

Professor-Q-Ball's



National Pool & 3-Cushion News

Issue 6 • Volume XVIII • December/January 2018

www.professorqball.com



**US Open
Champion
Jayson Shaw**

Inside This Issue

3rd Annual Gotham City Classic

American 14.1 Tournament

Accu-Stat "Make It Happen" 8-Ball Invitational



United States Billiard Association Newsletter

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Alex Brick Cues



2018 Schedule of Events:

Wednesday_January 10

6:30 p.m. - Open Mini tournament - \$35 entry fee (\$10 greens fee/\$25 entry)
Limited to 64 players - Single elimination - race to 7

Thursday_January 11

6:30 p.m. Music City Open - **REGISTRATION CLOSES** - Limited to 128 players
Music City Open Auction-\$6000 Guaranteed added
Pays 25% of the field - Entry fee: \$100 (\$75 entry - \$25 green fee)
Double elimination, race to 11, winner breaks

Friday_January 12

12 p.m. - Music City Open continues
5 p.m. - Music City Ladies Division - **REGISTRATION CLOSES** - Limited to 48 Players
Auction followed by 1st round - \$1000 Guaranteed added - Pays 25% of the field
Entry fee: \$75 (\$60 entry - \$15 green fee) - Double elimination, race to 7, winner breaks

Saturday_January 13

12 p.m. - Music City Open continues
10 p.m. - Winner Take All 9-Ball - \$500 Entry fee (Must register w/sponsor on site)
Limited to 8 Players - Single elimination, race to 11, winner breaks

Sunday_January 14

12 p.m. - Music City Open continues
World/BCA 9-ball rules - 3 1/2 x 7' Diamond "smart tables" - Simonis 860 cloth
Tournament Director: Steve Mc Donald & Bob Hunt



Jayson Shaw defeats Eklent Kaci to become the U.S. Open Champion.

Courtesy by AzB Staff

The final day of the 2017 U.S. Open gave up some of the finest pool ever seen with unbelievable shoemaking and impossible reaches of position.

The day began with the hot seat match between Jayson Shaw and Francisco Sanchez-Ruiz. These two kept it close early, with the two men trading racks until the score line got to four games apiece. Jayson Shaw then waved at his young daughter in the stands and he caught fire. From there it was all the Shaw show as he took on table-length razor cuts, jump shots, and wove through heavy traffic for position. There was just nothing Francisco could do as Shaw commanded the table. The match ended with Shaw an 11-4 winner.

The 'B' side match to determine our fourth place finisher was between Jung-Lin Chang and Eklent Kaci. They also kept it close early with the score reaching a tie at 7 games apiece. Eklent then took charge and dominated the table with precise, no-mistake pool. Plus, his break began to work and gave him layouts that he could manage without needing miracles from

above. Kaci won this one 11-8 and Chang took fourth place after finishing second here last year to Shane Van Boening.

Our semi-final match featured Francisco Sanchez-Ruiz and Eklent Kaci. This match was something of a contrast in styles as Francisco hurries around the table and Kaci strolls slowly. Ruiz took first blood in this one but gave up ball in hand in the second rack when he missed a fairly routine short kick to contact the two ball. However, he was able to get back to the table after a safety war and win the rack to go up 2-0. He then broke and ran to go up 3-0.

A scratch on the next break got Kaci out of his chair. He ran the table to get on the board 3-1. When he broke and ran the next rack he trailed only 3-2. They then traded racks for a 4-3 score. The score was quickly tied at 5 racks each and the players then once again traded racks to tie at 6.

Kaci then began to take control of the table and won the next rack, then broke and ran the next three to arrive at the hill 10-6. Kaci had no run out in the next rack but he gave

Ruiz no air. Ruiz's best opportunity was a jump-bank shot that failed to find the corner pocket and Kaci looked poised to take it home. To everyone's surprise, Kaci missed the eight ball and gave Ruiz life at 10-7 and breaking.

Ruiz made a legal break but had no shot on the two ball. Kaci emerged the winner of the safety engagement that followed and ran out to gain entry to the final match with Jayson Shaw. Francisco Sanchez-Ruiz settled for third place.

Our Grand Final, a race to thirteen games, between Kaci and Shaw began with Shaw winning the lag.

All of the balls wound up on the right side of the table. Shaw played safe on his first shot Kaci could not escape well enough and Shaw quickly ran the table for the first mark. The second rack was a bit of a back and forth affair but Shaw once again prevailed. Shaw broke and ran the next rack but the break on the fourth rack once again found all of the object balls on the right side of the table and the cueball locked in a pocket's jaws. He pushed but it was handed back and he banked the one ball safe. Kaci missed the contact on a thin safety nick and Shaw ran down to a three-nine combo. He made it to go 4 up on Kaci who was yet to drop a nine.

Shaw then broke and ran for game 5 and was shooting a perfect 1000 on Accu-Stats at this point in the match. In the next rack, Shaw missed a thin cut on the one but left Kaci hooked. Kaci grabbed his jump cue and made the jump but snookered himself. On the safe attempt Kaci failed to hit a rail and Shaw took off with ball in hand and rode the gift through the rack for 6-0.

Now remember that at the World Pool Series event a few months back where Kaci got his first major victory, it was Shaw who was on the losing end of that match. Shaw had a point to make this time, and the fates seemed to be with him. He left the two ball in a corner pocket and Kaci had to go rail first to make contact and instead struck another ball while trying to execute that and once again gifted Shaw with ball in hand. Once again Shaw ran the rack out for 7-0.

Commentator and Coach Mark Wilson was so impressed with Shaw's game that he said: "Perfect position for Shaw is when the cue ball and the object ball are on the same table".

Kaci was at the table briefly to try a jump shot but left Shaw out and it was quickly 8-0. Now folks began to remember how Corey Duel had blanked Mika Immonen in his victory here. Immonen did nothing wrong. He just could not get out of the chair with a hope of a shot, and Kaci had done little wrong other than to have his arm ice up a bit from sitting in the chair so long.

