

THE NATIONAL

Billiard News

April, 1979

The world's largest international pool, billiard and snooker publication

\$1



ASHBY'S YEAR
Page 11

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THE NATIONAL Billiard News

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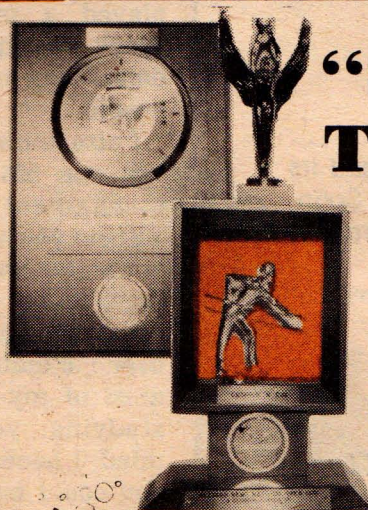
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Inside

April, 1979

Volume 7, Number 2



"Show Me The Way To Go Home..."

Six finalists played until the wee
hours to decide who'd
be 1979 NBN
3-Cushion Champ. **10**



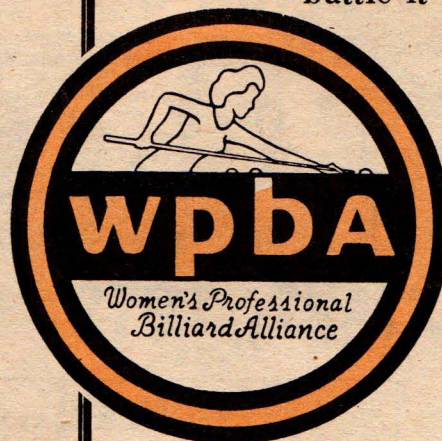
Lags, Breaks & Fouls

Odds and ends from
the world of pool.

6

Pro-Am

Old pros and new faces
battle it out.



15



Sportsman

George Ashby
is honored.

11



20

Profile

The first of
two installments
on the game's
all-time
female great.

Inside Departments

In The Mail **2**

Editor's Inning **3**

Pot Shots **3**

On The Road **4**

Cushions **8**

Pockets **14**

Kollins' Kolumn **16**

On Cue **16**

Pro Tips **16**

Venzke's View **17**

Pool People **19**

Profile Of A Champion **20**

ON THE COVER: NBN Open winner Allen Gilbert and George Ashby, Sportsman of the Year

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for the



3rd NATIONAL 8-BALL CHAMPIONSHIPS

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APRIL 20-21-22, 1979

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2nd—\$500	5th—\$100
3rd—\$300	6th—\$100

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2nd—\$250	5th—\$50
3rd—\$125	6th—\$50

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IN THE MAIL

Dear Mosconi

Willie, you are to pool what Babe Ruth was to baseball, Arnold Palmer to golf.

I first met you in Eugene, Oregon, in 1939. Sylvester Livingston was booking you, Irving Crane, Babe Cranfield, Andrew Ponzi and Clearance Anderson on a cross-country tour.

I was with you, Charles Peterson and Irving Crane at the Savoy Ballroom in Chicago in 1946 when you played a match with the Black Champion. The attendance was in excess of 1,000 people.

I also know that on the day you ran 526 balls a world tournament was started without you being invited and you stated you would go for a record run.

I have watched you play over 100 matches. I attribute most of my knowledge from studying your analytical mind. I honestly believe that you could have made many runs over 1,000 balls if this had been your goal.

I now come to my main reason for this letter.

The game of pool needs you Willie, in any capacity possible. Our game is the best of all but it needs the presence of the all-time best as much as possible. "We don't need the likes of Bruce Christopher representing this game."

Maybe at times the pay won't be as big as should be but the game needs you Willie and I'm sure the entire world of pool would agree.

Sincerely,
CLIFF THAYER
Renton, WA

Whitewash?

Your coverage, or I should say lack of coverage of Mike Carella's death smacked of a bit of a whitewash. We who read the Billiard News (and enjoy it, incidentally) know a little about pool, and anyone who knows even a little about pool knows that most, if not all good players gamble, or have gambled at the game, and that occasionally they will make a sizable score. We also know that there is no shortage of people in this world who will kill for a lot

less than \$40,000.

I think you will agree that Mike Carella was one of the ten best pool players in the world. Why then do you leave your readers to glean what truth they can from rumors about Mike's death? I heard that he won the above amount, or close to it, in Detroit, and was shot three times while in his hotel room in Florida and relieved of the cash.

Are you publishing news, or just favorable pool propaganda? What happened to Mike Carella?

Yours Very Truly,
E. LYNN MITCHELL
Atlanta, GA

Mike Carella, admittedly one of the country's finest pool players, was found shot to death in a motel room in Hialeah, Florida. Two bullets in the back of his head ended his life.

Those are the facts. As for the reason for the killing, The National Billiard News found as many variations as people we have talked to. As of this writing we are still unable to verify any of the accounts regarding the circumstances of Mike's death, and prefer to say nothing rather than speculate. We will say, however, that the \$40,000 score mentioned appears to have no connection with the slaying. That money was won in the Detroit area last September. Carella was killed in January.

—Ed.

Seniors . . .

Could you please let me know if there is a straight pool or 9-ball tournament for senior citizens age 75 and older? We have an old-timer age 76 here in Fremont who shoots the eyes off 'em.

Thank you,
GEORGE LEFAR
Fremont, CA

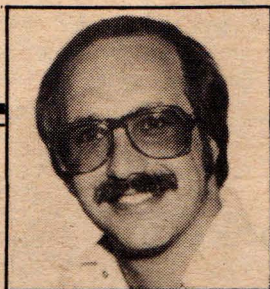
Offhand we don't know of any tournaments strictly for senior citizens. Perhaps some of our readers might be able to help. So if any of you know of any such tournaments please drop us a note and we'll pass it along.

—Ed.

OPENING BREAK

The Editor's Inning

By Larry Miller



For 33 Cents A Month This Is Quite A Deal

Although it's already April (2nd Class postage being what it is it may very well be May by the time you're reading this), I'd like to tell you about a nifty little calendar that arrived a couple of weeks ago. It's a pool calendar, and why somebody didn't come up with this idea years ago (myself included) is beyond me. Nevertheless it took Ernie Costa to conceive it and the Women's Professional Billiard Alliance to produce it and it's a handy, informative calendar to have around.

A note from WPBA president Billie Billing explained the reason for delay — production problems and this was their first undertaking of this sort — but to see the finished product you would never know. Pictures of top women players are featured each month along with a short description of their careers, and the calendar portion has room on each date for notes. The calendar is printed on high quality enamel paper and measures 8½ x 11".

It really is a unique item and something any pool fan could put to use and enjoy. The WPBA is selling them for \$3 apiece and even though we've already used up three months, the cost still figures out to only 33 cents a month. That's little enough to invest in what is sure to become a piece of billiard

memorabilia. And you'll be helping the WPBA to continue to promote women's pool. They're the only organization in the country doing that, and they're doing quite a job.

Since its formation in 1976, the WPBA has steadily grown in size and today they boast a qualifying tour, conduct the annual Ruth McGinnis Challenge Cup competition in cooperation with Charles Ursitti, conduct an annual "World's Largest Women's Pool Tournament Ever Held", produce the WPBA Women's World Open, maintain a Hall of Fame, and, spearheaded by president Billing, delve into promotional ventures such as the WPBA Calendar. As I said, they're doing quite a job.

You can obtain a WPBA calendar by sending \$3 to: WPBA, P.O. Box 644, Brooklyn, New York 11202.

Another neat item, of interest primarily to 3-cushion organizations, an historical review by Clement Trainer, mathematics by Bob Miller, angle charts, table care suggestions, and a directory of public billiard rooms with 3-cushion tables. The directory alone could be considered worth the price of admission, which is membership in the ABA, which is \$12 per year. Write secretary Gale Johnson, ABA, 1660 Lin Lor Court, Elgin, Illinois 60120.

Pot Shots From The Past By Bruce Venzke

5 Years Ago: April, 1974

• *Allen Gilbert* triumphed in the United States Three Cushion Invitational Championship Tournament held at Hi-Cue Billiard Lounge in Elizabeth, NJ. His 10-1 record (losing only to *Bob Ameen*) against a stellar field was worth \$2500. *Paul Melnichuk* took the runner-up check of \$1250 in the rich event.

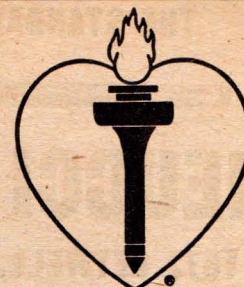
1 Year Ago: April, 1978

• *Irving Crane* bested a star-studded field, including *Pete Margo* in the final match, to win \$2500 and the World Series of Pool at Bill Staton's Jack & Jill Club in Arlington, VA.

• *George Ashby* defeated *Carlos Hallon* in a playoff for the 1978 National Billiard News Open three cushion championships, winning \$1500.

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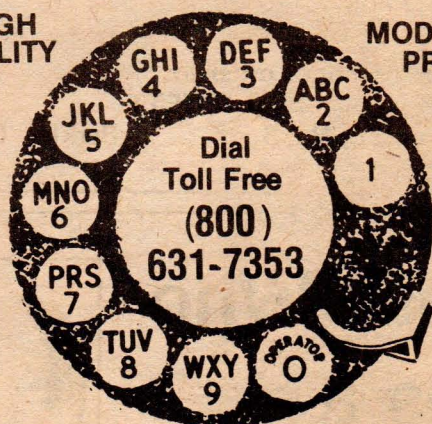
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ON THE ROAD

Tournaments are listed in On The Road at no charge to tournament sponsors. The National Billiard News cannot be responsible for errors or changes in tournament dates. Please contact the tournament site to avoid any inconveniences.

