Billiard Association as the first contribution toward the creation of the Gale Johnson Award Fund. I expect to make periodical contributions to this fund

Continued on Page 27

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Bull Shots

Continued from Page 22

the problems faced by BCA. It's too bad that time prevented the changes that the hierarchy has in mind for the future, but "Billiards" has been around a long time and time is not an important factor.

The NBN believes that the new administration of BCA will make some changes that will improve the entire scene. We believe that there will be more money from outside the industry, there will be more interest from within the industry once the dues policy of the organization is simplified, there will be more participation in BCA affairs from the dealer group, and a revitalization of the proprietors division, among other developments to be announced.

RENEWAL NOTES AND NOTICES

NBN receives renewal checks on a regular basis from our subscribers and some of them send notes on the back of the form. We recently read one from New Orleans thanking us for publishing so many pictures. The writer, who shall remain anonymous, claims that our picture policy has saved him "tons of money".

Another from old timer, George LaLone, tells us that he has been out of action for a while due to a multiple fracture of the leg. George notes that the broken leg occurred on his 70th birthday. We all wish George a speedy recovery.

And then there was the postcard from Tacoma, Washington. The reader saw our publication, in the library at Tacoma Community College. He enjoyed the article by our female staff columnist. He asked if there might be a chance to see her in a newspaper centerfold in a pool table spread. He claims he is not referring to a "Playboy" type pic but one with class and dignity. This reader also asks about the price of back issues...we will be happy to send back issues to anyone wishing to buy them for 60 cents per issue plus 50 cents postage per copy. Our supply is limited but we do have many of the issues of the past and we are more than happy to accommodate our readers.

SEND YOUR KID TO CAMP

I read an ad in the New York Times...or did I?.....that said:

CAMP SCRATCH-EM-CUE BALL located on Cornbread Lake across from Johnston City. Two weeks at our camp and

Continued on Page 27

Pabst ACU-I

Continued from Page 3

And that's just what she did, taking both games handily, 50-22 and 50-27, to capture a deserved and hard earned championship.

So UW-M had to "settle" for a 1-2 finish, and the ACU-I will proudly send Missy Rice and John Cianflone to the BCA U.S. Open in Chicago August 11-14.

You can't say too often that this affair was done up right ... the many people who contributed all deserve credit for a real top-notch presentation:

Kirby Stanat, Frank Bartow, and Gordy Wegner from the UW-M Union staff; **Gail Clay, Fritz Balmer, and Cal King** of the ACU-I; and of course **Rich Ratcheson** and his great crew from Pabst.

In addition, **Kim Gandy** (BCA President) was there along with four of his Gandy's Industries Big G's that he provided for the competition.

The tournament advisor was 1968 and 1974 U.S. Open champion **Joe Balsis**, who also gave seven exhibitions over the three days.

And finally, "**Doctor Dan**" **McCann** as head referee guided a fine contingent of referees and scorekeepers.

They can all be as proud of the great event they helped put on as the excellent players who triumphed in it: John Cianflone and Melissa Rice.

Open Forum

Continued from Page 2

have done and will do the type of thing I objected to for the very reasons I listed, then you have quickly forgotten about the existence of, as you so aptly put it, the "boorish individuals" who have the "ethics of a weasel."

And those guys are out there. Perhaps through this exchange we've made it a little tougher for them. I hope so, and I can tell that you hope so as well.

In short, we have no real disagreement on basic ethics. I think we're both a bit guilty in this joust: a bit of careless overkill on my part, and a bit of misdirected over-reaction on yours. Just one of those things.

But we do have a disagreement as I see it: which of the following is the better distribution of the purse?? (Using an \$85 entry fee and \$1,950 for prizes and sanction fee as in your Chicago tournament, and assuming a 32-man field)

MAJOR	REGULAR
1st: \$1,000 and US Open entry	1st: \$500 and US Open entry
2nd: \$300	2nd: \$300
3rd: \$200	3rd: \$200
4th: \$100	4th: \$100
5th: —	5th: \$75
6th: —	6th: \$75
7th: —	7th: \$50
8th: —	8th: \$50
High Runs: \$50 and \$50	High runs: \$50 and \$50

Both arrangements cost \$1,950, including the sanction fees.

Now, even though the players do indeed receive \$250 less in total cash prizes, I personally prefer the breakdown in the regular version. I've always felt that the U.S. Open berth was of such stature and value that a distribution which covers a greater share of the field is better, even if the US Open entry winner doesn't receive as much cash with it.

Please remember: your one winning player out of 32 is not the only one who "has sweated long hours to reach perfection, or near perfection" — **the top 8 players out of 32 probably all have.** If there were only one good player in the field, I'd agree with you.

