



The USBA Newsletter
3-Cushion Billiard News
 www.USBA.net

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Javier Terán Wins at Eight-Ball Billiards International Open Tournament

Fifty one billiard players from across the United States, Mexico, Turkey and South America converged on **Eight Ball Billiards** in Maywood, California for the **2009 USBA International Open Three-Cushion Tournament**, the eighth USBA Tour tournament of the year. There was no shortage of firepower, with 17 "A" players and plenty of other strong talent.

This was one of the strongest fields of players in any tournament in the United States this year. *Top rated players included three-time United States National Champion and current Pan-American Champion Pedro Piedrabuena, United States National Champions Mazin Shooni and Sonny Cho, Ecuadorian Champion Javier Terán, Mexican and Pan-American Champion Luis Avila, and Mexican Champions Guillermo Sosa, Roberto Rojas and Miguel Almaraz.*

Players were vying for \$20,500 in prize money, with first place paying \$5,000.

The Preliminaries

During most of the first two days of the three-day event, the players played a six flight round robin preliminary, with 25 point matches. The players were placed in three flights of nine and three flights of eight, with the top two players from each flight advancing to the semi-final round. The top four third place finishers from the remainder of the field also advanced. In addition to these 16 players two more spaces in the semi-finals were filled by an auction and a raffle, the proceeds of which were all added to the prize fund. This semi-final field of 18 was divided into two flights of nine players, each of which played another round robin, with 30 point matches. The order of finish in the semi-finals was determined by the win-loss record, then average, then points for, then points against. The first



Pedro Piedrabuena, Javier Teran and Luis Avila

place finishers of each flight played one match with each other in order to determine first and second place for the tournament, the second place finishers of each flight played for third and fourth place, etc. Finals matches were played to 35 points.

There was excellent play throughout the preliminaries, with one of the most watched matches being the hill-hill nail-biter between Pedro Piedrabuena and Alain Hernández, a top young player from Mexico. In a match filled with excellent and creative shot making throughout, each player missed the match point by a hair 5 or 6 times until Pedro finally converted for the win. With this victory Pedro remained the only undefeated player in his flight. At the end of the preliminaries, Pedro, Luis Avila and Miguel Almaraz were the only undefeated players.

The Semi-Finals

The semi-finals began Saturday afternoon with the following players qualifying: **Miguel Almaraz, Pedro Piedrabuena, Luis Avila, Sonny Cho, Guillermo Sosa, Jamil Isreal, John Lee, Bong Kim, Erdem Kilicoglu, Mazin Shooni, Roberto Rojas, Javier Terán, Soon Hong, Peter Banyai, Salvador Diaz and Francisco Palafox.** In addition, **Michael Kang**

see **Eight-Ball Billiards page 30**

Pendennis Club USBA Qualifier

Thursday evening was a special night at the Pendennis Club in Louisville, KY. Tom “Dr. Cue” Rossman performed a dazzling display of artistic pool shots and entertained a very responsive audience of Pendennis Club members and 3 Cushion billiard players and fans. The magnetic humor and unique character-like antics of “Dr. Cue” created spontaneous laughter and special “table trotter” moments in billiard history.

Paul “Professor Q Ball” Frankel, promoter of the USBA 3 Cushion Regional Qualifier, also performed some of his special magic for those in attendance and kept each person leaning closer and closer to his amazing card tricks.



Event promoter Professor-Q-Ball does his card tricks for the crowd.

Prior to the evening’s entertainment festivities Paul presented a special acknowledgement plaque to Tinker Zimmerman, wife of Thom Zimmerman, a long time member of the Pendennis Club and passionate player of 3 Cushion Billiards. Thom passed away recently and will be missed by all both on and off the table.

The event coverage was Live Stream by Steve Elzinger and Mike Christenson given many of the event players an opportunity to showcase their billiard skills to viewers around the world that started promptly at 10:00AM on January 22nd with a full field of 24 players and a growing number of spectators to “enjoy the roll”.

The 1st day of this spectacular event witnessed great play and a series of close matches. Jim Shovak of New York had a beautiful run of 9 points in his win over Chris O’Brien from Boston, MA. Jim won the high run for the tournament with his dazzling display of poise and focus.

