Corr Wins Rivers Casino Open

Photos by Tony Fox

Karen Corr defeated Siming Chen in a heart-pounding, sudden death finale, capping off a four-day competition featuring the top 48-ranked pros of the Women's Professional Billiard Association. The event ran April 19th-23rd, bringing back the final four players for Sunday's performance. Brittany Bryant (Canada) and Line Kjorsvik (Norway) also made the cut, tying for third place.

The 2017 Rivers Casino Open, held April 19th-23rd, proved very exciting for the spectators in attendance and those who tuned in via the WPBA live stream. With the click of a mouse, fans could tune in to live matches on any one of six tournament tables, which included live scoring updates.

The Charity Pro-Am kicked off

Wednesday afternoon, with 8 teams, each team paired with a Pro. After three fast and furious rounds of play, it was determined that "Team Brittany Bryant" and "Team Monica Webb" scored the most game wins in each round, and would face each other in a head-to-head final. Team Webb overcame Team Bryant for the win, and a great time was had by all participants! There was also a "Challenge the Pro" session with all proceeds going to charity. Top ranked players took on all comers, offering their fans not only an opportunity to play their favorite pros, but a chance to autograph billiard memorabilia and snap photographs.

Thursday morning began the trek to Sunday's semi-finals. Chen claimed the first semi spot with wins over Kristina Grim, 9-3, Naomi Williams, 9-0, Helena Thornfeldt, 9-3, and Line Kjorsvik, 9-4. The second semi spot was claimed by Karen Corr, 6 PQB June/July



with wins over Julie Kelly, 9-6, Jessica Barnes, 9-6, Janet Atwell, 9-6, Monica Webb, 9-7, and Brittany Bryant, 9-3. Challengers were grinding it out on the west side of the chart, hoping to make Sunday's show. Brittany Bryant bested Kelly Cavanaugh, 9-4, Robin Parker, 9-1, and Jennifer Barretta, 9-7, before losing to Corr. Bryant went on to beat Julie Kelly, 9-6, for an opportunity to face Chen in the first semi-final. The 2017 WPBA Masters Champion and new number one ranked WPBA player, Line Kjorsvik, beat Suzanne Peters, 9-6, Teruko Cucculelli, 9-3, and Sandy Badger, 9-3, but fell to Chen. From the one-loss side, Line went on to eliminate Monica Webb, 9-6, earning herself a shot at Corr in the second semi-final. Chen overcame Bryant both sets, 4-1 and 4-2, to reach the finals. Corr experienced another sudden death match with Line, but this time, she prevailed. Corr won the first set 4-1, and Line

answered back, taking the second set, 4-1. Corr responded, winning the sudden death game to face Chen in the finals.

Siming played lights out all week, with a stable of opponents who could score no more than four games against her. In the first set, she cruised to a 4-0, but Karen fought back and won the second set, 4-3. Even on sets, players lagged for the break in the sudden death decider. Corr won the lag, broke, and made a ball on the break. Siming never made it back to the table. Corr made a nerve-racking out, flirting with the side pocket while playing position from the 6-ball to the 7-ball. The crowd watched and gasped in horror as the cue ball settled on the rail with perfect shape on the 7-ball. In true, champion form, Corr completed the run, earning herself a brand new title, 2017 **Rivers Casino Open Champion!**

The WPBA would like to thank its

sponsors for this event, Rivers Casino and their staff who provided a fabulous venue and outstanding service,

Diamond Pool Tables who provided the playing equipment and set-up for the event, Simonis Cloth who provided the cloth for the playing surface, and Aramith Pool Balls who supplied the brand new balls sets. Thanks go out to Dave Jacoby for building the WPBA 40th Anniversary Custom Cue for which raffles tickets were sold during the week, and given away on Sunday.

For more information about the Women's Professional Billiards Association, please visit WPBA.com.

Final Standings

1st	\$7500	Karen Corr
2nd	\$4500	Siming Chen
3rd-4th	\$2750	Brittany Bryant
		Line Kjorsvik
5th-6th	\$2000	Monica Webb
		Julie Kelly
7th-8th	\$1750	Jennifer Barretta
		Ewa Laurance
9-12	\$1500	Melissa Little
		Laura Smith
		Sandy Badger
		Helena Thornfeldt
13-16	\$1250	Gail Eaton
		Belinda Calhoun

Karen Corr, top Siming Chen, below



\$1000

17-24

June Maiers Kim Newsome Naomi Williams Sara Miller Erin McManus Teruko Cucculelli Janet Atwell Eugenia Gyftopoulos Robin Parker June/July PQB 7

A Slow Pull Back

by Mark Finkelstein

Pro at Slate and Eastside Billiards, New York City; Instructional Columnist



ne of the things I keep telling my students is that pool is a physical game and not a geometric game. They look at me mostly with wide eyes, nodding their heads in agreement, yet, when they go to the table they continue to undercut shots.

