

# Professor-Q-Ball's

*National Pool & 3-Cushion News*

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## Living Legends Challenge

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4th Annual 10-Ball Open at Skinny Bob's

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# Living Legends Challenge

**M**ike Sigel and Earl Strickland, without a doubt, are “living legends”. Although both players are Hall -of-Famers, Earl has been competing and practicing regularly while Mike has only practiced for this contest. As we all know, both Earl and Mike like to talk to anyone who will listen and that’s what they did. Both players were mic’d and were free to express themselves without limitations. The variety of six disciplines: 8-Ball, 9-Ball, 10-Ball, Straight Pool, Banks, and One-Pocket made each player a favorite in several disciplines. As a result, it was an exceptional match that’s worth seeing again.

## Results for day 1

Aramith/Simonis Arena, John Bender and Bill Hendrixson commentating, Sandcastle Billiards, Edison, NJ

1. Strickland def. Sigel 8-2 8-Ball 75Min
2. Strickland def. Sigel 8-7 10-Ball 113Min
3. Strickland def. Sigel 125-7 Straight Pool 65Min
4. Strickland def. Sigel 8-3 9-Ball 60Min

Forget the score! The show was the chatter. Clearly Earl looked in form as Sigel struggled. Earl competes and practices regularly while Mike tried to get ready for this challenge match and it showed as Earl dominated the 8-Ball match.

The 10-Ball match started out similarly, but a Strickland skid on game ball changed things including a swelling confidence from Sigel. It ended up a squeaker as Mike tied it up at 7-7 yet Earl closed it out at 8-7. Again, the player’s mic’d made it a blast.

Straight Pool was the game that all thought Mike had his best chance at turning the tables on Earl. Well, it didn’t turn out that way. Mike couldn’t get started and when a nice break finally came his way, he had no easy shot. Earl took advantage of every inning with runs several racks long and left Mike at 7.

The last session, 9-Ball, was Mike’s chance to redeem himself, but his confidence level never rose to the occasion so he never was a threat and lost 8-3.

By virtue of being behind in sets, Sigel decided on disciplines for day 2.

## Results for Day 2

- 5) Strickland def Sigel 4-2 Banks 90 Min
- 6) Sigel def. Strickland 3-1 One-Pocket 60 Min
- 7) Sigel def. Strickland 3-2 One-Pocket 80 Min
- 8) Sigel def. Strickland 125-123 Straight Pool 120 Min

Earl was aggressive and accurate in Banks. To his credit, Mike won several racks by playing well. Despite that, Earl was the powerhouse.

After losing the first five of six disciplines, this One Pocket was Mike’s chance to salvage something. He outplayed Earl and won convincingly 3-1.

By being behind after six sessions, Mike was allowed to choose the next discipline. He took advantage of his only win by choosing One-Pocket. As it turned out, it was very competitive and Mike edged Earl 3-2.

Straight Pool was Sigel’s next selection as he had the choice of disciplines because he still trailed in sets 2-5. This match could have gone either way countless times. Strickland ran 97 and Sigel ran about 60, but the wheels fell off both of them and it was a wonder if either one would win. Sigel struggled to the last ball.

Sigel chose 8-Ball as the next discipline to start Day 3.

## Final Day 3

- 9 Strickland def. Sigel 8-1 8-Ball 75 Min
- 10 Strickland def. Sigel 8-6 10-Ball 90 Min

Strickland got serious in the 8-Ball match and played fabulously. Sigel never loosened up and lost 8-1.

Sigel had his chances in 10-Ball and almost benefited from his efforts, but just didn’t have enough in him to pull out the win

**Strickland is the 2018 Living Legends Challenge champion!**







photos by Karl Kantowitz



# **2018 MansionBet World Pool Masters Feijen is a two-time Master!**

## **The Final**

**Niels Feijen 8 – 4  
Shane Van Boening**

## **Semi Finals**

**Niels Feijen 8 – 3  
Karl Boyes**

**Shane Van Boening 8 – 3  
Jayson Shaw**

Niels Feijen is the 2018 MansionBet World Pool Master overcoming Shane Van Boening to lift the title he won for the first time in 2013. In front of a packed house at the Victoria Stadium in Gibraltar, Feijen dominated the final from the off and was delighted to collect the trophy, presented by Minister for Sport, Culture, Heritage and Youth, Mr Steven Linares.