After O’Brien’s wide scoring differential in his loss against Shovak, Chris gained some special confidence in a close fought and exciting game victory over Greg Warren by a slim 1 point margin 20 – 19. In 2 other tight matches Gary Eake was defeated by Steve Anderson 20 – 18 and John Anderson returned the favor to Steve by the same 2-point margin.

Day 2 produced some amazing 3 Cushion shots and matches. Each player kept one eye on the victory circle to garner a spot in the semi-finals and the other eye on the table. As the games rolled on it was evident that Dan Kolacz from Buffalo and



Jim Shovak, Max Fisher, Dan Kolacz and Brian Haff

Brian Haff from Chicago were playing for a perfect 5 – 0 record in the prelims, while 6 players set their individual win-loss stages at 4 – 1. This latter list of players included Gary Scharf, Ed Friedman, Bill Johnson, and Max Fisher. The other 2 players with 4 – 1 records gave the Pendennis Club a special treat in one of the greatest matches of the day with Greg Warren defeating Jim Shovak in their prelim match with both players averaging over 1.2!

The top 2 third place finishers from the 4 brackets would join the other 8 players in the race to victory. John Anderson and Tom “Dr. Cue” Rossman earned those places.

The 1st round of the semi final matches started off with a loud roar, as Rossman found a consistent cueing pattern with a victory over the smooth stroking Haff by a score of 25 to 15. Kolacz remained the only undefeated player as he coasted to a determined win over steady Anderson by 5 points. In the final match for Day 2 Scharf defeated Friedman by a score of 25–19.

Matches started on Day 3 at 9:30AM

The semi-final match play on Sunday, January 24 was poetry on green felt as the 10 final gladiators of 3 Cushion shifted gears into a focused high. 2 brackets of 5 players each produced 3 players from each for the final playoff matches. The top 4 players after the last ball stopped rolling received free entry to the USBA Nationals in Tacoma, WA February 17 – 21, 2010 Place photo in of winners

Dan Kolacz (bracket E top finisher) played Max Fisher (bracket F top finisher) to determine the overall USBA Regional Qualifier Champion. Displaying brilliant play, Kolacz maintained a smooth and steady movement around the table as he entered the winner’s circle with a 25 – 15 win over Fisher.

Jim Shovak (2nd place finisher in bracket E) challenged Brian Haff (2nd place finisher in bracket F) for 3rd and 4th place honors. Both players showed great determination to win;

however, Shovak got an early lead and never looked back. Shovak made the final point to win by a final score of 25–12. Haff received comfort in his loss with a berth in the Tacoma event free of charge. Brian also won a beautiful carom cue donated by Samurai Cues, Inc. in an event raffle.

In a valiant effort to make the final top 4 places, Bill Johnson finished 5th overall and Jonathan Anderson finished 6th. Positions 7 thru 10 were in order Scharf, Rossman, Warren, and Friedman. Many of the semi-final matches were won by 5 points or less, which produced an exciting adventure among not only the players, but also the fans in attendance.

When the final ball stopped rolling and the event curtain closed, all players shared a wonderful time in special camaraderie with their fellow carom friends. Each enjoyed the roll and experienced many special moments in billiard history! A special thanks goes out to the historic Pendennis Club for allowing all the 3 cushion players, fans, and friends of the game take residence in their private setting for 4 awesome days in January of 2010.

Special thanks to our sponsors, Samurai Cues, Simonis Cloth, Pendennis Club, Bob Watson, Dennis Dieckman, James Barnett, Stanley Lombardo and Tweeten Fibre.

To all the scorekeepers and players that helped out a personal thank you.

Overall Positions

- 1 Dan Kolacz
- 2 Max Fisher
- 3 Jim Shovak
- 4 Brian Haff
- 5 Bill Johnson
- 6 Jonathan Anderson
- 7 Gary Scharf
- 8 Tom Rossman
- 9 Greg Warren
- 10 Ed Freidman



above, Raffle winner Brian Haff with donated “Samurai Cue” prize.



left, Dr. Cue demonstrated trick shots for Pendennis members and tournament attendees.

