

# *The National* **BILLIARD NEWS**

THE FULL SERVICE PUBLICATION OF THE BILLIARD WORLD

VOL. 4, NO. 6

65c PER COPY

AUGUST, 1976

\$6.00 PER YEAR

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# The National BILLIARD NEWS

A Subsidiary of Puhka Publishing Co., Inc.

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**Published Monthly at:**

3297 Twelve Mile Rd., Berkley, Michigan 48072

**Subscription Rates:**

Yearly—\$6.00 2 Years—\$10.00 3 Years—\$13.50

Single Issue—65c

Contact publisher for special organizational rates.

It is forbidden (except on written consent of the publisher) to reprint, either in whole or in part, any of the contents appearing on the pages of The National Billiard News.

— Established in 1962 by Earl Newby —

**Second Class Postage**

Paid at Royal Oak, Michigan 48067

and at additional mailing offices.

Postmaster: Address Corrections-Form 3579 should be sent to Box 37, Northville, Michigan 48167.

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—THE FULL SERVICE PUBLICATION OF THE BILLIARD WORLD

## BCA Expands Women's Prize Fund

Lansing, MI—

Word was received from Kim Gandy, B.C.A. President, that the \$5000.00 prize money received from Montgomery Ward will be put in the women's purse. Gandy stated that it was all a misunderstanding between the parties.

Joseph F. Farhat, Executive Director of the World Straight Pool Association, stated after the Board of Governors were polled, they wish the best of luck to the Men and Women's U.S. Open National Tournament.

## LETTERS



## TO THE EDITORS

Gentlemen and Ladies of the Billiard World,

My name is Guy Little, Jr., and I operate the Family Billiards of Scarborough, Maine. Small town, few pool players but good ones and great customers. I have supported the U.S. Open since its inception. I will be sending to Chicago this year two qualified entries to the Open, Jack LaSavage of Fairless Hills, Pa. who just won my second tournament of the summer, and Tom Jennings who won our last qualifier.

It has been my policy over the years to attempt to support the game from here in Maine as best we can but this year has been one of confusion for all of us. Contradicting stories in both

Continued on Page 22

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## Commentary

BY LARRY MILLER  
Managing Editor

Apparently, my comments regarding the BCA in last month's issue caused more controversy than even I had anticipated. In the past, such comments had fallen on deaf ears, and requests for information had gone, for the most part, unanswered. The fact that there are some BCA members concerned about the issues at hand is encouraging, and I welcome rebuttal from anyone who might wish to do so.

It should be understood that my comments and criticisms are purely academic, and not directed towards any individual on a personal basis. I write with the belief and intention that this column reflects my personal opinions and the facts as I know them, and in no way should be taken as the opinions or editorial views of the newspaper as a whole. The words and thoughts are mine and no one else's, and facts speak for themselves. If there is any rebuttal, blame, criticism, or revenge to be laid down it should be directed towards me and not at any other person affiliated with the paper or at the paper itself.

The problem here appears to be one of semantics. When we say "BCA" are we talking about the membership? The Board of Directors? And if we agree we're talking about the "Board", do we know who they are? Because of the mystery which has perpetually surrounded the BCA, it has been difficult to pinpoint those in positions of responsibility. At any rate, there are some members of the BCA who have worked to further our sport, and their efforts should not go unnoticed.

Two cases in point:

Gandy's Industries has long been involved in the promotional end of the business, co-sponsoring the collegiate tour with Pabst and often donating tables for tournaments. I have been told that in his position as President of BCA, Kim Gandy pays his own phone bills and travel expenses pertaining to BCA business.

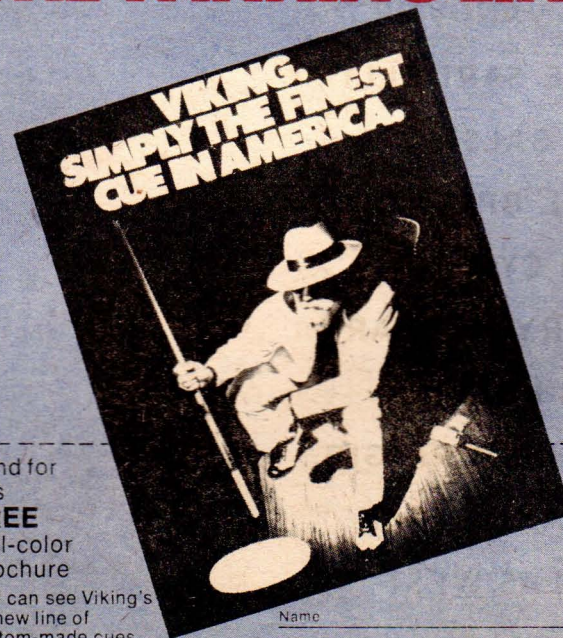
The Henry W. T. Mali Company has embarked on a program of contributing cloth to many pocket and three cushion events, and in addition provides a cue to be awarded to the winner of many of these tournaments. As I understand it, Mali approached the tournament sponsors of their own accord and asked to contribute to the events.

As evidenced by these two companies, the BCA does have its positive side, and I wish to apologize to any members not responsible for the present situation, who may have been offended by my commentary.

However, someone is to blame. It is to these people, whoever they may be, that I have directed my remarks. The fact that Brunswick, (whose dues were a large percentage of

Continued on Page 24

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—THE SECOND FRONT PAGE—

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## FATS HEADLINES AT "CELEBRITY DAYS"

By Palmer Byrd

Shreveport, LA.—

The Guys and Dolls Arcade and Billiard Lounge on June 15-16 presented "Celebrity Days" hosted by Dick and Sue Gann. The Ganns rolled out the red carpet for six guest players invited to participate, including the one and only Rudolph "Minnesota Fats" Wanderone.

Along with the Fat Man, spectators on hand had the opportunity to watch trick shots, exhibition matches and mingle with Eddie Taylor, Sherri Sewell, Palmer Byrd, Shanin O'Hagan and Buddy Hall. If that wasn't enough, the crowds could find amusement in the Guys and Dolls Arcade, which features 55 game machines to hold the interest of anyone with a quarter or two in their pockets.

Fatty drove into town from Dowell, Illinois in his custom Fleetwood with its eyebrow-raising license plate "MF 1". The Holiday Inn nearby welcomed him with a billboard reading "Welcome back, Minnesota Fats." As you know, once he's been visiting ANYWHERE, he is not easily forgotten.

The fans on hand for "Celebrity Days" will also remember his visit for a long time to come. Fats delighted the spectators and press with his trick shots and stories in his usual "run-of-the-mouth" style. Since the whole format of the presentations was very casual, Rudolph took no notice of the clock, and talked for hours, winning the hearts of the Shreveport crowds and TV cameramen.

While Fats' act is a tough one to follow, Eddie Taylor certainly impressed his knowledge of the game on us all. Eddie's quiet manner and humility are a direct contrast to the repartee of Fatty, and he is awesome with a cue. His bank shots are world renowned, and he can do them with his head turned away! Mr. Taylor, a marvelous gentleman, and a star in his own right, makes his home in Shreveport.

Much of the action took place in the Guys and Dolls newly redecorated tournament room, perfect for television filming. The guest players spent the early afternoon hours warming up on the two tables in this area, and talking with the local players and fans. The tight-pocketed tables were a challenge to Detroiters



L to R—Sherri Sewell, Eddie Taylor, Palmer Byrd, M. Fats, Shanin O'Hagan, Buddy Hall.



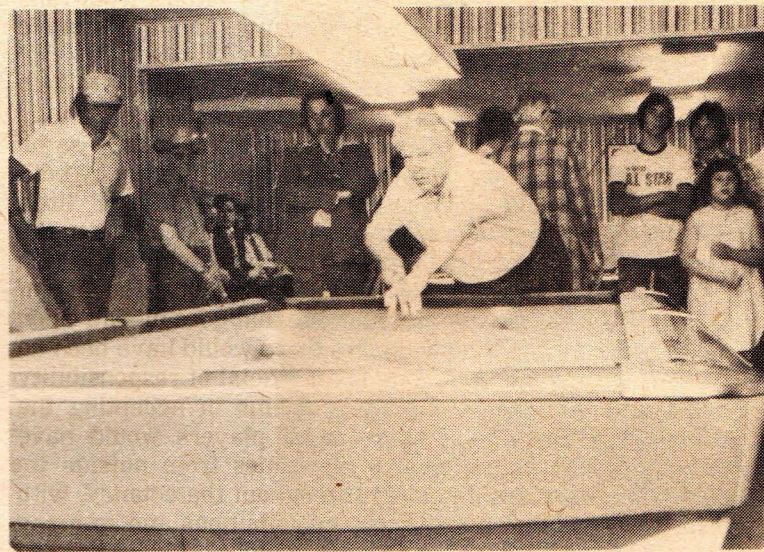
Fatty takes a break and talks some shop with Sherri Sewell.

Palmer Byrd and Shanin O'Hagan, who tried their hand at straight pool right there in the heart of nine-ball country! Ms. Byrd is a member of the Brunswick's Advisory Staff, and Shanin is a fast rising player from Houston. As a matter of fact, she is President of the Houston Pocket Billiards Association, and an aggressive promoter of the game.

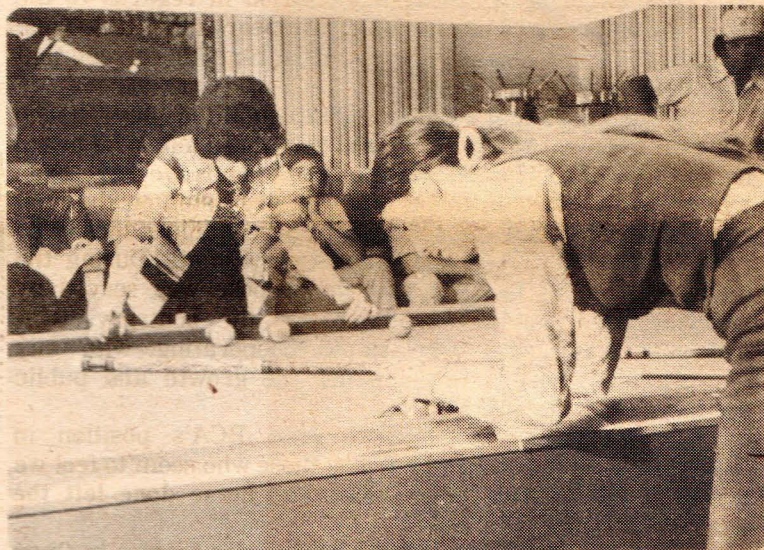
While Palmer and Shanin were warming up on one of the tables, the fans also had a chance to watch a "fun" one-pocket game pitting Eddie Taylor against 9-ball wizard Buddy Hall. Buddy looks like the Rock of Gibraltar when he shoots, and has the hands of a brain surgeon. His pleasant manner, and slow deliberate play are untypical of most players, as is his ability. Mr. Hall brought his wife Lois with him from Oklahoma City, and we understand that she wields a pretty fair stick herself.

Sherri Sewell, another player from Oklahoma City, was on hand to challenge Fats to some one-pocket herself. (You say you didn't know that women play one-pocket??) Fats made one of his few lifetime errors in handicapping as he could not overcome the spot he gave Sherri, and she dusted him off 2-0. Sherri says 9-ball and one-pocket are her best games, and undoubtedly gets some tips from her famous neighbor, Buddy. The next player to consider Sherri for an opponent in one-pocket or any other game should pay heed to Fatty's remarks that the women are playing better and better.

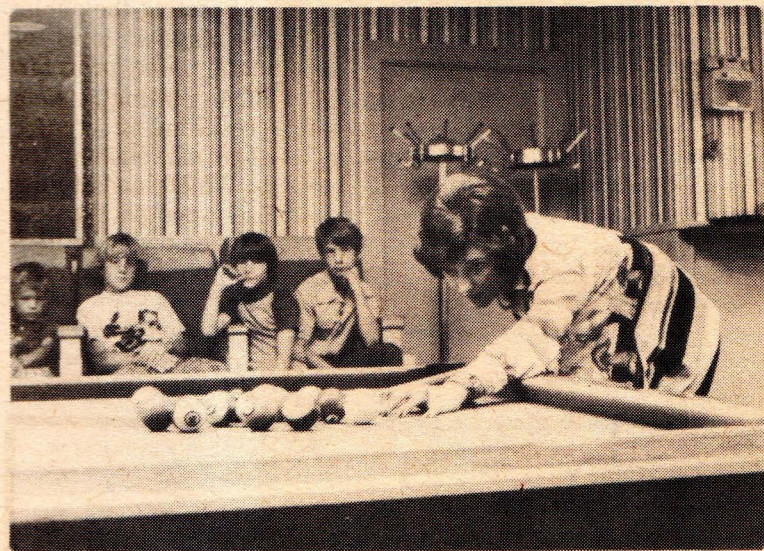
After a trick shot demonstration by Palmer, she and Shanin performed publicly for the first time their now famous "10 balls in one shot" shot. Each of the girls shot a cue ball into a cluster of five balls, and when



The eyeballers look on as the Fat Man performs one of his rare trick shots.



Palmer Byrd and Shanin O'Hagan setting up the astounding "Ten Balls-in-one-shot" shot.



Enthusiastic spectators sit spellbound as Palmer Byrd attempts a safety.

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PHOTOS BY AL EVANS and ASSOCIATES  
BOSSIER CITY, LOUISIANA

Continued on Page 22



## POINT— COUNTERPOINT

by BOB MULLEN  
Executive Editor

Unlike Meridith Wilson's "Music Man", real life is playing a dirty trick on "Pool". P stands for Pool and that means trouble because "P" rhymes with "T" and all that other bull that is used in cliches by every writer who scans the pool scene. This publication has received a few letters from fans who are completely confused because of the double tournament situation this August.

The BCA is having its U.S. Open in Chicago, August 11-14th and the rebellious "Players" in the east are having their tournament in Asbury Park, N.J. the same week. A little one-on-one communication and interest by both parties would have prevented this split. Just a little consideration. If some one of the officials of BCA had taken the responsibility to show the "players" the black and white of a profit and loss statement of past tournaments, the list of expenditures, the tremendous planning that goes into an Open and the hard work of the volunteers there would have been no split. If the "players" had gone to an official of responsibility of BCA and told them of their problems in accepting the reduced prize list and if these same players would have offered to assist in the raising of monies from outside the industry sponsors, from dealers throughout the country, with ads in the program book and raw contributions and so many other "ifs" on both sides, there would not only be one tournament but that tournament would have been the best ever. With both sides operating with ultimatums the result could only have been just what we have.....total confusion.

The following is a letter that was sent to the BCA U.S. Open contestants from BCA dated July 7th, 1976:

"There has been much exaggeration in regards to the qualified players who have refused to appear at the BCA Open, August 11-14 in Chicago, Illinois. It is time to correct that situation.

At this time, there are only four qualified players who have given us a definite "no", and only three left to be heard from. In contrast, the thirty-seven individuals we have been told will be playing in the U. S. Open are listed on the next page. Thus, out of a 44-person field the percentage of those who have relinquished their positions is very small. During the past weeks, BCA has felt that no purpose was served by carrying on a public "warfare". On the contrary, BCA welcomes and looks forward to cooperating with any organization whose actions further the growth and public acceptance of the sport.

We would like to reiterate here BCA's position in hope of gaining the understanding of those who seem to feel we are their adversaries: (Ed. note: The horse done left the barn).

"BCA has provided over \$250,000 in prize monies to Open finalists. We agree that is not a fortune, but who has done more?" (Ed note: Who has had the most to gain?).