Feijen, who had been out of the game for the best part of six months with tendonitis, had endured surgery on his arm. He missed the Mosconi Cup last



December and the MansionBet World Pool Masters represented his first tournament back in the spotlight.

Any doubts about his fitness were dispelled with a string of fine victories culminating in triumph in the championship match over Van Boening.

He took out Raj Hundal 8-2 in the first round before beating a very dangerous Dennis Orcollo in the quarter-final.

Karl Boyes, who himself was on the comeback trail, was the deadly Dutchman's semi-final victim

Helped by four break and runs, Feijen





recovered from the loss of opening rack to build up an almost unassailable 7-2 lead. However, on the verge of victory, seemingly clearing up in the tenth rack, the Dutchman missed the orange 5 ball from short range.

Van Boening cleared up to stay alive and placed further doubt in the mind of his opponent by smoothly breaking and running in rack 11. Yet, just when the great escape began to look on the cards for the five-times US Open champion Van Boening broke dry in rack 12 and with a 1/9 combo sitting prettily, Feijen sealed the deal.

Feijen's win was the 17th European victory in the 25 years of the event and he was delighted with his performance; "I am pretty speechless. It has been a long ride and I would like to thank everybody who supported me, especially my wife. It is a great moment.

"The competition keeps me focussed – I played Dennis who has beaten me eight or ten times in a row, so I had to step it up in that one. Karl is a great guy and we have had some good battles in the past so that was a great match in the semi-final, and the break started to click really well in that match. My timing was good so I thought if I keep breaking like that, I could win the whole thing.

"Shane is in his own league sometimes and he is a two-time winner so that gives you an extra spark, but I thought I had a real chance. I had been out for so long I knew if I could snap this thing off, it would mean a lot to me."

As well as the prestigious title, Feijen collects a pay cheque for \$20,000 and an invite back into the 2019 Masters.

# DaBreo and Fracasso-Verner Win Open/Pro, Amateur Events on Predator Pro Am Tour

by Skip Maloney  
AZBilliards

It is a significant rite of passage; moving from the top ranks of Amateur status to the loftier competitive environment where the Open/Pro players do battle. On the weekend of March 3-4, at a \$250-added Open/Pro event on the Predator Pro Am Tour, Raphael DaBreo took that step, winning his first-ever Open/Pro event, and according to tour director Tony Robles, was “super happy about it. “Like a kid in a candy store,” said Robles.

DaBreo, working as a B player, first showed up on the AZBilliards’ radar 10 years ago, when he won his first stop on the Tri-State Tour. A year later (2009), he won two more on that tour. He won his first stop on the Predator Pro Am in 2010. Over the next eight years, he chalked up a baker’s dozen (13) more on the two tours, as he climbed the rankings ladder. On average, we reported here last October, he’d won an average of one event per year on both tours, dating back to those initial victories.

In a concurrently-run, \$750-added Amateur event over the weekend, Lukas Fracasso-Verner went undefeated through a field of 53 entrants to claim that title. Both events were hosted by The Spot in Nanuet, NY.

DaBreo had a crack at a Predator Open/Pro event about three weeks ago, (Feb. 10-11), when he made it to the semifinals (downing Robles on the loss side along the way), before being eliminated by the event’s winner, Kudlik Marek. His first Open/Pro victory followed the same script, with the significant difference of coming back from the loss side to win it. He advanced to a winners’ side semifinal versus Jimmy Rivera in this most recent event, while Joey Korsiak and Zion Zvi squared off in the other one.

Korsiak got by Zvi 7-4. DaBreo battled Rivera to a deciding game, before Rivera sent him to the loss side. Korsiak claimed the hot seat 7-4 over Rivera and waited on DaBreo’s return.

On the loss side, DaBreo picked up Robles (whom he’d met in the quarterfinals of the Feb. 10-11 event), who’d defeated Victor Nau 7-3 and Mike Salerno 7-2 to reach him this time. Zvi drew Jorge Teixeira, who’d gotten by Yesid Garibello 7-3 and Dave Shlemperis 7-1. DaBreo got by Robles again; this time, 7-4, as Zvi eliminated Teixeira 7-2.