Changing of the Guard

On March 1st, the USBA will begin a new phase with the installation of the new Board of Directors. I was pleased to see so many new names on the ballot of people who want to promote the game we all love.

With this changing of the guard, it's time to thank those who are leaving the Board for their contributions both official and informal to billiards. This includes **George Aronek** who served as Tournament Director at Nationals and other events, and as Director and USBA President. **Charles Brown** is also taking a well-deserved rest after similar duties including Director, newsletter editor, and President.

In the past four years, the USBA has made good progress in advancing 3-cushion in the US. We have had a first-ever women's championship, junior championships, and a continuing success in the annual Nationals. The USBA Tour has brought new members into the organization and provided competitions for players where they can gain experience. The Shot Contest program has introduced carom billiards to new players, mostly from the pool world, in fun, easy tourneys.

In the next four years, there is a lot to do. The current programs have to continue and grow, and new programs have to be developed.

The USBA also needs your help. While new ideas are good, action is better. Run a tournament. Show a pool player our great game. Make contact with carom players who might not speak your language so well. Find a location for a Shot Contest in your area. President-elect **Dennis Dieckman**, Secretary **Jim Shovak** and all of the Board cannot do the needed work on their own. Please help.

Bob Jewett, USBA President











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C H O I C E H O T E L S I N T E R N A T I O N A L

8-Ball Billiards from page 27

and **Alain Hernández** joined the field through the auction and raffle.

Sunday began right where Saturday left off with intense action in virtually every match. Throughout the day spectators saw **Guillermo Sosa** fire a 30 point game in 14 innings for a 2.143 average and **Luis Avila** and **Alain Hernández** each scored 30 points in 15 innings for a 2.000 average! **Sosa** and **Cho** each had high runs of 12. But once again, it was **Pedro Piedrabuena** who was involved in a key match in his group to determine the match-ups for the finals. Going into the last round of the semi-finals Pedro and **Luis Avila**, who were both in flight B, were the only undefeated players in the tournament. In that last round, they played to see who would win their flight and play for 1st place against the winner of flight A of the semi-finals. In a very exciting match, Pedro out-pointed Luis 30 to 26 in 21 innings to keep the only perfect record for the tournament, a grand average of 1.355, and become the winner of his flight. Meanwhile, in flight A, **Javier Terán** could only sit and watch the key remaining match in his flight that would determine whether or not he would play for 1st place in the finals. With all of Javier's semi-final games completed he sat at 7 and 1 with a 1.194 average. The key remaining match in his flight was between Almaraz and Cho. Miguel had a 6 and 1 record and needed to win in 29 innings or less to beat Javier's average and win the flight. But it was not to be. Miguel won this match with Sonny 30 to 22, but in 38 innings, giving him a grand average of 1.146, Teran was the winner of flight A. The average for all players in the semi-finals for Group A was .985 and for Group B it was 1.038.

Rankings From Semi's

Ranking	Player	Record	Avg	Final(A-B)
1	Pedro Piedrabuena	7 - 0	1.355	B - 1
2	Javier Teran	7 - 1	1.194	A - 1
3	Luis Avila	6 - 1	1.421	B - 2
4	Miguel Almaraz	7 - 1	1.146	A - 2
5	Guillermo Sosa	6 - 2	1.394	A - 3
6	Roberto Rojas	5 - 2	1.107	B - 3
7	Mazin Shooni	4 - 3	1.044	B - 4
8	Salvador Diaz	5 - 3	0.981	A - 4
9	Alain Hernandez	4 - 4	1.076	A - 5
10	Francisco Palafox	3 - 4	1.011	B - 5

