

Casino Del Sol Resort

Hosts

3rd Amateur B-Classic USBA 3-Cushion Tournament



Casino Del Sol Resort 5655 West Valencia Rd Tucson, AZ 85757

January 7-12th 2019



Professor-Q-Ball

64 Player Field - 8 Groups of 8

.850 below \$300

.700 below \$225

.500 below \$150



65 age or older 10% Off Entry Fee

**Players must be a USBA member or
call Mazin Shooni at (248) 910-4466**

★ **Format Details will be posted at usba.net soon**
Free Buffet for each player that enters the tournament

\$3,000.00 Added Guaranteed



Contact: Mazin (248) 910-4466

mazinshooni@yahoo.com

Make Check Out To

USBA c/o Andy Janquitto

401 Washington Ave Suite 900 Towson, Maryland 21204

(410) 599-8177 AJ@mhblaw.com

**Black Slacks
Vests, Bow Tie
White Shirt**





The USBA Newsletter 3-Cushion Billiard News

www.USBA.net

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Mazin Shooni
Nashua, NH
248-910-4466
mazinshooni@yahoo.com

Secretary

Tom Paley
Fenton, MO
636-861-3437

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13th Annual Mike Kelley Memorial

From all around the Midwest, 16 players came to Marshalltown, Iowa, for a chance to play in one of best tournaments of the year. Top players came from Minnesota, Wisconsin and Kansas, along with some cuemen from around central Iowa. The two flights of 8 games were played to 20 points, with the top three advancing to the final bracket of 6.

Advancing out of the Clubs flight were Craig Powers (7-0), Lupe Cruz (6-1) and Travis Gallup (4-3), leaving behind John Logan, James Richards, Gary Eake, Omar Ramirez and Mickey Campbell.

The Diamonds flight was won by Fred Lamers (7-0), followed by Jose Jimenez (6-1) and Bob Jacobson (5-2). Also in this flight were Matt Lind, Russ Rosenberger, Edgar Perez, Rob Dalton and Alejandro Andreotti.

Lupe Cruz goes undefeated in the finals with a best game of 25 points in 13 innings. 3 people had a 3-2 record with Fred having most points in his losses, then Travis and Craig. Jose gets the 5th prize, edging out Bob in their final game.

Overall high run was an 8 by Lupe and won him \$75. Out of the money high run was 6 from Russ for \$75. This tournament always has random ways to pay more players and this year 8th place prize of \$150 was given to Matt Lind. The person that vacuumed the most tables(most losses) won \$75 and the You Suck Award! Alejandro Andreotti will have his name engraved on the trophy.

Huge Thanks!to all our sponsors, including all the Kelley family, the Hunt family, Kelcey at Ben's Tire, Bob and Ruth at Jake's Game Room, Rod Bailey at The Old Timer Tavern, Mic Jeffries and, of course, the USBA.



l-r, Travis Gallup (3rd), Fred Lamers (2nd), Jose Jimenez (5th), Bob Jacobson (6th & host), Lupe Cruz (1st), Craig Powers (4th)

Mike Kelley Final	Lamers	Powers	Cruz	Jimenez	Jacobson	Gallup	WIN/LOSS	TOTAL POINTS	TOTAL INNINGS	GRAND AVERAGE	HIGH RUN	BEST GAME	FINAL RANKING
Fred Lamers	28 25	5 0.693	25 17	51 0.680	38 25	28 18	3 2	110	170	0.647	5	0.893	2ND
Craig Powers	11 0.393	31 0.419	43 13	51 0.581	30 25	37 25	3 2	99	169	0.586	7	0.833	4TH
Lupe Cruz	26 25	32 0.962	40 25	40 0.625	35 25	13 25	5 0	125	146	0.856	8	1.923	1ST
Jose Jimenez	50 21	42 0.420	39 14	48 0.333	50 25	50 20	1 4	99	229	0.432	6	0.521	5TH
Bob Jacobson	38 10	30 0.263	33 10	48 0.235	42 20	42 21	0 5	69	192	0.359		0.000	6TH
Travis Gallup	28 25	37 0.693	6 13	50 0.432	43 25	43 25	3 2	104	171	0.608	6	0.893	3RD
								TOURNAMENT AVERAGE:			0.563		

Professor-Q-Ball Qualifier at SBE Sends 4 To Nationals

Once again 3-Cushion Billiards was prominently featured at the 2018 Allen Hopkins Super Billiards Expo. Held in Oaks, Pennsylvania from April 11th through April 15th. Professor-Q-ball Promotions (Paul Frankel) presented a series of events all centered around 3-Cushion Billiards, culminating in a USBA National Qualifier tournament.