No, I'm not asking to "be rewarded for a lack of talent," although I'd sure like to know how to finish in the top 1/4 of a large US Open qualifier field by having a lack of talent.

I'd just like to see as many of the hard-working, repeatedly contributing players share in the distribution as is reasonably possible. And that issue, certainly one subject to differences of opinion, is the only real "argument" we have.

Mr. Page, your concern for the game and its players shines through the clouds of anger and misinterpretation of your editorial. I feel confident that players going to Marie's Golden Cue in Chicago need not fear for the respectability of your motives. That seems clear, and is substantiated by the always good stuff that comes down the "grapevine" about Nick Page and Marie's: always good, I repeat.

So, best of luck in all your tournaments and promotions; perhaps one day we can meet and work together to expose and eliminate those whom we both detest: those who are bad for the game, be they players, promoters, or pretenders.

Venzke's View

Continued from Page 6

up just about 1.75 inches from the rail. Even that accuracy will lose a few lags every now and then.

So delicacy of touch is clearly demanded on even so simple a shot as the lag. When you add such complications as cushion effects, slide factors, draws, follows, bounce shots, kisses, spins, and the hooking of power strokes, the demand for touch becomes even greater while the complication involved makes it just that much harder to deliver that real good touch and control.

And the real challenge of execution is in being able to greatly vary from shot to shot the type and force used, and still perform accurately; a 2-rail 80" force-follow, then a dead ball punch shot, then maybe a 3" nip draw shot. Once the game starts, the exact same shot will never come up twice. You have to have the total range of speed-touch, ready to use and under control.

And that means practice hours and more practice hours. Most of us better head for the table.

Please join me again next month up here in the nickel seats when I'll have the winners of our Pool Poetry Contest... I'll save you a seat.

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Guidelines on Refereeing

Continued from Page 11

and whenever the game is close on the coloured balls. Thus if player A has 50 points and player B has 67 and player A comes to the table when the colours are left and proceeds to pot them the referee should count: 50-67, and then 52-67, 55-67, 59-67, 64-67, 70-67 and 77-67.

Do not move the scoreboard while counting: the player might think that the referee's count still has to be added to the score on the board.

POSITIONING

In order that the referee can observe fouls and control the game he must be in position. Remember you can only call a foul if you see it (there is one possible exception to this that will be explained later). The main problem is to be in the right place at the right time.

The one position to avoid at all costs is in line with the player's aim. You cannot see if his cue touches the white ball before striking it. It is also bad manners as it

distracts the player. Once in a while you will get caught in this bad position: if you do, do NOT move away as the player aims. Stand still and back from the table.

Generally the best position is at right angles to the line of the shot, level with the tip of the cue. You can always move away from this basic position if trouble arises.

Anticipate trouble. Try to be on the correct side of the player to see if his sleeve, his hand or the rest touches a ball. However if you are out of position do not start running around the table, it is tiring and makes the referee look foolish.

If a player is snookered (hooked) get near the ball he is trying to hit and in line with the anticipated line of the white ball. You must be able to tell if the white touches any other ball or the ball on.

The commonest foul made when a player is playing from hand (in the D) is to place the white outside the D. Stand level with the baulk line.

Move around the table

checking if the pockets are filling up. With good players the pockets at the top end of the table (the black end) fill first. Remove balls from the full pockets at intervals, but not at the moment the player is aiming into the pocket (unless the player specifically asks you to).

CALLING FOULS

You must call a foul as soon as it is made. Thus if a player allows his sleeve to touch a ball, call "FOUL" at the moment of touching, not after the shot is played.

You must call "Free Ball", "Touching Ball" (frozen ball) and "Angled Ball" without being asked.

Make all decisions quickly. However in some very tricky judgment calls, for example free ball, take time. Do not get hurried into a bad call. A referee can use a dead ball to help in his decision (for example did a ball pass over or between two balls, is there a free ball).

What happens if you cannot see? The laws allow you to ask a spectator who is in the

correct position and whose opinion you trust. For example it is often very difficult to know if a jump shot has been played. You know the white ball left the table but as you were correctly positioned (not in line with the shot) you cannot tell if the white ball jumped over another ball. ASK!

THE REST (RAKE)

The referee shall, if asked, hand the rest to the player. Do NOT give it to him if he does not ask for it: that is giving advice and is illegal.

Do NOT position the rest on the table for the player.

Do NOT remove the rest from the table; some players will try to avoid making a foul by asking the referee to move the rest when it is in a difficult position. Smile at them and decline! When the player has lifted the rest from the table it is then acceptable to take the rest from them. However virtually all players will replace the rest themselves: let them and do not encourage them to hand the rest to the referee.