The Finals Championship Match

The exciting match between Pedro and Javier to determine the tournament champion got off to a quick start. Pedro scored 1 in the first inning, 9 in the second inning, 2 in the third and 1 in the fourth. Javier's scores in those innings were 4, 0, 2 and 3. So at the end of four innings Pedro was in front 13 to 9. But then things changed. Javier left Pedro several difficult positions

and Pedro went scoreless for the next four innings, but then scored 4 in the ninth inning. In those same innings, Javier scored 10 points, including a run of 5 in the ninth inning. At the end of nine innings, Javier led 19 to 17. The players both went scoreless in the tenth inning. But in the next five innings Javier scored 14 points, while Pedro scored only 8. At the end of the fifteenth inning, Javier led 33 to 25. The sixteenth inning proved to be the last, with Pedro scoring 1 point and Javier scoring the last 2 to close out the match. Pedro had achieved a remarkable average for the match of 1.625, but against Javier's consistent play and his game average of 2.188, it just was not good enough. At the conclusion of this match the large crowd showed the players their enthusiastic appreciation for their outstanding play with loud and lasting applause.

The first place prize of \$5,000 went to **Javier Terán**, second place prize of \$3,000 to **Pedro Piedrabuena**, third place prize of \$2,000 to **Luis Avila**, and \$1,700 for fourth place to **Miguel Almaraz**. 18 places were paid in all.

Javier Terán and **Guillermo Sosa** each averaged 2.188 in their finals match and split the \$100 prize for best game. **Piedrabuena** and **Shooni** each had high runs in their finals match of 9 and split \$100.

Final Matches

	Player	Pts	Innings	Avg	HR
1st/2nd	Pedro Piedrabuena	26	16	1.625	5
	Javier Teran	35	16	2.188	9
3rd/4th	Luis Avila	35	16	2.188	7
	Miguel Almaraz	9	16	0.563	4
5th/6th	Guillermo Sosa	33	35	0.943	4
	Roberto Rojas	35	35	1.000	7
7th/8th	Mazin Shooni	32	32	1.000	9
	Salvador Diaz	35	32	1.094	6
9th/10th	Alain Hernandez	35	37	0.946	4
	Francisco Palafox	33	36	0.917	4
11th/12th	Sonny Cho	28	55	0.509	3
	Peter Banyai	35	55	0.636	3
13th/14th	Michael Kang	22	32	0.688	4
	Erdem Kilcoglu	35	33	1.061	6
15th/16	Soon Hong	34	65	0.523	6

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USBA Tour Sponsors: David Levine, Jim Shovak, Bob Jewett, Professor-Q-Ball (Paul Frankel), Creative Billiard Shirts, Marty Isserlis, Michael Kang, Andrew Janquitto, Dean Harrell, Pedro Piedrabuena, Robert Byrne, Tom Resk, Sonny Cho, Mazin Shooni, Dr. Cue Promotions (Tom Rossman), Bruce Warner, Bob Watson, Mike Walo, Jim Watson, Tommy Thomsen, Tom Haskin, Jamil Isreal, Bob Roach, Mike Melloy, Don Sperber, Norm Brust, Ed Friedman and Pat Young.

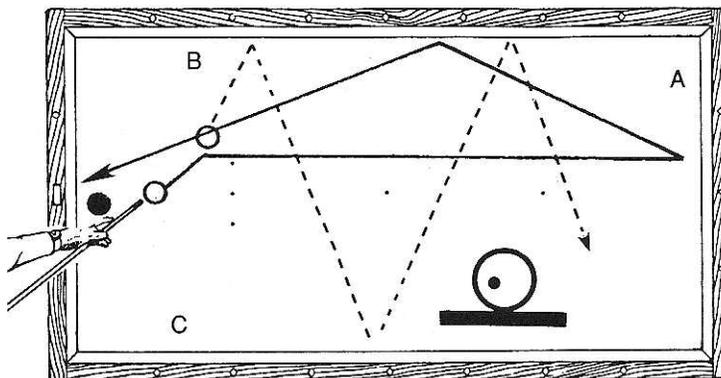
The Principles of Defense

by Robert Byrne

Contributing Writer • from Byrne's "Advanced Techniques in Pool & Billiards" with permission



In this shot most beginning and intermediate players would simply hit the white thin, trying to make the cueball hit the first rail near a. The trouble is that the white gets banked from b to c and will be close to the red, at least, if you miss. Better here is a soft spin shot. Hit the white fairly full with maximum left english. The white travels at moderate speed to the first rail spinning like a top, following the diagrammed path, stopping near the red if you miss. The white is zigzagged down the table as shown. Spinning the cueball is also good here because it enlarges the target on the third rail.