DaBreo, apparently very motivated to collect his first Open/Pro title, chalked up two straight double hill wins to get a shot at Korsiak in the hot seat. He downed Zvi in the quar-

terfinals, and then, Rivera in the semifinals. A 9-5 win over Korsiak in those finals secured DaBreo’s first Open/Pro win.

Fracasso-Verner goes undefeated to take Amateur division.

Last February, at the age of 15, Lukas Fracasso-Verner became the second-youngest player to ever win a stop on the Predator Pro Am Tour; the first, being Thomas Rice, who, at 14 won a stop on the tour in 2013. What was particularly significant about Fracasso-Verner’s victory at the time was that he’d won 13 loss-side matches

to meet and defeat the hot seat occupant, Atif Khan.



PRO 10-Ball

L-R: Joey Korsiak (2nd), Zion Zvi (4th), Raphael DaBreo (1st) and Jimmy Rivera (3rd)



At this most recent stop on the Predator Pro Am Tour, Fracasso-Verner, now 16, chalked up another victory, this time going undefeated through a field of 53. He advanced through the field to a winners' side semifinal against Rhio Anne "Annie" Flores, while Adam Miller met up with Feng Zhao in the other winners' side semifinal. Miller downed Zhao 7-3, while Fracasso-Verner and Flores locked up in a double hill battle that did eventually send Flores to the loss side. Fracasso-Verner then downed Miller 9-5 to claim the hot seat.

On the loss side, Zhao picked up Suzzie Wong, who'd gotten by Greg Matos 6-3 and won a double hill match against Matthias Gutzmann. Flores drew Mark Zamora, recent double hill winner over Ocheign Carlos and Max Watanabe 7-5. The ladies advanced to the quarterfinals; Wong, over Zhao 7-2, and Flores over Zamora 7-4.

The ladies then locked up in a double hill fight, won by Wong. Miller took the semifinal 6-3 over Wong. Fracasso-Verner completed his undefeated run with a double hill 9-8 win over Miller in the finals.

A Second Chance event drew eight entrants. It was won by Wax Watanabe, who defeated Rich Hourihan in a double hill final. Watanabe pocketed \$100, while Hourihan took home \$50.

## Payouts

1 USA FRACASSO-VERNER Lukas 1,000  
 2 USA MILLER Adam 750  
 3 ENG WONG Suzanna 550  
 4 USA FLORES Annie 350  
 5 USA ZHAO Feng 250  
 5 USA ZAMORA Mark 250  
 7 WATANABE Max 150  
 7 USA GUTZMANN Matthias 150  
 9 USA MATOS Greg 100  
 9 YU Amu Yue 100