Shaw finally showed that even he can err. He missed a



Eklent Kaci

carom but Kaci had to play a safe. It was effective and Kaci removed the remaining five balls to clamber up onto the scoreboard and hear applause for the first time. Now Kaci needed to stay at the table, run balls and make points. His break left him no clean shot on the one ball. He pushed out to a jump shot that Shaw gave back to him. Kaci made the jump shot and warmed his arm up with some tough shots on his way to his second point. 8-2.

Kaci broke dry in rack 11 and Shaw took the floor and the rack to lead 9-2 in our race to 13. Shaw then broke and ran again for 10-2. Now he was showing a 938 Accu-Stats TPA. Shaw then made the nine on the break for 11-2. He was using a cut break and cue ball came right back into the nine and knocked it in.

Shaw played safe on his first shot in the next rack and Kaci grabbed his jump cue. He made a great shot and gave the safety right back. Now Shaw went for his short stick. He had to jump a long nine ball and instead his cue ball left the table. He left a shot for Kaci and Kaci ran the table for his third win.

Kaci could not keep the table in the next rack and Shaw got to the hill at 12-3. Shaw scratched on the next break and left a pattern for Kaci to follow for a 12-4 scoreline, but Kaci then scratched on his break and the result was obvious. Shaw took the rack and the crown of 2017 U.S. Open Champion with a winning score of 13-4 over Eklent Kaci.



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Dechaine Goes Undefeated to Win 3rd Annual Gotham City Classic/Sharon Fagnoni Memorial



L-R: Chang, Yu Lung (2nd), Ko, Pin-Yi (4th), Kevin Buckley (GCBC owner), Mike Dechaine (1st), and Alex Kazakis (3rd)

Courtesy of AZ Staff

Mike Dechaine, who won the inaugural Gotham City Billiard Club 9-Ball Pro Classic in 2015, and finished fourth in 2016, came back to the event on the weekend of October 14-15, and went undefeated to win the 3rd Annual Gotham City Classic, held under the auspices of the Predator Pro Am Tour. Also known as the Sharon “Sam” Fagnoni Memorial, to commemorate Gotham City Billiards’ owner, Kevin Buckley’s sister, who passed away in May of 2015, the \$21,500-added event drew a surprisingly low (given the added money and total prize pool involved) 39 entrants to Gotham City Billiards.

Dechaine had to go through Taiwan’s Yu Lung Chang to complete his undefeated run. They met first in the hot seat match. Dechaine had sent Marc Vidal to the loss side 10-2 in one of the winners’ side semifinals, while Chang downed Lee Vann Corteza, double hill, in the other. Dechaine claimed the hot seat, double hill, over Chang and waited on his return.

On the loss side, Vidal picked up Alex Kazakis, who’d gotten by defending Classic champion, Poland’s Konrad Juszczyszyn 10-3 and Hunter Lombardo 10-6. Vann Corteza drew Taiwan’s Pin Yi Ko, who’d eliminated Kai Lun Hsu 10-6 and John Morra 10-4.

Kazakis and Ko handed Vidal and Vann Corteza their second straight loss; Kazakis, 10-6 over Vidal and Ko, in a double hill win over Vann Corteza. Kazakis advanced another step with a 10-6 win over Ko in the quarterfinals, only to have his loss-side streak ended by Chang 10-6 in the semifinals.

Dechaine and Chang locked up in a second double hill fight in the extended race-to-13 finals. Dechaine completed his undefeated run by sinking the last 9-ball and claiming his second Gotham City Classic title.

Tour director Tony Robles made note of the fact that while relatively small, the entire field was “humbled and appreciative” of Gotham City Billiards’ owner Kevin Buckley’s sponsorship of this annual event, which has included the addition of increasingly large amounts of money into the prize pool (\$11,000 in the first year, \$15,000 last year, and \$21,500 this year).

“I want to send out a HUGE thank you to Kevin and Isabel Buckley for putting this event together,” he said.

Robles also thanked a roster of sponsors, including Predator Cues, Ozone Billiards, The NAPL, The DeVito Team, and PoolOnTheNet.com.

Konrad Juszczyszyn Captures the American 14.1 Straight Pool Tournament

by Chuck Seeger

When you looked at the list of the final 8 players still in contention on the final day of the American 14.1 Straight Pool Tournament, **Konrad Juszczyszyn (right)** would have had to of been considered a longshot to capture the winning trophy, especially when you reflect on the accomplishments of the other 7 players vying for the win. But that is exactly what Juszczyszyn did at the fabulous Diamond Billiards, and in doing so, claimed not only the trophy, but the \$10,000 1st place award.

On a brilliant fall day in Midlothian VA, Konrad's play was even more spectacular. Besides Juszczyszyn, the remaining players of a deeply talented field were Lee Van Corteza, Alex Pagulayan, Thorsten Hohmann, Albin Ouschan, Dennis Orcollo, Brandon Shuff and Warren Kiamco. But it was Juszczyszyn who went all the way to capture the title, downing Shuff in the quarterfinals, Kiamco in the semifinals and Orcollo in the tournament final. All races were to 150.

Quarterfinal action had Corteza, winner of the US and World 14.1 tournaments this year, facing fellow countryman Kiamco. Corteza was undefeated throughout the tournament but Kiamco got the best of him 150-111. Orcollo never gave Ouschan a chance to get involved, winning 150-0 that included a 95 ball run to end the match. Pagulayan played Hohmann and had a hammerlock on the competition at 113-13, but surprisingly missed a routine cut which allowed Thorsten back to the table and he cut the deficit to 112-38. One more trip to the table was all Thorsten needed as he produced a 112 ball run to eliminated the previously undefeated Pagulayan. Juszczyszyn meanwhile was taking out Shuff 150-76 in workmanlike fashion.