"At the past three Opens, BCA undertook an extensive public relations program, coupled with a substantial increase in prize monies, for the express purpose of boosting the public acceptance of the game, along with a higher level of remuneration for the players. Unfortunately, the program substantially drained the treasury of BCA, putting it in a position of financial jeopardy, without resulting in greater sales of billiard tables to the public, let alone establishing the game as a rewarding one for the players. Which leads to the question: What point is served by purposely competing with the Open? Is that the price BCA should pay for trying to help the players? And how does forcing players to make a choice serve them?"

(Ed. note: Mention should be made of the withdrawal of

Continued on Page 20

DANNY JANES

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## Cloyd Wins Capitol City Open

by CONRAD BURKMAN

Lansing, MI.

The annual 4th of July bash had a new twist this year as the field was an interesting mixture of seasoned pro's, semi pro's and amateurs. If your first glance at the field left you with the dull tournament thought, forget it.

Micky Holiday gave Steve Cook a little religion as he dumped him into the loser's bracket in the first round. This was the first of many upsets throughout the three day affair.

Jaffar Basheer looked good after his first round romp over Richard Detloff but came up short at the hands of Arnie Castillo.

Paul Campbell, one of the young Lansing shooters,

dropped Hank Domzalski Sr. with a 55 and out blast. Now all the seasoned veterans, with the exception of Cloyd, have gone to the losers bracket.

At the end of round 2 Cloyd said, "I'm going to win it, I feel it already." Cook's loss got him fired up as he stormed over Larry Wiggins in the losers bracket with 121 off the break to take tourney high run and the game, 125 to 5.

All but forgotten while everyone was watching Cook, Basheer and Domzalski work their way through the losers bracket and Cloyd go undefeated on the winners side, was Walter Schmidt.

Walter was moving along quietly until Cloyd dropped him in the fourth round. Almost without a break, Walter put Paul Hartman, Steve Cook and Bob Hunter out to prepare for his return engagement with Cloyd. I haven't seen Walter play better in years and it looked like he would force a play off. It was not to be, as the game ended 125 to 120.

Shirley Cloyd played a steady aggressive tournament. He knew all along it would be his day.

Tournament director Mark Beilfuss, Velvet Rail's house pro, did an excellent job of handling the announcing chores and maintaining a smooth running show.

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## Byrd's Eye View

By PALMER BYRD  
Associate Editor

One of the definite advantages in being able to travel is getting to meet people all over the country who share your love for the game. No matter where you are, there is a pool room close by where you will be received warmly; it's almost like being in an "unwritten" fraternity. A slim leather case is your ticket in...

In the South particularly I've noticed that the players and fans are courteous and gracious. On a recent trip to Shreveport, I had the opportunity to participate in exhibitions with **Eddie Taylor**, and **Buddy Hall**, two players I'd heard so much about but never met. They are both great gentlemen and players and a credit to our game. We were all at the **Guys and Dolls** for "Celebrity Days" (see story on page 3), along with **Minnesota Fats**, **Sherri Sewell** and **Shanin O'Hagan**. It is such a pleasure to play for receptive audiences, and talk to local people and catch up on all the news.

While in Shreveport, I also had the chance to talk to **Bill Schick**, a cue maker in town who showed me some of his newest designs. Bill is one of the conscientious craftsmen whose goals are to achieve the kind of perfection that we all admire in the work of the late **George Balabushka**. With the kind of determination that Mr. Schick has, it is very possible that he will reach that goal. His latest cues are beautiful.

**Dick and Sue Gann** at the **Guys and Dolls**, are two of the nicest people in the business. Although owner **Red Box** was not in town, I understand he is a marvelous man; his clientele speaks very well of him. If you get a chance, stop in at **Guys and Dolls**, and experience some of that Southern hospitality you've all heard about. Be sure to say hello to the "Mighty Glove," "Rhinestone Cowboy," **Preston Granger** and his lovely wife, and all of the local players.

From Shreveport, I went to Mississippi, and met the folks from the **Palmer Billiard Supply** in **Baldwyn**. **Robert Palmer** and his family manufacture the **Palmer** line of billiard tables, and fine tables they are. (With a name like **Palmer**, what else??) The **Palmer**s in **Baldwyn** should not be confused with the **Palmer Billiard Corp.** in **New Jersey**, the custom cue people. (I think we all have the market cornered for the name "Palmer" in billiards...)

Anyway, the **Palmer**s took me over to nearby **Oxford**, campus of **University of Mississippi**, where I had the opportunity to play in the **Ole' Miss** billiard room, a gorgeous facility. Once again, I found the reception to be very warm as they welcomed me to their campus. My thanks to the **Palmer** family and everyone at **U-Miss**.

From there I went on to **Houston**, to visit **Shanin O'Hagan** and **LeCue in the Village**. **Shanin** works at **LeCue**, and also plays a pretty good game with her custom cue by **Dick Black**. **Dick** was nice enough to invite us to his home to see his workshop and play on his 19th century **Brunswick** table, which is breathtaking. Mr. **Black** recently started making cues full-time, and you'll certainly be seeing them around soon.

Wherever you travel, there are bound to be folks like these who will welcome you to their town. **Billy Lee** and **Jim DeGeorge** at **LeCue** in **Houston**, **Dick and Sue** in **Shreveport**, the **Palmer**s in **Baldwyn**, **Shanin O'Hagan** and **Dick Black**; everyone I met on my trip have convinced me that there isn't a friendlier business around.

And, if you happen to be in **Detroit**, stop by and say "hello" to **Bob Hartley**, **Madelyn Whitlow** and myself at the **Chalk N Cue** on **7 Mile Rd.** We'll play your best game, and show you some Northern Hospitality!

### A New Concept in Learning

# The School for Pool

By C. J. Burkman

Lansing MI—

Early in April I received a call from **Tom Kollins** requesting a meeting to explore a new idea. Tom, who is the house pro at **Hall of Fame Billiards** in **Lansing, Michigan**, was carrying a folder when he arrived. As we entered the office he said, "read this and tell me what you think." Opening the file the first thing I saw was the title "School for Pool". Nothing new really, but by the third page a whole new concept was unfolding.

Pool has been taught at every level from boys' clubs to colleges, but never like this. Now, most pool classes last one or two hours per day for one or two days per week. **Kollins'** idea was fresh, not an hour or two, but eight hours per day five days a week for two weeks. The price of the school included a motel room for two weeks, instruction, demonstration, all the free table time you needed and weekends off to see the sights around town.

The concept was new and unique, with an excellent instructor of **Kollins'** ability, you would eat, sleep and drink straight pool for two weeks. If you paid attention you had to learn and improve your game.

The first five days were a mixture of lectures and demonstrations with each student getting individual help from the instructor.



Tom Kollins, flanked by some students of the School for Pool, awards the trophy for the tournament held at the end of the two weeks' instruction. Photo by Hall of Fame Billiards.

Capping off the week on Friday was a straight pool exhibition after lunch. **Kollins** was to play in a qualifying tournament in **Grand Rapids** for the '76 open. To give the students a field trip and to learn how tournaments are run, the class went with **Kollins** to the tournament which was about one hour's drive from **Lansing**. What a nice demonstration for the class, **Kollins** won the tourney and qualified for the **U.S. Open**.

All of the lectures and demonstrations were wound up the following Thursday and the class began a round robin tournament. That evening the class went to the **Kollins'** home for a home cooked turkey dinner. (least they were not home sick) Friday saw the class end with

a trick shot exhibition, the tournament finals and diplomas.

There were four students in this pilot class which by any standards is not very large, but the class had a wide age spread and literally came from all over the United States. One each from **Mizzoula, Montana**; **Escanaba, Michigan**; **Arlington, Texas** and **St. Louis, Missouri**.

I went to the final day activities and talked with the students about the school and to a man they said it was the greatest. While there, **Tom** showed me a letter from **Germany** requesting dates of schools so the writer could attend while in the United States this summer. It looks to me like it can only get better.

## The Women's Professional Billiard Alliance

wishes the Best of Luck  
to all our members  
competing in the  
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# BULL SHOTS

By BOB MULLEN  
Executive Editor



Cash is wending its way towards the professional pocket billiard player whether he or she likes it or not. Dan Louie, the winner of the Bend Oregon, WOENA tournament is billing himself as the world's champion 8 ball and 9 ball player and appearing in exhibitions throughout the northwest part of the country and dragging down some good bucks. I guess that this shows the powers of a title and if the individual having earned that title wants to exploit it more power to him.

Some of the money problems in the past for individual players has been their individual reluctance to promote themselves on a business like basis. An aggressive self promoter with even a little skill can profit from his acquired skill with the cue; examples....Gargani is a mediocre three cushion billiard player with skill at trick and fancy shots; Paul Gerni has done wonders in shopping malls and colleges, "The Farmer", Jack White, and many others have proven that if you put on a good show that will interest the fans the money will flow.

## ALPHABET GUMBO

W.O.E.N.A. as mentioned in the previous paragraph is the brainchild of Ronnie Allen and Bob Lambert. The initials represent WORLD OPEN EIGHT BALL NINE BALL ASSOCIATION an organization of players that do their thing under the auspices of SPU (SPORTS PROMOTIONS UNLIMITED).

This group is having another \$33,000 tourney and this time it will be held at a familiar site, the Municipal Auditorium in Burlington, Iowa. Slated for August 20th through August 29th, this Burlington eight ball and nine ball extravaganza is not connected in any way with the tournament held there last year by Dick Coffey. This Burlington tournament will have no more than 128 players. It will be the first 128 entry fees received. The format will be the same as Bend, Oregon and double elimination for both categories will be the order of the week. Then the 8-ball champion and winner of the 9-ball group compete for an additional \$3000.00 in prize money by playing eight out of fifteen 8-ball and 9-ball matches. Each player receives 10 points for every match he wins and the player with the most points becomes the tournament champion.

The town of Burlington was accommodating and gracious to all the players, fans and shortstops. This time we hope that there will be no loose tabs left hanging loose (and by tab I don't mean the soft drink).

## APPEAL FOR A PICTURE

Al Stinson, the erstwhile billiard artist (whose works appear in another billiard publication) appealed to us for some photos of the "Little lady with the cue", Masako Katsura (now Greenleaf). This lady set the billiard world on its ear in 1949 when she came from Japan to compete with the greatest male players of the day in tournaments. She was cue tall (5 ft.) and as light as 4 gross of chalk (96 lbs.) but her skill made three billiard balls do everything but rattle Banzai. Mrs. Greenleaf appeared in the 3-cushion billiard tournament at San Francisco in 1952 and won 4 games. In 1953 in Chicago, Masako Katsura finished 6th and in the World's 3-cushion tourney in Argentina in 1954 she finished 4th. Mr. Stinson would like to do some sketches from photos....if you can send a copy, we will forward same to the artist.

## "...CAST THE FIRST STONE"

If some other promoter had published a notice of a tournament being held with a \$50,000.00 prize fund + Estimated, would the players flock to play? If some other

Continued on Page 24

## Schullgasser 2nd at Cue-Nique

# Gums First in Wisconsin



L to R: Judy McLimmons, referee; Andy Schugasser, runner-up, Jerry Breisath, director, Bonnie Gums, winner; Julie Bent, scorekeeper.

By Kathy Collard

Madison, WIS—

Chicagoan Bonnie Gums defeated Andrea Schullgasser in the final round of play at the Wisconsin Women's U.S. Open Qualifier, Cue-Nique Billiards, Madison, Wisconsin on July 11.

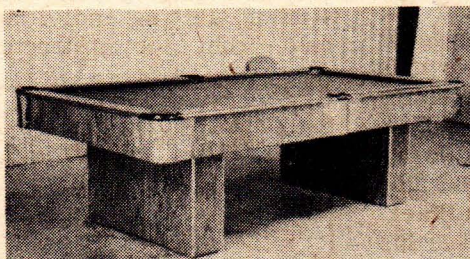
The undefeated Gums overtook fellow Chicagoan Schullgasser who had one loss by a score of 60-47 for the last spot in the women's division of the Open.

The 44-inning, two-hour match between the two nervous players did not contain the playing ability-potential they showed in earlier matches. Gums had

previously posted a run of 23, Schullgasser, a run of 19. High run in the final game was 12-out by Gums, who seemingly could not loosen up and play her usual aggressive game.

After drawing a bye in the first round, Gums finished with a 4-0 record defeating Bertha Davis (Aurora, Ill.)

Continued on Page 25



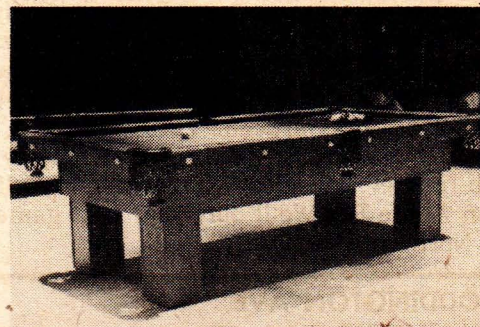
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## Venzke's View from the Bleachers

By BRUCE VENZKE  
Chief Correspondent



Some months ago I stated my feeling that the 14.1 rule pertaining to catching a cue ball either in or on its way to a pocket (scratching) should be changed so that it is an automatic scratch if the offending player's hand is in the pocket, whether the cue ball drops or not. In addition, any intentional, flagrant disturbance of any balls in play as a means of gaining an advantage would result in the loss of game.

I'm still 100 percent for the above, but there is another rule change needed that I firmly believe will improve the game of 14.1 considerably.

The basic proposal is this: when a player has fouled three times in a row, he shall not be required to break a full rack as at the beginning of the game; instead, his opponent shall have cue ball in hand (anywhere on the table) for his next shot. The balls remain as they were, untouched.

This is not a revolutionary new thought — it's been bantered about a lot for a couple of years now. I even heard a rumor that the BCA rules committee is seriously considering such a change. Could that be true!??

Anyway, regardless of who first proposed it, it makes sense to me. I'm certain that there will be arguments against it, particularly from the crafty old veterans of the game.

Now I'm as much a 14.1 purist at heart as anybody. But when your product is not sweeping the nation by storm, you have to think about making some changes.

This is a change that would avoid games where a player takes 3-scratches two or three times and drags the game out to 4 or 5 hours. If this game is to ever catch the public's fancy in a big way, 4-5 hour games must not be a part of it.

In a similar vein, there are two other aspects of the penalty for three consecutive scratches that I think need revision.

First, it is currently not a severe enough penalty. Perhaps at one time 16 points and a rebreak was tough to absorb; I don't know. But with today's equipment and conditions, 16 points is almost nothing.

Second, it makes little inherent sense to me to have a penalty of an absolute, given number of points regardless of the length of the game.

Note that if the game being played is to 50 points, the 16-point 3-scratch penalty represents 32 percent of the game. But if the game is 200 points, the penalty is only 8 percent of the match. Does that make sense?

So I'd like to see a 3-scratch penalty of 20 percent of game, whatever the length. In a 150-point match, 30 points; in a 100-pointer, 20.