**ABCD 9-Ball**  
 L-R: Adam Miller (2nd), Annie Flores (4th), Suzzie Wong (3rd), and Lukas Fracasso-Verner (1st)



**2nd Chance**  
 Rich Hourihan (2nd) and Max Watanabe (1st)

9 CARLOS Ocheign 100  
 9 USA MEYER Brooke 100

## Pro Event Finishers

1 USA DABREO Raphael 600  
 2 USA KORSIKAK Joe 400  
 3 RIVERA Jimmy 225  
 4 ISR ZVI Zion 100

## 2nd Chance Finishers

1 Max Watanabe  
 2 Rich Hourihan



# Aggressive Defense

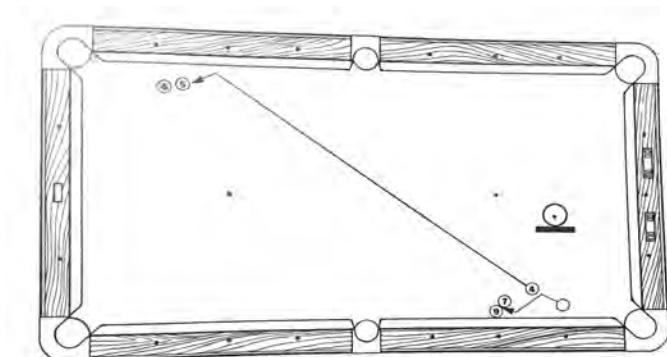
by Robert Byrne

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



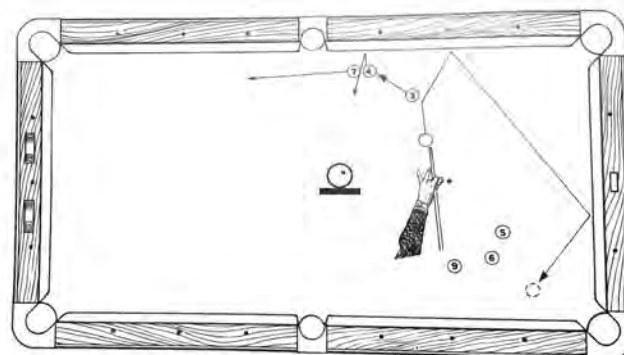
## Aggressive Defense 1

Passive defense is avoiding defeat. Aggressive defense is improving your chances of winning. In the diagram, you have ball in hand in a game of nine-ball. It's easy to find a way to play safe and leave your opponent with out a direct shot at the 4-ball, but even if he misses the kick and gives you ball in hand again, a runout is tough because of the two clusters. The winning strategy is to play safe and break up both clusters as shown. Now if your opponent misses the kick, the coast is clear for a runout.



## Aggressive Defense 2

At the right, there is no good way to runout. The 3-ball can be banked in the side, but the 4-ball is locked up by the 7-ball. Of the several safeties that are available, the best one is to drive the 3-ball into the 4-ball, thus eliminating cluster and at the same time sending the cueball off three rails as shown. Now the odds of winning are greatly in your favor.



# Chico Billiards Academy

by Jacqueline Karol

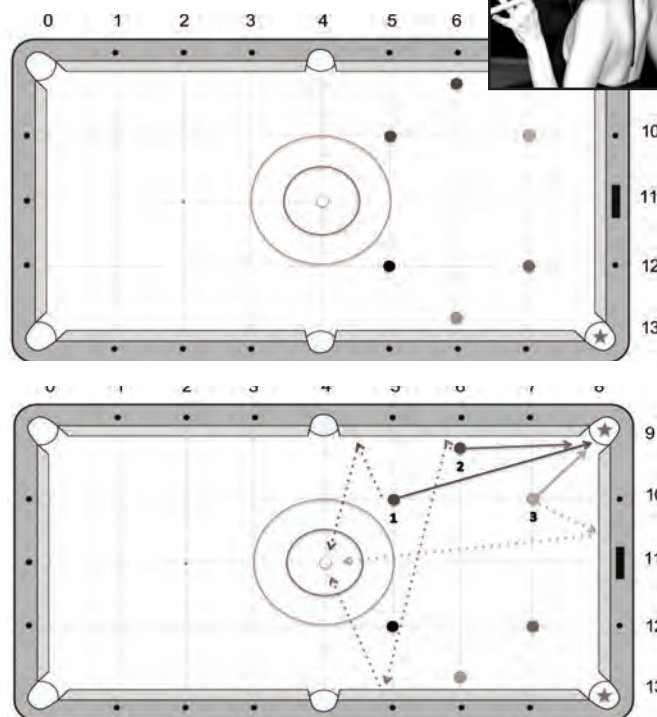
House Pro at Oais Bar & Grill Chico Ca., League Operator & Tournament Director .



## Center Table Drill

This Center Table Drill is a great way to get a feel for the table and practice 3 common shots. Many times, you want to get the cue ball to the center of the table because you have the most options from this area. Set them up as in diagram 1, and see if you can make all 6 shots in a row without a missing or scratching and without touching any other balls. If you have trouble with one of the shots, isolate it, and set it up over and over until you have it.

Diagram 2: Shoot Shot #1 with high and a tiny bit of left English. You will need to pocket the #1 shot on the other side of the table before you shoot #2, so that it does not get in the cue ball's path. Shoot Shot #2 with a little bit of low and a little bit of left and visualize hitting a specific spot on the opposite rail, so it will float effortlessly to the center table. Shot #3 requires high inside English (left) and a nice long stroke. Keeping the tip of the cue in contact with the ball for a long time will help make this shot smooth and move nicely to the center table.