THE REFEREE AND THE PLAYER

The player should not smoke when playing. If a player comes to the table with a cigarette, ask him quietly, not to smoke when playing. No one else should know what you have done.

Often the player will ask the referee a question. Sometimes the referee can answer it and sometimes he cannot.

Some things a referee cannot do:

He cannot give an opinion, is a spot free for a ball? Will a ball go into a pocket? What shot should be played?

He cannot advise. This sometimes can happen accidentally. Do not stand in position for a shot too soon before a player has decided to play it, or by bending down for the rest.

DELIBERATE FOULS

The main problem here is to know if the foul is deliberate. All players make bad shots but should suffer no undue penalty for this.

If there is no doubt in the

referee's mind that a foul was deliberate call "deliberate foul", replace the ball(s) and order the player to make another try. If he deliberately fouls again award the game to the other player.

However there are several positions where a foul must be made: the cue ball is surrounded by balls not "on" (the "perfect snooker"). The player must make a shot but cannot be unduly penalized.

Another very difficult judgment is if the player is playing excessively slowly with the intent of distracting the other player. The referee must order him to speed up, and then disqualify him if he persists.

THE REFEREE AND THE SPECTATORS

Remember the spectators come to see the game and not the referee. Do NOT stand in the same place blocking the view of the same group of spectators for any extended period. Move around.

Do not let spectators interfere with the game: ask for quiet and insist on it. Do not let spectators move when in line with player's shot. This is difficult because if you speak to the spectator you can then interfere with the player.

Often spectators ask for an explanation of a ruling. Do not give it during the game. Tell him the ruling will be explained afterwards.

NEVER become involved with an argument about a decision. This destroys the referee (you). If a player wishes to argue tell him quietly "I will explain after the match." If the player still argues disqualify him.

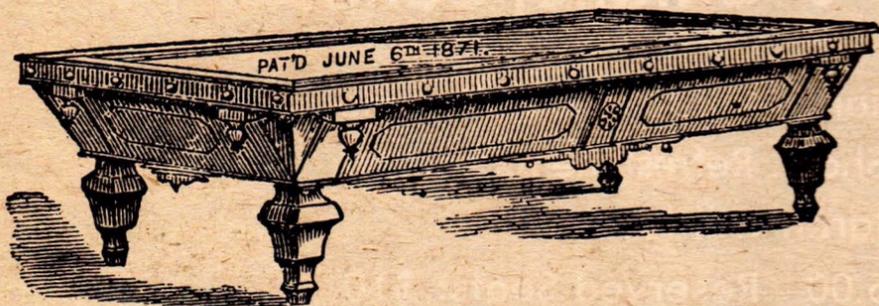
THE CHIEF REFEREE OF A TOURNAMENT

The chief referee has one major additional responsibility. He has to settle, usually without seeing the incident, any and all disputes that might arise. To do this he must listen to ALL FACTS and make the best judgment possible. (It is always possible to replay a frame — if the game is close the players will rarely argue over this.)

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BCA Break

Continued from Page 9

tainment and sports in conjunction with exhibits of billiard and bowling equipment, product information clinics and workshops. BCA will hold its annual membership meeting in conjunction with the convention, on May 17.

"WHISPERING" JOE WILSON will receive the BBIA Industry Service Award at a special banquet during the convention for his part in promoting the games of billiards and bowling as a TV sports announcer.

EXECUTIVES of companies interested in joining BBIA or BCA are welcome to attend the convention, and even exhibit. For complete details contact Bob Goodwin, BBIA, 717 N. Michigan Ave., Chicago, Illinois 60611.

Carom Corner

Continued from Page 22

during the remainder of 1976. I hereby invite all members of the American Billiard Association and all non-members who may be interested in improving the quality of competition in three cushion billiards to make contributions to this fund whenever you have a dollar or two to spare.

"I believe that the following rules should govern the disbursement of this fund:

1. The Gale Johnson Award Fund shall be used to recompense participants in the Annual ABA Classic for travel and living expenses for traveling to, participating in, and traveling from the tournament.

2. Until such time as the fund grows large enough to do this the fund will only be able to recompense the participants partially and will only be able to assist perhaps one or two of them rather than all of them. Therefore the Secretary of ABA will have full discretion in the matter of selection; the player or players to whom assistance will be offered and the amount that will be awarded to such player.

3. It will not be mandatory that Gale Johnson publicize the details of how he disburses the fund but he may do so if he desires.