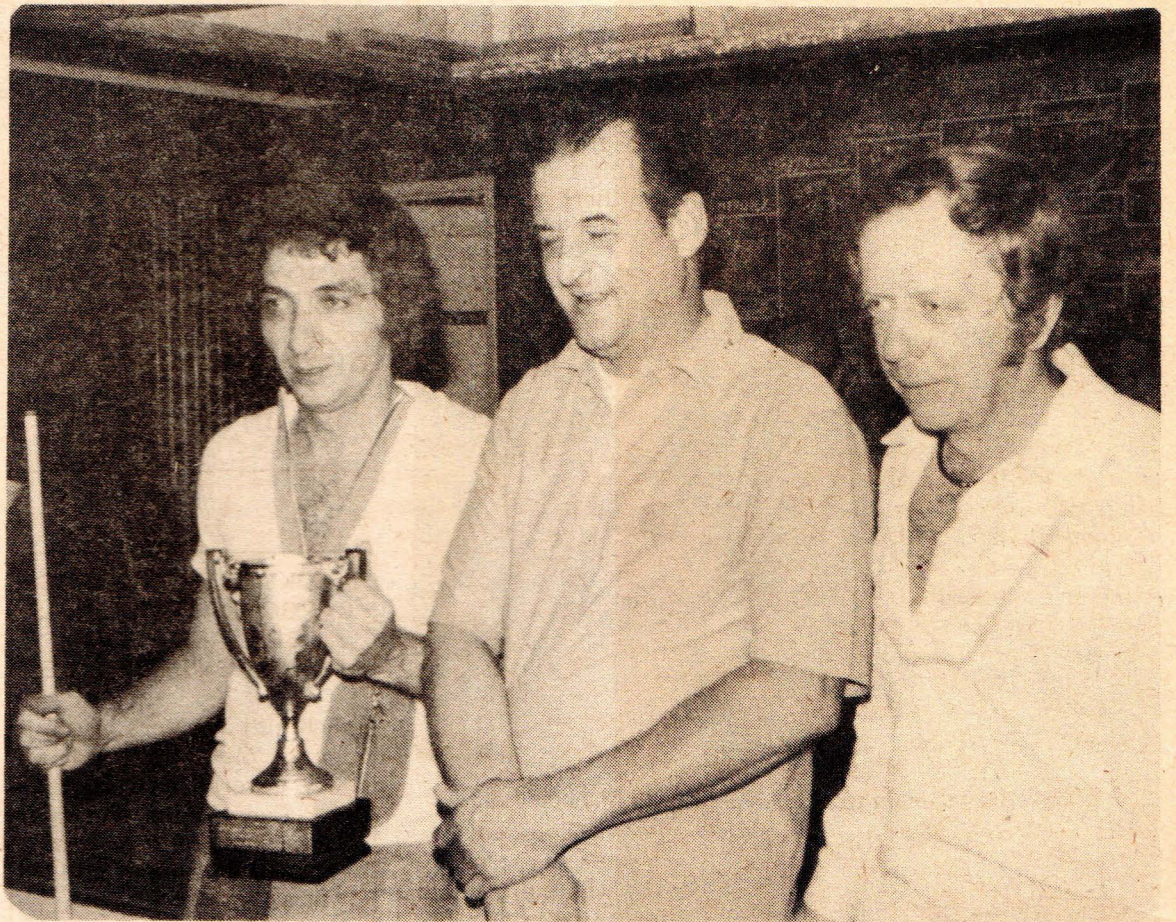
When you think about combining this more severe point penalty with giving the incoming player cueball in hand without a rebreak, you can see the virtual elimination of 3-in-a-row intentionally.

This will speed up the game, not only because wholesale back-scratching will doubtless be avoided completely, but also because players will be a lot more careful about letting themselves get onto even the 2nd foul in a row.

Will it take too much defense out of 14.1?? I don't think so. It will certainly take cheap defense out: trading only 16 points for a chance at a tough leave after the break. In fact, it may even improve the quality of defensive play because a player will no longer be able to escape a tough spot by employing the old 3-in-a-row trick. We'll only know for sure by trying it — and

Continued on Page 12

# CALIFORNIA OPEN TO ERVOLINO



Winner Johnny Ervolino of Las Vegas, left, with Terry Stonier of the Jointed cue and 2nd place finisher Rodney Thompson of Tempe, right.  
Photo by Buck Shaden.

By LEE THOMPSON

Sacramento, CA—

Owner Terry Stonier of the Jointed Cue held his annual California Open June 23-27, drawing such top players as Richie Florence, Vern Peterson, Johnny Ervolino, Dave DePasquale, Grady Mathews, Wayne Norcross, Bob Jewett, Mark Chapman and Rod Thompson. Others in the 30 man field were young, upcoming players.

The turnout for the tournament didn't quite come up to last year's due to the unusual heat wave which blanketed Sacramento. For four days temperatures hit the 105-108 degree mark. During the last two days of play, however, the tournament drew full houses.

The favorite, Richie Florence, started off slow and had to come from behind to win his first three matches. He suffered his first loss to Johnny Ervolino, 150-43, with Ervolino posting runs of 78 and 72.

Richie scored in the money hi run against Vern Peterson with a 94, but was eliminated when he lost to Rod Thompson of Tempe, AZ, 150-24. Peterson, coming up from the loser's bracket after his loss to Florence played strong but was also eliminated by Thompson, 150-138.

Thompson surprised everyone with his steady, deliberate play and wins over Florence and Peterson. His only loss was to Ervolino, 150-80. This record assured him of second place with a chance to take it all if he could beat

Ervolino twice in the Sunday finals.

At 8 p.m. on Sunday before a full house the quiet man from Tempe met the cool man from Las Vegas in the title match.

Ervolino won the lag and Thompson failed to make a legal opening break. With the balls reracked Rod's second attempt was good, but not quite safe enough, leaving Johnny a shot. However, Ervolino was only able to score three, leading to an exchange of cautious playing before Thompson took a slight lead, 57-35.

Ervolino then overtook Thompson with a run of 70, establishing a lead of 48 balls, 105-57. Rod came back with a run of 32, but on his break shot the cue ball stopped hidden in the jaws of the top corner pocket, leaving no shot at all. His safety left Ervolino a difficult but playable shot and Johnny ran a 13 before relinquishing the table.

On a run of 19 Thompson again found the cue ball rolling to the rail and leaving a long, tough shot, which Rod missed. With the score 118 to 108, Ervolino, Johnny ran 32 and out to win the title, \$1,000 1st prize, and a qualifying berth for the U.S. Open.

Despite the crowd around both players I managed to have a few words with each of them. Ervolino told me he was very happy to be competing in the U.S. Open again, and also mentioned he would soon be joining the PPPA. Thompson assured me he would be returning next year.

The final standings: 1st — Johnny Ervolino, \$1,000; 2nd — Rodney Thompson, \$500; 3rd — Richie Florence, \$300; 4th — Vern Peterson, \$200. Hi run out of the money was taken by Wayne Norcross with 109 and Richie Florence's 94 took hi run in the money.

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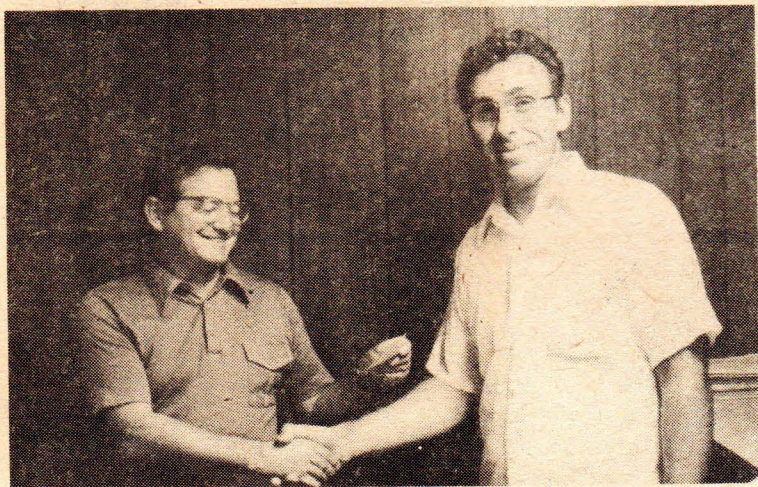
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# Carom Corner

by BOB MULLEN

Don Brink, the Kansas "Bull Dog", survived the 7 round, 40 point marathon and was sitting on his duff in the stands when the championship of the Illinois Billiard Club Open came to him. Don had done his job by defeating Bob Strange, Walter Martin, Jose Campos, Midkiff and Letherby, but then Papp and Sims turned the tables on him to give him 2 defeats in the 7 games.



Don Brink gets the check from Jim Parker

Photo by Image, Ltd.

The match between Strange and Midkiff was the turning point when the Lansing Michigan champion was defeated 40 to 35 by the virtually unknown Midkiff. Midkiff had the glowing knowledge that his powerful arm and stroke was the balance point on which this tournament's result depended. Martin had a slight chance until Campos surged out at 40-31 against him. With 4 players at 4 wins and 3 losses, points put them in the following order, Campos No. 2 (a very surprised number 2), Strange No. 3, Papp 4th, and Martin 5th. Sims with a 3 and 4 record won 6th place and on points the 7th place went to Letherby with Midkiff a strong 8th.

Jim Parker, the operator of the Illinois Billiard Club has a big one planned. A \$250 entry fee on August 7th and 8th. The club is adding an even \$100 to the prize fund to give \$1500 for first place, with runners-up receiving \$900 for 2nd place, \$700 for 3rd and \$550 for fourth, paying down to 6th place with high run of \$50 for the tournament and \$50 for best game. At last report the field was half filled but I knew all along that billiard players are mad. Strange may be the right word because the \$250 entry fee entitles each and every player to practice time at the regular rates. Don Brink did tell me that these were the best tables he has ever competed on but then he won the last tourney at IBC.

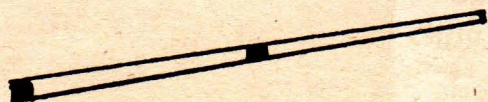
LARRY JOHNSON WINS OPEN (ALL THE REST COME UP SHORT).

A billiard buff could not ask for anything more than to see the best players in the United States vying for the title of U.S. Open Champ. This was the first "Open" held in this country for many years and the title since then was held by Michigan's Bob Ameen by default.

Mike Asch and the Hi-Cue Three Cushion Staff (Milt Goldring) did a yeoman like job in gathering together the big shooters of the game from all parts of the country. Gilbert and Torres from California, Brink and Martin from Kansas City, Ameen and Donnelly from Michigan, Campos from Chicago,

Continued on Page 10

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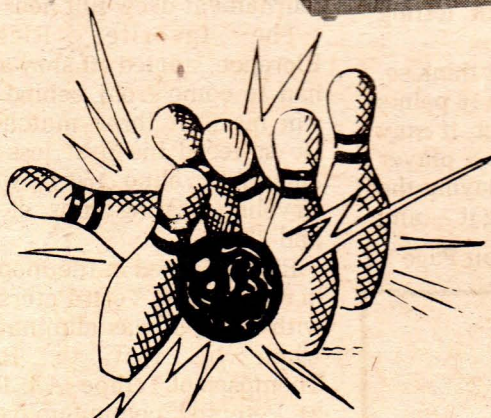
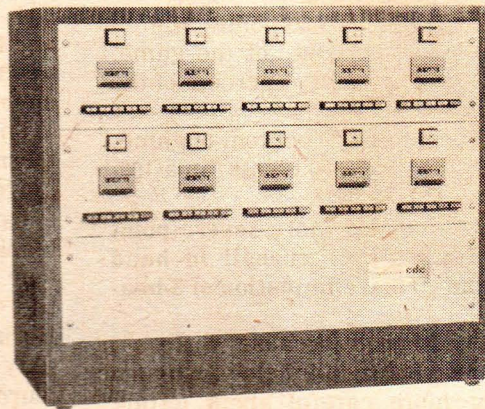
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**Bicentennial Billiard Bash, 3-Cushion Variety**

# Johnson Captures U.S. Open Crown

By MILT GOLDRING

Elizabeth, NJ—

Finally everything was in readiness for the U.S. Open Tournament held at Mike Asch's Hi-Cue Billiard Lounge "House of Champions", 333 Rahway Ave., Elizabeth, N.J. Tables were all recovered, seating arrangements in the playing arena finalized, tournament procedures reviewed and approved by Milt Goldring, Tournament Director and all that remained was the arrival of the participants.

The players started to come in as early as Sunday, June 29th. The first one on the scene was the "Hawk" Bill Hawkins carrying his cue stick in one hand and his checkerboard in the other, challenging all comers to dethrone him as the National Three Cushion Checker Champion. Larry "Boston Shorty" Johnson appeared on the scene and made his usual classic comment that the cloth was fraudulently advertised and he was positive it was a special grade of Super Roulant and he was giving up 3 Cushion Billiards — definitely no more tournaments! (He's been saying this for the last 10 years). The Californians, Allen Gilbert and Frank Torres arrived and played some practice games with Gilbert running a 17, indicating that he was ready. The war clouds were gathering!

On Thursday at 11 A.M. all the players gathered in the playing arena for rules discussion and the blind draw to determine the 4 flights of the preliminary round. A souvenir book with a certificate of appreciation was presented to each player at the drawing and all that remained was the starting gun at 1 P.M.

Thursday afternoon 1 P.M. — 40 point games:

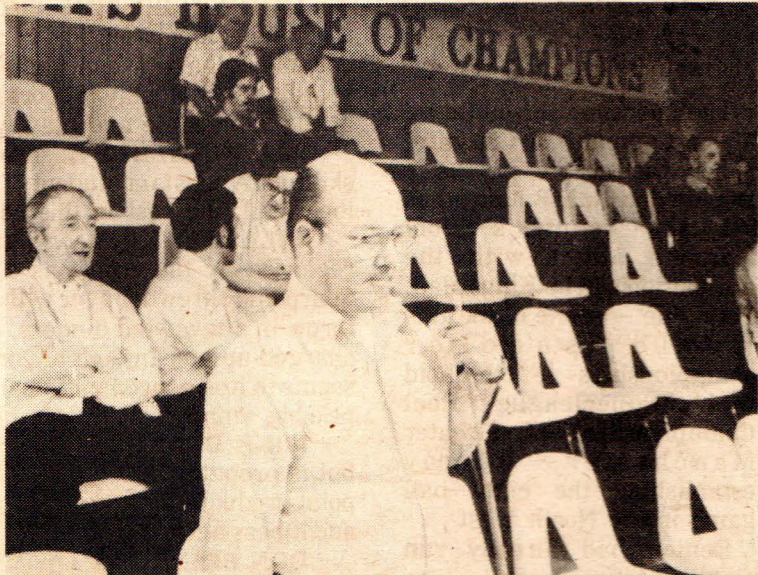
1. Shorty Johnson gets beat by Dick Reid of New Hampshire.

2. Frank Torres loses to Luis Campos.

4. George Ashby after a slow start conquers Mike Donnelly, who seemed to have lost momentum when he reached the 22nd point.

5. Allen Gilbert showed that his practice game was no fluke when he beat Walter Martin.

key victories. The highlight of the tournament so far occurred in the evening session with the most fantastic display of 3 cushion billiard prowess seen here or anywhere when Allen Gilbert having George Ashby as an opponent, made 40 POINTS



"Shorty"...the little emperor of billiards.

3. Jimmy Cattrano shows he's in shape by taking Sal Zito.

Thursday evening play began at 7:30 P.M.

1. Luis Campos continued his winning ways by defeating Abel Calderon.

2. Bob Ameen wins his 2nd victory at the expense of Don Peterson.

3. George Ashby remains undefeated by conquering Walter Martin.

4. Frank Torres bounces back into contention with the best game so far in the tournament. 40 POINTS IN 30 INNINGS.

5. Jimmy Cattrano gets his 2nd win, likewise Allen Gilbert and Shorty Johnson get back into the picture with a victory.

The 2nd day of the tournament, Friday, July 2nd afternoon session starting 1 P.M., evening session 7:30 P.M.:

Bob Ameen, Shorty Johnson, Jimmy Cattrano and Allen Gilbert advance in their respective flights with

IN 24 INNINGS—AN AVERAGE OF 1.66!! Frank Torres squeaked out a win over Stan Hardy and then lost later on to Abel Calderon.