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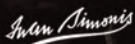
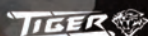
HUGO PATINO

FRANK TORRES

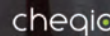
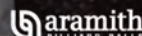
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# The USBA Newsletter 3-Cushion Billiard News

www.USBA.net

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## Dateline Rushville Illinois

by Gary Eake

**G**reeted by Tournament Director, Host and former National Champion George Ashby, 36 Billiard Players from 10 states extending from Florida to Oregon converged on the small mid-western town of Rushville IL

for the Professor-Q-Ball Spring Event Title at the infamous Rushville Billiard Club.

The four brackets of nine began Thursday. When the dust settled after the Preliminary Round, 8 Players emerged to carry on in the Round Robin Finals at on Saturday.

Olegario Gonzalez, Noe Lara, Brian Haff and Joshua Alldridge, all of Illinois, took to four of the six billiard tables battle with Mike Miller (WI), Lupe Cruz (IA), Fred Lamers (MN) and Jim Bishop (FL).

Most of the games were nip and tuck and no players went without a loss. In the final round Cruz edged out Lamers 25 - 18 in 23 innings for the 1st Place Title (\$1,100). Lamers edged out Olegario Gonzalez by one point to claim 2nd Place (\$850). Gonzalez received \$700 for 3rd Place.

The always strong Brian Haff claimed a solid 4th (\$600) followed by newcomer Noe Lara in 5th (\$500.00). Mike Miller's study of and dedication to the game, paid 6th Place (\$400) and Joshua Alldridge finished in 7th Place (\$275.00). The always rock solid Jim Bishop finished 8th (\$200).

The top two 3rd place finishers in the Preliminaries, Tony Natale (9th) and Tournament Lead Sponsor Professor Q-Ball Paul Frankel (10th), each received \$85.00 for their efforts but did not advance.

Hi Run Out of the Money of \$50 went to George Ashby with a National Class 11. Hi Run In the Money of \$60 was shared three ways by Bishop, Cruz and Lamers who each record enviable 7's.

As usual the tournament ran smoothly. due to the efforts of Coordinator Dale Saunders . George

Ashby was unable to advance to the Championship rounds due a player being unable to finish the Prelims.

Under the rules of the UMB/USBA for this situation, all games of the player were annulled, which prevented Ashby to advance.

See all Charts online at [www.professorqball.com](http://www.professorqball.com) and click on the Rushville link.



FINALS	Cruz	Lamers	Bishop	Gonzalez	Alldridge	Haff	Miller	Noe Lara	WHEELS	TOTAL POINTS	TOTAL INNINGS	GRAND AVERAGE	HIGH ROLL	BEST GAME	FINAL RANKING
Cruz	17	25	25	25	25	20	25	25	1	170	164	1.037	7	1.190	1
Lamers	18	25	19	25	25	25	25	25	2	162	210	0.771	7	1.042	2
Bishop	14	10	18	22	25	19	25	25	5	133	255	0.522	7	0.781	8
Gonzalez	13	25	25	23	25	25	25	25	2	161	237	0.679	5	0.962	3
Alldridge	11	17	25	25	15	25	24	18	5	135	297	0.455	5	0.568	7
Haff	25	7	15	17	25	25	25	25	3	140	215	0.651	5	1.316	4
Miller	13	13	25	24	25	23	25	13	2	136	261	0.521	4	0.727	6
Noe Lara	18	19	23	16	25	23	25	25	5	149	264	0.564	6	0.857	5
Points Against	112	116	164	144	170	156	168	156		TOURNAMENT AVERAGE: 0.623					

# Professor-Q-Ball Promotions

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**T**he 30th Annual BEF Junior Nationals to be Held at Ernest N. Morial Convention Center in New Orleans July 10-14, 2018.

The Billiard Education Foundation (BEF) is thrilled to announce its 30th Annual Junior National 9-Ball Championships (JNC) to be held July 10-14, 2018 at the Ernest N. Morial Convention Center in New Orleans, LA. Junior State Championships and qualifiers are being held across the country for the youth to earn their chance to compete at the JNC.

"We are so excited to have our 2018 Junior Nation Championship at the Ernest N. Morial Convention Center in New Orleans, LA. There is nothing quite like watching these young kids compete and have a great time," said the BEF president Tom Riccobene. "We couldn't be prouder of the level of intelligence, comradery, and talent these kids bring to this event. Everything we do for these events comes from our hearts and is focused on the kids."

