

CHAMPIONS CROWNED AT WPA WORLD ARTISTIC POOL CHAMPIONSHIP!!

From February 8th through the 10th, Artistic Pool players from around the globe converged on Bogies Billiards East in Houston, Texas for the 17th WPA World Artistic Pool Championship. The field included past world champions William “The Gentleman” DeYonker and Gabi “Mr. Perfect” Visoiu. Florian “Venom” Kohler of social media fame was also in the field looking for his 1st world title that he has been ever so close to. Two other players, who got their start with online videos, made their Artistic Pool competitive debuts – Troy “The Sniper” Garten and Theo “Blood Shark” Mihellis. Theo is one of the youngest people to ever compete in a WPA World ranking Artistic Pool event at the age of 14 years old. The field also included two players from the Houston area in Jamie “The Bayou Bullet” Moody, and Kaitlyn “Wonder Woman” Bonjiorno.

Day one saw players going through the first four disciplines of Artistic Pool in Trick/Fancy, Special Arts, Draw, and Follow. Jamie Moody walked away with the first two discipline titles with scores of 38 and 39 out of 40 respectively. Gabi Visoiu won the world “draw” title with 39/40 points, while Marty “The Farmer” Carey earned his first world discipline title in “follow” with a score of 38/40. The top players seemed to have no problem with the 4-¼ inch pockets on 9ft Brunswick Gold Crowns that the players were navigating. At the end of day one Florian Kohler jumped out to a good lead at 152 points. The next five players were all close together...separated by less than 10 points with Gabi Visoiu at 129, Jamie Moody and Jason “The Michigan Kid” Lynch tied with 126, Abram “Too Tall” Diaz with 122 and William DeYonker at 120 to round out the top six positions.

The evening of day one saw the majority of players compete in an open speed pool tournament to benefit the local branch of the military charity called The Travis Manion Foundation. Sixteen players from both the room and the Artistic Pool tournament raced around the tables in an attempt to pocket ten balls first in head to head matches. Players played a modified 8-ball game with a 10-ball rack. Players pocketed the other 9 balls first while leaving the 8 ball for last. The format was a race to two – single elimination. The finals featured a showdown with Artistic Pool players Gabi Visoiu vs. Jason Lynch, with Gabi taking down the title.

Day two saw players finish the remaining four disciplines in Bank/Kick, Stroke, Jump, and Masse to close out the preliminary rounds. Jason Lynch won the Bank/Kick Discipline title with a score of 39/40, while Gabi Visoiu captured his second world discipline title with a 37 in “stroke”. Florian Kohler capped off the prelims by successfully defending his world “jump” and “masse” titles with scores of 37/40 and 31/40 respectively. The close of day two saw the seeding of the twelve players who would compete in the playoff rounds with the top four players receiving a first-round bye. The players receiving a bye were Florian Kohler with a score of 277, Gabi Visoiu with a score of 262, Abram Diaz with a score of 250, and Jason Lynch with a score of 247.

The evening of day two saw the inaugural Dr. Cue Cup in honor of the recognized founder of the modern-day Artistic Pool movement – Tom “Dr Cue” Rossman. The format was a team competition with captains choosing the teams. The team captains were the local female players – Kaitlyn Bonjiorno and “The First Lady of Trickshots” Stacy Mendrick. Stacy and Kaitlyn lagged with the winner receiving first pick. Stacy won the lag and her first pick was Abram Diaz. Kaitlyn’s first pick was Jason Lynch. The captains finished picking their teams with players from the field to have a six-person team. Each team would put up a player to pick a shot from anywhere in the 120-shot program, with the opposing team picking a player to rebut the shot, meaning that each player on the teams would shoot a total of 2 shots. The player that was picked to do a shot did not state what their shot was until the opposing team picked a

rebuttal, which tested the strategy of the teams. Coaching and light heckling was encouraged and proved to be an entertaining time for the players, as well as the crowd. The person enjoying this most however was Dr. Cue himself, who served as official scorekeeper. In the end, team Kaitlyn (known as team Super K) defeated team Stacy (known as team Too Short to Too Tall) in the inaugural Dr. Cue Cup. Tom was touched at the event and stated that everyone (the players and the crowd), won that night, as it was what Artistic Pool was founded and based on – entertainment and art on a pool table.