Semi-final matchups were Juszczyszyn vs Kiamco and Orcollo vs Holmann. Kiamco held a 104-22 lead over Juszczyszyn after 5 innings, but Juszczyszyn caught a gear to get within 141-111. Juszczyszyn then made a strategic decision to take a 3 foul penalty, and after Kiamco missed a long shot off the penalty break, Juszczyszyn ran 57 for the win. The other semifinal saw Holman race out to an 82-1 lead, but then Orcollo got to the table and began the journey of closing the gap, taking the lead at 121-115 and won the match 150-130.

Finals- Orcollo vs Juszczyszyn. When Dennis was asked before the match if he had ever faced Konrad, he indicated so



and added he is "a very talented player". Similar his previous match, Dennis found himself in an immediate deficit of 106-19. While he was able to get the match to 106-87, Juszczyszyn was just too much and captured the title game with 44 ball run.

"I feel very fortunate to win the tournament" Juszczyszyn said. "I felt like I had luck on my side throughout". The bottom line is his play all week simply outclassed the field, finishing the tournament undefeated in both the round robin and knockout phases to notch his second victory on American soil. His first win was last year in the Gotham City 9-Ball Pro Classic. Despite that win Juszczyszyn, just 24 years old from Lubin Poland, came into this tournament completely under the radar. This win is sure to add his name to the list of young rising stars like Billy Thorpe and Eklent Kaci who have also won important events in 2017. Konrad's playing style would make the late Lou "Machine Gun Lou" Butera smile. He plays fast, loose, and appears to fear no shot. After the tournament he immediately left for Virginia Beach to compete in the US 9-Ball tournament. His predominant discipline of play is straight pool, but he no doubt has the ability to compete in all games.

The American 14.1 Straight Pool Championship is sponsored by the Dorsey family, owners and operators of host Diamond Billiards, Simonis Cloth, Aramith Billiard Balls, and numerous private donors. Promoter Peter Burrows extends his gratitude to everyone involved that helped to make the 2017 American 14. Straight Pool Tournament a resounding success.

Centering Your Cue Ball

by Mark Finkelstein

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



One of the great things about traveling is getting to play pool in other places. Whether it is in Las Vegas or Tokyo, people have fun playing pool. And likewise, wherever you go there are good players and improving players.

But what makes the difference? Is it a straighter stroke or better patterns or stronger breaks? Perhaps it is jumping better. All of these skills are important, but I think there is one skill that every really good player has mastered in one form or another and that sets them apart from the rest of the players. The better players can consistently get their cue ball to the center of the table from most any position!

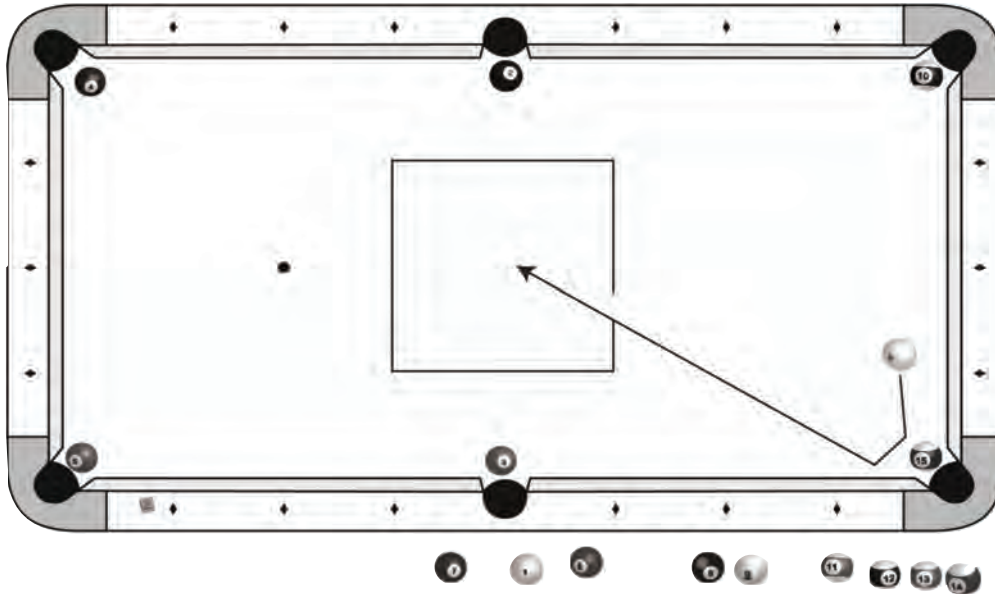
now on you have to play the cue ball from where it stops.

Make sure you also vary your routes. Try going one, two and three rails as well as drawing the cue ball. One mistake I see people make doing this drill is finding something that works and just doing that route, avoiding routes that cause them problems. Practice the routes you have trouble with.

One suggestion is that since a large percentage of shots are half ball hits, or close to it, learn how to get to the center with half ball hits.

A good standard in getting the cue ball into the center 25 times in about an hour.

Once you learn to feel how to find the center, adjusting for short of the center or long through the center will be a lot easier. Also, make sure you get the track correct first. Once you have the correct track line, you can then start to refine your speed control. Good luck.

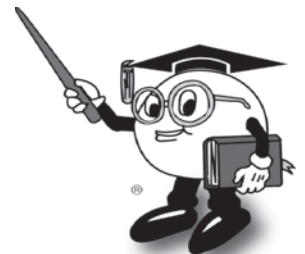


Want better break shots in straight pool? Leave a ball near the rack and get your cue ball to the center of the table. Want to miss less playing nine ball? Learn to get to the center of the table so you are only shooting half table shots!

Here are some things to practice to help you learn how to get your cue ball to the center of the table. This drill comes from Bert Kinister and is a really good way to develop cue ball control. Set the table up as in the diagram. You can use a piece of paper or make some marks with chalk outlining a box in the center of the table.