For over 3 decades, young billiard student-athletes from all over the country compete in local qualifiers for their chance at this prestigious title, scholarship dollars, and prizes. It's the only junior event in the U.S. that qualifies young players to compete at the WPA (World Pool-Billiard Association) World Junior 9-Ball Championships.

Between junior leagues, qualifiers and the Junior State Championship program, the BEF is anticipating its largest participation this year. The national championships boast 8

divisions: 18 & Under Boys, 16 & Under Boys, 14 & Under Boys, 11 & Under Boys (non-world-qualifying division), 18 & Under Girls, 16 & Under Girls, 14 & Under Girls, and 11 & Under Girls (non-world-qualifying division). The three upper age divisions for both boys and girls will also all be World Qualifiers. Those matches will be played on 20 each, 9' Diamonds. Deadline to register is June 30, 2018.

A special addition to the national tournament continues in the magnetism and competitive challenge of "artistic pool", says ESPN & World Masters Trick Shot Champion Tom "Dr. Cue"® Rossman. For 25 years, this unique and exciting championship has run parallel to the 9-ball event. Each player in 8 youthful divisions of the 2018 BEF National Junior Championships has the opportunity to "take the artistic challenge". "Everyone has a chance to win the 2018 BEF Junior National "Artistic Pool" Championship title in your respective division. It's easy, it's exciting, it's fun, and it's an experience you will never forget."

Contact: The Billiard Education Foundation

Email: [info@billiardeducation.org](mailto:info@billiardeducation.org)

Phone: (303) 926-1039

Visit [www.billiardeducation.org](http://www.billiardeducation.org) or call (303) 926-1039 if interested in hosting a State Championship or qualifier.

# Some 8-Ball Game Winners

by Mark Finkelstein

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



I have been playing a lot of eight ball the last few months and some interesting situations came up that I would like to share with you. The games were played on a Blue Diamond 9 footer, with Simonis 860 cloth, but there still was congestion and problems to deal with.

Here are a few situations that came up with solving them leading to a win. For clarity I'm leaving out a lot of the balls that were blocking pockets and approach paths.

(Diagram 1)

In this first situation, I was playing solids and had this situation by the side pocket. If I could get straight on the 4 ball and shoot a stop shot I would be in great position to play the six ball up the rail and off the 10 ball. The key part of this shot was making sure to take the throw out of the shot so that the 6 ball wouldn't bounce too far from the rail.

(Diagram 2)

If I could get straight on the ball closest to the rail, I would be in a great position to shoot the double kiss shot as in the diagram. I was lucky in having the 6 ball by the side pocket. The only key part was to see where the two balls I was using were going to go, and control the speed so I didn't lose them. The shot worked out for me and I ran out.

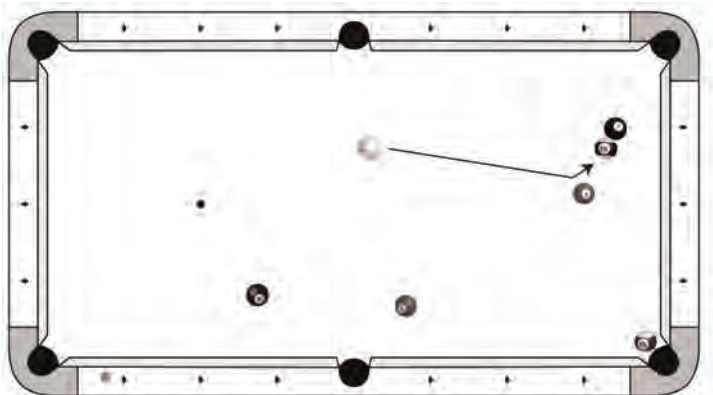
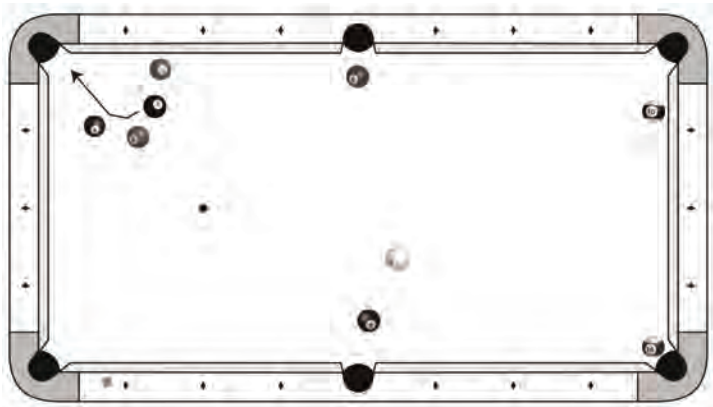
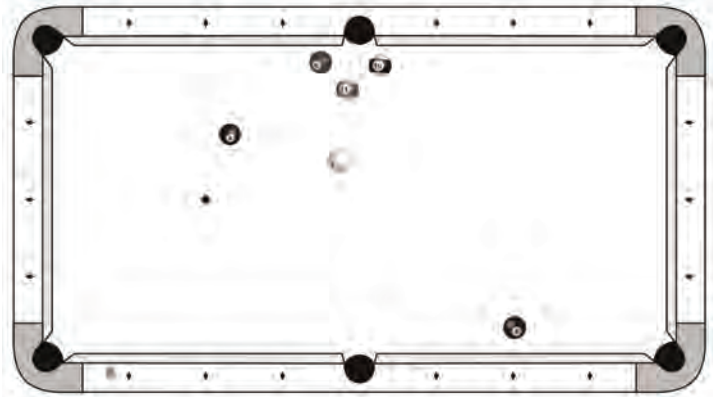
(Diagram 3)