Pockets

**ACUI National
Straight Pool Championships**
Men's and Women's
April 5-7
University of Michigan
Ann Arbor, Michigan

Sacramento 9-Ball Open
April 10-15
Jointed Cue Billiards
Sacramento, California
(916) 456-2284

Rebco 8-Ball Open
April 20-22
The Santa Rita Lodge
Fresno, California

**Memphis Open
Pocket Billiard Classic**
April 30-May 4
Cook Convention Center
Memphis, Tennessee
(901) 346-9288 or 332-5398

Men's and Women's 9-Ball
May 25-26
Velvet Rail Billiards
Lansing, Michigan
(517) 487-3528

All American Team
5 Men-5 Women Teams
June 1-3
Rochester, Minnesota

Snooker

International Snooker League
May 19-26
New York Athletic Club
New York, New York

**Western Ontario
Snooker Championship**
April 21
Brunswick Plaza
Lanes & Billiards
London, Ontario Canada
(519) 433-3488

BCA Qualifiers

Men's Division

April 1, May 6, June 3
Cushion 'N' Cue
Livonia, Michigan
313-422-9510

April 7-8
Palace Billiards
Fayetteville, North Carolina
(919) 864-1250

April 8, May 13, June 10, July 15
8-Ball Lounge
Fort Meyers, Florida
(813) 481-6619

April 12
Mr. and Miss Cue
Indianapolis, Indiana
(317) 266-9658

F.R.A. HANDICAP TOURNAMENT

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* PRIZE FUND BASED ON 1,000 ENTRIES

House of Billiards

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2nd—\$500	15-34—\$75	2nd—\$100	4th—\$25	2nd—\$100	4th—\$25
3rd—\$300	35-74—\$50				
4th—\$200	75-150—\$25	1st—\$100			

SQUAD SPONSOR

2nd—\$50 3rd—\$25

SQUAD DATES & TIMES

May 18, 19, 20, 25, 26 & 27
June 1, 2, 3, 8, 9, 10, 15, 16, 17, 22, 23, 24, 29 & 30
July 1, 13, 14, 15, 20, 21, 22, 27, 28 & 29
August 3, 4, 5, 10, 11 & 12

Friday 7:00 P.M.
Saturday 12 Noon, 3:00 P.M., 7:00 P.M.
Sunday 2:00 P.M., 5:00 P.M., 8:00 P.M.

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Vicksburg, Michigan 49097

ON THE ROAD

April 14, May 26, June 30, July 28
Family Billiards
Anderson, Indiana
317-644-6050

July 15
Cushion 'n' Cue
Allen Park, Michigan
(313) 382-9797

April 22, May 20, June 17
Cushion 'N' Cue
Allen Park, Michigan
313-382-9797

Mixed

June 23-24
Plaza Billiards
Granite City, Illinois
(618) 876-8707

April 24
Side Pocket Cue Club
Glen Burnie, Maryland
301-760-9864

July 21
Corner Pocket Billiard Lounge
Great Falls, Montana
406-452-3531

April 28-29, May 19-20
Plaza Billiards
Granite City, Illinois
(618) 876-8707

April 28-29
Al's Billiard Supply
& Red Dog Saloon
Eugene, Oregon
503-344-2504

May 6, June 17
Gentleman Jims
Minneapolis, Minnesota
(612) 823-8118

May 26-27
Buckeye Billiards
West Jefferson, Ohio
(614) 879-9851

June 3, 10, 17, 24
Rack 'N' Cue
Owensboro, Kentucky
502-926-4248

July 1, 15
Cushion 'N' Cue
Oak Park, Michigan
313-541-1608

Women's Division

April 7-8
Palace Billiards
Fayetteville, North Carolina
(919) 864-1250

April 28
Buckeye Billiards
West Jefferson, Ohio
(614) 879-9851

May 27, July 8
Gentleman Jims
Minneapolis, Minnesota
(612) 823-8118

July 1
Cushion 'n' Cue
Livonia, Michigan
(313) 422-9510

July 1, 15
Cushion 'N' Cue
Oak Park, Michigan
313-541-1608

PPPA Qualifiers

April 4-8
Bay Ridge Billiards
Brooklyn, New York
(212) 748-5440

June 15-17
Hall of Fame Billiards
Lansing, Michigan
(517) 487-4578

April 20-22
Golden Cue Billiards
Lompoc, California
(805) 736-2970

ABA 3-Cushion

April 6-8
Hollywood Billiards
Hollywood, California
(213) 465-0115

April 21-22
Bob's Billiards
(312) 286-4714
Chicago, Illinois

WPBA Qualifiers

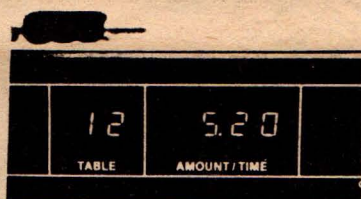
April 28-29
Gold Crown Billiard Lounge
New London, Connecticut
(203) 443-7613

April 14-15
Gentlemen Jim's
Rockford, Illinois
(815) 962-3532

April 28-29
Antler's Billiards
(414) 272-4011
Milwaukee, Wisconsin

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request, just how much time and money
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And up to 6 players per table
The Cue-Nique 48/6 makes it easy to add or
subtract players at any point during a game
and automatically changes the dollar rate
according to the number of players.

Now you can see elapsed time

At any time, our computer can show you
and your customers how long a table has
been in use, number of players and dollar
amount owed.

Impossible to forget to reset

Each time a new table is started, the
computer is automatically reset. . .
cuts out confusing and costly errors.

48/6 CONTROL IS COMPLETE

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tab against computer figures.

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Customers can run a tab for non-game items.

When customers make other purchases, push
tab button. Computer will make note that non-
game items have been purchased. At the end
of game, flashing display will remind you to add
outside purchase. Customer pays only once.

Also a real time clock

When the Cue-Nique 48/6 isn't giving
table or lane information, it works as
a clock . . . giving the correct time of day.

Hourly rates

May be changed by owner at any time.

Perfect for College Unions

Can control entire union; pool and
billiards, table tennis, foos ball,
bowling, etc. . .

ALL with one 48/6

Maximum Income

During peak hours 48/6 can automatically
change over from special rates (such as
single player or practice rates to regular
rates when all tables are in use).

Counts Customers

End of day checkout gives you customer
count, and transaction count.

Inventory Feature

Lets you know at a glance your Cue
inventory.

Tables in use Display

Shows you at glance which tables are
in use. Each table has its own LED display.

Minimum Charge

For 1-6 players, may be programmed
into 48/6.

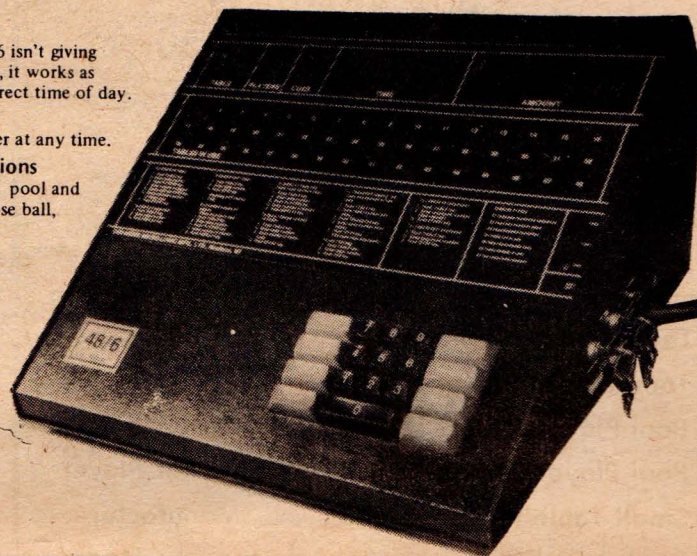
Cue Rental Control

Allows you to rent cues; adds rental
fee to table total; and flashing display
reminds you to request rental cue.

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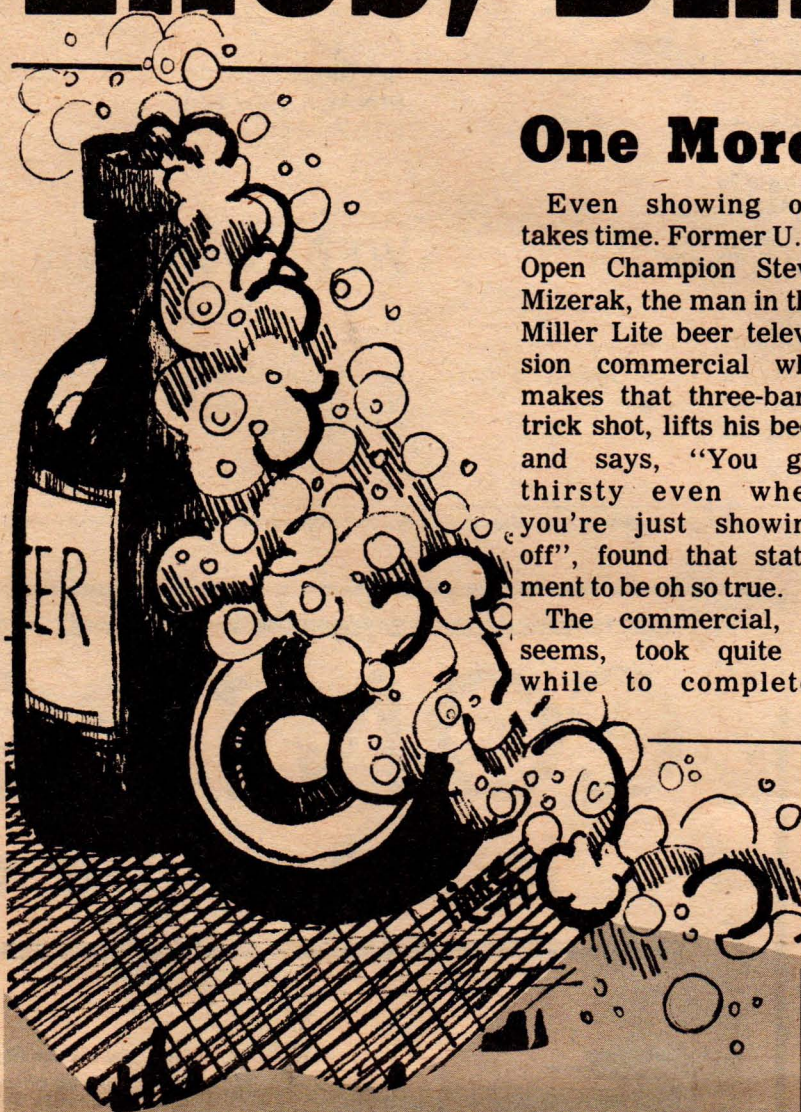
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LAGS, BREAKS



One More Time

Even showing off takes time. Former U.S. Open Champion Steve Mizerak, the man in the Miller Lite beer television commercial who makes that three-bank trick shot, lifts his beer and says, "You get thirsty even when you're just showing off", found that statement to be oh so true.

The commercial, it seems, took quite a while to complete.

"You're not going to believe this," Mizerak told Terry Stonier of Jointed Cue Billiards in Sacramento, California recently. "The commercial required 181 takes in front of the camera before the shot was satisfactory. And that includes the three times I knocked the glass over and spilled beer all over the table."