Depending on your skill level, you can make the box larger or smaller. Start the first shot with ball in hand, pocket the hanger and get the cue ball to stop in the target zone. From

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Karen Corr Goes Undefeated at North American Pool Tour Freedom Classic

Courtesy of AZ Staff

Karen Corr, the Irish Invader, went undefeated at this past weekend's \$6,400-added North American Pool Tour Freedom Classic, that drew a field of 53 contestants to **Eagle Billiards** in Dickson City, PA.

Corr (above right) had to get by **Briana Miller (above left)** twice in this event; a chore rendered more significant by an earlier meeting between the two, which took place in June, during the fourth stop on the J. Pechauer Northeast Women's Tour in Frederick, MD. Looking to secure a second straight win on the 2107 JPNEWT, Miller defeated Corr, double hill, in the third winners' side round of that event. Corr came back through the loss side to defeat Miller in the finals to win her first 2017 JPNEWT title. It was a match Corr remembered when Meredith Lynch interviewed her for the NAPT, following the Summer Classic and asked her about the influx of young female guns.

"There's a lot of great talent out there," Corr said at the time. "Briana (Miller) – I played her there in Frederick. She beat me in the one side and we had a close match in the final. It's challenging for me, too, you know?"

They had two close matches in this Freedom Classic. The first one came in the battle for the hot seat. Victories over Denise Belanger, Krista Walsh, Brittany Bryant (5th in the NAPT Summer 10-Ball Classic) and Naomi Williams set Corr up to face April Larson (7th in NAPT Summer 10-Ball Classic) in a winners' side semifinal. Miller, in the meantime, having worked her way through Alex Calabrese, Teruko Cucculelli, Nathalie Chabot, Jenna Blahoff, faced veteran LoreeJon Hasson in the other winners' side semifinal.

Corr downed Larson 7-3, while Miller sent Hasson to the loss side 7-4. As might have been expected, Miller and Corr locked up in a double hill fight that eventually sent Miller to the semifinals and put Corr in an NAPT Division I hot seat for the second straight time.

On the loss side, Larson picked up Bryant, who, after her defeat by Corr, was in the midst of a four-match loss-side streak that included recent victories over Jenna Blahoff 7-3 and Stacie Bourbeau 7-4, and was about to come to an end. Hasson drew Naomi Williams, who'd gotten by Janet Atwell 7-4 and Veronique Menard 7-5 to reach her.

Larson defeated Bryant 7-4, and was joined in the quarterfinal match by Williams, who'd eliminated Hasson 7-4. Larson and Williams locked up in a double hill quarterfinal that eventually sent Williams to the semifinals against Miller.

Miller got her second shot at Corr with a 7-4 win over Williams in the semifinals. The true double elimination final amounted to one set. As they had done battling for the hot seat, Corr and Miller fought to a deciding game, before Corr closed it out to claim her second straight NAPT title

Being Sharked

by Mike Roque

From "Build Your Game" 365 Days of Instruction, Motivation and Insights for Pool Players"
www.bebobpublishing.com - 1- 888-33-BEBOB



"The artful shark will try to find something that interferes with the...opponent."

Richard Dean Smith

Every Pool Hall seems to have a resident shark. He may not be the strongest player, but he specializes in disruption. Learn to recognize his moves and deal with them effectively without losing focus or you will lose a lot of games.

Sharking shows up in many different forms. An example of a low-level sharking might be an opponent who stands a little too close to you as you're getting down on a shot.

If your opponent coughs or talks every time you're about to pull the trigger on a critical shot, there's a good chance that it's an intentional move.

Sarcastic remarks of any kind can interfere with your shot rhythm as well as your mental attitude. "Nice shot," when you clearly got a lucky roll is a classic. Don't feel guilty. Everyone gets lucky, including your opponent!

There's nothing subtle about your opponent jerking his cue stick or jangling change in his pocket while you're trying to aim a long straight-in shot.

In all these cases, you must either get your opponent to stop sharking or learn how to ignore him. Either way, it's a challenge, but it can be done. Be prepared to take action!

***Don't fall prey to sharking.
Decide in advance how you will handle it.***

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Varner & The Miz Enter the 14.1 Hall of Fame

New York City- The 7th Annual Straight Pool Hall of Fame inducted 3 legends of the game. For Greatest Player Category, Kentucky's Nick "Cool Hand" Varner and New Jersey's Steve "The Miz" Mizerak were inducted as well as NY's Mike Eufemia in the Unsung Heroes Category. The banquet ceremony took place on October 4th at Steinway Billiards. Match play halted on the evening of Day 3 of the BottleDeck.net 77th World 14.1.

The fans enjoyed a stellar meal and entertaining tribute videos made by Medium Grey Studios for Mizerak and Varner.

"Both Nick and Steve had talent not only on the table, but also had the smarts to go with it, to not only represent the game in a positive light, but also in business," said Ewa Mataya Laurance.

Mike Eufemia

One of the most talented players ever to come from Queens, NY, Mike Eufemia may have been lost to the history books, but his 14.1 greatness has not been forgotten by fans and peers as he has earned his 2017 Unsung Hero Hall of Fame induction. Although his practice games were legendary as a daily 200-300 ball runner, where even the famed Golden Cue in Queens had a standing bet that Eufemia would run 200 balls before they closed nightly, he was never able to win a US Open or World 14.1 title. He did win multiple New York & New Jersey State Championships and the famed Stardust Open 14.1 in 1967 against a stellar field including Luther Lassiter, Joe Balsis, Irving Crane, Dallas West, Lou Butera, Danny Diliberto, & Ed Kelly.

Steve "The Miz" Mizerak

One of the most iconic players in history, The Miz was known as a great entertainer, great businessman, and one of the most feared 14.1 players in history. Originally from Perth Amboy, New Jersey, Mizerak won his first tournament at the age of 13 and turned pro the very next year. He later became a school teacher for 13 years before a certain Miller Lite commercial changed his life and made him into one of the most recognizable sports figures in the world. Though he played all games on an elite level, including a US Open 9-Ball title, there was no question his best and favorite game was straight pool. Mizerak dominated the 70's and 80's with 5 US Open



Mike, Charlie, Nick, and Steve Jr

14.1 titles and 2 World 14.1 titles. Sadly Mizerak passed in 2006, coincidentally the same year the World 14.1 was revived. But his legend and powerful 14.1 game lives on till today through the World 14.1 and Hall of Fame Banquets, to continue to pass onto new generations.

