



# The USBA Newsletter 3-Cushion Billiard News

www.USBA.net

Would you like to write an article or submit a shot?  
email articles to:  
jimshovak@usba.net or  
you can mail it to  
Jim Shovak/USBA Secretary  
58 Hawthorne Avenue  
East Islip, NY 11730

## USBA Officers

### President

Bruce Warner  
Santa Monica, CA  
310-738-5429

### Secretary/Treasurer

Jim Shovak  
58 Hawthorne Avenue  
East Islip, NY 11730  
516-238-6193  
jimshovak@usba.net

### Northeast Directors

**Mazin Shooni**  
2006 USA Champion  
135 Broad St-Unit#3A5  
Hudson, MA 01749  
cell: 248-910-4466  
work: 603-623-5330  
**Merrill Hughes**  
Huntington Station, NY  
cell: 631-338-9698  
home: 631-421-6814

### Southeast Director

**Henry Ugartechea**  
1132 SW 44th Terrace  
Deerfield Beach, FL 33442  
561-929-8100

### Mid-America Directors

**Steve Andersen**  
3861 Byron Center Ave. SW  
Wyoming, MI 49519  
616-530-8665

**Juan Elizalde Sauz**  
7212 Hardwood Trail  
Dallas, TX 75249  
214-908-2411

**Felipe Razon**  
2218 S 59 Ct  
Cicero, IL 60804  
708-878-4197

### Northwest Director

**Darrel Stutesman**  
7709 Zircon Dr SW  
Lakewood, WA 98498  
253-584-3994

### Southwest Directors

**Raye Raskin**  
641 Larkspur Plaza Dr  
Larkspur, CA 94939  
415-497-8732  
rayer@pobox.com  
**Gilbert Najm**  
4335 Vineland Ave # 213  
Studio City, CA 91602  
818-761-0484

## Jae Hyung Cho Wins College Billiards Open

Each year, College Billiards has an Open Tournament that attracts the best players in the United States as well as the Champions from South America and Mexico. In effect, it is very much like the *Pan American Championship Tournament* because of the high caliber of players and this year was no different.

Some of the best players did not make the semi-finals. Among them were Javier Teran from Ecuador, Jae Hyung Cho from Colorado who is the current United States Champion, Guillermo Sosa and Alain Hernandez from Mexico, Vicky Pineda and Salvador Diaz from Los Angeles and Michael Kang from New York. That's how strong the field was.

Forty-one players participated in all. There were 4 groups with 8 players each and a fifth group that had 9 players. That's all there was time for. Each night ended late, especially Saturday night which didn't finish up until 2:00am. The top 2 finishers of each group (Groups A through E) in the Preliminary Rounds would advance to the semi-finals. Along with those 10 players advancing, there was one lottery and one auction spot. A local patron won the lottery and he proceeded to allow Guillermo Sosa into the finals. The auction was won by Jae Hyung Cho, who paid \$1,100.00 for a spot in the finals. That turned out to be a great investment for him. All monies from the lottery and auction were put into the player's prize fund. The preliminary rounds were 25 point matches and the semi-final rounds were 30 point matches.



I-r, Ramon Rodriguez 3rd, Jae Hyung Cho 1st, Luis Miguel Avila 2nd.

## Preliminary Rounds

**Flight A:** Hugo Patino, the 2003 and 2009 US Champion, went 7-0. Peter Banyai from California went 6-1. Guillermo Sosa, a Mexican and PanAmerican Champion and Vicky Pineda from Los Angeles each went 4-3, just missing the cut. Guillermo Sosa opened up the tournament with a bang. He ran an 18 off the break and finished in just 6 innings for a 4.167 average!!!

**Flight B:** This group was incredibly strong and only 2 players could advance. The group consisted of Michael Kang who is the owner of Carom Café Billiards in New York, Ramon Rodriguez, a Peruvian and PanAmerican Champion, Rodolfo Covarrubias, a Mexican and Pan American Champion, Salvador Diaz from Los Angeles, Javier Teran, an Ecuadorian Champion and Team Pan American Champion, Carlos Elias, Salvador Carranza and Don Schall. Rodolfo Covarrubias finished 7-0 and Ramon Rodriguez finished 5-2 to advance. Javier Teran just missed the cut by 4 points.