But he makes it look so easy.

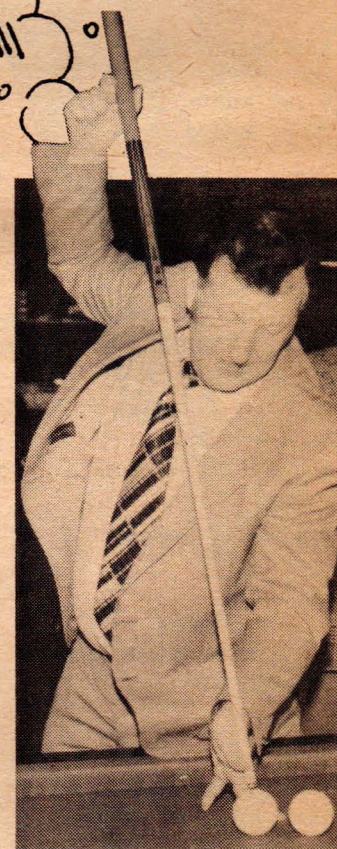
But, Oh, St. Peter. . .



. . .What a Shot!

It was the snooker shot of a lifetime. Raymond Priestley of Melbourne, Australia was hanging upside down from the ceiling over the table when he fell and crashed down on his head. He was playing snooker in his

garage with a friend when he climbed onto a rafter to attempt a trick shot, an inquest was told. He was hanging by his legs from the beam but he slipped, hit the concrete floor and later died from brain damage.



On Record

One of the oldest marks in the three-cushion record books, one that stood for 59 years, was broken by Raymond Ceulemans in 1977. Playing in his own room in Mechelen, Belgium he ran a phenomenal 29 in a row against one of his students, shattering the record of 25 set by Willie Hoppe in an exhibition match in 1918.

& FOULS

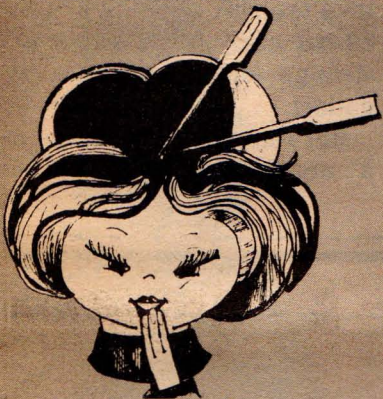
The Trick is. . .

Kenneth Hadley, a blind student at Broward Community College in Pompano Beach, Florida, attempts to pocket six balls in six pockets on one shot with the assistance of Paul Gerni, right. Gerni, who

bills himself as "Four Time World Trick Shot Champion", appeared in exhibition at the community college in January. Hadley was unsuccessful in two tries, but pocketed several balls on both attempts.



Photo by PHIL AQUILINO



Ah, So

On a visit to Japan Bruce Venzke was regaling the natives with a trick shot demonstration and a very lengthy anecdote. At the end of the story the interpreter turned toward the audience and spoke only four words, at which everyone laughed heartily.

"But how could you repeat the story so quickly?" asked Bruce.

"Story too long," replied the interpreter, "so I say, 'He tell joke. Laugh'."



Down Under

Jim Rempe added another foreign champion to his list of victims in February when he defeated Australia's World Match Play Snooker Champion Eddie Charlton in the \$6,000 Dorf International Pool Challenge. The match consisted of three different American pool games per night: best 6 of 11 in 9-ball, best 3 of 5 in rotation (61 points) and 50 points of straight pool. The winner of each match scored 5 points, the loser 3.

The finals were played in the television studios of Channel 9 in Brisbane, Australia. Rempe outpointed Charlton 364-356 to win the \$6,000 (Australian) first prize. Both players received a fee from Dorf Industries for playing the tour.

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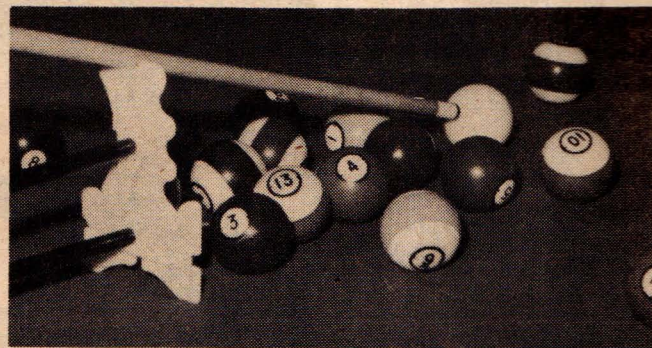
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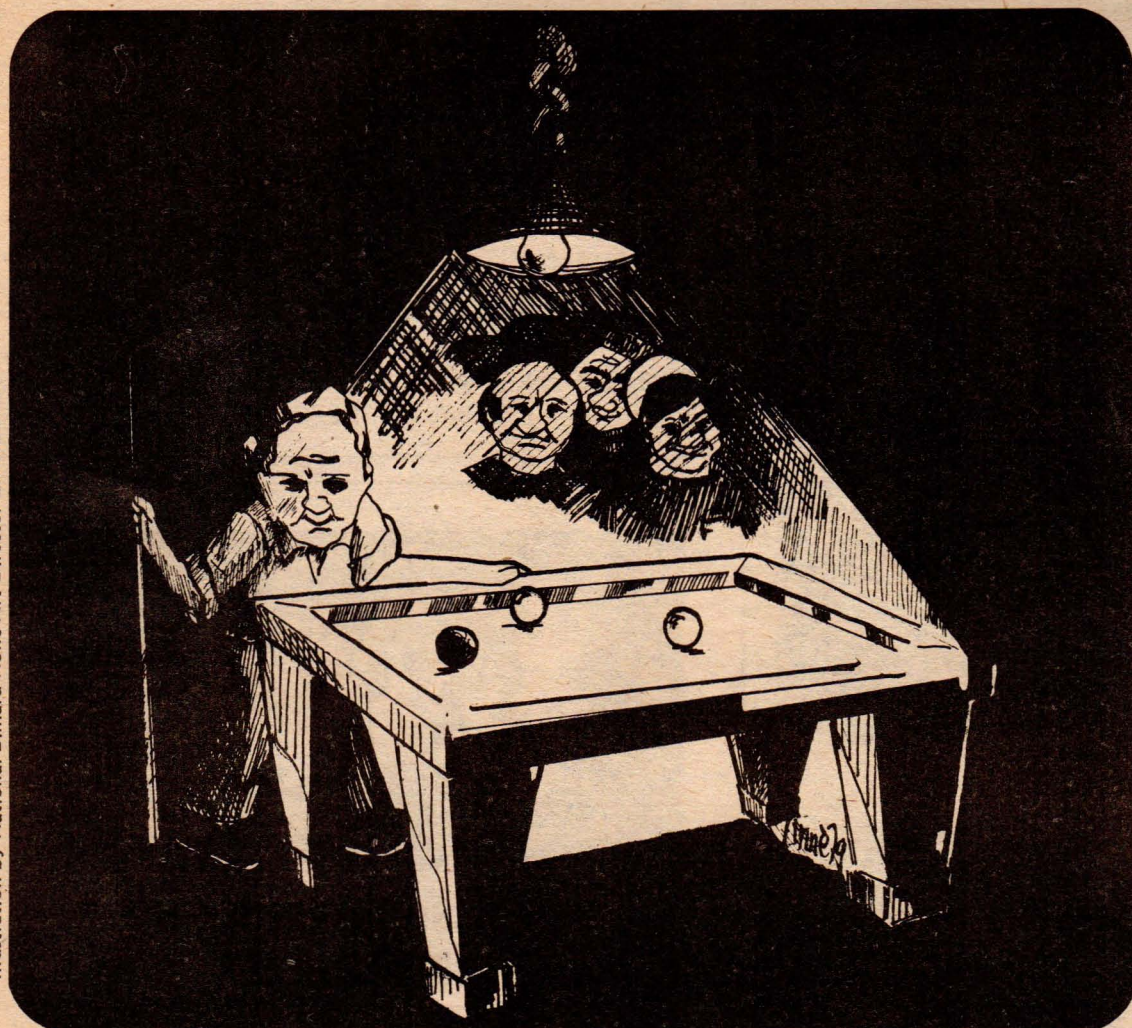


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Illustration by National Billiard News Art Director LINNE SOPP



An Unknown

By ROBERT BYRNE

Yolo Billiards? Broderick, California? Three-cushion billiard players in the San Francisco Bay Area were scratching their heads when posters began appearing in January announcing a tournament in a room and town they had never heard of. The first prize of \$400 was tempting, and so was the entry fee, a modest \$20. But where was the place? Who would be in it?

It takes hard searching on a map to find Broderick, a suburb of Sacramento. Yolo Billiards is at the west end of town, a few blocks from the river. Proprietor Johnny Avalos originally intended to have just a room tournament on his two billiard tables (the room also has seven pool tables and a 6 x 12 snooker),

but the idea began to grow. Finally posters were made up and sent out to every room within a hundred-mile radius.

To accommodate a lot of players over a single weekend on two tables, a double-elimination format was decided on with very short games — fifteen points. That arrangement, plus newish, wide-rail tables and relatively slow domestic cloth, partly served to answer the question about who would be entered — not many veterans of the major tournament circuit would be willing to stray from their Granita and Simonis and take the risk of being knocked out early by nobodies on strange equipment in short games.

But I love risks (and I love a mystery) and so when

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EBONITE

Wins An Obscure Tournament

February 16 arrived I fell into my car for a 75-mile journey into the unknown. Other daredevils from the Bay Area were Colonel E. J. "Stub" Pilote of Novato and Tommy Thomsen of Fremont. We all had a great time even though we failed to take down the money.

Yolo Billiards occupies a one-story building on a quiet side street next to a grocery store. Tall letters on the outside wall spell out "Pool is Cool." Pool may be the only thing that's cool in Sacramento, and Broderick, in the summertime, when 100-degree days are commonplace. Winters, though, are devine.

Every table was busy when I arrived and there were at least two dozen spectators. By the time the first tournament games began the next

day, Saturday, the crowd had doubled and seldom dropped below fifty day or night. I saw players I hadn't seen in years, notably "Navy Paul" Mandall, a regular at the old Palace in San Francisco twenty years ago.

The three best players in Sacramento were lurking ominously about, Jim Stadler, Ray Felipe, and Terry Stonier. Felipe played in the 1952 West Coast Regional with Bozeman and Kilgore; Stonier, the gregarious proprietor of Sacramento's Jointed Cue who has promoted many major pool tournaments, showed in practice sessions that he hadn't forgotten what he had once learned in a series of lessons from the late Danny McGoorty.