Outside of 4 men, the tournament is shaping up as a wide open affair and the concluding sessions of the preliminary flights will determine who are going to get into the semi-finals.

The final session of the preliminaries started at 1 P.M. Sat. July 3rd and after some hectic games the field was narrowed down to 12 semi-finalists. Among the survivors were Larry Johnson, Allen Gilbert, Luis Campos, Bob Ameen, George Ashby and Jimmy Cattrano. The surprise of the tournament so far was the elimination of Frank Torres who lost a chance to move up when he failed by a 1 point loss to Abel Calderon.

After a short break in the action, featured by a fried chicken affair co-sponsored by Tournament Director Milt Goldring and Ray Mortel, the flight drawing took place and the 12 man field looked like this:

**FLIGHT E**

Larry Johnson, Boston, Mass.  
Dick Reid, Salem, N.H.  
Bob Ameen, Plymouth, Mich.  
Murray Shapiro, Brooklyn, N.Y.

Jimmy Cattrano, Rego Park, N.Y.  
Bill Hawkins, Decatur, Ill.

The semi-finals resumed on Sun., July 4th, 1:00 P.M. Larry Johnson gave indication of things to come when he avenged an earlier defeat by a strong victory over Dick Reid. After all matches were completed in the evening session 6



Juan Rosenfried and Vince Sbarbati...two nice guys.



The legendary Harvey Martin.

**FLIGHT F**

Allen Gilbert, Los Angeles, Cal.

Luis Campos, Chicago, Ill.  
George Ashby, Jacksonville, Ill.

Abe Rosen, Brooklyn, N.Y.  
Vince Sbarbati, N.Y. City  
Bob Below, Atlanta, Ga.

The semi-finals started around 8:15 P.M. with 3 sets of games and concluded around 1:30 A.M.

emerged as finalists; Larry Johnson, Jimmy Cattrano, Bob Ameen, Allen Gilbert, Abe Rosen and Vince Sbarbati. Of these men the real surprise was the super showing of Abe Rosen who lost only 1 match to Vince Sbarbati after conquering all others in his flight.

The 5th and final day of the tournament, games to go 50

Continued on Page 14

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## Herb Lehmann on SNOOKER

### DOWN UNDER BILLIARDS UP AND COMING.

An outstanding event in the Renaissance of the "WONDERFUL WORLD OF BILLIARDS" is about to take place, (Australia) offering \$50,000 to three of the greatest names in international competition. The Champ of Champs Tournament sponsored by V.I.P. Insurances has the positive distinction of guaranteeing the highest purse ever recorded on the green felt. This test of skill will combine the results of pocket billiards, snooker and English billiards competition.

Joe Balsis, World's Pocket Billiard Champion, '65 and '66 and U.S. Open Champ '68, and '74, takes the spotlight from Willie Mosconi (who has played this type competition before but has other commitments). As America's best representative he is in Australia now to cross cues with Ed Charlton, World Open Snooker Champ and Seven years Australian Champion along with Rex Williams, England's answer to the game of English billiards to which he is champion in his ninth consecutive year.

Play commences on June 30 with posh hotels and sophisticated clubs hosting the champ of champs tournaments in eight specially selected locations covering the continent with the finals held in Sydney, Aug. 6th.

Each champion already possessing awesome skills in his own game will have to challenge the expertise of the other man's specialty. Anticipating strong performances at one's own game, a unique scoring system has been developed awarding bonus points for best adaptation to the outside game. Along with points for winning and possible shutouts, taking this on a cumulative basis should hold the competition at close range until the final night in Sydney. An already sold out audience will be on hand to express their personal gratification to the winner.

### RETURN TO THE U.S.A.

Paul Barnard, Public Relations Limited, is laying the foundation to construct an eight venue tour throughout the USA with the desirable international flavor. The impressive high stake competition and the apparent splendor in which audiences witness arousing feats on the rectangular tables has not gone unnoticed and has produced a competent American sponsor to exceed the present record purse by \$10,000.

A most tasteful atmosphere in New York is slated for the final venue of this tour where an assemblage of five world cue stars, including two American Champs, will flex their cues with their arsenal of cue skills to answer the summons of pocket billiards and snooker.

The American "Players" will be chosen from the results of a series of elimination contests.

### Turner

### Pockets

### Pool

### Championship

Reprinted from Q-World  
Lancaster, England

WHEN Bill Turner of Glossop took the £1,000 winners cheque from Managing Director Philip Birch of Piccadilly Radio, it ended one of the most adventurous pool championships ever.

The sponsors Hazel Grove Music Company of Cheshire, under the auspice of Barry Denton and Ralf Butters, has set the country's Pool league's alight with the acquisition of The Kings Hall, Belle Vue — scene of the 1974 World snooker championships — to hold their Superleague Pool Championships of Greater Manchester, firmly establishing the eight ball game in the North West.

Denton had already run smaller tournaments — as most operators up and down the country — but felt the time was ripe to give the game the Royal treatment.

The venture tied in the local radio station as co-promoters.

Entries were fast and furious from the pubs and clubs in the Greater Manchester area, and after weeks of play-offs the final 177 players found themselves playing in the plush Kings Hall.

The format was similar to Snooker promotions creation in the world championships in 1974, with 15 Super-league pool tables specially installed. The date was fixed for Saturday June 5th and at 10:15 in the morning the continuous action started.

Ironically, some of the referees on show were the very same who refereed the snooker two years earlier.

Senior referee for the day was Bolton's Jim Worsley, who had got together 17 fully qualified snooker referees for a brief the day before on the rules of pool!

"It was an experience I shall never forget" quipped Jim, "but I think everyone enjoyed it".

With seating for 2,000, the balls had been changed to yellow and red instead of the

Continued on Page 22

## Carom Corner

Continued from Page 8

Ashby and Hawkins from Jacksonville, Illinois. Local area players were there with Jim Cattranno II, Abe Rosen, Murray Shapiro, Sal Vito, Jerry Puchkoff, Juan Rosenfried, Vince Sbarbati, Abel Calderon and Chris Bartoz helping to create a formidable field. Don Peterson from Minneapolis and Bob Below and Stan Hardy from Atlanta, Georgia came a far piece as did Cliff Lee from Florida. Champion Larry Johnson entered from Massachusetts and Dick Reid from Connecticut.

### PERSONAL OBSERVATIONS OF THE PLAYERS:

**LARRY "BOSTON SHORTY" JOHNSON**, a billiard machine, a mechanic who can play as good as he has to and is unlikely to have a bad game. "Shorty's" philosophy..... "If you shoot a shot, play to score. You cannot play a shot and safe at the same time and play well."

**ALLAN GILBERT**, shrewd, calculating, confident and skillful. A constant student of the game and probably over the long haul, the best in this country.

**BILL HAWKINS**..... wanted to win this tournament, regarded by the crowd as a showman first, player second. Sharp and shrewd player with a powerstroke. Always seems to throw in a few wind-dingers, and if they make, Hawkins is so charged up he can beat anyone. If the windies don't make he seems to lose concentration and effectiveness. Has the tools to be a big winner if he gets the breaks.

**MIKE DONNELLY**... Suffering through this tournament but is probably one of the first ten players in the country in point production. Recently recovered from a serious operation and illness and may not be on his game again for a while.

**DON BRINK**..... A bull dog, never beaten until the last point. Best covered by the cliché "on any given day is capable of winning from anyone."

**BOB BELOW**..... Same as above but has a slow deliberate style of play that does not endear him to the crowd or fellow players. Especially tough on schedule makers, but a tough competitor.

**BOB AMEEN**..... Knows as much about the game as anyone. Seems to be too critical of his own "human" frailties. Too critical of opponent's comparative abilities. Could be a big winner if he ever learns to lose.

**JIM CATTRANO**... plays an aggressive game with skill, talent and knowledge. Has been away from the game for awhile but showing flashes of brilliance of the past. Jim has always been a great personal favorite of mine because of his style of play. One of the best five.

**WALTER MARTIN**... tough opponent for anyone. Seems to lose concentration in the last third of the game. Walter is one of a kind and "on any given day, etc."

**STAN HARDY**..... Probably the most improved player in the field. Since Stan has been competing on a national level (3 years), he has gone from hamburger to PRIME RIB. He has acted as a missionary for 3 cushion throughout the southeast and along with Lewie Little of Vanderbilt is on an educational campaign in the colleges of that area.

**LUIS CAMPOS**..... Has all the attributes of the best of players and is one of the top five. Goes about playing the game with a quiet dignity that has made him a favorite of the fans and his fellow players.

**SAL ZITO**... first time I have ever seen this gentleman play. Very impressive and has to rank close to Cattranno as one of the best in the NY area.

**GEORGE ASHBY**... continues to impress, even when he doesn't win. I would have to rank Ashby as one of the top players at this time. I believe that his unassuming style of play and seeming blandness towards his opponent hurts his game. I do not know George well on a personal basis but from this observation point it seems he lacks the necessary "killer instinct" to win big. Easy prediction — Ashby will be the best, soon.

**MURRAY SHAPIRO**... an 'any given day' player. Made the semis at age 65 and has a past history of playing with

Continued on Page 22

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# wpba NEWSLETTER

news and information from the

Women's Professional Billiard Alliance

## WELCOME

We're proud to welcome our first proprietor members...

**Red Box, Dick & Sue Gann**  
Guys & Dolls Billiards  
Shreveport, La.

**Jim DeGeorge & Billy Lee**  
Le Cue in the Village  
Houston, Texas

**Jim & Bill Lievense**  
Hall of Fame Billiards  
Lansing, MI

**Sy & Dolly Eckstadt**  
Gold Crown Billiard Club  
New London, Conn.

**Jack Zur**  
Situation Billiards  
Endicott, N.Y.

**Chuck Kramer, Gene Stary,  
Ed Kreuger**  
California Billiards  
San Jose, Ca.

We also want to welcome our first distributor-manufacturer members:

**Robert Mullen**  
Q-Master Billiard Supply  
Berkley, Mich.

**Danny Janes**  
Joss Cues  
Towson, Md.

These are businesses who support the WPBA, and we urge you to patronize them. If you are able to stop in and say "hello" please do so, and don't forget to bring your friends. All members in these categories will receive a listing in our newsletter as well as mention in our ads forthcoming in the National Billiard News. Membership certificates, suitable for framing, are now being designed and will be mailed as soon as they are available.

## TOURNAMENTS

Plans are underway for our first 9-Ball tournament, which will field 32 women in Lansing this October. Flyers will be sent to members shortly. Jim and Bill Lievense hope to kick-off our tournament tour with a few extra surprises. More on that later.

Several other inquiries have been received from proprietors interested in promoting WPBA tournaments. If the Lansing event is as successful as we anticipate, we hope to be able to supply our membership with a calendar of scheduled tournaments.

The WPBA will collect at all its events a registration fee from all players who participate. The fee for members is \$2; non-members will pay \$10. We hope to use the fees collected toward an all-around championships at the end of our tour.

## U.S. OPEN

We have just received official confirmation from BCA Executive Director, Robert Goodwin, that the U.S. Open women's division prize fund has been expanded to the total money received from Montgomery Wards, \$5,000. Good luck to all WPBA contestants in the 1976 U.S. Open, and a tip of the WPBA hat to President Kim Gandy.

## BILLIARD APRONS

One of our members, Ruth Yankee, has gotten into the business of making and marketing billiard aprons. If you're tired of soaring dry cleaning bills, and denying yourself a wardrobe of pastel colors, Ruth's aprons are the answer to your problems!

## FREE TO CHARTER MEMBERS

For the surprisingly low cost of your promising to tell everyone where you got it, Ruth will be sending out personalized aprons to all charter members. Along with your apron, you will receive some order blanks for anyone you know who might like an apron. Ruth has been generous in

Continued on Page 16

## TOURNAMENT CALENDAR

### —POOL—

**P.P.P.A. WORLD POCKET BILLIARD CHAMPIONSHIPS**  
August 10th-15th  
Convention Hall  
Asbury Park, New Jersey

**B.C.A. U.S. OPEN POCKET BILLIARD CHAMPIONSHIPS**  
August 11th-14th  
Sheraton-Chicago Hotel  
Chicago, Illinois

**SPORTS UNLIMITED 8-BALL - 9 BALL TOURN.**  
August 20th-26th  
Municipal Auditorium  
Burlington, Iowa

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

**U.S. MASTER'S OPEN POCKET BILLIARD CHAMPIONSHIPS**  
November 6th-Dec. 12th  
Velda Rose Tower Hotel  
Hot Springs, Arkansas

### —3•CUSHION—

**GREAT AMERICAN OPEN 3-CUSHION TOURNEY**  
August 7th-8th  
Illinois Billiard Club  
Chicago, Illinois

**1ST HAROLD WORST 3-CUSHION OPEN**  
August 14th-15th  
Crystal Cue  
Grand Rapids, Michigan

**GOLDEN GATE OPEN 3-CUSHION TOURNEY**  
August 20th-22nd  
Palace Billiards  
San Francisco, California

**CALIFORNIA OPEN 3-CUSHION TOURNEY**  
August 27th-29th  
Tiff's Billiards  
N. Hollywood, California

**EASTERN STATES OPEN 3-CUSHION TOURNEY**  
September 17th-19th  
Jacy's Billiards  
Rego Park, New York

**ROCKHILL OPEN 3-CUSHION TOURNEY**  
October 1st-3rd  
Rockhill Billiards  
Kansas City, Missouri

Events are listed in the Tournament Calendar at no charge to the sponsor.

If you plan to attend a listed tournament, we suggest you contact the promotor to verify dates.

## Venzke's View

Continued from Page 7

I'd like to see that.

What's your opinion? Send us your feelings about it, and about any other rules changes you'd favor, and we'll pass them along to the BCA and the various other player's organizations. Mail to: Bruce Venzke, 17901 W. Rogers Drive, New Berlin, WI 53151.



Ah, the value of experience. It seems to be crucial for anyone hoping to capture the U.S. Open title: the men's championship has never been won by anyone not playing in at least their third Open (except for the first 2 years, of course).

When Joe Balsis won it in 1968, it was his third try; in 1969 the victor was Luther Lassiter, who was making his third Open appearance; in 1970 the title was taken by Steve Mizerak, who was also playing in his third Open.

Mizerak then proceeded to win through 1973, posting 4 straight championships. That's a record that I doubt will ever be approached, let alone be broken. Even the record of four titles in total will very possibly never fall, except by Steve himself. After ten years, Joe Balsis is the only man other than Mizerak to win more than once; Joe turned the trick twice, in '68 and '74.

On the women's side, it's a bit different... there Dorothy Wise and Jean Balukas have made a mockery of the "on any given Sunday afternoon" theory. The elder stateswoman of billiards, Mrs. Wise, took the first five consecutive titles. She then lost the throne to the (then) Little Princess, Miss Jean Balukas, who has now won the last four in a row.

No one else has tasted the sweet fruits of victory in the women's division (although Miekko Harada came heartbreakingly close), and as long as Jean Balukas really wants to win, no one else probably will.

However, the girls as a body are getting better. Back when they began Open competition, the entire field averaged about 1.25 balls per inning, with only one or two girls even approaching an average of 2.00. But after a few years of competitive activity, the entire women's field recorded a 2.04 in 1975. The same year saw Jean Balukas finish above the 3.50 mark. The tough Miss B. is the career top BPI average shooter, compiling a grand average of 2.26; Mrs. Wise is close behind with a 2.14 average.