Day three was filled with playoff matches to determine the 2018 WPA World Artistic Pool Champion. The format of the playoffs consisted of players first shooting a shot from either the even numbered or odd numbered disciplines (four shots), and then shooting four shots from anywhere in the 120-shot program. Players would lag and the winner would choose if they wanted to shoot the odds or evens. The #5 seed William DeYonker (239 points) faced off against #12 seed Troy Garten (101 points), who inched past Ron Percefull by one point to make the playoffs. Troy held his own but fell to the former world champ 69-51. The #6 seed Jamie Moody (224 points) faced off against #11 seed Andrew “The Enigma” Sozio (116 points). This was Andrew’s first playoff match, but the experience factor was a lot to overcome with Jamie securing the win with a 73-40 score. The next match saw the battle of the jump cue creators with #7 seed Mark “Dr. Popper” Dimick (203 points) competing against the #10 seed Marty Carey (177 points). When the dust settled, Mark got past Marty 82-55. The last match in the first round featured #8 seed Brian “Superman” Pauley (197 points) against #9 seed Curtis “The Redneck Cue Guy” Robertson (189 points). The match went down to the next to the last shot with Curtis scoring the minor upset 53-41. The Quarterfinals were set. Florian Kohler bested Curtis Robertson 77-24 while Gabi Visoiu defeated Mark Dimick 68-29. Abram Diaz took victory honors over Jamie Moody 88-82. Jamie was down 28 points at one point in the match and battled his way back. On the last shot of the match Jamie went ahead 82-79 with the Evil Kenevil jump shot. Abram answered by making it on his first attempt and sealing the exciting match. The last match in the quarter finals saw William DeYonker score a slight upset against Jason Lynch 52-46 in another tight match. The semi finals saw Florian Kohler down William DeYonker 89-63 and Gabi Visoiu getting past Abram Diaz 79-36. The finals were set with the top two seeds colliding. Both players went back and forth making amazing shots and showing why these two are at the top of the food chain when it comes to Artistic Pool. It came down to the next to the last shot and Florian’s last pick. Down by 15 points, Florian had to score points on a 10-point shot and hope Gabi would miss it to stay alive. Florian picked the “3-2-1, 1-2-3” shot from the Special Arts Discipline, a speed and timing shot. Florian missed all three attempts, which gave Gabi the 78-63 win and his second WPA World Artistic Pool Championship title.

Two other awards were presented at this event. One award is the Rising Star Recipient title. This special award was started by Tim “The Dragon” Chin for players that have played in three or less events. At a ranking event, the Rising Star Recipient award goes to the player of that eligible grouping which scores the highest points for 40 shots selected. Troy Garten narrowly edged Ron Percefull to win that award by one point. The other award given out is the Sportsmanship Recipient award, which is voted on by the players. This event’s winner was Ron Percefull, who made a disciplined character adjustment from previous events.

A big thank you goes out to Bogies Billiards East in Houston, Texas for hosting services and monetary sponsorship of the event, to Simonis cloth for providing the felt for the tables after the tournament, to the WPA for event sanctioning and Olympic-style medals for 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place overall, and to the WPA Artistic Pool Division for their continued foundational support / promotion of Artistic Pool worldwide, plus provision of the eight discipline awards, Rising Star Recipient award, Sportsman Recipient award, and

special participation awards for positions of finish 4th – 15th. Special thanks to Jason Lynch for streaming the event and Tom “Dr. Cue” Rossman for direction / entertainment services! The players are looking forward to a return visit to the Lone Star state to once again entertain the crowd and exhibit their amazing skills in Artistic Pool.