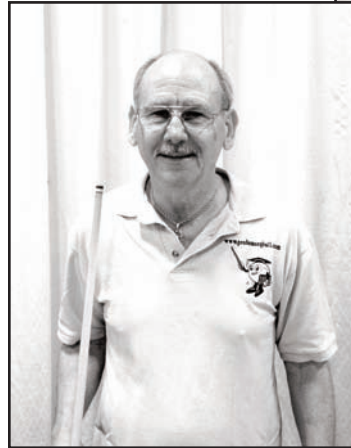
Twelve players entered the event at the SBE with the hope of winning one of four entries to the USBA 3-Cushion National Championship to be held May 28-June 1st at the Casino Del Resort in Tucson, Arizona.

The players were divided into two flights of six to play in round robin format. The top two players from each flight were awarded the free entry into the National Championships. In addition, the third place finishers in each flight received \$100, and each flight awarded the player making the high run, \$50.

Besides the tournament, this year's event once again featured an introduction to the new carom game of 'Five Ball' which attracted many new players to the beautiful Gabriels tables that were brought in for the event.

A Special 3-Cushion Promotion each evening for three nights with National Champion Mazin Shooni. For \$10, play a National Champion in a race to 5 (you break) and if you win, you'll be awarded a new cue and case. If you happen to run 5 points off the beak, you'll get an additional \$50 as well.

Many thanks to Simonis Cloth, Tiger Cues, Gabriel's Table, McDermott Cues, Ultimate Gear, Delta Cue, Bob Jewett, Ivan Lee, George Hart, Jo Jo (Helping Clean Tables and balls), John Stauffer, Al Metzinger, Mazin Shooni, Yura Kyong H. Ra, Charlie Brown, and all the players.



A Group
top, Joe DeAmato and James Richardson won free entry in the USBA Nationals.
3rd place \$100 -Ken Holstrom
B Group
bottom, Paul Frankel (Professor-Q-ball) & Christian Portilla won free entry in the USBA Nationals.
3rd place \$100- Cleiton Rocha

Group A		Keskin	DeAmato	Richards	Campbell	Rocha	Lawrence	HWK LOG	TOTAL POINTS	TOTAL INNINGS	GRAND AVERAGE	HIGH RUN	BEST GAME	FINAL RANKING
Betty		42	3	52	4	42	4	42	126	246	0.512	4	0.714	4
Keskin			21	30	30	28	17	3						
Joe		42	4	44	6	45	4	37	150	235	0.638	6	0.911	1
DeAmato		42		44	6	45	4	37						
James		36	4	42	8	45	4	37	138	274	0.504	6	0.682	2
Richards		25	22		30	30	30	30						
Mickey		42	4	45	4	45	4	37						
Campbell		13	21	21		23	23	23	87	246	0.354	4	0.000	6
Chiton		37	3	42	4	44	4	37						
Rocha		30	24	23	30		30	2	137	243	0.564	6	0.638	3
Ellis		48	4	47	4	48	4	37						
Lawrence		30	14	20	30	29	29	3	123	225	0.547	5	1.111	5
TOURNAMENT AVERAGE: 0.518														

Group B		Frankel	Cozza	Hughes	Leitzinger	Holstrom	Portilla	HWK LOG	TOTAL POINTS	TOTAL INNINGS	GRAND AVERAGE	HIGH RUN	BEST GAME	FINAL RANKING
Paul		32	3	37	3	37	3	37	114	219	0.521	4	0.577	2
Frankel			W	30	30	30	24	4						
Cozza		32		30	30	20	11	3	91	277	0.329	5	0.750	4
Eric		32	3	37	3	37	3	37						
Hughes		13	25	28	2	30	24	18	113	371	0.305	4	0.423	5
Joel		37	5	40	3	37	3	37						
Leitzinger		19	23	25	17	8	9	30	77	285	0.270	5	0.000	6
Ken		32	3	37	3	37	3	37						
Holstrom		22	25	30	30	30	16	2	128	364	0.352	4	0.395	3
Christian		45	7	30	4	30	4	30						
Portilla		30	30	30	30	30	30	0	150	237	0.633	7	0.698	1
TOURNAMENT AVERAGE: 0.384														