It was odd to scan the list of entries — thirty players were

at the starting gate — and find that most of them were unfamiliar to me. Even the towns they came from were unfamiliar — weird places like Chico, Roseville, Fresno, and Stockton. I gulped when I saw the name of Mort Brock from Reno. He has twice won the West Coast Elks singles title and would have to be considered the favorite.

Many of the entrants were Mexican-Americans, and so were many of the spectators. It was a pleasure to see so many new faces and to meet players who had been raised on straight billiards rather than pool, a definite advantage for anyone who aspires to play three-cushion. (It should be remembered that the billiard movement in the United States gained constant strength by immigration from Spanish-speaking

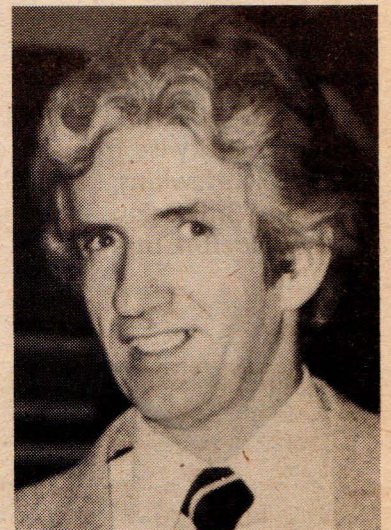
countries, where carom rather than pocket games are played. Among our top players, Hallon, Torres, Campos, and Gomez come to mind.)

Proprietor Avalos managed the tournament with close attention to detail. Pairings were presented on a board measuring 10 x 10 ft. Using 40-minutes as the estimated length of the average game, starting times were posted for the whole tournament. Play began at noon Saturday and finished comfortably by 10:30 Sunday night.

I gulped for the second time when I saw that the blind draw put me in the same bracket with two players I rate highly, Felipe and Brock. I won my first two games, then squeaked past Felipe. Meanwhile, I was happy to see that Brock had

been upset by somebody named Galardo Mascareno, who then had the poor taste to beat me, too. In the loser's bracket I took a 9-0 lead over Brock after two innings, then

Please turn to Page 12



ROBERT BYRNE

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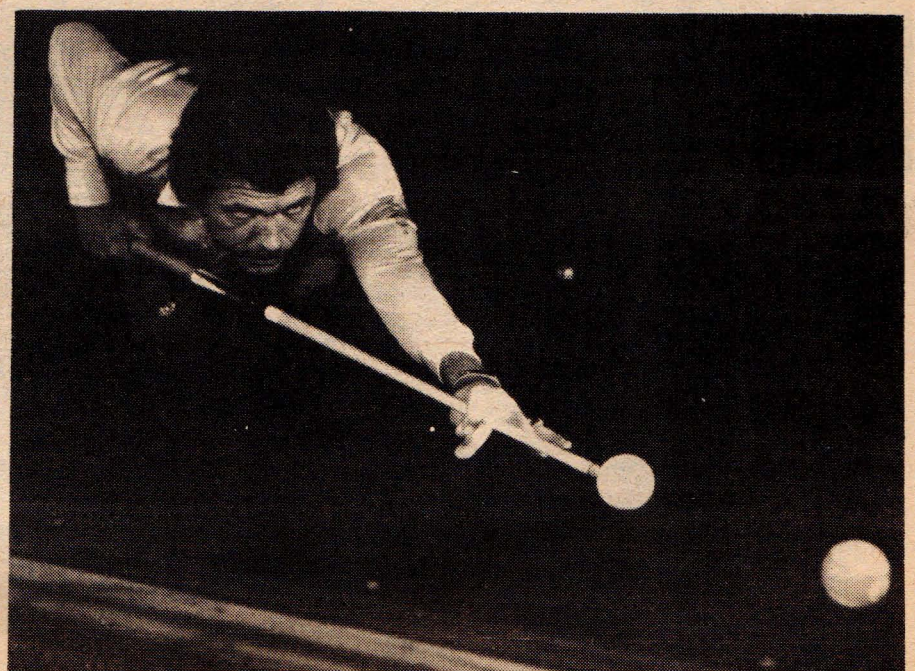
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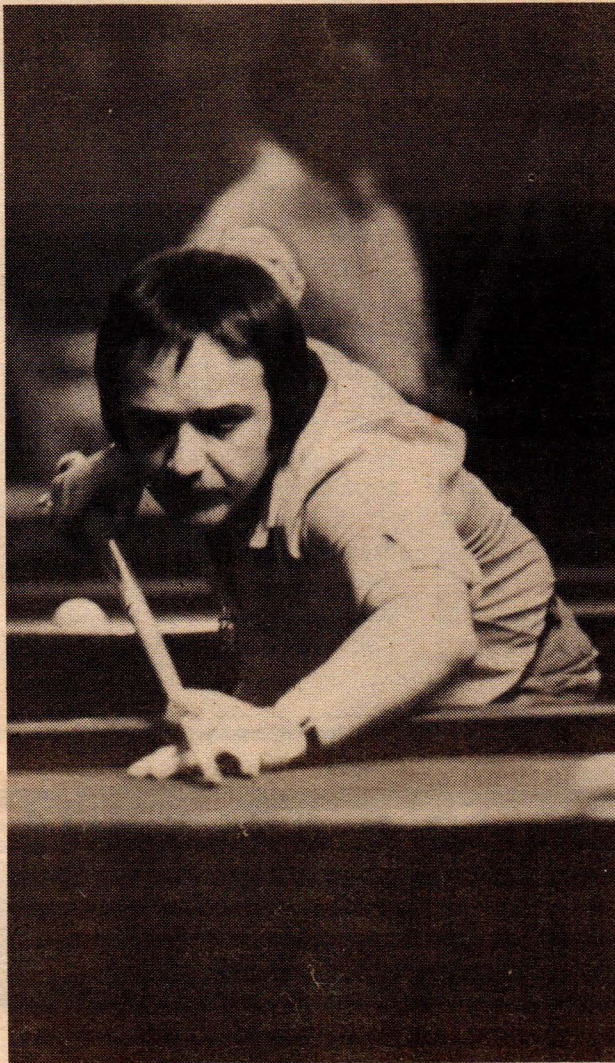
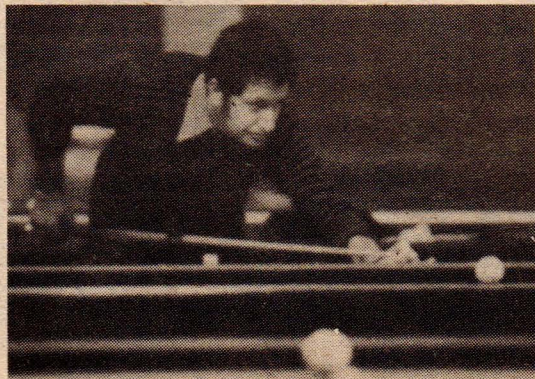
Larry Hubbard



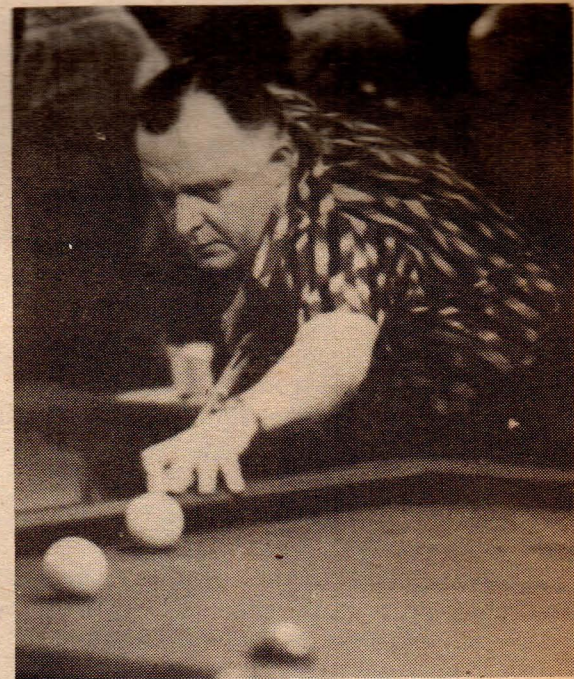
NBN Open

THE TOP SIX PLAYERS SHOW THEIR STYLE

Counterclockwise from far upper right — Allen Gilbert, 1st; Bill Hawkins, 4th; Juan Rosenfried, 6th; Luis Campos, 3rd. Below — Eddie Robin, 2nd. Bottom Left— Abel Calderon, 5th.



National Billiard News Photos



Gilbert Grins

By LARRY MILLER

Allen Gilbert won the 1979 Billiard News National Open, but it was one long haul. Although he lost only two games in the 2½ day 3-cushion tournament, Gilbert didn't seal his 1st place finish until the final match of the final round, sometime around 4 a.m. Monday morning, February 25.

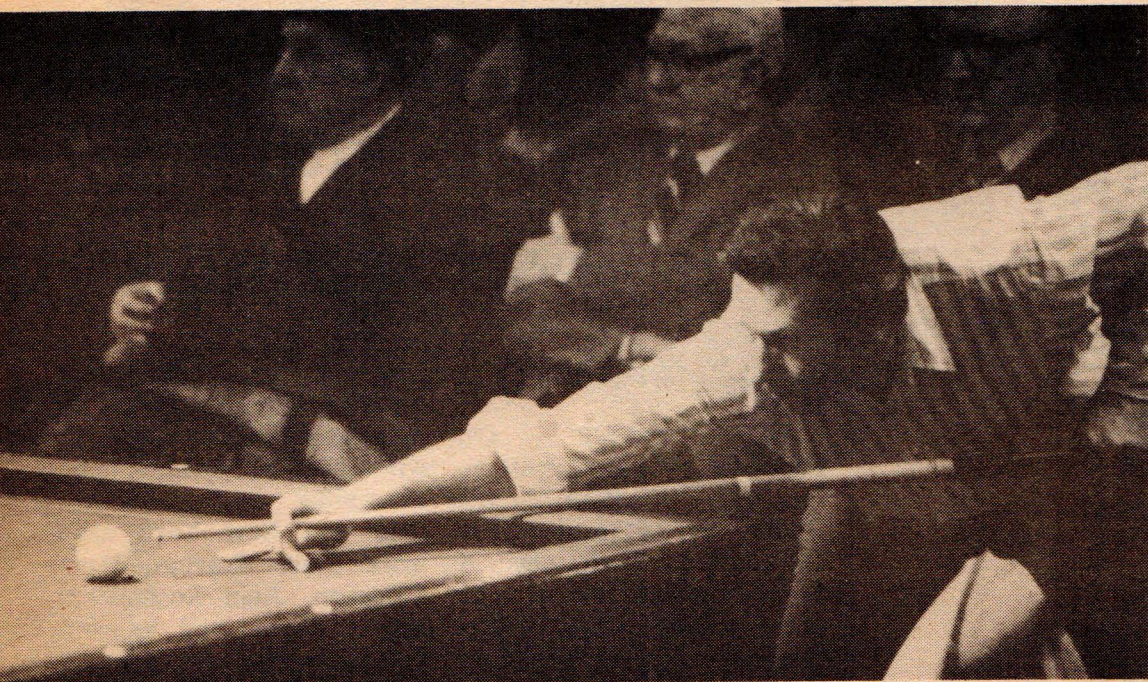
That final match was a must win situation for Gilbert, who was saddled with the additional handicap of having to hold his opponent, Eddie Robin, to less than 44 points.