Now most people know that a half ball hit and a sowly running cue ball has more throw, but the idea that hitting the cue ball hard, causing it to slide, also increases the throw.



So there are really two keys to making these kind of shots. The first is to make sure that the cue ball is aimed for an over cut on every cut shot. This will cause some cognitive dissonance for a while as the shot just doesn't look right, but....believe me it works.

And the next idea is that we make sure that we have our cue ball with either roll or back spin when it hits the object ball, particularly for longer cut shots. Now a stun shot is the most accurate way to predict where the cue ball is

A lot of players think they can put a little outside spin on the cue ball and all will be well. Here is a shot that we all have missed. Let's see why we miss it and what we can do to be more accurate.

The first thing we need understand is how much throw we get from a cue ball with back spin, slide or roll going on. The least throw comes from draw, with roll second, and the most throw by a lot is with a sliding cue ball.

Now what happens on these shots, particularly when the cue ball is fairly close (one or two diamonds) from the object ball is that the tendency is to hit the cue ball a bit harder. That causes the cue ball to slide more, "grabbing" the object ball and causing a miss.

The important point to remember is that every cut shot has some amount of throw and as John Schmidt says, "we have to take the throw out of every shot!" going on a cut shot, so you will have to practice these shots to understand just how much throw you get.

Also please realize that cue balls aren't always the same size as the object balls! This always comes as a surprise to students when they take out the rack and measure the cue ball between two object balls. In a lot of cases it is slightly smaller.

Yes, you can use spin to compensate for throw, but then you add the problem of squirt into the aiming problem, which unnecessarily complicates things.

So aim these shots with a slight over cut, make sure your cue ball has top or bottom on it in most cases, and stroke smoothly through the cue ball.

Good luck and see you on the road.

Souvanthong Earn's First 2017 Joss Tour Win

Story by AZB Staff Photo by Demian Provost

fter his 9-1 win over Jared Zimmerman, things were looking pretty good for Bucky Souvanthong and his chances to win his first Joss NE 9-Ball Tour win of year at Hippos House of Billiards in Utica, NY on April 8th and 9th. It turned out to not be as easy as he might have thought it would be though.

Zimmerman took the trip to the left side of the board, and found Spencer Auigbelle was on a roll. Auigbelle had lost his third round match to Ron Casanzio on Saturday, but he fought back with six straight wins on the one loss side. After a 9-4 win over Mark Creamer, Auigbelle downed John McConnell, Bruce Nagle, Casanzio and Joe Darigis in identical 9-5 matches. Auigbelle then eliminated Zimmerman 9-6 to

earn his place in the finals against Souvanthong.

Auigbelle took early control of the first match in the double elimination finals, and scored a 9-4 win to push things to a second set. Souvanthong had to be wondering if he was fated to settle for his second straight second place finish, as he lost to Bruce Nagle in the finals of the tour's stop at King Smiley's Billiards back in March. The second set saw a different player in Souvanthong though, as he took control and cruised to a 9-3 win and his first win of the year.

The second chance tournament on Sunday saw Dwight Dixon bounce back from a final four loss to John McConnell to double dip Hendrik Drost in the finals. After defeating Dixon, McConnell lost to Drost for the hot-seat 3-1. Dixon them eliminated McConnell 3-0, followed up by 3-1 and 3-2 wins over Drost in the finals.

The Joss NE 9-Ball Tour will be back in action on April 29th - 30th at Union Station Billiards in Portland, ME for another \$1500/\$500 added event.

Joss Tour director Mike Zuglan is continuing to remind players that entries for Turning Stone XXVIII, scheduled for



Spencer Auigbelle

Aug. 31- Sept 3 are filling up fast, with nearly three-quarters of the field already registered. Contact Zuglan for further information.