Old School Defense from the Master

by Phil Panzera
Contributing Writer



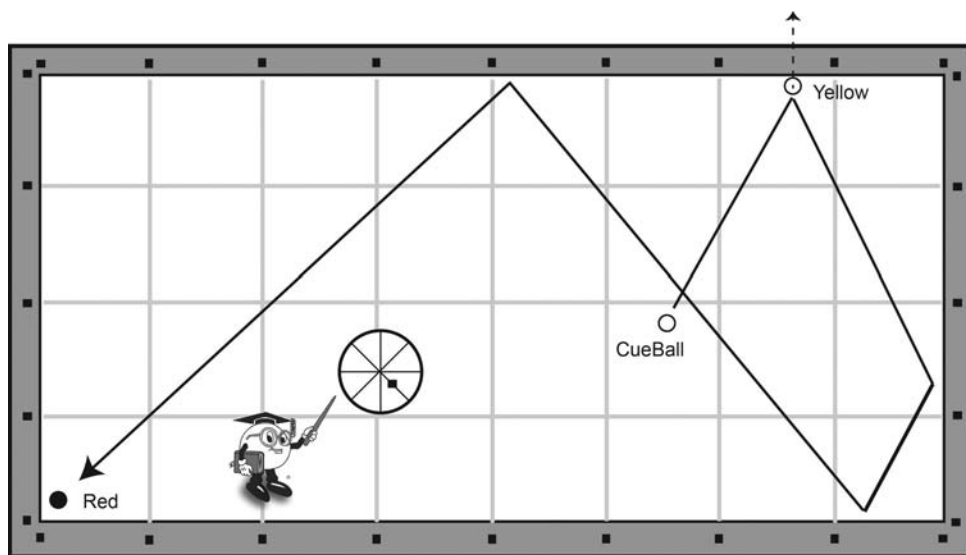
I'm continuing the series of articles from my notes of lessons with Allen Gilbert, a 5-time U.S. champion. For those who've played him, all I can say is it was a frequent occurrence walking up to the table, and standing there scratching your head while searching for a viable shot. His quintessential skill, and the soul of his 3-cushion play, was simply "defense." He also used a true slip stroke, and he was somewhat unique among top players in frequently using an elevated cue—as compared with other techniques—to shorten, lengthen or make the cue ball do some strange and special things.

The diagram shows a 13-and-out shot from a National Championship game. I can see at least four other shots—none particularly easy, or with kiss concerns—but Allen chose this nice kiss-back pattern. Why? Despite the fact that it's not that difficult a shot, with zero chance of a kiss, the instructive point on defense here is to notice that since the angle into the first rail is identical to the necessary angle away from the rail, this means the frozen object ball must be driven perpendicular into the rail. Such a hit will leave that object ball within a few inches of where it was, and both other balls will be at the

opposite end of the table.

If you don't play kiss-backs much, these shots are best selected when the angle in and the angle out are somewhat similar.

First look at where the equal angle sends the cue ball (a perpendicular hit), and then adjust from there. That is, it's much better to pick the angle that you wish to drive the object ball into the cushion (hopefully somewhere close to perpendicular), and don't try to draw off the object ball to a



first rail contact point. It's important to use draw; you don't need max, but you don't want only a little either. Just use enough draw to insure the cue ball does not have top spin when it hits the object ball.

People tend to hit kiss-backs too hard; that's neither necessary nor helpful. Here I'd just use slightly more than make speed, so that I wouldn't leave an easy bank if I missed (another useful defensive point). You can also play position a bit by adjusting the hit and amount of English used. For example, in this shot if you hit the object ball just a very tiny bit thinner, it will bounce over closer to the corner.

Upcoming USBA Tournaments

July 20-22

2018 Mike Fahey Memorial NW Open
Tacoma Elks Lodge #174-Tacoma, WA
\$20 Entry Fee-Limited to the first 21 players.

Contact: Ed Brasfield, Chairman (253) 468-9839,

Tim Poole Tourn. Dir. (360) 432-5849

July 23-29th

Verhoven Open at Carom Café -
Flushing NY.