This shot comes up and most people don't see it. I had a dead shot, but it was blocked by a stripe. Here was my solution:

By going off the left side of the 3 ball I was able to hit the combination and pocket my ball. Again, making sure to control the speed of the shot so I don't knock my ball into a bad position. Again this shot worked out and I won the game.

Being open to these opportunities and betting the game on the shot is something you will have to come to grips with. My take on this is that if the shot looks on, I fire at it. Yes, I have lost some games firing at shots like this, but to me if the percentage is 60 to 70 % in my favor, I'll shoot the shot rather than playing safe.

Make sure to spend some time playing these shots to learn what works for you and what doesn't. Sometimes you really have no other choice but to shoot at a shot, and this experience will give you the confidence to find a shot and shoot it.



Good luck and see you on the road.



# ***The Siberian Express Rolls Through Texas***

by Mary Kenniston

All the action was at Skinny Bob's Billiards in Round Rock, TX and live-Streamed by PoolAction TV and held on February 15-19th

As owners John and Sue Cielo presented the 4th Annual 10-Ball Championships - races to seven, alternate break. Special event sponsors included Hanshew Jump Cues, ATX Napa, Honest Air Conditioning and the Sleep Inn & Suites. Without their support, this event would not be possible.

Thursday kicked off with a 21 team Jack & Jill Scotch Doubles Championship. Tommy Tokoph and Gail Eaton were the winners of this event over Carl Honey and Chris Fields.

Keeping the place hopping, 23 players put up their entries for the Banks Rails Game with Ronnie Alcano taking top honors over the always-tough John Morra.

Keeping the action going on Friday, there was a men & women's 10-ball ring game. The Siberian Express, Ruslan Chinahov, has been winning all over the country & added another victory over Alcano in the means ring game. Ming Ng and Jennifer Kraber were the final two in the 14 players women's ring game and they decided to chop.

Under the able direction of James Davis Sir, there was the players meeting, draw and players auction.

The women's division drew 32 players including Kim Pierce, Kelly Isaac, Ming Ng, Gail Eaton, Chris Fields and Jennifer Kraber. When the smoke cleared, it was Kraber going undefeated to take the title over the always-tough Ng. Eaton finished third and Michelle Cortez finished in fourth place. Congratulations to Jennifer! Good job, Ming!

The main event drew a full field of 128 players including Morra, Tokoph, Sky Woodward, Danny Smith, Robb Saez, Richie Richeson, Mike Delawder, John Gabriel, Mitch Ellerman, Kevin Guimond and this year's Derby City Banks Ring Game and Turning Stone XXIX champ, Billy Thorpe. The Texas contingent was led by newly inducted One Pocket Hall of Famer Jeremy Jones, Charlie Bryant, Manny Chau, Alex Calderon, the father-son duo of James Davis Sr & Jr and a familiar name to the old schoolers, Tommy Sanders. The foreign contingent included Chinahov, Casper Matikainen, Ruben Bautista and the always tough Filipinos - Warren Kiamco, Jeffrey DeLuna, Ronnie Alcano and recent Derby City Bigfoot Challenge winner, Roberto Gomez.