Main Event Payouts

1 USA SOUVANTHONG Bucky 1,000 2 CAN AUIGBELLE Spencer 700 3 USA ZIMMERMAN Jarred 550 4 USA DARIGIS Joe 450 5 USA CASANZIO Ron 300 5 USA WECHSLER Lyn 300 7 USA NAGLE Bruce 150 7 USA ONEY Willie 150 Second Chance Payouts 1 USA DIXON Dwight 300 2 USA DROST Hendrik 200 3 USA MCCONNELL Ion 140 4 USA AGGARWAL Rohit 100 5 USA HALL Jason 50 5 USA DREIDEL Dave 50

Klenti Has Plenty To Celebrate

Eighteen year old High School Student Klenti Kaci Shocks The Pool World By Winning The Aramith Masters At The World Pool Series In New York City.

by Ted Lerner WPS Media Officer *Photos By JP Parmentier/WPS*

Playing with an almost surreal poise and skill that belies his obvious youth, 18 year old Albanian **Klenti Kaci (right)** captured the Aramith Masters Championship on Saturday in New York City with a two sets to nil win over the Philippines Carlo Biado, and at the same time laid claim to being the most promising rising star in pool's professional ranks.

The tall and good looking Albanian, who this week was on his third pool playing trip to the United States in the last 8 months, and who regularly plays on the Euro Tour, captured the \$12,000 first prize in this the second event of Darren Appleton's new 8-ball tour, the World Pool Series.

But much more than the money and even the title, Kaci showcased the kind of uncanny skill and psychological maturity reserved for players with years more experience. His ability to keep total control of the cue ball, keep the game simple, suck up the intense pressure as if it simply didn't exist, and <image>

hone in on the finish line like a fine tuned laser was simply breathtaking. This young man, who is still in high school back in his native Albania, has the goods and then some.

Those that know Kaci from his recent forays on the Euro Tour and his few stints in the States all knew he was a talented player. But of course nobody figured that the 18 year old was ready to win a tournament that was loaded with some of the world's best pool talent and seen by several million people on Facebook Live through social media giant Unilad. The calm and collected Kaci, though, clearly had other ideas.

The young Albanian started the day a heavy underdog in his semi-final match with the man nearly everyone considers the best player on the planet right now, Jayson Shaw. The Scotsman, however, was the one who played with his back against the wall, while Kaci was in total control throughout and never got rattled. While Shaw struggled to get comfortable, Kaci kept cool and won the first set, 6-4. Shaw was more competitive in the second set and the pair played a one rack decider. But the Albanian showed more bottle and persevered to win the second, 7-6, to advance to a suprise final.

There he met up with the Philippines Carlo Biado, who had played solid in his semi-final match against England's Darren Appleton, the man who founded the World Pool Series. The 35 year old Filipino was the steadier of the two, winning the first set 6-3, then the second set 7-5 to advance to the final with a 2 sets to nil victory. Biado has been one of the world's top players for the last four years and has come tantalizingly close to big victories including several world titles but never cashed in. During the interview prior to the start of the match Biado seemed intent

on righting that wrong in his resume. In the first set, however, Kaci proved to be the more resilient as he raced out to a 4-1 lead in the first set and held off the Filipino at every turn. The Albanian stayed steady and focused, and never trailed capturing set one, 6-4.

Kaci kept up his solid and focused play in the second set. He hardly made mistakes, and kept amazing control of the cue ball in taking a 3-2 lead. Biado caught him and took his first lead of the match at 4-3, but Kaci never waivered and soon was back up at 5-4. Biado had more fire in this set and tied it again

fire in this set and tied it again. But the Albanian pounced on several errors by the Filipino, kept his game simple and precise, shrugged off any pressure as if it was a mere nuisance, and took the last three racks for an emphatic 7-5 set win, and an unlikely title.

Cheered heartily by the packed crowd at Steinway Billiards in Queens, Kaci, who has been playing pool since he was 8 years old, clearly reveled in his amazing feat. But in similar fashion to the way he played throughout the week, he had a calmness and surety that seemed to say that he knew he was destined for this very success for many years.

"The first set I played really good, I didn't make any mistake," Kaci said. "The second set I made a couple of mistakes but in the end I won, so that's OK. I feel really good about myself. I just won the biggest tournament of my life and I beat the top players in the world and I'm very happy about that.

"Everybody feels the pressure, but the good thing about me is that I know how to control the pressure. When I was in the final, I already felt that I had done well, so no matter what happened in the final, I would be happy. Of course, in the final I really wanted to win.

"You know I started playing pool when I was 8 years old. When I'm 10 and 11 years old I started playing pool 8 to 10 hours a day, spending my whole day in the pool hall. I wasn't like other kids who are just drinking coffee and smoking cigarettes. When you work hard, you can get what you want and can win what you want.