Contact: Michael Kang (917) 204-6070

Or Charlie Brown (646) 528-3238

Leave a message also.

September 27-30th, Thursday

Rushville-Professor-Q-Ball Spring 3-Cushion Tournament

Entry Fee \$150 – Send checks to Gary Eake, 947 Trillium Trail, Oshkosh, WI 54904

Contact: Gary Eake, (920) 420-1304

Miguel Torres Wins 2018 USBA Nationals

For the last 11 years, Miguel Torres has thought about that glorious week in 2007 when he won the USBA Three-Cushion National Tournament. He's been trying to get back to the top of the podium ever since. Last year, he came close, finishing second to Pedro Piedrabuena, the nine-time champion. This year, he avenged that second-place finish last year by besting Piedrabuena, 35 to 33 in 22 innings (1.591), thus winning the crown and \$5,000.

Torres did not have an impeccable tournament. He finished 2nd in his preliminary group, losing to Ramses Verlinden, 25-20. In round of 16, he struggled, defeating Jim Bishop 35 to 18 in 38 innings (.921). He improved in the round of 8, topping Thanh Vu, 35 to 28 in 29 innings (1.207). In the semi-finals, he met an old rival, three-time national champion, Hugo Patiño. Both competitors played defensively, and Torres came out of top, 35 to 32 in 26 innings (0.972). When all was done, Torres was set to face Piedrabuena, who had played magnificently, posting a 7-0 record and a 1.587 average in the preliminaries, then playing 1.667, 1.250, and 1.842 to reach the finals. The finalists thrilled the crowd with their level of play, with Torres coming out of top

Despite his loss in the finals, Piedrabuena continues his dominance of the field, having won or finished second for the last dozen years. Hugo Patiño topped The Silver Fox, Frank Torres, 35 to 21 in 29 (1.207) for Third Place. Michael Kang finished fifth. John Park and Thanh Vu, both from Houston, finished 6th and Vu finished 7th, respectively. Ramses Verlinden, the only player to beat Miguel Torres during the week-long event, finished 8th. Tae Kyu Lee, a young player from New York, finished 9th. Neal Olson placed 10th.

Two veterans of USBA regional tournaments, Jim Bishop and Gary Eake, made it to the finals, finishing 13th and 15th, respectively. Former national champion, Mazin Shooni, finished 11th, Ertan Tarhan, an Oregonian, settled for 12th, and Joe DeAmato, from Boston, end up in 16th place.

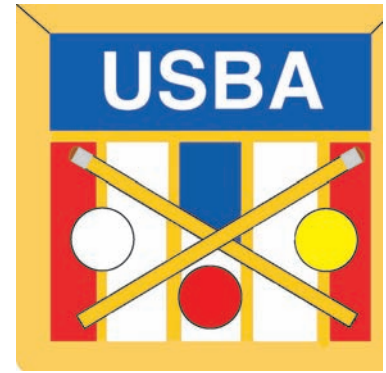
The USBA would like to thank the Casino del Sol for its hospitality and for its financial support, including a generous contribution to the prize fund. David Levine, a longtime support of billiards, continued his largesse with a contribution to the prize fund. There are many who worked behind the scenes to make the tournament a success. Just to name a few, Dale Saunders, the tournament director, worked long, hard days scheduling, completing charts and running a tight ship. Cliff (Mechanic) and JoJo kept the Gabriels tables in top



shape, vacuuming the cloth and cleaning the balls. Mickey Campbell and Professor-Q-Ball for taking photos. Daniel and Geraldine from POVPOOL live streamed the tournament and added commentary.

Many players and they're significant others stepped up and pitched in to help with many aspects of the tournament. And, of course, the USBA thanks Mazin Shooni (Pres.) for organizing the event and pulling it all together. And let's not forget our sponsors, Gabriels, McDermott Cue, George Hart, Simonis, Professor-Q-Ball.