Talk about grand averages! On the men's side, the BPI figures help make it quite clear why Steve Mizerak has been so successful in the Open: put simply, he scores! He's played in 8 Opens, and his BPI average has been over 10.00 seven times (in 1967, his first year, he averaged "only" 9.23). Big Steve's overall average is a stunning 12.47. And in 1972, he posted another of those "never fall" records, a tournament BPI average of 18.66 over seven games (six wins and a loss).

1972 was the best year for scoring for the rest of the field also, with a record high composite BPI average for the entire field of 8.00. The record lowest for the field was just a year earlier in '71, when the composite BPI average was 5.69.

Getting back to that experience factor we started with, there are some other facts that give a notion of how tough that first Open usually is. For example: in the men's division, the average position of finish for all the players in their first Open is 24th. And for those men who played once and once only, the place sinks to 29th.

And the women one-timers have also found what U.S. Open pressure is all about. For them the average finish is 11th (and that with an average field size of 13 players).

So with experience most often comes victory, and to the victor goes the spoils. How much has the BCA paid and to who?

Continued on Page 25

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**3-Cushion Action at Gold Crown**

# Ashby New England Champ

By MILT GOLDRING

New London, CT—

On July 6th, 1976 a fine field of 12 representing all sections of the country assembled at the Gold Crown Billiard Club at approximately 10 A.M. and were welcomed by Sy Eckstadt, owner and director. After rules discussion and explanations of scheduling matches, the blind drawing of the 2 six man flites took place and this was the result:

**FLITE A**

Larry Johnson, Boston, Mass.  
Ernie Presto, Chicago, Ill.  
George Ashby, Jacksonville, Ill.  
Jimmy Cattrano, Rego Park, N.Y.  
Frank Torres, San Fernando, Cal.  
Don Brink, Raytown, Mo.

**FLITE B**

Bill Hawkins, Decatur, Ill.  
Bob Ameen, Plymouth, Mich.  
Mike Donnelly, Monroe, Mich.  
Cliff Lee, Seminole, Fla.  
Stan Hardy, Atlanta, Ga.  
Luis Campos, Chicago, Ill.

The matches started at 11 A.M. with continuous play throughout the day and night, ending at approximately midnight. Play was to be continued the next day again starting at 11 A.M. resulting in the elimination of half of the field into a 6 man round robin final flite. Games were to go to 35 points.

After a number of very close contests, cliff-hangers and a few upsets, the final 6 were narrowed down to: George Ashby, Frank Torres and Don Brink from Flite A. From Flite B came Bill Hawkins, Mike Donnelly and Luis Campos.

On Thursday at 11 A.M. play was resumed with the initial pairings made from a blind drawing by the players. Milt Goldring of Elizabeth, N.J. took over the direction of the final games, introduced the players of each contest with appropriate credits and also assigned referees. The games were to go to 40 points.

Frank Torres gave indication that he was the man to be reckoned with by opening up the final flite with a 31 inning game at the expense of Don Brink. Strong wins over Mike Donnelly, Bill Hawkins and Luis Campos gave him a record of 4 wins and no defeats.

At this stage of the tournament Luis Campos with a "squeaker" over George Ashby in the initial game of their flite and subsequent wins over Mike Donnelly, Bill Hawkins and Don Brink stood at 4 wins and 1 loss.

Meanwhile George Ashby, after being defeated by Campos, got back into contention with successive wins and stood at 3 wins and 1 loss, needing to defeat Frank Torres to create a triple tie for first place. As you probably guessed, Ashby put on a super display of billiard prowess by defeating Torres in 39 innings, thus setting up the round-robin playoff.

At 1 A.M. a short meeting was held with tournament officials, Sy Eckstadt and Milt Goldring, the contestants and A.B.A. officials Don Brink and Mike Donnelly.

Because of the lateness of the hour a mutual agreement was reached whereby the games were to be 30 points, any ties were to be broken by total point score and in turn by least amount of innings.

The final results were as follows:

Contest No. 1-Ashby-30-Compos-21

Contest No. 2-Campos-30-Torres-22

Contest No. 3-Torres-30-Ashby-24

Total point count:  
Ashby-54 (winner)

Torres-52 (2nd)  
Campos-51 (3rd)

At 5 A.M. the dramatic climax was over, a check for \$800.00 and a beautiful trophy were presented to George Ashby as the New England Champion of 1976. Runner-up Frank Torres received a check for \$500.00 and for third place a check for \$250.00 went to Luis Campos plus a check for \$50.00 for the high run of 9 in the tournament. Bill Hawkins ended up 4th with a check for \$150.00, Mike Donnelly 5th and Don Brink 6th received checks for \$100.00 each.

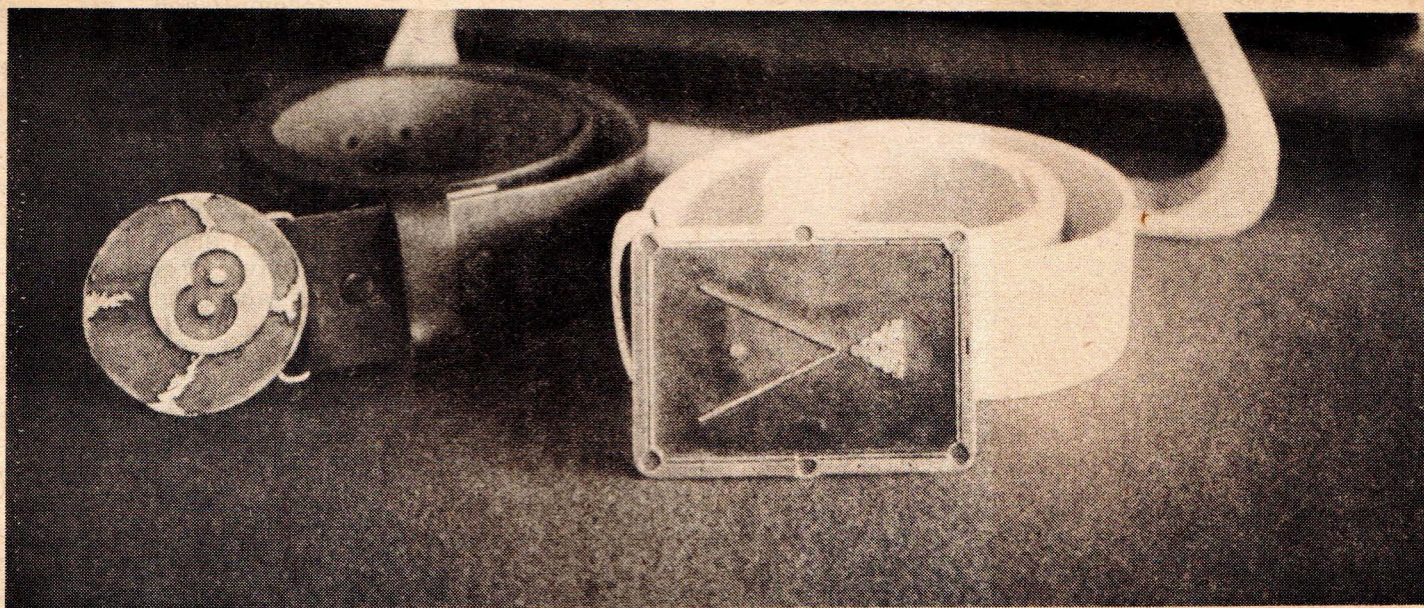
Noteworthy was the strong showing of Cliff Lee from Seminole Fla. and Stan Hardy of Atlanta, Ga. and it was also great to see Ernie Presto of Chicago, Ill. involved once again in competition.

Sy Eckstadt with the great help of his wife Dolly are to be commended for their efforts in bringing to the New England area a top tournament of this kind and they have the good wishes of all who are involved in the billiard world for continued success in all their future endeavors.

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New  
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Continued from Page 9

points in length, started with the blind drawings for the initial pairings.

What resulted was a first game match-up between Larry Johnson and Allen Gilbert, which in the opinion of most experts figure to be the game for the championship. The contest had its share of spectacular

shots but after getting a lead Johnson couldn't be overtaken and ran out the game. He continued his winning ways by beating Bob Ameen, Abe Rosen and Vince Sbarbati, thus having 4 wins and no loses going into his

final game. Meanwhile, Jimmy Cattrano was indicating that he was to be reckoned with by defeating his first 2 opponents setting up a confrontation with Allen Gilbert. As luck would have it Cattrano got this key victory and by defeating his next opponent he also stood at 4 wins and no losses going into

the final game with Larry Johnson.

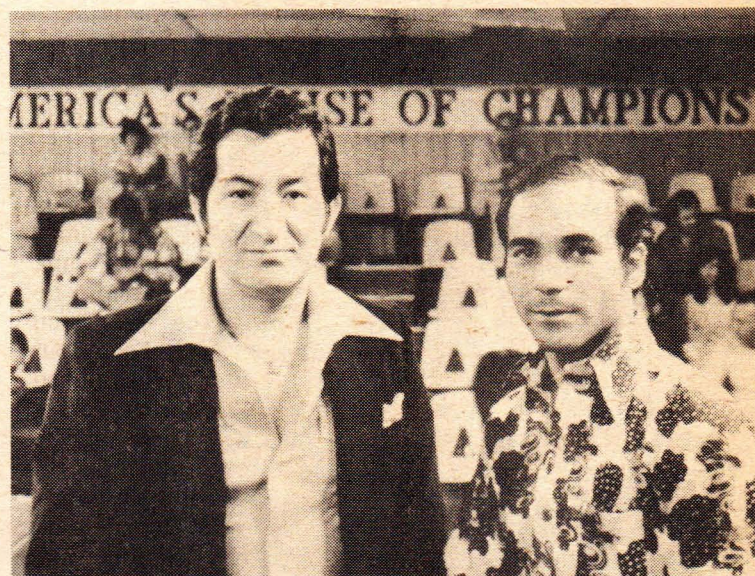
What a match it was! Johnson seemingly blew an insurmountable lead at one time, 19 points, but wasn't to be denied and finally pulled out the contest 50-47, emerging as the 1976 Open Champion.

Checks and appropriate trophies were given to the finalists and here with their cash awards was the final standing:

- 1st-Larry Johnson-\$2000.
- 2nd-Jimmy Cattrano-\$1000.
- 3rd-Allen Gilbert-\$750.



Sal Vito—Against the wall.



Abel Calderon and Chris Bartsoz—Two more nice guys.

- 4th-Vince Sbarbati-\$500.
- 5th-Bob Ameen-\$450.
- 6th-Abe Rosen-\$400.

Cash awards were also given to the following:

- 7th-D. Reid-\$150.
- 8th-L. Campos-\$150.
- 9th-B. Hawkins-\$125.
- 10th-G. Ashby-\$125.
- 11th-M. Shapiro-\$100.
- 12th-B. Below-\$100.

It would be an injustice to this great tournament if certain exploits were omitted and here are some:

1. There were 4 runs of 10 accomplished by Allen Gilbert, Mike Donnelly, Bill Hawkins and Murray Shapiro. 2 runs of 9 by Allen Gilbert and Larry Johnson. High run of the tournament, 11, was achieved by Vince Sbarbati thus proving good billiards knows no limitations as to type of cloth, rail speed and atmospheric conditions (for the benefit of the Super Roulant lovers).

2. Fine showing by Chris Bartsoz of Flushing NY. who just missed the finals by losing to Don Brink which in turn enabled Abe Rosen to become a finalist.

3. Abel Calderon of N.Y.C. great win over Frank Torres was the top upset of the tournament.

4. Great showings by the veterans Abe Rosen and Murray Shapiro.

5. The frustration of the fine cue artist and great gentleman Luis Campos who lost games by an incredible number of close misses that were of "micrometer" in scope.

6. An impressive display of talent by Dick Reid of Salem, N.H. who seems destined to be a great one.

7. Stan Hardy's great showing; with a little bit of luck on one or two shots he could easily have been in the semi-finals.

This was a great tournament, one to be remembered for a long time. Mike Asch's super organizational prowess stamps him as the top promoter in the game and there aren't enough accolades to go around to really express the thanks of the players and those fans who witnessed this great event. Therefore, let us all in the billiard world, manufacturer, supplier, room owner and fan unite to work together in this Bicentennial year of 1976 to put this great competitive game of billiards into its rightful place in American sports.

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# M.O.M. Holds First Tournament

By CONRAD BURKMAN

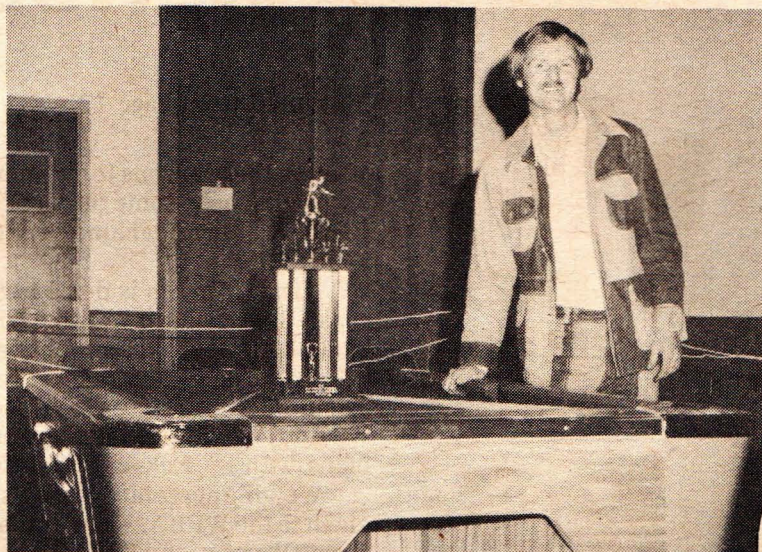
Lansing, MI—

It seemed like years of planning went into making up the qualifying rounds which led to the huge one day culmination at Lansing Civic Center of the first Music Operators of Michigan Coin Tournament.

The qualifying tournaments were not even pushed by M.O.M. as they felt they had to get the first tourney under their belts with a controllable crowd and just enough players to be handled efficiently. They finally landed at 116 players, maximum for the first tournament.

Rules were published and sent to the taverns who had requested tournaments. M.O.M. picked two state coordinators to settle rule disputes and tournament problems, Joe Farhat in Lansing and myself in Detroit. Telephone numbers were listed where we could be reached 24 hours a day. There were no major problems during the qualifying rounds and by the end of May everything was ready for the Lansing shoot out.

Several unique concepts were used to qualify players to the tourney. The qualifiers were held on a state wide basis. There was no league involvement. This was completely independent of any organized tavern leagues. Men and women competed on an equal basis



Lenny Hicks of Tigars Den, winner of this year's event.  
Photo by Paul Evans



For making an "8" on the break, Dale Sweet, left, received a cue from Joe Farhat. Dale's friend Marcey Trickett accepts the stick for him. Photo by Paul Evans

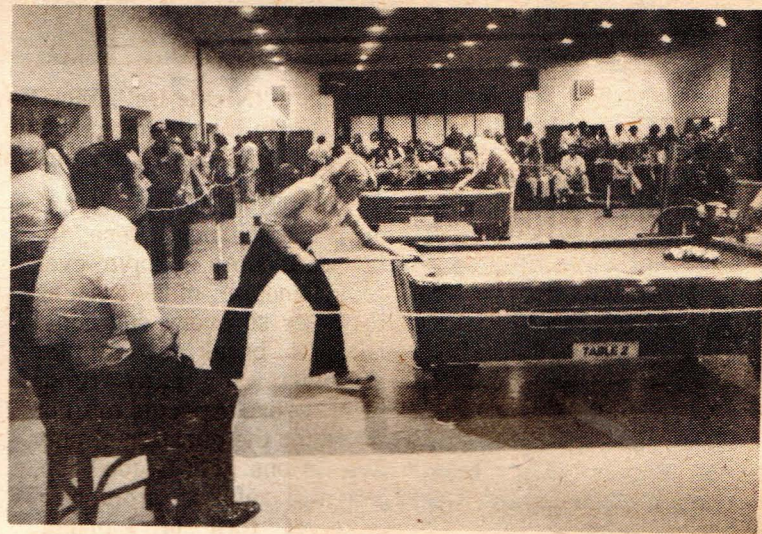
with the top two players from each tournament coming to Lansing. Two women made the finals — next year there will be many more.