> "When I was young, 11 and 12 years old, I watched all the great players on Youtube and wanted to be like them. I really admired Wu Chia Ching when he won the world championship when he was just 16 years old. He's a legend. I always wanted to be like him. I know this isn't a world championship, but it feels like it right now. All the toughest players were here. So I'm very happy about that. I always dreamed about winning something big, but so soon like this? I'm very surprised myself.

For winning the Aramith Masters Kaci received \$12,000.

*In the second chance Kamui

Challenge tournament, the Philippines Lee Vann Corteza defeated Mika Immonen by shootout to take the \$3000 first prize.

*The second event of the World Pool Series, The Aramith Masters, was held at Steinway Billiards in Astoria, Queens, New York City from April 5-8, 2017. The World Pool Series is sponsored by Aramith, Molinari, Predator, Cheqio, RYO Rack, Iwan Simonis, Kamui, Billiards Digest, Cuescore, Ultimate Team Gear, and High Rock Productions.

For more information please visit the official website of the World Pool Series at worldpoolseries.com/

The World Pool Series is on Facebook at worldpoolseries

Final

Klenti Kaci(ALB) 2 – 0 Carlo Biado(PHL)

Semifinal

Carlo Biado(PHL) 2- 0 Darren Appleton(GBR) Klenti Kaci(ALB) 2 – 0 Jayson Shaw(GBR)







Chico Billiards Academy

by Jacqueline Karol • House Pro at Oais Bar & Grill Chico Ca., League Operator & Tournament Director.

Zero Regrets

Sports psychologist, Dr. Jerry Lynch, has created an exercise called, "Zero Regrets". It can be used for any path, including athletic, professional, or personal.

Imagine it is 6 months from now, for example, and you are looking back on the area life that you are committed to (ie. your tournament / personal relationship / work / fitness program, etc.). Using your past experience as a guide, what 5 regrets could you have at that time? For example, it could be not giving it my all, not consistently practicing, not doing nice things for your significant other, not eating healthy and working out, etc.

After you have listed these things, ask yourself, "What 5 or more behaviors could I perform that, if successful, would eliminate the chances of having those regrets?" Your answers to this are specific tangible tasks to be performed such as:

Practice 3 times a week for 2 hour sessions each to prevent the regret of not giving it your all.

Take pool lessons at least twice a month for an hour each to prevent the regret of not not learning more.

Clean up around the house once a week to prevent the regret of not making your significant other smile.

You can use this exercise for almost anything whether it's because you want to win more games or make something that is already good even better and even more fulfilling. Having purpose and vision significantly impacts your experience and enjoyment of your journey.

I strongly recommend reading Jerry Lynch's books. This exercise is from, "The Way of the Champion".

Jump Shots- Easy and Hard

by Robert Byrne From "Byrne's Complete Book of Pool Shots" with permission

jump cue in the right hands renders many safeties harmless, which greatly affects the character of the

game. For that reasons, jump cues are barred in some leagues and tournaments. The shots in this section are possible

with a normal cue. At the left, the challenge is to shoot through a gap that is precisely the width of the cueball. Use the cueball to position the 2-ball and the 5-ball, then place the cueball as shown in the diagram. The shot is impossible with a level cue, and child's play with the cue elevated 10 degree or so.

At the top right, the 4-ball is straight in, but the 6-ball is in the way. It is possible to jump the cueball all the way over the 6-ball to make the 4-ball, but only very good players can do it consistently with a normal cue.





Bergman Takes Two out of Three over Van Boening to Win Upper Midwest Pro Am 8-Ball



Styer comes from the loss side to capture 10-Ball title

Three competitors split \$14,000 in prize money in the Upper Midwest Pro Am 8-Ball Tournament; a \$6,000-added Pro event, restricted to eight players, each of whom paid a \$1,000-entry fee. Played out on 7-ft. Diamond tables, the event, held under the auspices of the Midwest Poolplayers Association, and hosted by CR's Sports Bar in Coon Rapids, MN, ended up in a three-match contest between **Justin Bergman** (above) and Shane Van Boening. Bergman took two out of the three to claim the event title, and first-place prize of \$9,000.

In a concurrently-run, \$2,000-added 10-ball event that drew 47 entrants to the same location, Tyler Styer took two out of three against Michael Perron, Jr. Styer came back from a shutout in the hot seat match to double dip Perron, Jr. in the finals.