Round of 16						
MATCH	NAME	PTS	INN	AVG	HR	W/L
#01	PEDRO PIEDRABUENA	35	21	1.667	10	W
	JOE DeAMATO	5	21	0.238	1	L
MATCH	NAME	PTS	INN	AVG	HR	W/L
#02	JOHN PARK	35	39	0.897	6	W
	MAZIN SHOONI	29	39	0.744	6	L
MATCH	NAME	PTS	INN	AVG	HR	W/L
#03	FRANK TORRES	35	37	0.946	8	W
	VU NGUYEN	18	37	0.486	4	L
MATCH	NAME	PTS	INN	AVG	HR	W/L
#04	NEAL OLSON	30	51	0.588	1	L
	RAMSES VERLINDEN	35	52	0.673	5	W
MATCH	NAME	PTS	INN	AVG	HR	W/L
#05	MICHAEL KANG	35	49	0.714	4	W
	GARY EAKE	11	48	0.229	3	L
MATCH	NAME	PTS	INN	AVG	HR	W/L
#06	TAE KYU LEE	34	35	0.971	5	L
	HUGO PATINO	35	35	1.000	5	W
MATCH	NAME	PTS	INN	AVG	HR	W/L
#07	MIGUEL TORRES	35	38	0.921	5	W
	JIM BISHOP	18	37	0.486	3	L
MATCH	NAME	PTS	INN	AVG	HR	W/L
#08	ERTAN TARHAN	20	37	0.541	1	L
	THANH VU	35	37	0.946	7	W



I-r, Frank Torres 4th, Hugo Patino 3rd,
Miguel Torres Winner, Pedro Piedrabuena 2nd