The small auditorium was used, with seating on risers at both ends of the tournament area. Both sides were kept clear for traffic and officials.



L to R: Ed Schultz, Walt Manner, Sen. Demassio, Joe Farhat, Michael R. Spaniolo, and our own Conrad J. Burkman.

NBN Photo



A view of the layout of M.O.M. Pictured is Loretta Graham, one of the two ladies finishing in the money. Plenty of guys will shed a tear when more gals win the games next year.

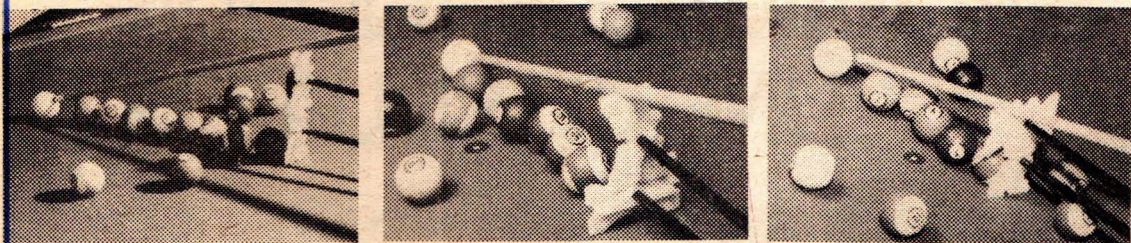
NBN Photo

Four new Valley tables were installed, complete with the new ball re-racker. Table set up began the evening before. Almost as soon as the first table was wheeled in, we had our first and only casualty.

One of the installers had the misfortune of having a table fall off the dollie and smash his right foot. A real nasty break, 9 places to be exact. The cast on his foot might

Continued on Page 16

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# Lenny Hicks First In Music Ops Tourney

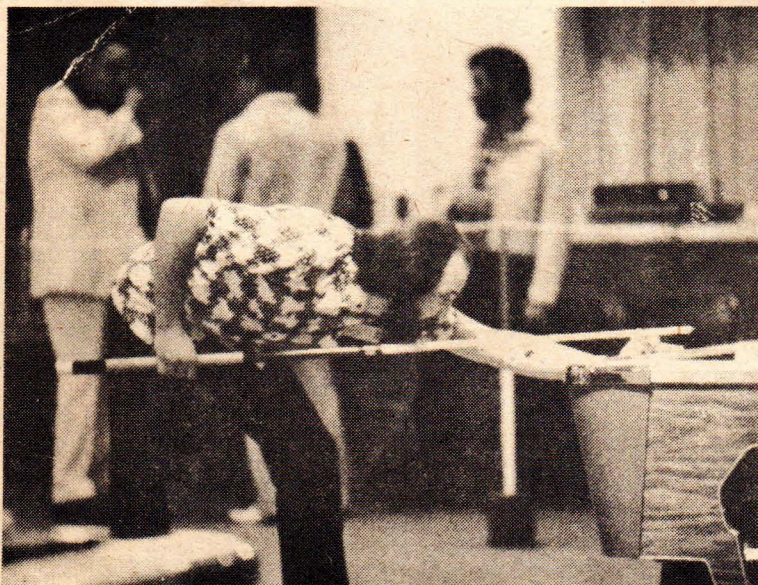
Continued from Page 15

have slowed him down a bit but certainly didn't stop him as he was there bright and early the next day and put in a full day as referee.

The four tables were arranged so everyone broke towards the center of the room. The players' chairs were placed in the center of the floor area inside the four tables. This worked very well as all players were seated when not shooting and the referees saw to that.

The huge player's board was made in pieces and installed on the stage in the rear which could be easily seen from a distance. A runner was used to carry game card results from the floor to be posted on the board. The cards contained not only the winner but also the total elapsed time of the match. This information to be used for future planning.

As the first round got under way the referees were furnished rolls of quarters by M.O.M. Players didn't have to furnish their own. The corps of referees did an excellent job from their high chair position. There were no complaints from promoters



Detroit's "Nickie Do", Nick Kowalczyk, playing out of Uncle Al's Bar in Hamtramck. Nickie finished 3rd for \$300 and also won two Joe Balsis Cues for sinking the 8 on the break. NBN Photo.

or players. There were, for the first time I have ever seen, enough men working the floor so every one could have a break at regular intervals. So many times referees are expected to sit or stand for the duration of play and no one gets a good job, players, refs or promoters.

Velvet Rail of Lansing, distributors of the Joe Balsis line, furnished a Joe Balsis cue for anyone who made an

8-Ball break. This could have been expensive but surprisingly only 8 sticks were won and two of these by Nick Kowalczyk of Hamtramck, Michigan. Other winners were Lanny Hartley, Brooklyn; Dan Apple, Lansing; Dale Sweet, Berion Springs; Lyle Western, Crystal; Leonard Hicks, Standish and Fred

Continued on Page 24

## WPBA NEWSLETTER

Continued from Page 12

offering these aprons to our members, let's show our gratitude by getting her some orders. (Write to: Ruth Yankee, 147 Pierce St., Birmingham, MI 48011 or call: 313-646-2527)

### WORKERS

Nancy Warren is doing a great job for us out on the east coast. She has been working with Jack Zur on several events, including a tournament, challenge match, and exhibition for women. (Nancy and Jack are also planning similar men's events.) Mrs. Warren has been telling everyone about the WPBA, and will also in the future be working on tournament plans with Sy Eckstadt and Connie Gaither.

We all appreciate Nancy's efforts, and the time she has given to the WPBA. Further thanks are in order to Missy Rice, Gloria Walker, and Kathy Lang for the time they are putting in on various projects. As you know, it is difficult to run an organization without the benefit of a full-time staff. While we are struggling with the work load, we are making definite progress.

### DEADLINE APPROACHING

As you know, charter memberships are being accepted until September 1st. If you have not yet done so, please make your payment soon.

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# THE BROKEN CUE NEWS

## Paquette Wins Molson

For the 3rd year in a row, Robert Paquette, Canada's amateur snooker champion from Montreal Quebec, has won the Molson Invitational Classic Championship. The \$2,000 Molson is Canada's largest snooker tournament and is held in the various Broken Cue Snooker Lounges in Ottawa and outside if the Canadian Championship fields the strongest group of snooker players in Canada.

Paquette's victory was no walk-over as he was pushed to the maximum by both runner up Tino Malo of Montreal and 3rd place finisher Julien St. Denis of Hull Quebec. Going into the final day's competition only Tino Malo remained undefeated in this double knockout event. Paquette had been beaten 3-2 by Malo the previous night thereby suffering his first and only loss. Julien St. Denis had also been beaten by a like score by Paquette. Julien is Canada's second ranked amateur player. Thus in the semi-finals Robert had to beat both St. Denis and Malo. He also had to beat Malo twice in the finals.

Julien jumped to a 2-0 lead

before Robert could get started. In a marvellous display of snooker by both players Robert came back and won the next 3 matches leaving Julien to pick up the third place money of \$125. Tino Malo playing brilliantly lost 3-2 in both sets to pick up the second place prize money of \$250.

After the 15 games Paquette sat exhausted and graciously accepted his \$500 first prize money from Molson's area manager Paul Cardinal.

Players reaching the quarter-finals were Tony (Canada Fats) Lemay being eliminated by Paquette and Andre Goyette defeated by Julien St. Denis in a ding-dong battle.

During his match with Brockville's Stan Holden, Andre Goyette claimed the high run prize of \$100 with a run of 105.

Winners in the other classes were Mike Evans of Ottawa in class A; Ron Cannon picked up the high run money in class A. Class B was won

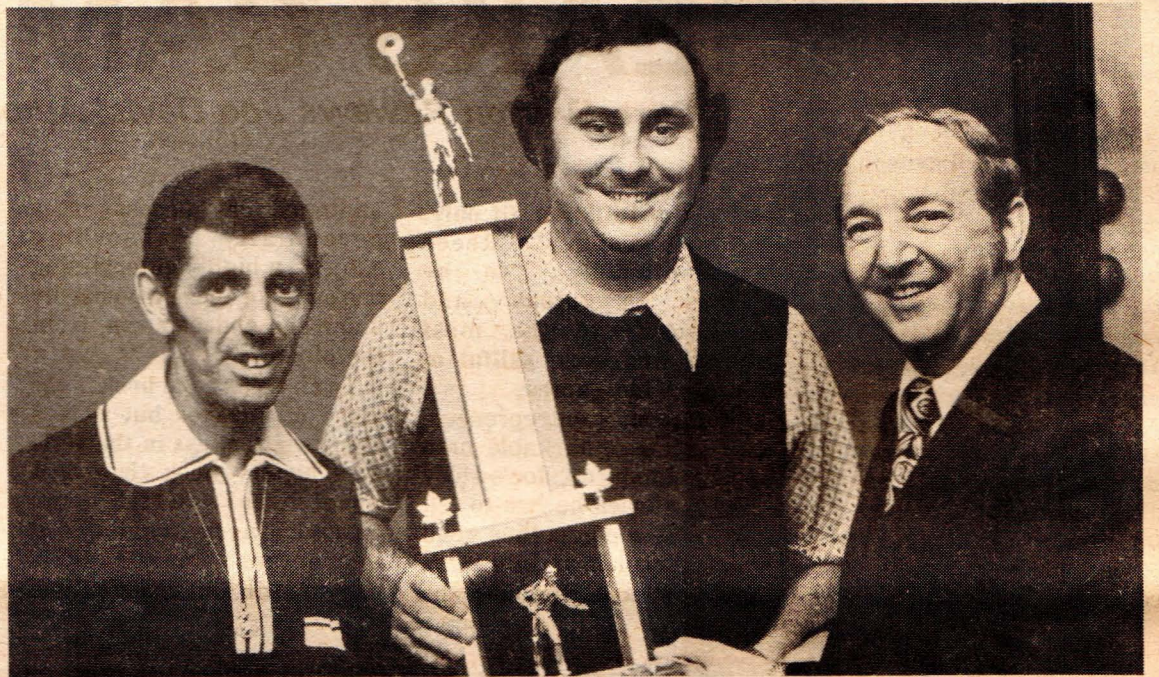
by Ron McKenna; Class C by Grant Meunier, and Class D by Bob Hollik.

The Ottawa Ladies Championship has finally changed hands when Jane Forner defeated Cindy Garland 2 games to 1. Sue Ford, Ottawa's champion for

the past three years, was unable to compete because of an extended vacation. Jane is a CBC musical producer and has only been playing snooker for less than 2 years.

The Ottawa High School Championship was won by Keith Lewis.

Over 200 players participated in the Molson over a 5 week period. All matches excluding the finals were played in the 5 Broken Cues in Ottawa and Hull. The finals were staged at the R. A. Center before a crowd of 250 people.



L to R: Rino Malo, 3rd place; Robert Paquette, winner; Julien St. Denis, 3rd place.

## Off To South Africa

For the first time in Canada's Snooker history Canada will be sending to the World Amateur Snooker Championships Canada's two best players, Robert Paquette of Montreal and Julien St. Denis of Hull. Although Robert is the

Continued on Page 18

## Pepsi-Cola to Sponsor Canadian Championships

For the last 2 years, since we have been hosting the championship, the players all over Canada have greatly appreciated participating and have behaved themselves in a manner that truly brings credit to this fine sport.

This year we are both pleased and saddened as we have lost the World of Billiards as a sponsor but have gained a truly national sponsor in the company of Pepsi Cola.

If Pepsi is happy with the National Champions there is a distinct possibility that in the future they could sponsor

regional tournaments.

We must give them all the support we can and let them know we are supporting them. Ask for a Pepsi rather than a Coke. Change your supplier to Pepsi if you can and advise me accordingly and we can keep Pepsi advised of their direct benefit. Pepsi in all pool rooms in Canada would sure give us all a boost.

This year the Pepsi Cola Canadian Championship will be held from Monday September 27 through to

Continued on Page 18

## How We Rate Them

1. Cliff Thorburn  
Toronto
2. Bill Werbeniuk  
Winnipeg
3. Robert Paquette  
Montreal
4. Julien St. Denis  
Hull
5. Jerry Kapchinsky  
Vancouver

In the past we have attempted to rate the top 10 snooker players in Canada, but due to their inconsistency we find it extremely difficult to establish and grade their competence. Great players such as Montreal's Tino Malo, Calgary's Joe Big Plume, Halifax's Ken Shea, Winnipeg's Wayne Saunderson, Vancouver's Bernie Mikkleson, Ottawa's Greg Kennedy and Andre Goyette and Brockville's Stan Holden have all played extremely well at times but none of them has been able, over a period of time, to perform consistently. Some perform well in tournaments while others perform better in challenge matches.

This inability dampens their chances for national recognition. We would hope

that in the future these players can eliminate this problem. There is no doubt that Canada needs more properly staged tournaments to enable our better players the opportunity to reach their full potential.

### THE BROKEN CUE NEWS

16 Kenora St., Ottawa  
Telephone 613-722-7945

#### EDITOR

Douglas G. MacDonald  
C.A.

THE BROKEN CUE NEWS IS PUBLISHED MONTHLY IN THE NATIONAL BILLIARD NEWS AND ITS SOLE PURPOSE IS TO PROMOTE THE SPORT OF SNOOKER AND BILLIARDS ACROSS CANADA

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# Off to South Africa

Continued from Page 17

champion there is little to chose between him and Julien as he defeated Julien by only one game to gain his title. Each player has superb ability and has proven their capabilities in tournament play. Each player has won the right to represent Canada through competitive play and in a truly national tournament.

This tournament is to be held in Johannesburg, South Africa in the "Gold Room" at



JULIEN ST. DENIS



DOUG MAC DONALD



ROBERT PAQUETTE

the Five Star President Hotel from October 11 to November 2. And as usual the English threesome of the current champion, Ray Edmonds,

Chris Ross and Ray Andrewartha have to be the players to beat.

In connection with this tournament the World

Control Council meets and Canada's representative will be Douglas MacDonald the editor of the Broken Cue News.

**Pepsi-Cola  
Sponsors  
Canadian  
Championships**

Continued from Page 17

Saturday October 2.

There will be a slight change in the format this year in order to accommodate more players. Cliff Thorburn, Bill Werbeniuk, Robert Paquette and Julien St. Denis will be seeded in the eights. Play in eights or quarter finals will commence Thursday. Other action will start Monday and Tuesday.

# THE BREAKS CAME MY WAY

*Clive Everton Reviews Joe Davis' Autobiography*

Reprinted from  
Snooker Scene Magazine  
Birmingham, England

From this autobiography, we learn not only about Joe Davis' career but his life; we come to know a great deal about the player but even more about the man. In understanding the man, we come to understand how it was that he could play the dominant role in transforming Snooker from an unsophisticated, ill-regarded, largely gambling

offshoot of Billiards, fit only, said Tom Reece contemptuously, "to be played in clogs and corduroys" to the most popular and, yes, skilful of billiard table games.