**Ming Ng, 2nd and Jenifer Kraber, 1st**

First round action saw Matikainen send Kiamco west while Delawder was trounced by DeLuna. Second round matches had no real upsets but the third round matches saw Matikainen wallop De Luna while Jones dusted off Chau and Shane Manaole skunked Tokoph.

By the fourth round, things were tightening up: Saez couldn't get past Morra, Jones was handed a donut by Gomez while Loftis held Woodward to zero! Meanwhile, Bryant survived a hill-hill match with Matikainen.

Bryant did it again next round in his match with Morra 7-6! Loftis sent Bautista to the left side as Gomez and Alcano duked it out. Alcano moved on as did Chinahov over Calderon.

Down to the final four on the winner's side, Chinahov drilled Alcano 7-0 while Bryant was fighting for his life against Loftis! Another 6-6 match but this time, Charlie couldn't pull it out. That left Chinahov and Loftis to fight it out for the hot seat...

It was neck and neck but the young Russian finally pulled away to claim his spot in the finals 7-5 while Loftis went west to await an opponent.

Meanwhile, on the one loss side of the chart, Bryant - no stranger to hill-hill matches - knocking Woodward out 7-6 to advance. Alcano cruised to the next match with a 7-3 win over Bautista. Both Woodward and Bautista finished in a 5th-6th tie.

Alcano had no trouble with Bryant leaving him with a very respectable fourth place finish. Loftis, however, was having none of it as he battled it out and emerged the victor over Alcano – he finished third.

Since this is a true double elimination event, Kenny would have to defeat Ruslan twice to claim the title. Leading 3-1, Loftis broke dry and Chinahov went on to tie it up at four apiece and then go ahead 5-4. Loftis tied it up at five all with a spectacular shot on the ten and went ahead to reach the hill first! The next game saw each at the table more than once but Kenny ended up with a fairly routine out to take the first set 7-5!!!

Alas, but the Cinderella story was not to happen...Ruslan jumped out to a 4-0 lead. It was Kenny's break and he ran out to get a mark on the board – 4-1. Chinahov won the next two to go ahead 6-1 and needing one game to clinch the title. Loftis wasn't about to give up though, winning the next game. The Siberian Express rolled over the young Loftis to take the next game and the title with a final score of 7-2.

Hailing from the Memphis area, what a great finish for a guy who works a full time job! I'm sure this is not the last we'll see of this young man! Great finish, Kenny!

And congratulations to Ruslan! The young Russian's had a great year so far...he won the Derby City 14.1 Challenge, the Virginia State 10-Ball Championship and is now the Texas Open 10-Ball Champion! Congratulations!

*We'd like to thank the Cielos & their staff at Skinny Bob's for another great event! And a tip of the hat to Tournament Director James Davis Sr. for keeping things running smoothly.*

*The Texas Open 10-Ball Championships were played on Brunswick Gold Crown III.*

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**Ruslan Chinahov**

## **Open Division**

**\$125 entry, \$4000 added**

1st	Ruslan Chinahov	\$4900
2nd	Kenny Loftis	\$2700
3rd	Charlie Bryant	\$1700
4th	Ronnie Alcano	\$1000
5-6th		\$630
7-8th		\$460
9-12th		\$300
13-16th		\$210
17-24th		\$160
25-32nd		\$125

## **Ladies Division**

**\$40 entry, \$1000 added**

1st	Jennifer Kraber	\$750
2nd	Ming Ng	\$450
3rd	Gail Eaton	\$340
4th	Michelle Cortez	\$230
5-6th		\$170
7-8th		\$110



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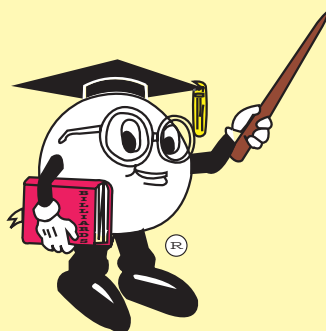
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