"My father would've been really honored tonight to be inducted into this Straight Pool Hall of Fame", said Steve Mizerak, Jr. "He did a lot to bring attention to our sport. I was honored to even have played against him. It's remarkable", said Mika Immonen

Nick "Cool Hand" Varner

Perhaps the greatest comeback player of all time, "Cool Hand" Nick Varner hails from Owensboro, Kentucky and grew up playing in his father's poolroom in Grandview, Indiana. He graduated from Purdue University and twice won the ACUI National Collegiate Pool Championship. During his college years, a foreshadowing of his great future in billiards when he defeated the legendary 14.1 champion Joe Balsis in an exhibition match at Purdue. In 1980, the then relatively unknown Kentuckian traveled to New York City among a litany of east coast 14.1 champions and shocked the pool world when he defeated none other than NY's Mike Sigel in the finals. Amassing one of the greatest collection of titles in history, Varner has held world titles in every discipline including 9-Ball, 8-Ball, One Pocket, Bank Pool, and twice was World 14.1 Champion. Today he heads Nick Varner Cues & Cases and is widely regarded as one of the most successful players in billiards history.

Karen Corr Wins the Desert Challenge at Griff's in Las Vegas

by Meredith Lynch - NAPT

It was an exciting and successful weekend at North American Pool Tour's (NAPT) first annual, Desert Challenge, November 2-5 at Griff's Bar & Billiards, Las Vegas, NV.

The event kicked off with an equally successful pro-am charity event. Benefitting Donate Life America: Organ Eye and Tissue Donation Registration(www.donatelife.net), \$480 was raised by 22 teams in a scotch doubles format. With a \$20 donation, 22 amateur players were matched up via blind draw with one of the Division I Pro players to play 9-ball, scotch doubles format. Ultimately, Lee Brett and Tara Williams finished in 1st place and Allison Fisher took 2nd place with her partner, Casey Guell. This charity event is held at each of NAPT's events, with donations going directly to the charity of the host rooms' choice. All players are welcome to attend and play in these charity events.

The main event started with 61 Division I and II players battling it out for their share of \$20,250. In the end, Karen Corr went undefeated, earning yet another first place prize and \$3,425, with Allison Fisher following her with a very respectable second place finish and \$2,425. Vivian Villarreal and Eleanor Callado rounded out the top four, respectively. Visit www.playnapt.com to view completed brackets. POVpool provided the live-streaming for this event.

The North American Pool Tour would like to thank Mark Griffin and his staff for being fantastic hosts! Griff's Bar & Billiards (www.griffssly.com) is a classy, non-smoking establishment (smoking area outside) with a full bar & restaurant and plenty of free parking. They proudly offer (8) 9-foot Diamond pool tables, (17) 7-foot Diamond pool tables, an antique 12-foot Brunswick snooker/golf table, and even a Chinese 8-ball snooker table – all in excellent playing condition. Griff's provides a comfortable, adult atmosphere with helpful, friendly staff and plenty of seating. It's been a wonderful addition to the



(l-r) Allison Fisher (2nd), Karen Corr (1st), Vivian Villarreal (3rd), and Eleanor Callado (4th)

Las Vegas region and NAPT is proud to have Griff's on their list of host venues.

NAPT is currently working on solidifying 2018 dates. Mark Griffin was so impressed with the success of hosting his first NAPT event, Griff's has signed on for the next two consecutive years. Look for dates to be announced for next year's event, as well as dates and locations for future stops, in 2018.

Players from all over North America gather to compete in many NAPT events throughout the year. Top Division I (pro) players receive automatic invites to these events and Division II (semi-pro) players earn invites through participation in ten, regional tours in Canada and throughout America. If there is not a regional tour near you, we welcome the formation of new regional tours. Visit www.playnapt.com to find a regional tour near you, to get help to form your own regional tour, and to learn how to qualify for these events.

The North American Pool Tour (NAPT) was formed in early 2016 to provide an additional opportunity for semi-professional and professional women players to participate in highly competitive billiard events across North America.



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TOM ROSSMAN
2017 BCA Hall of Fame

CASINO DEL SOL
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It's Billiard Season Again in Rushville, IL

by Rick Shryack

On Oct 12th -15th, over thirty 3 cushion billiard players from all over the Midwest will be at Rushville Billiards to compete in the Professor-Q-Ball 2017 Rushville Fall Tournament. Previous Rushville tournaments have included former national billiard champions and players from both coasts.

Most everyone thinks of pool or billiards as the same game. In the pool/billiard world, there is pocket billiards and carom billiards. 3-cushion belongs in the carom category. Pocket billiards is your normal home/bar games where you shoot balls into a pocket.

For this article I will abbreviate 3-cushion billiards as 3c. The last article didn't explain the game of 3c, so I'll do that



Fred, George and Mazin.

balls can be spotted depending on the situation.

Games are usually played to 15 points and higher. One player always shoots the white cue ball and the opponent always shoots the yellow cue ball. The object of the game is to make your cue ball contact at least 3 cushions and both object balls. You cue ball must contact at least 3 cushions before it strikes the 2nd object ball. Example: you shoot the white cue ball into the yellow ball, your cue ball contacts 3 cushions and hits the red ball. That is a point. It does not matter in what order the 1st object ball and cushions are struck. You could go cushion, cushion, cushion, 1st object ball then 2nd object ball. There are many possibilities. Hitting the same cushion 3 times on the shot is perfectly acceptable but difficult. If your cue ball hits the 2nd object ball before it contacts at least 3 cushions, your turn is done.