4. The Board of Directors shall be kept informed as to the amount contributed and how it is disbursed.

5. The first award or awards shall be made for the ABA Classic to be held late in 1976 or early in '77.

"Lastly, Contributions should be made out in favor of ABA and should be identified as being for this fund. It would be great if someday we would be able to invite a Cuelemans or a Kobayashi our ABA Classic and be able to defray some of their expenses."

+++

Ed. Note: Now this is a super, noble idea and although some of the details have to ironed out and we are sure they will be. It would be a wise thing to enable the ABA to help make its tournaments national in make-up by inviting players like Bud Harris, Yousri, Gilbert and Torres from the West and some from other areas that are just too difficult to make easily. We are almost positive that Gale Johnson was not favorable to putting his name on this fund but the National Billiard News believes that honor would be more than justified, for this is a man who has contributed more than his share to make a success of the American Billiard Association.

Rempe, Brienza Score At Hi-Cue

Elizabeth, NJ—

Jim Rempe took an early lead over Steve Mizerak in the 9-ball "Confrontation of Champions" held at Mike Asch's Hi-Cue April 3 and 4, and never relinquished it, winning every 10 point block.

The event, started in a race to 60, 6 block format, saw Rempe outscore Mizerak as follows: 1) 10-8, 2) 20-19, 3) 30-26, 4) 40-27, 5) 50-34, 6) 60-38.

The match was played before good crowds and the players played for the gate.

+++

In other action at the Hi-Cue, Paul Brienza won the Qualifier No. 3 on March 11, then went on to defeat Jack Colavita and Ray Martin in the \$3,200.00 9-Ball open held later.

Brienza also won the Hi-Cue's 50-50 club race to 11.

Bull Shots

Continued from Page 24

your child will be able to cope with the outside world of hustlers and thieves, not the kind you find in pool rooms, but the worst kind, the ones in disguise as straight. Wee Willie the Weasel is the Resident Pro and the camp guarantees the kid two weeks completely out of the sun so that he or she can attain that much desired pool room pallor. Willie specializes in proposition games, one hand jacked up pool, one eye, with raincoat over the arm while shooting, the navel orange trick, and most important, how to get the right odds or handicap before the game. This last seminar will hold the child in good stead if they wish to go into the diplomatic corps or even go into just surviving.

The entire brochure is in beautiful black and white and includes no pictures and no prices. There is probably one near your town...the training is unbeatable.

Letter from Nancy Hart, the best looking of the BBIA directors and the first lady in history to serve on a billiard organization's governing body. Nancy reminds us of the Billiard and Bowling Institute of America's convention in Orlando in May. She emulates old Puhka with the following poem:

**IT IS OUR SINCERE INTENTION,
TO HAVE YOU AT OUR CONVENTION
THAT'S WHY WE MUST SHOUT
AS TIME IS RUNNING OUT
SO DON'T DELAY ANOTHER DAY
OR YOU'LL MISS OUT ON BBIA.**

We can only add that if any of you out there have anything to say about how to improve the conditions in billiards, the game and its promotion, contact Nancy Hart at Viking Cue. She is a spokesperson who is heard and listened to by the governing body of billiards. And that's no bull shot.

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Paul Huebler

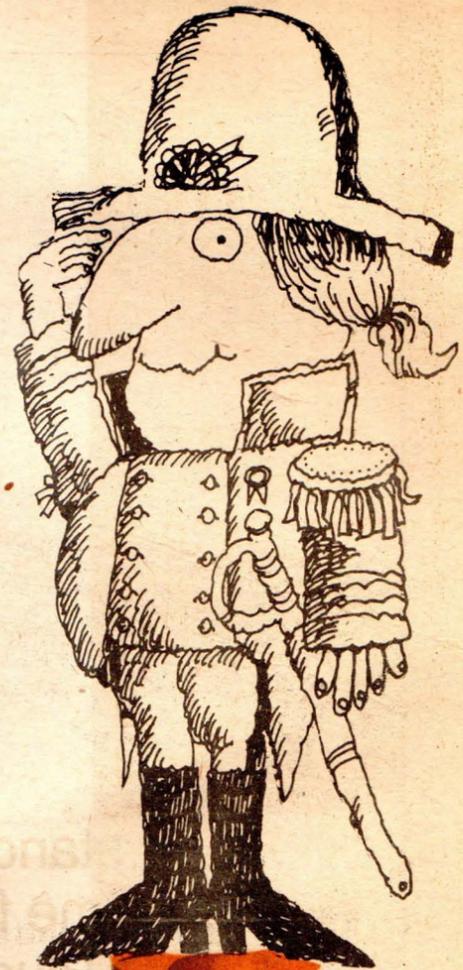
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