The situation was this:

Going into the match Gilbert had three wins and 44 points in his loss, Robin had four wins, no losses. There would be no playoff. First place would be decided on wins and losses, points scored in losses in case of a tie, and averages in case of a further tie. At that point Gilbert was averaging .843 while Robin's average was .881. The match was a rout.

Gilbert jumped on Robin from the outset, scoring steadily and building a lead that reached 22 points in the 22nd inning, 30-8. Robin fought back gamely but never came closer than 8 points, 28-36 in the 39th inning. The final score was Gilbert 50, Robin 35 in 57 innings.

Gilbert's reward for winning the 36 player event was a check for \$1,500 from tourna-



s Out 1979 Championship

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half the high run in
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wkins. Gilbert also
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of the trophies ...

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Hawkins, Frank
Carlos Hallon, and
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second place finish.
ampos, with a 3-2
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wkins edged Abel
n on points for fourth

with a total of 111 in his three
losses to Calderon's 89.
Hawkins earned \$400,
Calderon \$200 for fifth. Juan
Rosenfried finished sixth for
\$150.

Six players from the twelve
player semi-finals earned
\$100 each for progressing
that far. They were Loni
Brandes, George Ashby, Don
Brink, Gene Johnson, Frank
Torres and Vince Sbarbati.

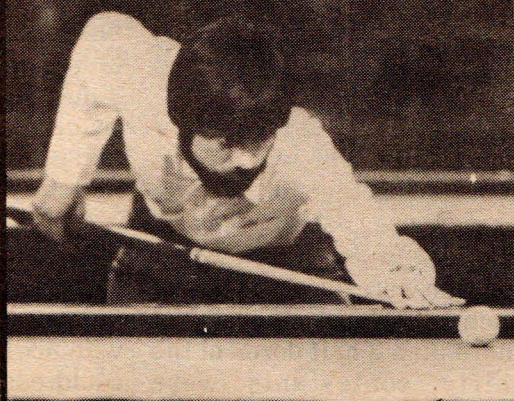
Prior to the tournament six
players put \$500 apiece into
the kitty for a challenge
match, single round robin, 50
points. Held over 3 days, the
match saw George Ashby,
Larry Johnson, Luis Campos,
Carlos Hallon, Frank Torres

and Eddie Robin pitted
against each other.

The final game came down
to Hallon and Robin with
Hallon maintaining a slim
lead throughout and winning
50-48 in 50 innings. Hallon
received the winner's share
of \$2,000 and Robin netted
\$1,000 as runner-up.

The Billiard News National
Open was the culmination of
"Ten Days of Billiards" at
the Cushion 'n' Cue, which
began the week before on
February 16 with the ABA
Classic and included the
challenge match and a week-
ly "rapid fire tournament"
held at the room on Thursday
evenings.

Sportsman



During the Billiard
News National Open,
the annual Norman C.
Ross Memorial Award
is presented to the ABA
player voted Sportsman
of the Year by his fellow
players. This year the
players selected George
Ashby as the person
they felt most ex-
emplifies the positive
image in billiards. We at
The National Billiard
News agree.

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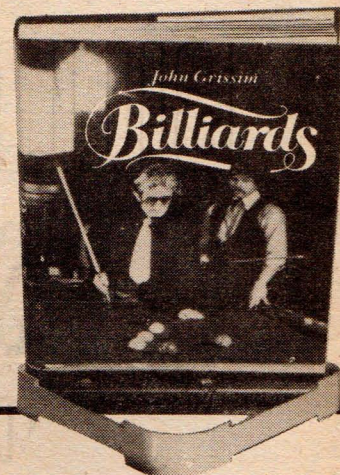
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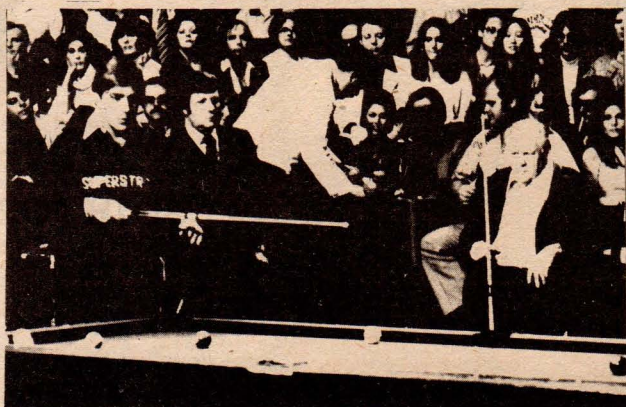


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CUSHIONS

Calderon, Cattrano, Waldman Winners

By MILT GOLDRING

EAST COAST — On February 3 the Hi-Cue Metro was held at Mike Asch's House of Champions in Elizabeth New Jersey. A field of ten competed in a 25 point round robin. Abel Calderon and Joe DiLorenzo clearly dominated the field Calderon eking out a victory over DiLorenzo in a play-off match that saw him overcome a seemingly impossible lead of 10 points. Harry Green finished 3rd, Max Fisher was 4th. The remaining six contestants included Nestor Garcia, Mike Kang, In Lee, Frank Emma, Milt Goldring and Steve Dillon.

The Long Island Metro held at Jacy's in Rego Park, New York followed on February 10 and from a field of six players, playing a round

robin, games to 50 points, Jimmy Cattrano was clearly the best with a record of five wins and no defeats. The remaining contestants all from the New York area were Vince Sbarbati, Abel Calderon, Juan Rosenfried, Barry Shaw and Marvin Waldman. From entry fees of \$75 with an equal amount from management the prize fund was distributed on a 40-25-15-10-5-5 percentage basis

On March 3 another Hi-Cue Metro was held at Asch's room. This was a round robin event, games going to 30 points and from a small field of six contestants Marvin Waldman emerged the winner. Tony Jerome was 2nd.

Murray Shapiro was 3rd, Harry Green was 4th, Nestor Garcia came in 5th and George Wurtzel came in 6th.

Unknown From Page 9

fell to a blazing counter-attack staged by the unflappable Nevadan, who won 15-13 in 14 innings. Brock went on to win the loser's bracket, advancing to a 25-point final game with Mascareno. It was Mascareno in a walk-away, 25-15.

Mascareno was raised in Sonora, Mexico, and now plays out of Larry Ellington's Brunswick Billiards at 401 South Main in Los Angeles. He has a sharp eye, an impressive storke, and a good knowledge of the game.

The results: 1. Galardo Mascareno; 2. Mort Brock; 3. Frank Sandoval, 4. John Avalos; 5-6. Bob Byrne and Tom Thomsen.

One of the nice features of this tournament was that it brought together for the first time three-cushion players and fans in Northern California who were hardly aware of each other's existence. Not more than a half dozen of the thirty contestants were members of the Billiard Federation or the American Billiard Association — I would guess that at least half

of the field had never heard of either organization.

They've heard of them, now, though. An inquiry has already been sent to the ABA to see if it would be permissible to stage a sanctioned weekend tournament in two rooms at once; The two tables at Yolo Billiards and the two at the Jointed Cue would provide the means to stage a major event.

I came away much more favorably disposed toward the double-elimination format than I was going in. With short games it is not designed to favor the best player, but it has other virtues. There aren't as many meaningless games as in the conventional round-robin format — every game is extremely important to both players.

The best feature is that a large number of players can be accommodated on a small number of tables. A room with six tables, for example, could easily stage a 15-point double-elimination event with 32 players in a single day. I'd like to see more of them.

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SILENT CUE

Mike Eufemia

Mike Eufemia, a familiar face in the pool world for over 40 years, died October 8, 1978 in New London Connecticut. He was 60 years old. While giving an exhibition there, he quietly passed away doing what he loved most ... playing pool.

During his tournament years, Mike was often criticized for not going for the "spectacular" shots. But he had his game down to a system, one which netted him the record which now appears in the Guinness Book of World Records. He holds the title for the greatest continuous run: 625. He accomplished this feat on February 2, 1960, before a standing-room-only crowd at the Logan Billiard Academy, Brooklyn, New York. He has also run up impressive runs of 371, 555 and 566, to mention a few.

Northeastern States Champion, World Pocket Billiards Champion, winner of several invitational titles, high run holder, Mike was also a teaching pro. His easy going manner and warmth, coupled with generous amounts of knowledge, made him one of the finest teachers the pool world has ever known. his

friends called him "the professor." Pool was, for him, a game that demanded all of one's mental concentration. "You can't play with anything else on your mind. Pool is a real brain washer."

In the last few years of his life, Mike used these teaching skills to help him write a concise and comprehensive instructional book about the game. Presently, his family and friends are looking for an interested publisher. The book consists of one volume of basics for beginners and at least four (4) volumes of advanced information. Its superiority lies in the fact that it is an encyclopedia of principles, as opposed to "shots". The same principles that he taught his students, some of whom went on to become top pros, and even world champions.

Originally, Mike had gone to college to become a doctor. But within two years decided to pursue a pool career instead. He couldn't get away from the game that had captured his interest since early childhood. Patrick Eufemia, Mike's father, owned a pool room in St. Albans and, although his two older brothers showed no interest,

Mike at age nine could already be seen at the table.

During WW II, Mike volunteered to entertain troops, playing exhibitions through the camps in the U.S. After the war, he returned home to marry the woman he had loved for five years, Nancy. Together they followed his interest in pool.