Champion, entrepreneur, publicist, a remarkable man by any standards, Joe's story and the stories he has to tell make this a compelling read for any Snooker and Billiards enthusiast and, because the

anatomy of success is a perennially absorbing subject, a highly entertaining one even for those who hardly know one end of a cue from the other.

To an extent, the book is the story of Snooker but it is a story written less in the style of a history book than of a novel in which an extraordinary variety of characters make their appearance and contribution.

Most extraordinary of all, surely, was Joe's father ("If you could bet on it, he would organise it") who emerges in the early chapters as one of those Victorian larger than life entrepreneurs and sportsmen who hid their warmth under a cloak of eccentricity.

"If my father was pleased, he never let me know about it," says Joe and even after Joe's first press cutting

recorded that he had, at the age of twelve, "made breaks of 70, 79 and 102 by excellent all round play" his father "true to his style was sparing with his praise."

What drove Joe on so obsessively in his search for ever higher standards? Was it, in some perhaps unacknowledged corner of his mind, the so near and yet so far, the dangling but elusive

Continued on Page 20

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Ray Martin	Mike Sica	Mike Marotta	Mamoru Tanaka
Allen Hopkins	Mike Sigel	Pat Fleming	Jerry Macovsky
Jim Rempe	Henry Domzalski	George Plimpton	

### TICKET INFORMATION AND SCHEDULE

August 9, 1976	Monday	Evening Session	7:30 p. m.	—	Price \$5
August 10, 1976	Tuesday	Evening Session	7:30 p. m.	—	Price \$5
August 11, 1976	Wednesday	Evening Session	7:30 p. m.	—	Price \$5
August 12, 1976	Thursday	Evening Session	7:30 p. m.	—	Price \$5
August 13, 1976	Friday	Evening Session	7:30 p. m.	—	Price \$6
August 14, 1976	Saturday	Evening Session	7:30 p. m.	—	Price \$7
August 15, 1976	Sunday	CHAMPIONSHIP GAME	7:30 p. m.	—	Price \$8

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## POINT— COUNTERPOINT

Continued from Page 4

Brunswick from active dues paying membership creating a chasm in the treasury, the lack of cooperation of the big manufacturers, Frederick Willys, Fischer, Armac Enterprises, Sutra, Imperial, Valley Mfg. Co. Ebonite, in either belonging to the BCA or fulfilling their promise of honoring the dues structure. And since this is supposed to be a frank and open editorial comment, the answer to the question of competing directly with the Open.....stupid revenge, ridiculous attitudes and complete lack of planning. In answer to the question....of helping the players and the repayment thereof....I have always been under the impression that this was a mutual assistance program with the BCA and the players helping each other. And about public acceptance and lack of sales.....the players are not responsible for the economic conditions, the fact is that BCA had ignored the lack of TV interest in the Open and its saleability to spectators in the month of August, and it is obvious that to compete for the recreational dollar an acceptable promotional job would require a full time operation..... The question of forcing the players to make a choice, no reason for it. It is my own personal opinion that both sides could have solved the immediate problem by communication and mutually built for the future).

"Finally, there are two economic facts that must be faced by any person desiring to be a professional sportsman. One is: How much will others pay to watch the sport played? The other is: How much will others pay to watch me?"

"We all must face the facts concerning those last two questions. As the game is played today, the answer to the first is, 'Not much.' The answer to the second is strictly individual, and always will be."

(Ed. note: I have consistently suggested over the past five years that BCA look for another format. Straight pool as we know it today is not saleable, the game can become boring to anyone who is not a super fan and up until now there has not even been an explanation of how the game is played prior to the tourney sessions. I have personally been asked by

Continued on Page 25

## The Breaks Came My Way

Continued from Page 18

carrot of his father's praise?

The warmth and affection in their relationship seems obvious on the page but the done thing in the early 1900's was for father and son to keep their emotional distance unless something out of the ordinary happened.

A crucial influence, too, was another father figure, Ernest Rudge, his boyhood coach in Chesterfield, whose house and billiard room Joe reached "by taking a tramcar as far as it went and trudging a further mile and a half to his front door."

Joe absorbed what he was told and practised like mad. A couple of times, he was caught practising with less than complete seriousness and was instantly sent home, "a terrible punishment for me."

The boyhood wishes of earning his father's praise and the threat (long after there was any practical reality) of being cut off from what he loved doing were the two demons which developed the intense concentration and will to succeed which proved his greatest assets.

There were many practical considerations to reinforce his determination. His father, after one of his many lively nights out, inadvertently joined the army and departed for three years. The brewery

who owned the Davis home, the Queen's Hotel, had an inflexible rule that the incumbents had to be man and wife so Joe, his mother, his uncle Maurice and the four younger Davis children, including Fred, had to move to a rented semi.

Cash was hard to come by and continued to be so even after he had got into the professional game, the toughest of tough schools, where daunting contractual phrases like "shall share the profits of the gate receipts, if any" all too often had a prophetic ring.

His accounts of his matches and professional struggles never degenerate into a chronicle of scores and breaks. Such figures as are important find their place but much more interesting is the impression of a player gradually improving and building up experience of the game — and of life.

Billiards, of course, was the game at which he first made his name and at this distance it seems almost incredible to contemplate the standards reached not only by the elite but those who fell below it. Almost equally remarkable were the pitiful financial returns.

Joe's defeat by Tom Newman in his first World Billiards final in 1926 cost him not only his £100 entry fee but

a further £17 because receipts had not covered expenses and a fortnight's board and lodging. At the end of the next week, the first rumblings of the General Strike meant that the railwaymen stopped working and Joe had no means of getting home from Northampton.

A friend, Fred Liquorish, sold him a £100 Morris Cowley, told Joe to pay when he was in funds, gave him a driving lesson — no modern nonsense about driving tests — and thus the world's no. 2 Billiards player arrived home at the end of the season with no engagements in sight for months ahead — skint.

He lost again in the 1927 final but, in the long run more significantly, won the first ever Snooker Championship in May that year, having drafted a letter to the B.A. and C.C. drawing up conditions which they duly approved. Joe netted a less than princely £6.10s.0d for beating Tom Dennis, in the latter's own hall in Nottingham, for the title. In 1928 he added the Billiards title but the next ten years were to see a gradual decline in Billiards and gradual emergence of Snooker.

Walter Lindrum gave Billiards a temporary lift before his own inhumanly

Continued on Page 26

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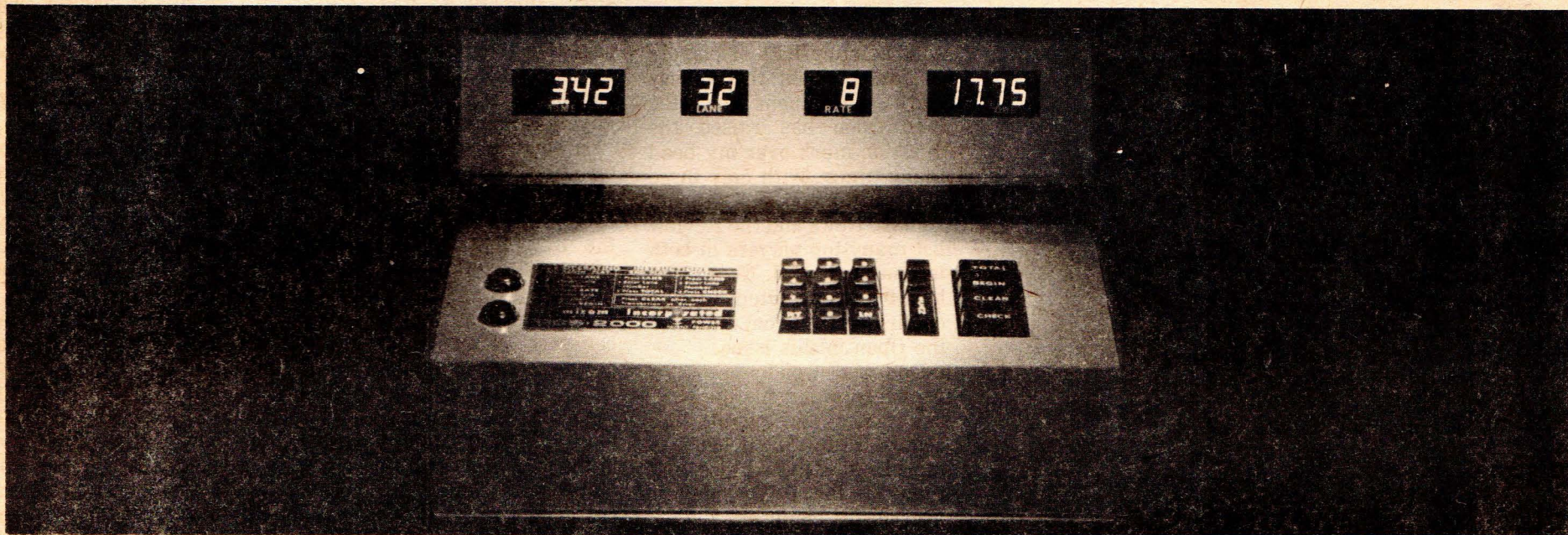
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# Carom Corner

Continued from Page 10

Hoppe and the other giants of another era. — Another Bull Dog.

**ABE ROSEN...** Abe is still a champion but a few years later. Still a factor to be reckoned with.

**CLIFF LEE...** from Florida, young, raw and skillful. — makes a lot of points.

**JERRY PUCHKOFF...** NY player, pupil of Shapiro, beat the teacher in the prelims. Has a ready smile and a strong arm.

**JUAN ROSENFRIED...** from Buenos Aires, good solid player, has to learn a little oil (can't help but state that Juan looks like a handsome edition of Sonny Bono).

**DON PETERSEN...** from Minneapolis. A fundamentally sound player who suffers from a lack of prime competition in his home area. We all learn something from good players.

**VINCE SBARBATI...** New Jersey Champion and plays like it. Another "on a given day" player. Strong game, could be big winner, often.

**DICK REID...** NY State Champ. Very few adjectives left but Reid won the NY State Championship in Catrano's room with Jim and Paul Melnichuck in the field. 'Nuff said. Reid Scores.

**SUMMARY:** I was impressed with the quality of play among the local players at HI-Cue. The style of play is different from the Mid-West with 80 percent attack and 20 percent defense. To quote Allan Gilbert, "It's only common sense that in an all out offensive game the more consistent player will win". The only variation from this theme is the possibility of a lucky roll or kiss affecting the outcome.

I was told that most of the young players in the N.Y. area played the same way. I was also told that this young player was personally mentally destroyed in a game when Catrano ran seven from the break against him and then played a safety. That's the game and with the psychological effect of this move there was no problem in the eventual winning of the game. A player who wants to win must be prepared to duck.

**Milt Goldring** the Open tournament director did a great job. **Mike Asch** treated the players and his staff to a barbecue on Friday night, Goldring hosted a fried chicken snack the following night. All part of a V.I.P. treatment accorded everyone involved. The setting for the matches was ideal with seating on both sides of the room and the only one who had a better viewing point than the players were the fans. The management was extremely considerate of the players and the players responded with a well played tournament. **MIKE ASCH AND COMPANY ARE TO BE CONGRATULATED FOR RESURRECTING THE THREE CUSHION U.S. OPEN AND BRINGING THE FANS OF THE GAME A "CHAMPION".**

**AMONG THE SPECTATORS AT EACH OF THE SESSIONS...** Harvey Martin, well up in age and in from California. A premier cue maker. It was said of his cues that he threw away better quality than most cue makers sell... **Don Willis**, the retired pool great, regaling one and all with

Continued on Page 24

## LETTERS TO THE EDITORS

Continued from Page 2

trade papers and contradicting lists of players in ads for both the Asbury Park tournament and the U.S. Open has raised the question mark over my head many times. With only three weeks away both the National Billiard News and the Review list many top players in both tournaments (Ed. Note: This has been corrected with a confirmed list from BCA for the Open in this issue)

Do you wonder why a person from outside the N.Y. or N.J. area would be confused? In fact it looks to me like the BCA brass and many of the PPPA players are just as confused.

I sincerely like all the players involved and I believe they have a legitimate complaint. On the other hand, I don't know all the facts, only

### Turner Pockets

Continued from Page 10  
familiar stripes, to help the spectators.

#### ANNOUNCED

Earlier Hazel Grove Promotions manager Ralf Butters had worked out that taking an average of one game every 12 minutes and every match went to three games, it would be 11 p.m. that evening when the winner was announced — he was 60 seconds out!

By 8 p.m. the weary quarter finalists went to their tables to do further battle. The arena looked sparse with only 5 tables now on view.

By 10 p.m. the two finalists started their best of five frame match. John Green of Farnworth, a Bolton inter-league player was firm favourite to win.

He had shown in the earlier rounds that his cue ball

what I have read and I am sure the BCA has had financial problems. I am also sure that they still do if they say so and they certainly cannot continue in the red. I have been with BCA since 1968 sending 16 men to the open (not bad for a state with so few players and so far away). My relationship with the BCA and all the men affiliated with it has been nothing but the best. Therefore I am really torn between all of these nice people and the players for whom I also have a great regard. I was committed for 2 tournaments in 1976 way back in the fall of '75 and through all this rebellion I have suffered in filling my qualifiers as I am sure other proprietors have. I am sure that the players in their policies, as set down by PPPA, did not think that the

### Championships

control and potting ability was far superior to the rest of the field.

His opponent 42-year-old Bill Turner of Glossop, a product of his local pub, soon found himself 2-0 down.

He fought back to 2-2 and in the deciding frame with Green only needing the black — he missed and Turner confidently buried the remaining 5 balls and then the black — after nearly 13 hours play at exactly 11:01 p.m.

Said Hazel Grove Music Company's Managing Director Barry Denton "Pool will be back at Belle Vue next year. Why? Because in pool there are no experts, no professionals.

Pool is a game for everyone and Bill Turner will tell you that the man in the street can win a fortune by simply enjoying himself."

promoting proprietors throughout the country, who have been of great help to them in the past, would have been adversely affected by their decision to compete directly with BCA.

I am in hopes that by October this thing will be settled in the best interests of the players, proprietors and the fans and that many better things for all of us will result from all this turmoil.

Anyway, we here in Maine wish the very best to all concerned.

**GUY LITTLE**

Scarborough, ME

P.S. Over the years I have talked to many of the top players about our problems and they (most of them) thought I had some excellent ideas for the betterment of the game. However, I doubt that they will ever be heard or put to use. I do offer whatever expertise I have accumulated over the years to whoever wants to use it.

*Editor's note: Mr. Little is one of many people all over this country whose help is offered to.... whoever?*

## Celebrity Days

Continued from Page 3

all was said and done, there remained only the cue balls on the table, to the amazement of the crowd and the shooters!

"Challenge 8-ball" was requested by the fans, so the celebrities drew straws, and teamed up. The team of Hall and Byrd were successful in defeating Sewell-Taylor 2-0, and continued the streak by wiping out Fats-O'Hagan 2-0. All of this took place while the crowds cheered for their favorites in the casual atmosphere. The players answered questions between shots, but usually it was Buddy who was shooting.

And so it continued for two days, a total of 24 hours of celebrity entertainment for the fans. It was a great promotion for Guys and Dolls owner Red Box, and great fun for the players, too. The 7,200 square feet accommodated the crowds nicely, and the coordination of the events went well. Dick and Sue Gann, along with John McCaherty and the staff at Guys and Dolls are to be commended for this innovative idea in billiards, and their organization and management for a production of this size.