The Pro event, in races to 15, saw Bergman and Van Boening advance through a single match to face opponents in a winners' side semifinal; Bergman versus Lee Heuwagen and Van Boening squaring off against Corey Deuel. Bergman got into the hot seat match 15-11 over Heuwagen, as Van Boening downed Deuel 15-13. Bergman took the first of three over Van Boening 15-12 and sat in the hot seat, awaiting his return.

On the short-list loss side, Heuwagen picked up Jesse Engel, who'd eliminated Brandon Shuff 15-7 to reach him. Deuel drew Larry Nevel, who'd defeated Ryan Solleveld 15-7. Engel ended Heuwagen's bid for a share of the event's \$14,000 with a 15-9 win, as Deuel was busy eliminating Nevel 15-3.

Deuel then dropped Engel in the quarterfinals 15-11 and squared off against his former Mosconi Cup teammate, Van Boening, in the first money round (\$1,000), the semifinals. Van Boening took the match against Deuel 15-12 to earn a second, and as it turned out, third shot against Bergman.

Down 7-1, and later, 11-3, Van Boening fought back in the opening set to tie and eventually pull off a double hill win that forced a second set. Bergman won the second set 15-10 to claim the event title.

Styer double dips Perron, Jr.

Tyler Styer returned from a loss in the hot seat match to Michael Perron, Jr. to double dip him in the finals and claim the top prize in the weekend's 10-ball event. Styer, after being awarded an opening round bye, advanced through three matches to face Mark Weaver in one of the winners' side semifinals. Perron, in the meantime, advanced through four matches, including an opening round double hill fight, to face T.J. Steinhaus in the other winners' side semifinal.

Styer downed Weaver 9-4, as Perron was sending Steinhaus to the loss side in his second double hill match. Perron claimed the hot seat 9-5 over Styer and waited for what proved to be his fateful return.

On the loss side, Steinhaus picked up Tony Zierman, who'd defeated Dustin Morris 7-5 and Tony Hilla 7-4 to reach him. Weaver drew Tim Tonjum, who'd defeated Dan Voller 7-1 and Rory Hendrickson 7-5. Zierman handed Steinhaus his second straight loss 7-3, and in the quarterfinals, faced Tonjum, who fought to double hill and then handed Weaver his second loss.

It would be hard to know who watched the quarterfinals with more interest; Perron in the hot seat, or Styer, waiting to play the winner in the semifinals. Both watched as Tonjum shut Zierman out. Styer was up first, and eliminated Tonjum 7-4 in those semifinals.

Styer and Perron battled in the opening set, with Styer pulling out in front to win it 9-5. In the second set, Styer took a page out of Tonjum's book, and shut Perron out to claim the event title.



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Yu Claims First Predator Title, Defeating Ramirez Twice at Steinway

n the weekend of April 22-23, Amy Yu chalked up an undefeated victory, her first, on the Predator Tour. What made her victory noteworthy (beyond its firstever significance for her, personally) was that she became the second woman in a week to go undefeated, downing male tour veterans twice (hot seat and finals) to win a stop on the New York Tri-State area's two predominant tours; the Tri-State and Predator Tours. On Saturday, April 15, Kristina "Reaper" Grim defeated Tri-State and Predator Tour veteran Raul Calderon twice to claim a victory. Yu downed Tri-State and Predator Tour veteran Lidio Ramirez on the most recent, \$1,000-added Predator stop, which drew 79 entrants to Steinway Billiards in Astoria (Queens), NY.

Yu got into her first hot seat match, after she'd defeated another male Predator Tour veteran, Shawn Sookhai 8-4. Ramirez, in the meantime, downed Cristobal Tiru 7-4 to face Yu, who subsequently claimed the hot seat 10-5.

On the loss side, Sookhai drew Max Watanabe, who'd eliminated Willy Santiago 8-4, and JPNEWT veteran, Jia Li 7-3. Tiru picked up Abel Rosario, who'd defeated Matthias Gutzmann and Thomas Schreiber, both 7-4. Watanabe and Tiru advanced to the quarterfinals following identical 7-2 victories over Sookhai and Rosario.

Tiru eliminated Watanabe 7-5 in those quarterfinals, before being eliminated by Ramirez in the semifinals 8-5. Yu completed her undefeated run through the field of 79 with a second, commanding 10-4 victory over Ramirez in the finals.



2nd Chance: Mike Salerno (1st), Juan Melendez (2nd)-



3rd Chance: Fend Zhao (1st), Duc Lam (2nd)



ABCD: Cristobal Tiru (3rd), Amy Yu (1st), Lidio Ramirez (2nd), Max Watanabe (4th)

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