Quarterfinals

MATCH	NAME	PTS	INN	AVG	HR	W/L
#09	PEDRO PIEDRABUENA	35	28	1.250	1	W
	JOHN PARK	33	28	1.179	1	L

MATCH	NAME	PTS	INN	AVG	HR	W/L
#10	FRANK TORRES	35	36	0.972	5	W
	RAMSES VERLINDEN	15	36	0.417	3	L

MATCH	NAME	PTS	INN	AVG	HR	W/L
#11	MICHAEL KANG	28	23	1.217	8	L
	HUGO PATINO	35	24	1.458	5	W

MATCH	NAME	PTS	INN	AVG	HR	W/L
#12	MIGUEL TORRES	35	29	1.207	7	W
	THANH VU	28	29	0.966	5	L

Semifinals

MATCH	NAME	PTS	INN	AVG	HR	W/L
#13	PEDRO PIEDRABUENA	35	19	1.842	9	W
	FRANK TORRES	11	19	0.579	1	L

MATCH	NAME	PTS	INN	AVG	HR	W/L
#14	HUGO PATINO	32	35	0.914	4	L
	MIGUEL TORRES	35	36	0.972	7	W

3rd & 4th Place

MATCH	NAME	PTS	INN	AVG	HR	W/L
#15	FRANK TORRES	21	29	0.724	5	L
	HUGO PATINO	35	29	1.207	5	W

Final

MATCH	NAME	PTS	INN	AVG	HR	W/L
#16	PEDRO PIEDRABUENA	33	22	1.500	4	L
	MIGUEL TORRES	35	22	1.591	4	W

Final Ranking

FINAL RANK	NAME	TOTAL POINTS	TOTAL INNINGS	GRAND AVERAGE	HIGH RUN	BEST GAME
1	MIGUEL TORRES	305	294	1.037	9	2.083
2	PEDRO PIEDRABUENA	305	194	1.572	11	2.273
3	HUGO PATINO	336	333	1.009	10	2.083
4	FRANK TORRES	273	293	0.932	8	1.471
5	MICHAEL KANG	328	400	0.820	7	1.042
6	JOHN PARK	264	250	1.056	6	2.273
7	THANH VU	294	276	1.065	7	1.316
8	RAMSES VERLINDEN	281	454	0.619	8	1.000
9	TAE KYU LEE	194	247	0.785	9	1.786
10	NEAL OLSON	204	317	0.644	7	1.000
11	MAZIN SHOONI	195	200	0.975	7	1.389
12	ERTAN TARHAN	193	241	0.801	6	1.000
13	JIM BISHOP	197	240	0.821	6	1.250
14	VU NGUYEN	176	276	0.638	5	0.806
15	GARY EAKE	185	373	0.496	5	0.595
16	JOE DeAMATO	163	271	0.601	4	0.833
17	GILBERT NAJM	154	172	0.895	6	1.667
18	SONNY CHO	175	156	1.122	4	1.786
19	JAMES RICHARDS	167	314	0.532	4	0.962
20	TONY FERRARA	166	270	0.615	4	0.862
21	JESUS QUINONEZ	163	269	0.606	5	0.781
22	CAMILO MEDINA	140	219	0.639	5	1.136
23	ALLEN CASTILLO	133	206	0.646	5	1.087
24	BALDOMERO TEJEDA	152	294	0.517	5	0.893
25	KHALIL DIAB	150	257	0.584	5	1.042
26	ERGUN TUNA	159	307	0.518	6	0.735
27	CARLOS BAZO	155	271	0.572	6	0.806
28	CESAR CARDOZA	134	257	0.521	6	0.862
29	JIM HENRICKSON	149	247	0.603	6	1.471
30	ANDRES FERNANDEZ	109	217	0.502	6	0.610
31	EDUARDO CERVANTS	145	339	0.428	7	0.676
32	PAUL FELTMAN JR..	144	309	0.466	7	0.694
33	BERKAY KESKIN	116	231	0.502	7	0.543
34	PAUL FELTMAN SR.	114	231	0.494	7	0.806
35	MARK SULLIVAN	128	227	0.564	7	1.087
36	PAUL FRANKEL	150	353	0.425	8	0.568
37	HECTOR OCAMPO	118	317	0.372	8	0.641
38	AHMET OZAN	112	268	0.418	8	0.455
39	GEORGE ANDRAOS	97	236	0.411	8	N/W
40	DAVE EHLERS	88	253	0.348	8	N/W
41	BOB FERRARA	137	331	0.414	9	0.556
42	MICKY CAMPBELL	88	257	0.342	9	0.595
43	FRANK GIORDANO	59	263	0.224	9	N/W

USBA Honors Professor-Q-Ball

At the USBA Three-Cushion National Championship tournament held at the Casino del Sol Resort in Tucson, Arizona, the United States Billiard Association honored Paul Frankel, better known to the billiards world as Professor-Q-Ball, for his contribution to three-cushion billiards. More than anyone during the last fifteen years, Paul has been responsible for the resurgence of three-cushion billiards in America.

Mazin Shooni, the USBA President, presented Paul with a hand-engraved plaque in a surprise ceremony during the annual USBA banquet. The inscription on the plaque read: "To Paul Frankel (Professor-Q-Ball), Thank you for your support of and dedication to Three-Cushion Billiards, the greatest table game on earth." The players and their guests at the banquet greeted Paul with a thunderous round of applause, showing their appreciation for his efforts.

Originally from New York, but now living in Tennessee, Paul has been instrumental in the promotion of the carom game during the last two decades. In addition to being the publisher of Professor-Q-Ball's National Pool & 3-Cushion News in both print and digital form (<https://professorqball.com>), Paul has also organized various billiard tournaments, exhibitions and events, including the Champion of Champions tournaments and several USBA Qualifiers. He is a constant presence at the Super Billiard Expo and other billiard tradeshow, hawking his paper and introducing pool players to the pocket-less game. As a representative of



Gabriels tables, Paul has sold dozens of tables to individuals and room owners throughout the United States.

We thank you Paul and hope you keep the ball rolling!

President's Desk

The work of the USBA is never done. The national championship ended a few days ago, and the USBA Board is back organizing its next event. But, more about that great event after I pay respect to our new national champion and say a few words about a dear friend.

Miguel Torres bested the field of 43 at the 2018 nationals, winning his second title. It was a gutsy performance by Miguel, who struggled slightly in the earlier rounds, but saved his best for last, posting a 1.591 average in the final game to defeat returning champion, Pedro Piedrabuena, 35 to 33. Congratulations to Miguel and to all the other players.

A special thanks goes out to Paul Frankel, known affec-

tionately as Professor-Q-Ball. The USBA honored Paul in a surprise ceremony during the annual banquet. Paul works 24/7 on billiards, and we owe him a great gratitude. I am happy to have worked with him over the years prompting billiards around the country. We need more like him.

Off in the horizon is the Three-Cushion Amateur Classic, set to occur next January. The tournament crowns the "B" National champion and is open to all players with an average below .850. The tournament will run from January 7th to 12th. We'll be back at the Casino del Sol, completing our three-year agreement. We expect a full field again, so please check the USBA website for information on registration. Best in billiards.