This was not always easy. The billiard academy he had owned for twelve years burned down. Mike stopped playing for about eight years in order to get his billiard supply business on its feet. Eight years is a long time to stop playing but the spell of the table and the click of the balls called Mike back to the game. And back he came — to win the world championship in 1967.

It is perhaps a compliment of sorts that a man who was so enthralled with and knowledgeable about a sport should spend his last moments in that selfsame arena. He was a man who deserves to be remembered. Hopefully, his friends, fans and pupils will give serious thought to entering Mike Eufemia into the PPPA and BCA Halls of Fame.

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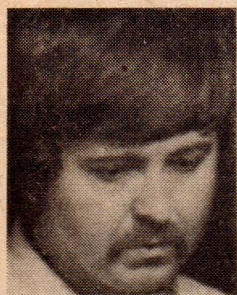
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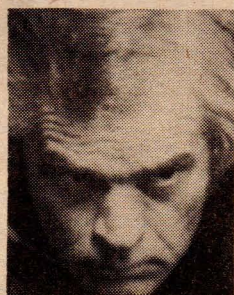
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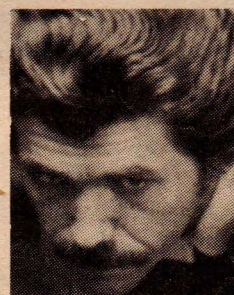
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HOWARD VICKERY

'Quiet Man' Captures Citrus 9-Ball Open

Story and photos
By FLAN PILKINGTON

TAMPA, FL — Steve Cook, the "Quiet Man" of pool, marched through the 32-man field at Baker's Billiards to capture first prize in the third annual Citrus Open. Steve came back after losing the first match in the finals to Larry Hubbard 11 to 5. The combination of Cook's steady play and Hubbard's inability to make a ball on the break in the championship match allowed Steve to get out for the win by a score of 11 to 8.

On the way to the crown, Cook sent Pete Ohman, J. Matz, "Oregon" Don Watson, "St. Louie" Roberts, and Barry Cauzzort to the loser's bracket.

Meanwhile on the loser's

side, Larry Hubbard lost his first match to Bill Stigall and then marched through the loser's side all the way to the finals. On Sunday afternoon with two winners and two losers left, Steve Cook and

local favorite Barry Cauzzort of St. Petersburg, played on the winner's side, while "Ice Man" Larry Hubbard and defending champion Louie Roberts played for the chance to stay alive in the

tournament.

Cook sent Barry to the one-loss column with a strong victory. Meanwhile, Hubbard sent Louie home with fourth place money. Then it was Barry's turn to try and get over one of the most experienced nine-ball players in the country.

Hubbard showed great heart when he came back from a score of 10 to 8 in favor of Barry to win 11 to 10 and have a shot at Cook for the Tampa cash. Barry's third place finish is the best ever for him.

Walter Tops PPPA Qualifier

By MILT GOLDRING

ELIZABETH, NJ — The fourth in a series of PPPA qualifying tournaments was held on February 17 at Mike

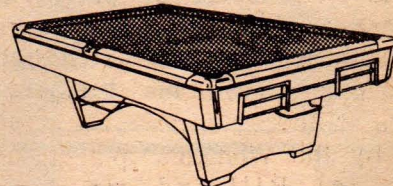
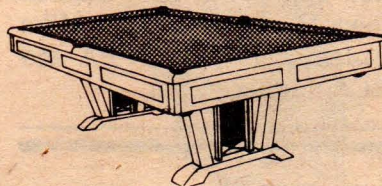
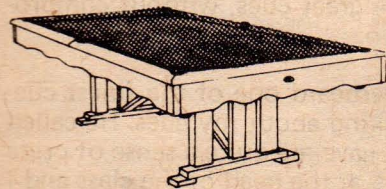
Asch's Hi-Cue Billiard Lounge in Elizabeth.

Finalists were Pat Fleming, Steve Dillon, Todd Fleitman, and Tom Walter.

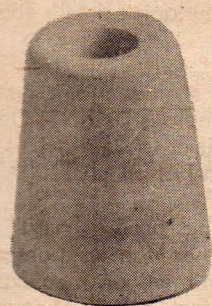
Walter emerged the winner

and he joins Ed Hodan, Max Klindwort and Ed Deska as entrants into the World PPPA Tournament.

All games were straight pool to 100 points.



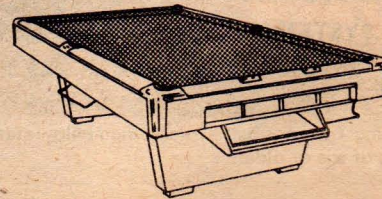
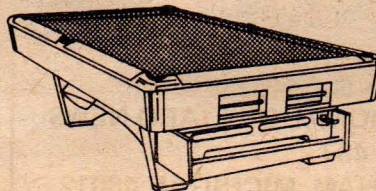
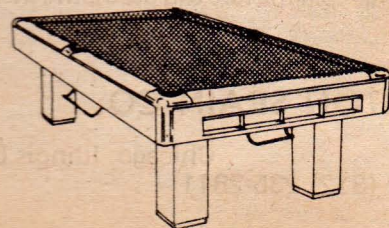
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Photos by BILLIE BILLING

Susan Gerberding, second from right, proudly displays the trophy and cue she won in the WPBA Pro-Am event. Accompanying Susan are Gloria Walker, left, tournament director who later went on to win the Pro division. Next to Gloria is Cynthia Musz, runner-up in the Amateur division. At the far right is Charles Ursitti who sponsored the event.

Walker, Gerberding Best In WPBA Eastern Pro-Am

By JESSIE COIL

GREENBROOK, NY — The 1979 Women's Eastern States Pro-Am Pocket Billiard Championship, hosted February 24 and 25 by Loree-Jon's Billiards and sponsored by the Women's Professional Billiard Alliance, was claimed by Gloria Walker, adding another trophy and title to an illustrious career that includes national champion titles in 9-ball and 6-ball, current New England States Champion (straight pool) and runner-up in both the Women's World Open (1977) and the BCA US Open (1976-77). Winning all six of her games in two flights of round robin straight pool, Gloria met the challenge of two

rapidly rising aspirants. Fourteen-year-old Loree-Jon Ogonowski, an 8th grader, and 16-year-old Astrid Coil, a junior in high school, placed second and third respectively in the finals. Debbie Smith also made it into the finals, placing 4th out of a total field of eight women competitors. Loree-Jon's debut in professional women's pocket billiard competition was made in the 1977 WPBA Women's World Open. Since then she has performed in both the 1978 WPBA Women's World Open and in the women's division of the PPPA World Open. Astrid Coil, who has been playing pocket billiards seriously for less than two years, attributes her competitive strength and rapid development of professional

skills to the intense love she has for the game and to the many mentors of the game who frequent *Four Seasons Billiard Lounge* in Metuchen, New Jersey, which she considers "home turf". Turning in stellar performances in the amateur division were Susan Gerberding, (1st place); Cynthia Musz, (2nd place); Bernadette Gigante and Linda Gardner, (3rd place tie), followed by Sandy Falten and Terry Mistichelli, finishing 5th and 6th. A combined round-robin, double elimination format of eight-ball matches were played to determine standings in the amateur division. Eighteen women participated. First prize went to

Please turn to Page 18



TERRY MISTICHELLI



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FEATURING



Kollins' Kolumn

By Tom Kollins

You Can Practice and Have Fun Too

No one ever became a champion at any sport without practicing. Lots and lots of practicing. It isn't always what you would rather be doing than anything else in the world, but if there are goals to be attained, then regular practice cannot be avoided. It's a little bit like getting to heaven. We all want to get there. The trouble is you have to die first.

In many sports practice ranges anywhere from pure drudgery at its best, to outright torture at its worst. Don't think for one minute that a defensive tackle enjoys pushing the sled around the field and running wind sprints. The golfer too, no doubt, would prefer the company of his admiring — and less aspiring — friends at the nineteenth hole to the loneliness of the practice tee and the tedium of hitting three-irons until the blisters on his hands or the setting sun force him from the rockpile.

But the football player knows he must extend himself if he is to be at his best. And the golfer is aware that he must groove his swing until the green on that one hundred ninety yard par three that's been giving him fits, looks like it's just a little chip shot away.

Fortunately, pool is one of those games that is fun to practice. You don't have an unsympathetic coach

standing over you cracking the whip. You don't even have to walk very far to hit the next shot. But in order to be beneficial, practice must consist of more than just aimlessly knocking the balls about. Oh, that's all right for the rank novice who's trying to get the feel of things. But even the novice should concentrate on the basic fundamentals, i.e., holding the stock properly, getting over the ball, etc. Likewise, the more advanced player, who already feels comfortable making a closed bridge or even using the mechanical bridge, can't spend all his practice time loading up the cue ball with high inside reverse.

Improvement is what we all strive for, and to do so effectively and efficiently (in the shortest time), work should be done on specific aspects of the game.

Many practice exercises have been devised to allow you to improve while at the same time helping to ease the boredom that some people associate with practice. These exercises also afford a yardstick by which improvement — or the lack of it — may be measured.

I'd like to tell you about two of my favorite practice exercises, which I feel are particularly beneficial to the straight pool (14.1) player. We've exhausted our space here, but look for them in next month's column.

On Cue

By Melodie Horn

Learn To Play On The Big Ones

"A 9' table? I can't play on a 9' table. They're so huge!"

How often have you heard this, or maybe even said it? The number of people I have heard could fill a good-sized convention hall.

Women are learning to play pool in increasingly large quantities, usually from husbands or boyfriends, and in local taverns on 3½' x 7' or 4' x 8' coin-operated tables. Because most pool leagues are played on these tables, exposure to the 4½' x 9' table is limited. However, to continue playing on the smaller coin-op tables exclusively is to limit the progression of your game, and if, as in the case of a growing proportion of new players, you are interested in progressing to the highest level of your ability, or maybe even becoming a tournament competitor, it is necessary that you become flexible enough to play on any size table.

There is a difference between playing on a 7' or 8' table and a 9' table, but that difference is not at which point you strike an object ball to pocket it. No matter where a cue ball lies on a table in conjunction with an object ball, there is still only one spot at which you can contact that ball which will cut it into a pocket. The difference the size of the table makes is in the distance and angle at which the ball travels to the pocket. Don't let the size of a table intimidate you into believing that it makes a shot more difficult.