The rails have "diamonds" evenly spaced all around the

now. 3c is usually played on a 5 foot x 10 foot table with no pockets. There are 3 balls: a white cue ball, a yellow cue ball and a red object ball. There are 5 dots on the table where

FINALS																Lammers	Manriquez	Powers	Le	Shooni	Miller	Logan	Ashby	WIN/LOSS	TOTAL POINTS	TOTAL ININGS	GRAND ININGS	HIGH RUN	BEST GAME	FINAL RANKING
First																														
Lammers																			4	3	170	233	0.730	6	1.087	3				
Salmon	46	2	3	25	5	53	15	4	41	4	16	5	23	5	18	5	16	3	2	5	134	269	0.498	5	0.714	6				
Manriquez																			2	5	134	269	0.498	5	0.714	6				
Conry	24	3	1	31	3	38	1	3	34	3	33	3	25	18	4	3	3	3	3	4	120	228	0.526	9	0.806	5				
Powers																			4	3	120	228	0.526	9	0.806	5				
Thompson	16	2	4	25	5	53	15	4	41	4	16	5	23	5	18	5	16	3	2	5	134	269	0.498	5	0.714	6				
Le																			4	3	139	230	0.604	5	0.926	4				
Mason	39	5	15	27	27	27	2	4	33	3	19	15	28	5	18	4	3	3	3	4	139	230	0.604	5	0.926	4				
Shooni																			6	1	173	210	0.824	6	1.316	1				
Miller																			2	5	130	251	0.518	6	0.615	7				
John	5	1	172	3	33	3	33	1	36	1	18	4	12	12	1	1	1	1	1	6	104	235	0.443	5	0.735	8				
Logan																			6	1	104	235	0.443	5	0.735	8				
Gaughan	31	2	20	5	33	3	33	1	36	1	18	4	12	12	1	1	1	1	1	6	104	235	0.443	5	0.735	8				
Ashby																			6	1	164	198	0.828	6	1.190	2				
Points Against	121	161	149	138	117	172	169	107	TOURNAMENT AVERAGE: 0.612																					



Cue winner Gary Scharf



Tiger Cue Winner Paul Frankel

table. There are systems for shooting your cue ball toward a specific diamond and knowing where it will end up. There are multiple systems depending on the number of cushions your cue ball needs to hit. Most 3c players learn multiple systems. Most systems are fairly easy to learn and can be used on a pocket table with some minor adjustments. YouTube has hundreds of 3 cushion videos and diamond system instruction videos if you want to learn more.

Tournaments are usually held in March and October at Rushville Billiards. Admission is free to watch the tournament. All ages are welcome as the atmosphere is fun, and you can meet some great people and watch some fine 3-cushion.

There are multiple sponsors involved with these Rushville tournaments. Consistent Rushville sponsors are the Green Gables Motel and Los Charros restaurant. Sponsorship is always appreciated by the staff and players.

Rushville Billiard Club is located at 333. N Monroe St. Rushville, IL 62681

ACCU-STATS "Make-It-Happen" 8-Ball Invitational

Nov. 11-14 – Sandcastle Billiards

By Phil Capelle

The finals of the Make-It-Happen was filled with great play and some uncharacteristic mistakes by both players as failed runout attempts outnumbered break and runs. But when the dust cleared, **Jayson Shaw** emerged the winner by a score of 10-6 over Corey Deuel.

Shaw opened up with wins in the first three games, then missed an easy 8-ball and Deuel got on the board. He won the next game with a break and run to close the margin to 3-2. In the alternate break format, Shaw broke and ran, but Deuel won the next two, so after 8 games the score was 4-4.

Shaw won games 9 and 10, then ran out after an error by Deuel led to a failed run out attempt. The score was now 7-4 in Shaw's favor. In game 12 Shaw missed position, then missed the ball, and Deuel ran a cosmo. In game 13 Deuel once again failed to convert on a possible run and Shaw ran out. In the following game Shaw broke dry, Deuel missed, and Shaw ran out to take an 8-5 lead. Once again Deuel missed and Shaw



Pat congratulates Jayson

ran out to reach the hill with a four game lead.

In game 15 it appeared that Shaw would run out, but he blundered on his key ball shot, hooking himself behind one of Deuel's balls and Deuel cleared off an easy layout. The score: 9-6 Shaw.

In game 16 Shaw broke and faced a wide open layout with zero problems and he quickly cleared the table to capture the Make-It-Happen 8-Ball Invitational.

Announcement! Spread the word! Its confirmed!



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Mike Zuglan, Jeremy Sossei 2nd, Alex Kazakis winner, Steve Goulding owner Snookers

Kazakis wins his first major US title, going undefeated at 29th Ocean State 9-Ball Championship

For the first time in six years, the annual Ocean State 9-Ball Championship has been won by someone not named Shaw or Dechaine. On the weekend of November 11-12, the title went, for the third straight time, to a European – Alexandros (Alex) Kazakis. In the absence of the two-time defending champion (Shaw), and three-time champion Dechaine ('12, '13 & '14), Kazakis went undefeated through a field of 87 entrants at the \$5,000-added, 29th Annual Ocean State Championship, held under the auspices of the Joss Northeast 9-Ball Tour, and hosted by Snooker's in Providence, RI.

Though well known in European circles, dating back to his days as a European Junior Champion in 2009, and subsequent appearances on the International Billiard Promotion Foundation (IBPF) and European Pocket Billiard Federation's (EPBF) EuroTour, Kazakis entered the Ocean State Championship without a US title on his resumé. He'd come close, though. In January of this year (his best recorded earnings year, to date), he was runner-up to Jayson Shaw in the Derby City Bigfoot 10-Ball Challenge, and the week before the Ocean State 'challenge,' he'd been runner-up to Jorge Rodriguez in the

Grand Masters division of the NYC 8-Ball Championships.