**Flight C:** Roberto Rojas, a World Artistic Billiards Champion and Team Pan American

Continues on page 28

August/September PQB 27

Champion finished first and Carlos Palafox finished 2nd. Both players were 6-1. Jae Hyung Cho finished 5-2, just missing the cut. He had an unexpected loss to Jim Shovak, 25-23. A great game was Roberto Rojas against Jae Hyung Cho. Rojas ran a 13 but Cho won 25-23.

**Flight D:** Luis Aveiga, many time Ecuadorian Champion and Pan American Champion finished 7-0 and Sonny Cho, 2005 US Champion finished 6-1. Alain Hernandez from Mexico finished 5-2, just missing the cut.

**Flight E:** There were 9 players in this flight. Pedro Piedrabuena, College Billiards owner, 3-time US Champion and the current Pan American Champion finished 8-0. Luis Avila, a Mexican and PanAmerican Champion finished 6-2, just narrowly edging Ricardo Carranco from Los Angeles who defeated Avila 25-16 and also finished 6-2.

**Semi-Finals:** The players were ranked 1-12 based on their performance in the Preliminary Rounds. The order was determined by 1) Wins/Losses, 2) Total Points Scored, 3) Head-to-Head and 4) Points-Against.

The players were then divided into 2 groups to balance the power of each group as evenly as possible.

**Flight F:** Pedro Piedrabuena, Hugo Patino, Roberto Rojas, Sonny Cho, Luis Miguel Avila and Guillermo Sosa.

**Flight G:** Luis Aveiga, Rodolfo Covarrubias, Peter Banyai, Carlos Francisco Palafox, Ramon Rodriguez and Jae Hyung Cho.

### **Brief Highlights of Semi-Final Rounds**

**Flight F:** Luis Miguel Avila wins the flight going 5-0 with a high run of 12 and a 2.000 average game. Guillermo Sosa finishes 2nd going 4-1. Pedro Piedrabuena finished 3-2 which was tough luck because he played unbelievably. He had one game where he defeated Hugo Patino 30-1. The game was over in just 6 innings for an astounding 5.000 average!! The very next game he went out in just 9 innings!! He scored 60 points in just 15 innings for the two games. He also had a high run of 12 and finished the semi-finals with an unbelievable average of 2.154!!! That may very well be a record for a United States player. The average of the ENTIRE GROUP was 1.279, which may also be a record for a Pan American event.

**Flight G:** Jae Hyung Cho wins the group going 4-1 and averaging 1.621, a personal-best average. Ramon Rodriguez also goes

4-1 to finish 2nd and averaged 1.571. Carlos Palafox finished 4th but had a personal-best average of 1.244. The average of the ENTIRE GROUP was 1.224, again a very high group average.

### **Final Matches**

The winner of Flight F played one 35 point match against the winner of Flight G to determine 1st and 2nd place overall for the tournament. The two 2nd place finishers of each group played each other for 3rd and 4th, etc, etc.

Peter Banyai (11th place) defeated Sonny Cho (12th place) 35-30.

Roberto Rojas (9th place) defeated Luis Aveiga (10th place) 35-29.

Hugo Patino (7th place) defeated Carlos Palafox (8th place) 35-34.

Pedro Piedrabuena (5th place) defeated Rodolfo Covarrubias (6th place) 35-26.

Ramon Rodriguez (3rd place) defeated Guillermo Sosa (4th place) 35-17.

Jae Hyung Cho (1st place) defeated Luis Avila (2nd place) 35-27.

Avila had a run of 12 but Jae Hyung Cho went out in just 15 innings for a game average of 2.333!!

We would like to thank the following:

Pedro Piedrabuena and Timoteo Moreno, owners of **College Billiards** for their warm hospitality and contributions to the tournament. Luis Castro for working day and night in running the event with very little sleep. All those that helped out in little ways such as scorekeeping or cleaning a table or two

Two donated Genesis cues and one \$875 Schuler Cue by Noel Mendoza were raffled off at the end of the event. Also, Roberto Rojas gave an hour-long Artistic Billiards Exhibition that made everyone's eyes bug out.