As they all left Guys and Dolls, Fats, Eddie, Shanin, Palmer, Buddy and Sherri could not miss the mat near the exit which reads, "Y'all come back now!" The warmth of the hosts and locals are sure to bring back anyone who visits Shreveport.



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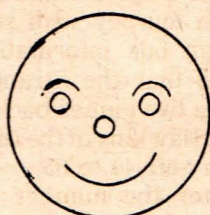
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★Tournament will pay \$500 cash on the spot to any player running 11 racks and out in any tournament match. 9-Ball on the break does not count as a rack, and a billiard on the 9-Ball does not count as a rack. A rack will be considered run out in order only. (After the break.) Must be verified by both players on the score sheet and OK'd by tournament director.

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2nd \$ 500	7th \$ 75
3rd \$ 300	8th \$ 75
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**DICK COURTNEY, TOURNAMENT DIRECTOR**

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Full Payment enclosed

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NOTE: Partial payments for entry fees accepted up to September 1, 1976.  
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## COMMENTARY

Continued from Page 2

the total revenue of the Billiard Congress until this year), withdrew from that organization, is evidence that they, too, were dissatisfied with the current structure.

Since no one has proposed a workable solution to the problems of the organization and of the industry, I would like to do so at this time. We need a **FULL-TIME** organization with **FULL-TIME** directors and a **FULL-TIME** staff, which could doubtlessly be supported by an industry as large as ours; an organization which would channel their energies exclusively to the advancement of our game.

I realize I may not always be right, but, I'm not always wrong either.

Naturally I would be happy to retract anything in my column which can be shown to be erroneous.

I'm sorry if my intentions have been misunderstood. I am a supporter of the sport, and of the industry. I wish only the best possible future for our game, of that you can be certain.

## BULL SHOTS

Continued from Page 6

promoter wants to put on a tournament and there is the slightest chance that the money would not be forthcoming there is more moaning and groaning before the fact. All of this is earned due to the exploitation of the players in the past but why should the players try to fool themselves. More than anything I hope that I am wrong in assuming that the lack of knowledge in running a tourney is going to hurt the players' movement more than any one factor. There are some old pool room proverbs that cover this players liberation.

**"IF YOU DON'T SHOOT TO WIN, DON'T PLAY THE GAME"**

**"SHOOT HARD AND SLEEP IN THE STREET."**

**"WHEN THE DOUGH IS LOW YOU CAN OVERCUT YOUR ROOM RENT."**

Too much depends on the outcome of this movement for them (the players) to operate without thinking. By the time this is read you will know if I am wrong and I HOPE I AM.....

**I NEVER MET A TOM ELLIOT I DIDN'T LIKE.....**

Old friend, Tom Elliot, pool huckster supreme, is in Topeka, Kansas now in his everlasting tour of the billiard rooms of the North American Continent. After shifting his trailer from the shadows of the Vegas strip and getting eliminated in that tournament they had out there (that one was a mystery, they never told us a thing about it other than to try to get us to help them promote it for nothing) (no results), and then went to Topeka to visit relatives. Tom is appearing at the **Windjammer Pocket Billiard Lounge** in a clinic and seminar. He is teaching what he knows to the locals and knowing the gift of gab that this 6 foot plus leprechaun has it must be ball breaking time in old Topeka. Tom leads that enviable existence of the busy individual retired from the rat-race and spreading joy with his cue stick.

## Carom Corner

Continued from Page 22

anecdotes and magic tricks. Saving the best for last, Willis entertained the people after the session with his juggling, wing shots and the one hundred foot draw shot. Strictly class...



**GOLDEN YEARS FOR GOLDEN PEOPLE.....**

Mr. and Mrs. Don Tozer celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary on the 6th of June. Decatur Illinois should be proud. We send our best to two of the best.

**BOB STRANGE...** the Lansing Michigan billiardist finally broke the drought and won another tournament. The Cue Club in South Bend Indiana hosted another ABA sanctioned three cushion tourney with some of the players off the tour and although our information at this time is spotty we have learned that the Strange Bob Strange came in first after winning two games back to back from the Hawk. Strange had to beat Hawkins in the final game to tie and then went on to win the play-off 40 to 35.

After the number two man, Hawkins, Jose Diaz the Chicago charmer won the third position with Mike Donnelly finishing fourth. Two very pleasant surprises in the tournament were the fifth place finish of the billiard lady of ABA, Loni Brandes with 4 out of five wins in the prelims and old favorite Ernie Presto finishing in the money in 6th place.

The tables played a little slow and long but as the old saying goes, everybody played on the same tables so all things being equal, and they never are...

Bob Letherby the three cushion billiard player and specialist in mechanic work on three cushion tables stayed on to put new rubber on the tables. Letherby is the man to fix them.

**GALE JOHNSON, THE SECRETARY OF ABA AND THE MAN BEHIND THE GREAT IMPETUS OF INTEREST IN THE GAME NATIONWIDE, IS RECOVERING NICELY FROM OPEN HEART SURGERY.** Gale is a man who seeks no glory and deserves the tribute from everyone who loves the carom game. We wish him well for when Gale Johnson is right, three cushion billiards is in good shape.

## M.O.M.'s Tourney

Continued from Page 16

King, Petosky. On the way to the tourney, Dale Sweet promised his girl friend if he won a cue she could have it. You can see who is clutching the cue in photo. Larry Hill of Ann Arbor made a try at a cue stick by making an 8-Ball break and scratching. After several attempts at protesting on a technicality, he couldn't swing tournament officials his way. Sorry Larry, better luck next year.

The prize fund was split into 64 places, giving 75 percent of the field a chance at the money. If you won one game, you were in the money. With no entry fee you could hardly go wrong.

**Lenny Hicks, Tigers Den, Pinconning, was crowned champion and received \$1,000.00 for his effort.**

Other winners included second place finisher **Frank King, Leo's Lounge, Petoskey, \$500.00;** third place, **Nick Kowalczyk, Uncle Al's, Hamtramck, \$300.00;** and fourth place, **Mark Plachta, Riverview Inn, Lowell, \$200.00.**

**\$150.00 winners were:** Donald Young, Town Tavern, Bay City; Fred Shattuck, Cooke's Lounge, Mason; Bob Wheeler, Colonial Bar, Lansing; Dan Reynolds, McGonigles, Kalamazoo.

**\$100.00 winners were:** Gary Cousineau, Frontier Inn, Grand Rapids; Lynn Sheller, Cooke's Lounge, Mason; Ronald Boles, Bourbon St. Cocktails, Ypsilanti; Don Lindgren, Leonard Heights Bar, Grand Rapids; Lyle Western, Friendly Tavern, Carson City; Tom Kost, Susy's Bar, Portland; Roy Holcomb, Park Lane Tavern, East Lansing; Chris Strong, Charlies, Adrian.

Forty-eight other winners received cash prizes of from \$50.00 to \$25.00.

A crowd of over 300 attended the event which was the first coin-operated pool tournament ever held on a state wide basis in Michigan.

Association president, Ed Schultz, Lansing, said "By the response of the players here today, we can see this tournament becoming larger year by year." "This of course will mean a larger and larger prize fund," he added.

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## POINT— COUNTERPOINT

Continued from Page 20

spectators why the players shoot both the stripes and solids). "All of which is the one main reason why BCA recently announced its new direction in sponsoring home leagues, billiard room leagues and hopefully bar leagues along with games other than 14.1 billiards. Part of this effort to attract more of the public to the sport includes the offering of professional instruction via the proprietors.

With all of this to do, the directors and the officers of the Billiard Congress of America sincerely appreciate your loyalty at this time. And we look forward to your participation in the 11th BCA Open."

Sincerely yours,  
**Robert E. Goodwin**  
Managing Director

Editor's notes: We hope to see a player on the board with some voting privileges as well as a proprietor and a dealer. These people can and should each represent a huge segment of activity in the game. We hope to see a complete rewrite of the rule book including bar pool rules, specifications for tables that are specific and, if necessary, three sets of specs for commercial regulation tables, home tables and tavern (coin) tables. We hope to see the inclusion of retailers, manufacturers and importers in the dues income of the organization and eventually a budget that will include a full-time management of the game and its promotions. We hope to see BCA fulfill its destiny and become the organization that the public thinks it is. Too long the work and responsibility has been taken by the interested few, Mike Geiger, D & R Industries, Mali, Viking Cues, Macon Billiards (Gandy Industries), Bill Gunklach (National Billiard Co.), Jim Wilhem (Saunier Wilhem), Charles Bailey (Playmaster), Gordon Murrey, Joe Farhat (proprietor).

Now is the time to bring in more interested people who will work at the job because the new program will be twice as difficult to implement. Without the people and the money they might as well forget the whole thing.

I am a firm believer in the fact that there is no problem in billiards that cannot be overcome with the application of common sense and the cooperative effort of interested people.

## Gums

Continued from Page 6

60-10, Andrea Schullgasser 60-16, 4th place finisher Julie Bentz (Madison) 60-32, and again, Schullgasser in the finals.

Schullgasser, who, unlike Gums, is a relative newcomer to the game and tournament competition, finished 4-2 with wins over Vicki Wickard (Chicago) 60-53, 3rd place finisher Sheila Bohm (Rochester, Ind.) 60-49, Shirley Caine (Harwood Heights, Ill.) 60-20, and again Bohm 60-35.

Gums, who will now compete for her fourth time in the Open, received \$100 for finishing first. Schullgasser received \$50 as second place finisher and Sheila Bohm \$35 for finishing third.

Additionally, room owner and tournament director Jerry Breisath awarded trophies to Gums, Schullgasser and Bohm and to fourth place finisher Julie Bentz.

Others who competed in the event were: Ardith Barry (Milwaukee, Wis.), Shirley Caine (Harwood Heights, Ill.), Kathy Collard (Madison, Wis.), Donna Daniels (Tonawanda, N.Y.), Bertha Davis (Aurora, Ill.), Sandy Ledford (Chicago, Ill.), Mary Preston (Aurora, Ill.), and Vicki Wickard (Chicago, Ill.)

## Venzke's View

Continued from Page 12

The BCA has paid out just over a quarter of a million dollars in prize money in all divisions during the first 10 years of the Open. The 3-cushion division in 1968 was worth \$3100, the women's division has taken down \$37,525, and the men have split up \$209,400. Total: \$250,025.00.

The top ten female money winners are all in four figures, with young ol' what's-her-name the only gal to have run up a five-figure total. It's interesting to note that Jean has, in her five money winning appearances, snatched off almost 27 percent of the total prize money paid out in all nine women's Opens! (Her total: \$10,050.)

In the men's division, the top five all-time money winners have chalked up five-figure totals, while the list of players who've reached four figures takes in the top 40. 98 of the 136 male participants have received prize money. Please see the lists of top money winners elsewhere in this issue for details.

Mr. Mizerak, who has pocketed 7222 balls in his 8 Opens, has won \$27,400 in prize money. That comes out to just over \$3.79 per ball... marked down, no doubt, from \$3.99....

Out of the 136 men who've played Opens, only 27 have been able to win more games than they've lost. Only 11 have been able to post a winning percentage above .600, and only 4 have done better than .700....

One of the toughest appearances has to be Jim Relihan's 1969 Las Vegas effort. He averaged 12.31 balls per inning and scored 271 points, but was still 0-2 and finished in 25th place....

That same year of 1969, John Ervolino wasn't much luckier; he averaged 11.88 balls per inning, but got only 18 cracks at the table. So he got 214 balls, an 0-2 record, and ended up 26th, right behind Relihan....

And for tough turn-arounds, put yourself in Bill Amodeo's shoes: in his first Open in 1968, he scored 1011 balls and took 3rd place out of 54 players. The next year, he scored but 77 balls, didn't win a game, and finished last, in 32nd place. What a tough game it is....

Continued on Page 26

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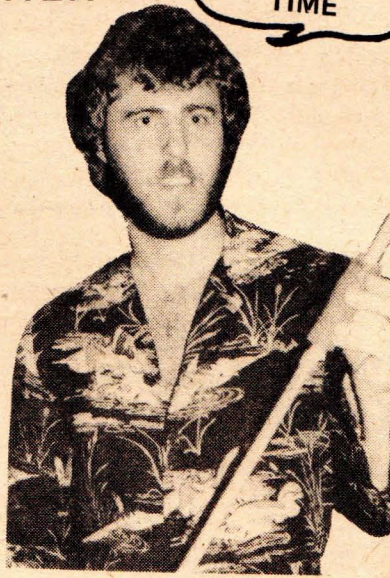
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## Venzke's View from the Bleachers

Continued from Page 25

The U.S. Open will pass several statistical milestones this year, and a couple seem particularly noteworthy, bicentennially speaking. Midway through the '76 Open, the 200,000th ball will be pocketed. Who knows? It may be a combination with the cue ball into the two-and three-balls.

The 1000th Open game will also fall this year, and so will the 50,000th inning played. And finally, the patriotic head ref will doubtless set a new record for consecutive years wearing the country's colors: sport jacket, shoes, and eyes.

So in this bicentennial year, we'll have bilateral 14.1 efforts, according to present plans. If you like the game, you can't like the situation.

There is one good thing about it, though. If this game can survive this year of mis-moves by those in it and around it, we

should worry little for its health. It will have proved merely by its survival that it is indestructible. Then it will only remain to be determined if it has the will and desire to carry on.

Anyway, come mid-August, try to take in an Open near your home. And for those of you on the West coast who currently are feeling left out because you don't have your own mid-August Open (I'm writing this in early June), just hang in there. By the time you actually read this, some group may have decided to make it a three ring circus and you'll have your own after all.

I don't know where I'll be come mid-August yet, but as always: if you're there, please join me... I'll save you a seat.

## The Breaks

Continued from Page 20

high standards helped improve the standard of the other top players so much that their very perfection killed the game as a public spectacle.

Far more so than it does even now, the professional world was rife with wrangling and several of the knots which have puzzled the game's historians are here unravelled. Willie Smith emerges as King of the Wranglers though he and Joe have since become the best of friends and indeed spent a few hours together in Leeds this May.

Lindrum, though, had his moments and, once he had won the Billiards title in 1933, refused to leave Australia to defend it. The Secretary of the Billiards Association threatened "drastic action" if Lindrum would not return the cup though, in one of the many lovely ironic phrases which the book contains, "what this action might have constituted was deeply unclear."

It was not until the late 30's that Joe started to earn real money. He played in tournaments; he went on the road — in one incredible day he played six shows — and he went on the variety stage aided by a 20' x 4' mirror so that the audience could see what was happening.

He married June Malo, one of the leading vocalists of the day, and their very happy marriage is sketched not only firmly but refreshingly without sentimentality and emerges as a positive force in his later life.

He remained at the peak of his profession long after retiring from Championship play and brought the game to its first peak of public interest. Just how much the game depended on him became evident when it went into decline when he stopped playing.

That decline has now been triumphantly reversed and Snooker is now travelling (roughly at times but unmistakably) towards new peaks. Joe watches many of the major events and continues to follow the game with deep interest and in the company of friends either within or outside the Snooker world has amply retained the ability and willingness to enjoy himself.

When he was playing, Joe was a tough player and a tough man. He had to be. Yet no-one with any meanness of spirit could command the deep reservoir of affection and respect that he does. "The Breaks Came My Way," says the title. Maybe they did but not without an immense amount of dedication, setbacks, laughter and tears, all of which this fascinating autobiography vividly conveys.

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