At the very start, it seemed as though Kazakis and Albanian teenager Eklent (Klenti) Kaci were destined to knock heads. Kaci, who, in the past year, had already won the Aramith Masters Division and Predator Grand Finale of the 8-Ball World Pool Series (April and November, respectively), two stops on the Joss Tour, one on the Predator Tour and was runner-up to Shaw in the US Open, was poised to add a sixth US title to his growing list. In back-to-back matches, Kazakis and Jeremy Sossei kept the youngster out of the Ocean State Championship winners' circle.

Kazakis and Kaci met first, predictably, in the hot seat match. Kazakis had sent Sossei to the loss side 9-7 in one winners' side semifinal, as Kaci was busy shutting out Tom D'Alfonso (winner of the Ocean State title in 2011). Kazakis prevailed in the hot seat match 9-7, sending Kaci to the semifinals from which he would not return.

In the finals that followed, Kazakis, in pursuit of his first US title, was facing an opponent, Sossei, who was vying for his 39th US title in 10 years. The two came within a game of having to play a single, deciding game, but in the end, Kazakis pulled out in front 9-7 to win the 29th Annual Ocean State 9-Ball Championship.

Catch Me If You Can

18 year-old Klenti Kaci does it again, winning the Predator Grand Finale at the World Pool Series

by Ted Lerner, WPS Media Officer

Photos By JP Parmentier

Playing with an almost surreal poise and ability well beyond his years, 18 year old Klenti Kaci captured the Predator Grand Finale at the World Pool Series on Friday in New York, with a hard fought 13-11 victory over a very game Petri Makkonen.

The win by the Albanian teenager cemented his status as not only the poster boy for the future of professional pool, but as a current bona fide superstar among the elite of the sport. This was Kaci's second win in the four event World Pool Series this year, an incredibly remarkable feat considering the sheer strength of the 69 player field that had started play on Tuesday at Steinway Billiards in Queens. One only has to pair this win with his runner up finish to Jayson Shaw in the US Open just last week in Virginia to realize that pool fans are witnessing something very special. Not since Wu Chia Ching won the World 9-ball and World 8-ball crowns at the age of 16 back in 2004 has the sport had a true prodigy in their midst.

Throughout the four day event, Kaci displayed all the tools that are normally reserved for the greats of the game with years of battle hardened experience under their belt. He pots balls as good as anyone, his stroke is smooth and steady, he seems to eat pressure for lunch, and he has that most important intangible that few players ever master: he has a nose for the finish line and the winner's circle.

All of these traits were on full display once again in Friday's semi-final and final. In the semi-final Kaci squared off against talented Taiwanese Wu Kun Lin. The 23 year old Wu had been showcasing his formidable skills throughout the week in New York and this matchup with the Albanian promised a terrific showdown of pool's young guns. Wu's silky smooth stroke and low key demeanor would keep the match close throughout. But Kaci limited his errors and took control when the opportunities arose. The match was close throughout but Kaci was always one or two steps ahead and grabbed a finals spot, 11-8.

The next semi-final saw Finland's Makkonen take on Filipino veteran Dennis Orcollo. Makkonen is best known to pool fans around the world as the side kick of compatriot Mika Immonen in the doubles event, the World Cup of Pool, which



Finland won in 2013. Makkonen has always played well and shown tremendous talent and bottle in those events, and has even won a Euro Tour singles event. But it can surely be said that it was this week in New York that the 29 year old Finn finally stepped out of the shadows of the Hall of Famer Immonen and staked out his own place in the limelight.

Although he fell just short, Finland's Petri Makkonen put in the finest performance of his career at the Predator Grand Finale. Makkonen and Orcollo stayed close early, but the Finn possessed way more tools in his arsenal and took down the Filipino 11-8.

In the race to 13 final, it quickly became apparent that fans inside Steinway and the over half a million people who tuned in on social media giant Unilad on Facebook were in for an 8-ball treat played at the highest levels of the sport. The brutally tough Rasson table with 4" corner pockets certainly took its toll on both players, but it also brought out the best of these two talented young guns.

Kaci quickly got out to a 2-0 but Makkonen tied it up just as fast. From there the pair jousted in a marvelous tussle, with neither giving an inch. In the early part of the match Makkonen had several chances to go up by three and four racks, but several misses thwarted his advance. Kaci was potting with characteristic skill and looked impervious to the pressure, but he simply couldn't make a ball on the break.

The duo were tied at 4, 5, and six, before the Albanian opened up a two rack lead at 8-6. The Finn caught him at 8 and took his first lead of the match at 9-8. Kaci then won three

in a row and looked to have the match in control up 11-9. The Albanian then seemed to wilt while Makkonen caught a second wind and tied the match at 11. Having broken well all match, the Finn looked to have gained an advantage and was eyeing victory. But then Makkonen suddenly broke dry, and Kaci did what all the greats do in crunch time. He stepped up and closed the deal.

After Makkonen's dry break, Kaci, with the pressure mounting, stood and calmly ran the table. Up 12-11 and one away from victory, the Albanian executed his best break of the match, downing a ball for the first time since rack two. Imperious to the gravity of the situation, Kaci ran the table for another incredible win.

The moment of victory for Klenti Kaci

As he drank in the accolades of the awe struck crowd that had packed Steinway, the 18 year old revealed some of the secrets to his amazing success at such a young age. This is a young man that has obviously put in the time to be successful, that loves pressure and has prepared to play and win on the biggest stages possible. With the win, he has incredibly finished atop the World Series of Pool in its very first year.

"When I won my first World Pool Series in the second event back in April, and then I came in third in the next event here, I now feel like I'm the favorite and that I'm going to go all the way," Kaci said. "I haven't really played much 8-ball, but I'm really comfortable playing this game because it's very tactical and I like that kind of game. When a game is tactical, there's less luck and it comes down to who is smarter. That's my kind of game.

"It's not easy to win a tournament like this at 18 years old. But I know what I have done to be able to reach this point. I have practiced a lot. I have spent a lot of hours over the last few years in pool halls. Not like a lot of young guys who go drink and party and have fun. I have been thinking about this day for a few years. I'm feeling very comfortable when I come to the table. I feel that no matter who I play, that I'm the favorite to win.