2018 (17th) WPA World Artistic Pool Championship

February 8 – 10, 2019

Bogies Billiards East

Houston, TX

Overall Finish	Artistic Pool Player With Nickname	Prelim Score	Prize \$ *
1	Gabi “Perfect” Visoiu (EUR – ROMANIA)	262	1500
2	Florian “Venom” Kohler (EUR – FRANCE)	277	1200
3	Abram “Too Tall” Diaz (US)	250	900
4	William “The Gentleman” DeYonker (US)	239	800
5	Jason “The Michigan Kid” Lynch (US)	247	700
6	Jamie “The Bayou Bullet” Moody (US)	224	600
7	Mark “Dr. Popper” Dimick (US)	203	500
8	Curtis “Redneck Cue Guy” Robertson (US)	189	500
9	Brian “Superman” Pauley (US)	197	-----
10	Marty “The Farmer” Carey (US)	177	-----
11	Andrew “Enigma” Sozio (US)	116	-----
12	Troy “The Sniper” Garten (US) * *	101	-----
13	Ron “World Beater” Percefull (US) * *	100	-----
14	Theo “Blood Shark” Mihellis (US) * *	88	-----
15	Kaitlyn “Wonder Woman” Bonjournio (US)	71	-----

* Actual amounts paid may be lower due to withholding for designated players

** Players that were eligible for Special Rising Star Medal / Ribbon Award

Special Awards Note: The WPA Artistic Pool Division provided acrylic awards for 1st, 2nd, 3rd, and 4th place overall and a unique “participation” award for places 4th – 15th in the event; the top 3 places received respective gold, silver, and bronze WPA medals.

2018 (17th) WPA World Artistic Pool Championship

Playoff Rounds – Match Play

Initial Rounds	---	(1) Florian Kohler: Bye	----
“ “	---	(2) Gabi Visoiu: Bye	----
“ “	---	(3) Abram Diaz: Bye	----
“ “	---	(4) Jason Lynch: Bye	----
“ “	---	(5) William DeYonker def. (12) Troy Garten	----
“ “	---	(6) Jamie Moody def. (11) Andrew Sozio	----
“ “	---	(7) Mark Dimick def. (10) Marty Carey	----
“ “	---	(9) Curtis Robertson def. (8) Brian Pauley	----
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Quarter Finals	---	(1) Florian Kohler def. (9) Curtis Robertson	----
“ “	---	(2) Gabi Visoiu def. (7) Mark Dimick	----
“ “	---	(3) Abram Diaz def. (6) Jamie Moody	----
“ “	---	(5) William DeYonker def. (4) Jason Lynch	----
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Semi Finals	---	(1) Florian Kohler def. (5) William DeYonker	----
“ “	---	(2) Gabi Visoiu def. (3) Abram Diaz	----
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Finals	---	(2) Gabi Visoiu def. (1) Florian Kohler	----

Top 12 From Preliminary Rounds Plus 4 Byes

2018 (17th) WPA World Artistic Pool Championship

Discipline Champions / Sportsmanship & Rising Star Recipients

Trick / Fancy	---	Jamie Moody	38 out of 40 points
Special Arts	---	Jamie Moody	39 out of 40 points
Draw	---	Gabi Visoiu	39 out of 40 points
Follow	---	Marty Carey	38 out of 40 points
Bank / Kick	---	Jason Lynch	39 out of 40 points
Stroke	---	Gabi Visoiu	37 out of 40 points
Jump	---	Florian Kohler	37 out of 40 points
Masse	---	Florian Kohler	31 out of 40 points
Sportsmanship	---	Ron Percefull	By Player Vote
Rising Star	---	Troy Garten	By Player Scores

Special WPA "Artistic Pool" Medal / Ribbon Awards Presented To Each Player
Discipline Awards, Sportsmanship Recipient Award, And Rising Star Recipient Award
Furnished By WPA Artistic Pool Division

WPA SANCTIONED VIA WPA ARTISTIC POOL DIVISION SUBMISSION