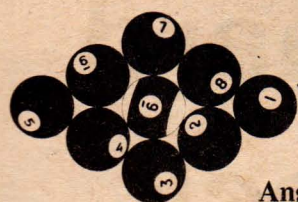
If you have all the basics of the game; correct bridge, stance, and stroke, and keep your own mind from self-limiting suggestions, with a little exposure to a 9' table, they will become less frightening.

Ask someone you trust for advice on a good place to go if you do not know. Most players are more than happy to help someone who is sincerely interested in improving their knowledge. If you feel uncomfortable going alone to practice, go with a friend until you feel at ease. Remember, too, that since the tables are unfamiliar, you may miss shots at first. New situations feel uncomfortable at first, but this will usually subside with familiarity. You may even find the challenge very conducive to better concentration.

This also works in reverse. If you are more familiar with a 9' table, you should be able to adjust down to a 7' or 8' table with a different weight cue ball, without completely undermining your ability as a player.

Keep in mind, you don't necessarily have to like playing on a table either larger or smaller than the ones with which you are most familiar, only flexible enough to be mentally able.

Pro Tips



Nine Ball Break

Angle the cue ball off to the side to send the 1 ball into the side pocket or off the side rail to the center of the table. Hit the cue ball dead center. Hold the cue one hand spread back from the balance point.

—Larry Hubbart

Venzke's View from the bleachers

By Bruce Venzke



Ego Trippers and Bridge Tenders

In just a few months, the premiere 14.1 tournament in the world will take center stage in the pocket billiard world: the PPPA World Open. If you are fortunate enough to be on hand for that gathering of illustrious talent, you will also observe a large group of referees at work. This year, take note of the job they do ... with this discussion of 14.1 refereeing in mind.

There are (at least) five qualities of a general nature that a referee must possess. He must: 1) know the rules (don't laugh!); 2) have excellent vision; 3) be absolutely impartial; 4) have a reasonable knowledge of the finer points (pattern play, logical shot selection, kisses, combos, etc.); and 5) be confident and courageous enough to make the calls he knows are correct.

Do those points seem obvious? I'd agree that they are ... but you'd be amazed at the number of referees working who are painfully deficient in one or more of those areas. (I'm not picking on the PPPA here; this refers to *all* refs.)

Then there are ten specific guidelines for refereeing 14.1 matches that should in my opinion be requisites for any referee's performance. A referee should:

- 1) Be certain that the scorekeeper is prepared properly;
- 2) Be certain that all equipment is in readiness prior to the match (balls clean, decent chalk, triangle and extra lagging cue ball available, bridges available and secure, towels and powder on hand, table pencil-marked properly, spots in place, table clean and brushed, players' chairs in place, adequate playing room around the table.);
- 3) Be sure players know the prevailing rules and length of the game;
- 4) Control the crowd when necessary;
- 5) Call the match in a clear voice, using appropriate volume;
- 6) Position himself for critical calls without disturbing players;
- 7) NEVER let his attention wander from the table and match;
- 8) Call the balls as consistently as is humanly possible;
- 9) NOT be "on stage;" the referee should command about as much attention as the average house cue in a billiard room.

Points 1, 2 and 3 are easy to overlook. But the veteran referee knows that a few minutes of attention to these pre-match tasks can prevent serious problems after the action begins.

Points 4, 5 and 6 are judgment matters. Veteran refs have learned through either observation or experience how to handle themselves and situations that fall within these provinces. It helps greatly if the referee is not easily upset, can think on his feet, and has common sense to combine with ordinary concepts of competitive fair play.

But my emphasis in this column is on points 7, 8, 9 and 10. And I'm lumping them together for a good reason: too many of the game's otherwise fine referees are deficient in those crucial areas.

Why? Many reasons, I suppose. The reason that bugs the devil out of me is the Ego Trip. The Ego Trip Ref is usually not hard to recognize.

He delights in being centerstage; he loves to show the spectating masses how knowledgeable he is, how far ahead of the player's thinking he is, and how "tight" he is with the big-name players. It bugs me because I have this idea that he's out there to referee the players' match ... not put on a show.

I've seen fouls missed because a ref was eyeballing in the crowd; players unduly delayed because a ref had no idea the bridge was about to be needed (and in a few instances, then didn't have one at the table!); and I've witnessed countless players unnerved due to referees' showboating, particularly as to the calling of balls.

The Ego Trip ref really goes wild calling balls. Early calls are the by-word, often before the player has taken even a glance in the direction of the ball in question. How impressive it must be to the fans that the Ego Trip Ref knows so quickly what ball the champion will play next!!!

A sub-species is the Bridge Tender. He carries the bridge about, offering it repeatedly, regardless of whether the player wants it or not. This type of concentration-breaking is probably worse than the ref who has no idea when the bridge is likely to be used!

And of course, there's the Cheerleader. He smiles, nods, or by inflection indicates personal approval of certain shots by certain players.

The fact is that none of it should be a part of a good referee's modus operandi. The truly professional referee calls the ball in the same rhythm on every shot; as soon as the player addresses the cue ball in a shooting posture. Generally this results in a lag of between 1/2 and 1 second (for recognition and verbalization to begin). There should be *no*

deviation from this, unless and *only* if, the player has verbally called his shot to the referee prior to addressing it (in effect indicating that he prefers an early call on that particular shot). I don't care how "obvious" the shot is, or how "sure" the ref is; NO early, off-rhythm calls should be volunteered by a referee.

Some will argue that the referee can speed up a slow match in that manner. Players all have different rhythms, and should *not* be subject to a referee lousing up their pacing and concentration with early calls. Truly too-slow players should be ordered to pick up the pace by direct instruction. The referee's shot-calling rhythm and timing should remain the same; immediately upon the player's addressing the shot in a shooting posture. Not before, not after.

The same guideline applies to the bridge. The referee should have it handy and anticipate providing it promptly when asked for it. But he shouldn't use it as a crutch, waving it around or leaning on it. And he shouldn't offer it — only provide it immediately upon request.

In short, the good referee does not in any way, however subtle, influence what a player does or how a player plays (within the rules). He is not a part of the match; he's a part of the equipment. He should be as impassive and as impartial as the lights, table and chalk.

Obviously, anyone who chooses to referee pocket billiard matches does enjoy the limelight a bit. That's not a disqualifying trait. There are a raft of fine referees who enjoy that limelight without assuming a role that would qualify them for an Actor's Guild membership. They're satisfied to be there doing a good job, with the PLAYERS having top billing. And that's the way it should be.

Refereeing is not real easy, and it's not really all that much fun for most people. But it still has to be right; the world's finest players of the world's finest sport deserve nothing less than consistent, quality officiating. If they wanted hams, they'd get them at the meat market, right?

By the way ... unless you get your NBN through my post office, you probably have this issue in time to send us your ideas for rules and/or rules change suggestions for the next BCA Rulebook. We welcome them. Please mail by April 30 to Bruce Venzke, 17901 W. Rogers Drive, New Berlin, WI 53151.

That's the way it looks this month here in the bleachers. Hope to talk at you again next month ... I'll save you a seat.

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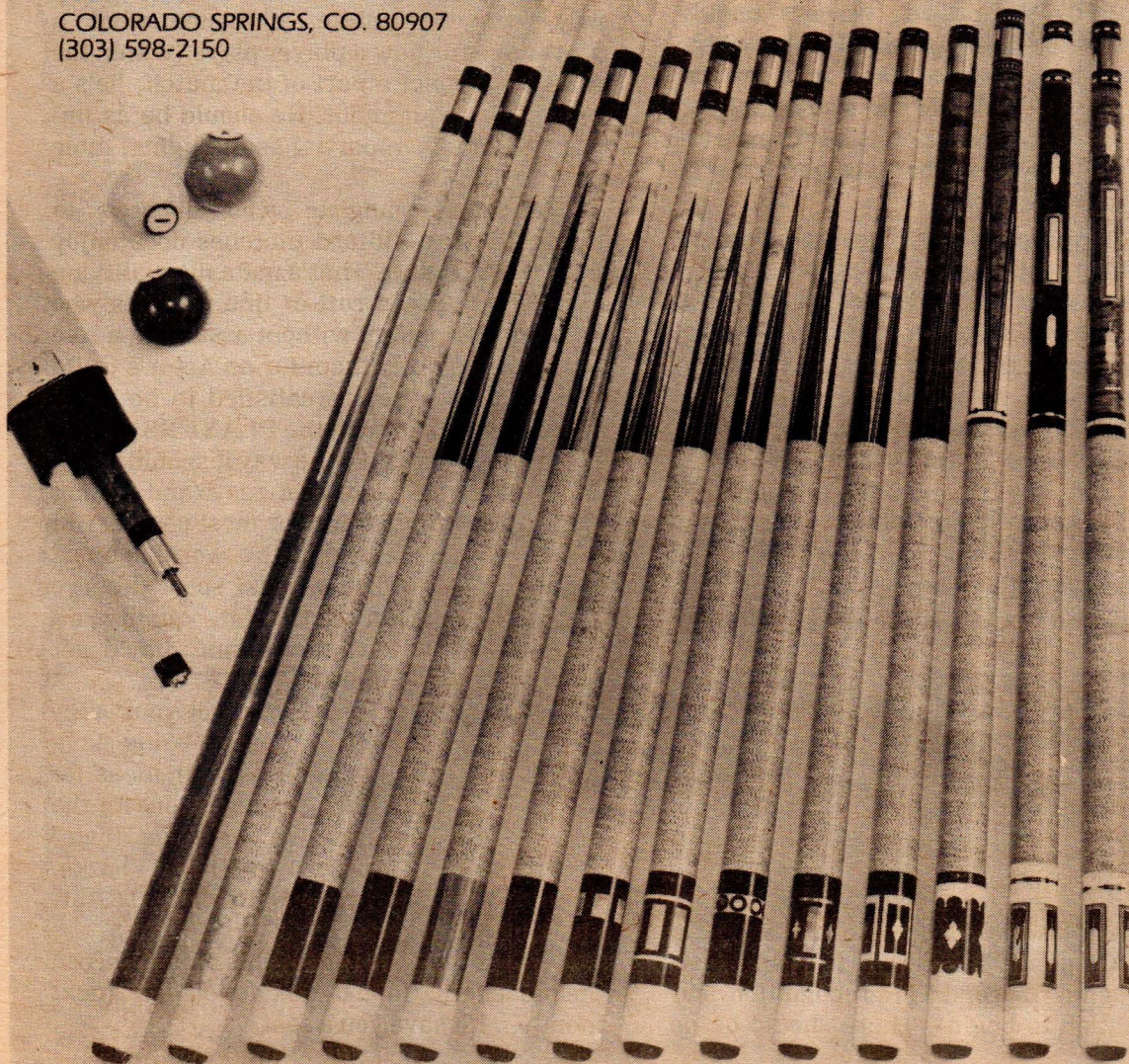
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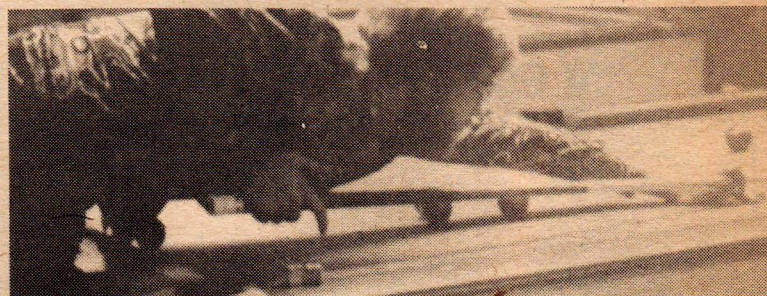
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DONNIE BLEVINS

Blevins Bingos At Moon's

CUYAHOGA FALLS, OH — Sixteen players from Ohio, Pennsylvania and West Virginia kicked off the 2nd Annual Moon Mullins 9-Ball Tournament on Sunday, January 14th. Staged at Moon Mullins Family Pool Hall, the double-elimination race to nine event featured a prize fund of \$1,000 cash plus other prizes.