"I really want to be the world number 1. I see myself at the top of the world rankings. I love it when I'm in a match where there's a lot of pressure. I love it when you win a match and there was so much pressure in that match and you were so successful and you did it right."

Having come so close, Makkonen was visibly upset in the immediate aftermath of a final he had in his grasp. But a few moments later he realized that he had taken his game to a new level in New York this week.

"I didn't expect to be in the final of an event like this with so

many tough players," Makkonen said. But once I was in the final I wanted the title so bad. I played the best pool of my career in this tournament so I'm quite happy. I started off the final pretty good but in the middle of the match I got a little tired and I lost my focus and got a little frustrated. The table was brutally tough and I felt like I had lost my focus a bit. The table was so tight that you can't expect anything. You have to really concentrate on every single shot. But I was able to come back in the match and I thought I was going to win it.

"When the score was 11-11, with the way I was breaking I thought I was going to run out the set but I broke dry and he ran the rack, the he broke and ran the next rack for the win so that's tough. But fair play to him, he played great and he deserved it. He's a great player, he has everything in order. He makes balls, has the break, he has the overall game and all at such a young age. He played better than me in the final.

"I have been knocking on the door for a few years now but now recently I noticed that I have a real chance so I just have to take my game to the next level."

With win Kaci received \$14,000, while Makkonen pocketed \$7000. The total prize fund was \$65,000.

*The fourth event of the World Pool Series, The Predator Grand Finale, is being held at Steinway Billiards in Astoria, Queens, New York City from October 31-Nov. 3, 2017. The World Pool Series is sponsored by Predator, UNILAD, RYO Rack, Aramith, Molinari, Cheqio, Iwan Simonis, Kamui, Billiards Digest, Cuescore, Ultimate Team Gear, Tiger, and High Rock Productions.



The Philippines Lee Vann Corteza won the second chance event, the High Rock Challenge

Lee Van Corteza Makes History

77th World 14.1 Steinway Billiards

photo Courtesy of Joe Gonzalez

The historic finals proved a lot at stake with either Thorsten Hohmann getting within 2 wins of tying Mosconi's 7 All Time World 14.1 wins or Lee Van Corteza becoming the first Asian World 14.1 Champion ever

New York City- Philippines' Lee Van Corteza did what no other Asian before him could do before him, win the World 14.1. The slim, smooth playing Filipino became the Bottledeck.net 77th World 14.1 Champion, and doing so in fashion by defeating none other than the king of straight pool, Thorsten Hohmann of Germany.

The week long event was challenging with Corteza playing a total of 13 matches and pocketing almost 2000 balls. Hohmann had pocketed over 1700 shots. The World 14.1 title is perhaps the most hard earned title in billiards with no luck or short cuts in winning games.

The Final Four

Day 6 which took place the day before the finals saw the quarter-finalists duel it out for a place in the semi's. Top American 14.1 specialist Danny Harriman had defeated 2012 World 14.1 Champion John Schmidt in the final 12, but fell 200-111 to the powerful Darren Appleton of the UK. Newcomer Del Sim of Scotland had his dream run through the field finally ended by a fellow Scotsman Jonni Fulcher 200-105. USA's hopeful Max Eberle of Las Vegas was 8-0 undefeated until he ran into the buzzsaw in Lee Van Corteza 200-44 where he had very few opportunities. The most thrilling match of the day was reigning champion Mika Immonen of Finland versus Thorsten Hohmann. Leading 184-88, Immonen went for an aggressive bank and then played a mediocre safe. The minute error seemed innocent to an ordinary 14.1 pro, but Hohmann proved why he is the greatest straight pool player on the planet as he ran 112 and out to advance to his 6th World 14.1 semi-finals. "One bad safe and he made me pay dearly. Good shooting Thorsten", commented Mika on his social media.

The semi-finals first pitted Appleton versus Hohmann which would be the third time the two champions faced each other in the World 14.1. In the match, neither could get things going but it was Appleton who made the most errors opening up Hohmann for the win making him 3-0 versus Appleton in World 14.1 competition.

"I haven't played in three months, so I wasn't really expecting



Lee Van Corteza, Thorsten Hohmann

a big result. That's why I continued my high run the other day after the match. To shake off the rust", said Appleton. He ran a 268 unofficially after his 100 point game with Michael Yednak in the round robin.

In the finals, this was the third time in history that Asia versus Europe matched. Previously, Francisco Bustamante and Effen Reyes of the Philippines had came short against their western opponents for the World 14.1 title. Lee Van intended to change that. In his first try no less, as this was his first appearance at the World 14.1.

The finals was a race to 300 points with a 30 minute intermission at 150 points. Hohmann was the dominant player in the first half of the match and held a sizable lead after his 83 ball run. He stood at 146-78 lead over Corteza.

But by the second half of the match, Corteza came back with his own 60 ball runs. Helped by uncharacteristic misses by Hohmann on routine shots, Corteza kept extending his lead. Hohmann returned to the table 2 more times but could not put together any significant runs, and at 217-183, he relinquished the table the final time with Corteza running 83 and out for the championship win. Ironically, equaling Hohmann's high run of the match.

Hohmann dominated the first half of the finals while Corteza did the same in the second. "Of course I would have loved to win another World 14.1, but Lee Van played great. He deserves the win" said Hohmann. "I just tried to stay focused. Straight pool takes a lot of concentration. I'm happy to be the first Asian to win the World 14.1" said Lee Van. Corteza also held the high run for this year's event at 130. Hohmann had the second highest at 112.

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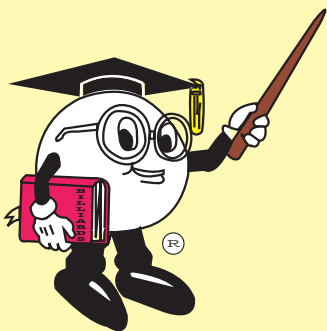
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