If you weren't there, it was an absolutely incredible tournament that you shouldn't have missed. Lots of billiards, late nights, little sleep, lots of high runs, high averages, occasional upsets, lots of fun and laughter, good food and always an audience. I can hardly wait until next year!

To see charts and pictures, go to [www.USBA.net](http://www.USBA.net) and click "Tournaments-Calendar".





I-r, Room Owner Michael Kang, John Kim 4th, Kwang Ok 3rd, Sun Shin, 2nd & Song Lim 1st.

## Song Lim Wins the "B+" Tournament at Carom Cafe

2010 USBA Tour Financial Sponsors:

David Levine, Jim Shovak, Bob Jewett, Professor-Q-Ball (Paul Frankel), Creative Billiard Shirts, Marty Isserlis, Bruce Warner, Pedro Piedrabuena, Tommy Thomsen, Mike Walo, Bob Watson, Tom Resk, Mark Van Liere, Alan Dukar, Tim King, George Allee, Ron Sakahara, Howard Kennedy, Julian Levy, Richard Lewis, John Constantine, Steve Andersen.

**2010 USBA TOUR Official Sponsors: Iwan Simonis, Aramith, Schuler Cues by Noel Mendoza**

FINAL RANK	NAME	TOTAL POINTS	TOTAL INNINGS	GRAND AVERAGE	HIGH RUN	BEST GAME
1	Song Lim	275	333	0.826	10	1.000
2	Sun Shin	299	325	0.920	7	1.250
3	Kwang Ok	286	363	0.788	7	1.333
4	John Kim	288	411	0.701	5	0.889
5	Sang Jin Lee	211	232	0.909	9	2.000
6	Nayiv Ramirez	210	290	0.724	6	1.250
7	Kalu Gaviria	178	249	0.715	6	2.500
8	Min Soo An	180	290	0.621	6	0.952
9	Loreano Gomez	174	241	0.722	8	1.429
10	Young Ha Choi	168	236	0.712	5	1.176
11	Jake Zymeck	140	171	0.819	4	1.111
12	Fikret Gezmez	148	244	0.607	6	0.833
13	Jim Shovak	164	243	0.675	5	1.333
14	Woo Gun Kim	143	286	0.500	6	0.952
15	Eddy Pantoja	140	218	0.642	6	0.833
16	Seho Park	124	205	0.605	5	0.645

### Tournament Membership Changes

The USBA Board has amended the Constitution by a vote of 10-0 on July 10, 2010, as follows:

Previous Rule: Section 7.01 Sanctioned Tournaments

All USBA sanctioned tournaments require that players shall be a member in good standing of the United States Billiard Association or if a "foreign player" a member in good standing of an affiliate (Federation or Confederation) organization of the Union Mondiale de Billard.

New Rule: Section 7.01 Sanctioned Tournaments

All USBA sanctioned tournaments require that players shall be a current member in good standing of the USBA or that they pay the USBA a \$25 non-member tournament participation fee. This includes any "foreign players". The players who pay the participation fee will NOT receive USBA Ranking Points for that tournament and will not receive the benefits of USBA membership.

## President's Desk

I am honored and privileged to be the new USBA President, particularly because I succeed Dennis Dieckman who has demonstrated his remarkable vigor and long dedication to carom billiards. I hope each USBA member and others interested in the carom game will communicate to me his or her carom questions or ideas or if he or she believes something I am doing (or the USBA) should be changed. My door is always open for calls (310-738-5429) or e-mail through the USBA website at [usba.net/contactus.asp](http://usba.net/contactus.asp)

As President I want revitalization and expansion of the carom game in the U.S. to be top priority. This requires that we not just preach to the choir of existing players, but make this fascinating and pleasurable game accessible, interesting and appealing to others. It requires that we devote energy and money to tournaments and the better players, but also that we devote energy and money to expose and promote the game to those who do not play at all. It requires that for weaker players we help them become stronger and make tournament play more inviting. It requires putting the carom game in full view so, for example, a major tournament with top players is known to more than hard-core carom aficionados. It requires focusing on growing carom players, not just USBA members. We need to increase USBA members, but members come from players, not the other way around.