Robert Byrne has a new book, "Behold My Shorts - The Best of Robert Byrne".
 To see him in his polka-dot shorts, go to:
<http://www.thonline.com/store/bookBrowse.cfm>
 To view his new book's Press Release, go to:
<http://www.usba.net/BreakingNews/ByrnePressRelease-11-2-09.pdf>

More Winners of USBA Regional Qualifiers



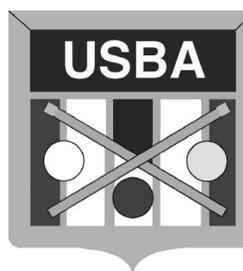
December 4-6, 2009
 Dick Takano Memorial-
 Neal Olson and Mark Hansen Win
 the Tacoma Qualifier
 Tacoma Elks Lodge, Tacoma , WA
 Mark Hansen -2nd place (left)



December 5-6, 2009
 Carom Cafe, Flushing, NY-
 (above) Min Jae Pak and Douglas Lee win
 the Carom Cafe Qualifier



December 4-6, 2009
 Hall of Fame Billiards, Warren, MI-
 (above) Jae Hyung Cho and Felipe Razon Win the Hall of Fame Qualifier



January 23-24, 2010
 World Class Billiards, Peabody, MA
 Six players showed up at World Class Billiards in Peabody, MA for a USBA Regional Qualifier.
 Jim Watson (right) from New York won the event and was the only player who qualified into the
 USBA National Championship next month. Bob Page had a brilliant high run of 11 points.

US Billiards Regional Qualifier

US Billiards, Houston, Texas hosted a regional qualifier. The event had seven players entered in a round robin in the preliminary and no one went undefeated. With 5 wins and 1 loss **Juan Sauz** come in 1st place. Three players tied with 4 wins and 2 losses with **Jose Mario Juarez** at 2nd with 97 total point, **Lan Vo** came in 3rd with 96 total point, **Ellis Lawrence** came in 4th with 92 total points. **Vinh Trieu** came in 5th, **Kiet Nguyen** came in 6th, and **Loc Than** came in 7th.

The top four played Final Round on Saturday, and once again Juan Sauz was the TOP player, Jose Mario Juarez come in 2nd, Ellis Lawrence 3rd, and Lan Vo 4th.

The Regional Qualifier at US Billiards finished on a good note and we still have a lot to learn.

On behalf of **Bao Cao** and US Billiards, I would like to thanks all players who came travelled far to make this Qualifier a great success. A special thanks to Jim Shovak and Paul Frankel for there guidances.



Mario Juarez, Juan Sauz, Ellis Lawrence, Lan Vo

Rip's Tips

Show the Ball Who's Boss

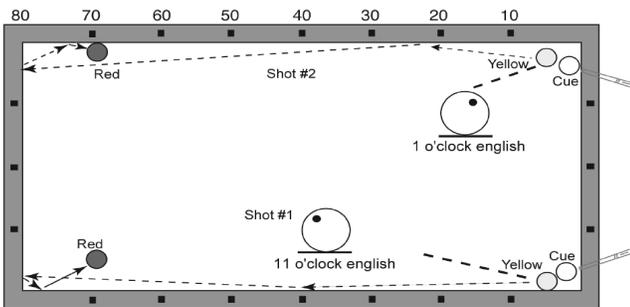


These are two almost alike shots requiring force-follow strokes. Shot #1 has the cueball close to the long rail so that means it is easier to hug the rail to go into the corner and pickup the 2nd & third rails for the score on the red.

On shot #2 the cue ball is farther away from the long rail. This means that the cue ball must be struck a little bit harder to rev it up for the action at the corner to take place. On both shots the yellow ball must be struck with 100% full with a slightly elevated force-follow stroke on the cue ball. "Things of beauty are a joy forever."

"George Rippe is a former billiard room proprietor and artistic billiard enthusiast,"

He can be reached at 978 975-9958



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