The tournament was completed in 12½ hours, ending at 1:30 a.m. Monday morning. Winner of the meet was Donnie Blevins of Warren,

Ohio who walked away with the 1st place money of \$300 plus a new Szamboti cue.

Glen Knowles, last year's winner, finished out of the money.

Second to Blevins was Leil Gay Jr. Leil picked up \$200 for his play. 3rd place, worth \$175, went to Frank Zumo, 4th place and \$100 was taken by Mark Mario, 5th place and \$75 went to Emil Glocar and the \$50 6th place prize was won by Paul Ainsley. Ron Howard and Mike Ruffo tied for 7th and 8th, each winning clock radios.

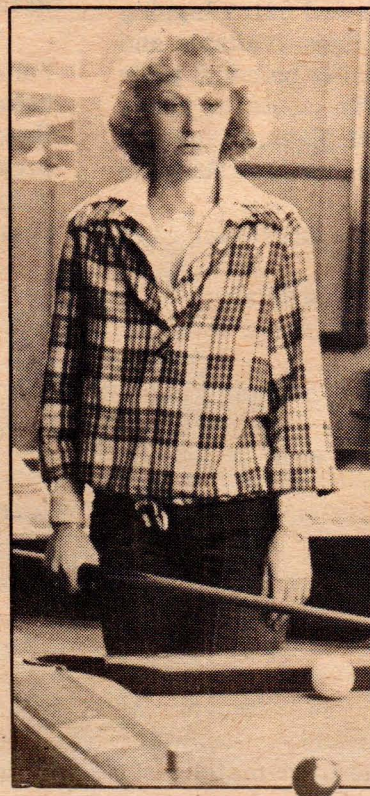
WPBA From Page 15

Susan Gerberding who was awarded a new cue stick by Charlie Ursitti for placing first among the 18 contestants. Instructional books on pocket billiards, donated by the publishers, were won

by the next six amateur finishers and the finalists in the pro division.

The amateur eight-ball matches began the tournament at 10:00 (AM) Saturday morning and concluded at 7:00 (PM), followed by a free trick shot show by Billie Billing, WPBA president, Floria Walker, tournament coordinator, and Loree-Jon Ogonowski, tournament hostess and youthful proprietor of Loree-Jon's Billiards.

The first round in professional straight pool eliminations began Saturday evening following the trick shot show and concluded the following day. Points toward qualifying for the WPBA 1979 Women's World Open were awarded to all pro players according to how well they placed in the tournament. There were eight pro entries. The Eastern States Pro-Am tournament represents only one of several similar WPBA sponsored tournaments in which women can acquire qualifying points for entry into the annual women's world open.



SUSAN GERBERDING
Eyeing the winning shot

POOL PEOPLE

GENTLEMAN JIM'S

By Earl Walker



Crystal Glasses and Peanut Shells

Q. When did Gentleman Jims at State and Madison in Rockford first open?

A. It has a very interesting history. In 1927 it opened as a recreational facility. It's probably interesting to note, at that time 10,000 people walked through here. Bud Lundahl was the original owner, he devoted his life to promoting pool. Later Harlow Ballard took over, I think he did not realize what running an operation this size could be. Then John Farkas took over.

Q. What are Mr. Farkas' plans for State and Madison?

A. John Farkas feels that he knows the ins and outs of pool. He has devised a format for developing a pool room. He preserves the old time atmosphere and creates a fun place for all.

Q. I can see you are in the process of remodeling. What are your plans?

A. The main room has the original equipment, 1927 Brunswick tables, the antique overhead lights, the walls are still covered with framed pictures and news clippings of the great players who have been here. We have added carpeting and hanging plants, but it's still in keeping with a deluxe type late 1920's atmosphere.

Q. What are the plans for the lunch room?

A. The lunch counter is in the original marble and the walls are marble, we are going to leave these and the mirrors, the lead

A. It will be done by July. It will be all antiques, the tables will all be different, even the food will be served on old plates. We've been going to auctions for old signs, harnesses, and

squeeze our oranges and grapefruit and serve our drinks in crystal glasses.

Q. You have a bowling alley upstairs. What is that like?

A. It was remodeled in 1976 and has Dura-plastic lanes. The decor is in keeping with the Gentleman Jim theme.

Q. Is the basement going to be used only for tournaments?

A. No, we are open 24 hours a day for business. A lot of the time you need reservations. The basement is ideal for tournaments, it has 12 tables and seating for forty spectators. It also has a bar and a cafeteria.

Q. Do you always wear tuxedos?

A. All the personnel do. It's in keeping with the Gentleman Jim image.

Q. What are the plans for the future?

A. We are in the process of developing a chain. We have one open in Minneapolis which is possibly the highest volume room in the upper midwest. Three more are planned for the next year. All in all plans are in the works for thirteen more Gentleman Jims.



glass windows and the show cases. The tobacco shop in there has a humidor and we blend our and we blend our

anything in keeping with that era.

Q. What is the bar like?

A. It's a peanut bar, you just throw the shells on the floor and have a good ole time. We even

Q. When will the restaurant be finished?

People Talk About Pool

What do you think about Gentleman Jim's?



BOB RUNDE

"It's a moving place with lots of action."



PAMELA MILLER

"I like playing in the tournaments and the people are nice."



SUE MICHAELSEN

"I like it very much, excellent people, very courteous. They really go out of their way for the girls."



JOHN PARRISH

"I think it's great for younger people. It gives them a chance to observe the atmosphere of the 1930's."

Profile of a Champion

Ruth McGinnis

Calling Her Shots

By ROBERT BOSCO

You may have heard of her. She had a record Billie Jean King would be proud of. Her trouble was that she was forty years ahead of her time, or fifteen years behind. Too late for the suffragettes; too early for the libbers. I'm talking about Ruth McGinnis, billiard player par excellence.

Born in Honesdale, Pennsylvania in 1910, she began playing billiards at her father's combination billiard room-barber shop at the age of seven, when most girls were nursing dolls, not chalking cues. Ralph Greenleaf, probably the greatest player this century, came to watch her perform and quick to recognize a prodigy, asked her to appear with him at an exhibition before a men's club in Scranton the following day. Little did he know then this perky youngster would beat him seventeen years later in a match in New York City.

But who taught Ruth McGinnis the intricacies of pocket pool? Her father, you might assume. "Not so," disagrees sister Grace Van Duesen. "My father never played the game even though he owned a billiards parlor. Ruth just watched men and taught herself."

A skeptic, having toiled fruitlessly at the game for over ten years (and still not playing a lick!), I probed further. One lazy afternoon I picked the memory of Phil Longo, owner of Society Hill Billiards, 435 South Street in South Pennsylvania for the last 49 years, friend of pros, and an accomplish-

ed poolshooter himself. "That's right," he reminisced. "She was a natural with a great southpaw stroke; hardly practiced. She only shot when on tour or competing in tournaments."

Once while playing an exhibition with Phil's wife Mame, a top player herself, Ruth ran the first 36 balls and scratched by pure chance, after breaking open the rack, a promise of 14 more balls. Mame saw her chance and proceeded to run the next 55 balls in a row, a feat only slightly less astonishing than scoring back-to-back holes-in-one. You won that

one, right Mame?

"Oh, I was just a novice," confesses Mame, "She was one of the best. No woman played like her. She ran the next 64 balls after I missed!"

"She could play with any man. In fact she was better than 99% of the men who played pool!" mused Phil while racking up the one millionth rack of his career. Even though she played the women's best, those fifty-five Mame sank stood as the most balls ever pocketed in a row against Ruth by a female.

Men were another story. Ruth

competed with the stalwarts of pocket billiards, crafty pros like Irwin Rudolf, Irv Crane, Frank Taberski, George Kelley, along with Philadelphia's finest: Andy Ponzi, Willie Mosconi, Jimmy Carras, and the fabled Greenleaf.

Though she played from 1917-1954 her achievements were passed over lightly during her lifetime. At seven she could, while standing on a crate, make 25 in a row; by 22 she had become the Women's Professional Pocket Billiard Champion, and claimed that title for the next seven years.

Losing only eight of some 340 games played against both male and female competition, the diminutive lefty could do astonishing things with a cue stick. She ran 85 on an archaic 5' x 10' green tournament table which is only slightly smaller than a football grid-iron. The 4½' x 9' tables found in today's "family" billiard parlors were a breeze for Ruth. During one contest she whipped in 128 consecutively, flitting around the table like a ballet dancer. That tallies more than nine racks of balls in a row!

Anyone who knows the difference between eight ball and rotation will tell you how hard it is to shoot out one rack, much less nine. Ruth probably walked over a mile during that incredible streak. It wasn't a one shot deal either. She ran over a hundred numerous times according to the Longos.

Finally by 1948, and most likely past the apogee of her career, they could not hold Ruth down any longer. She broke the sex barrier in billiards, becoming the first woman to challenge for the National Pocket Billiards Championship Title. Although she failed to finish with the top money winners she was at last acclaimed as one of the games finest performers.

Continued Next Month



Robert Bosco is employed with the Philadelphia Board of Education. This is his first contribution to The National Billiard News.

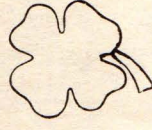
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