I hope you will join this effort. Bruce Warner

## Lamers Takes Dubuque Open

The first three-cushion tournament in Dubuque, Iowa, in a hundred years was won by Fred Lamers of Andover, Minnesota. Lamers defeated Jose Lupe Cruz of Des Moines, Iowa, in the deciding game 25-13 in 21 innings.

The tournament was held in the magnificent billiard room of the Masonic Temple on three 1932 Brunswick tables recently reconditioned with Kleber rubber from Germany and Simonis cloth from Belgium. Eighteen players were divided into three flights of six for round-robin play. Each flight was assigned one of the three strongest players (Lamers, Cruz, and John Jacobson of Marshalltown, Iowa), the rest were assigned by blind draw.

Cruz sailed through flight A undefeated with an average of .718 and a high run of 8. A surprising second was Dave Coan of St. Paul, Minn., who got into the tournament at the last minute when two players and the first two alternates withdrew.

In flight B, Lamers was upset 25-19 by James Richards of Milwaukee, WI, but won his other four games easily to finish first, averaging .735. Also finishing with a record of 4-1 was Nam Cho of Madison, WI, who averaged .581 and had a high run of 8. The hard-luck player in the flight was Richards, who lost only two games, one to Cho 25-23 and one to Gary Eake of Oshkosh, WI, by the same score.

The seeded player in flight C was Jacobson, who lived up to his rating by going undefeated, averaging .616. Finishing 2nd at 4-1 was Tom Paley of Fenton, Missouri, who edged tournament director Bob Byrne 25-24 and lost only to Jacobson by two points. Third in the flight was Doug Taber, a history professor at Wayne State University in Nebraska.



**Nam Cho, Fred Lamers & Lupe Cruz**

The finals began at 9:30 a.m. on Sunday with a major upset, Cho over Jacobson 25-19 in 36 innings. Cruz and Lamers had easy wins. In the second round, both Lamers and Cruz held their opponents to 10 points while Jacobson edged Paley 25-22.

Another upset occurred in the third round when Paley edged Cruz 25-23 in 43 innings. A crucial match was Lamers versus Jacobson with Lamers pinning a second defeat on Jacobson, 25-20 in 37 innings.

In the second-to-last round, a key matchup was Jacobson, already with two losses, taking on Cruz, who had lost only to Paley. It was Cruz 25-20 in 34 innings. Lamers, helped by a run of 8, crushed Cho 25-12.

In the fifth and final round, Lamers, at 4-0 faced Cruz, 3-1. To win the tournament, Cruz had to win the game and hold Lamers to 23 points or less. A 25-24 win for Cruz wouldn't be enough because both players would then have 4-1 records and Lamers would win the tournament on total points by a single point. The game was never close, as Lamers ran 3 on the break and stayed in the lead throughout. Cruz crept to within four at 17-13, then Lamers clicked off 5 in a row

and took the game 25-13.

Lamers averaged .880 in the finals and had a best game of 1.250 in beating Paley 25-6. (In the prelims, his best game was 25-11 over Cho in only 15 innings.) Cruz took second with a record of 3-2 and a grand average of .707. Despite an average of only .464 (two one-sided losses to Lamers and Cruz took their toll), Cho took 3rd at 3-2. Following were Jacobson and Paley at 2-3 and Coan, 0-5.

Lamers won \$600 for his first-place finish along with \$50 for high run in the finals (8) and \$50 for best game in the finals (1.250). Cruz won \$500 for finishing 2nd.

The prize fund of \$2,200 was formed by the entry fees of 100 from each player, \$100 from the Minneapolis Billiard Club, \$100 from the U.S.B.A., \$100 from cue maker Dennis Dieckman (who contributed his entry fee after have to withdraw) \$50 from Ed Wedge and \$50 from Bob Byrne. Thom Determan supplied an ice chest and kept it supplied with soft drinks. Gary Eake handled the record-keeping, printing out charts after every round.

The players enjoyed the venue and the town and were glad to hear that the Dubuque Open will be an annual event.

# Shots with a Curving Cue Ball

by Robert Byrne

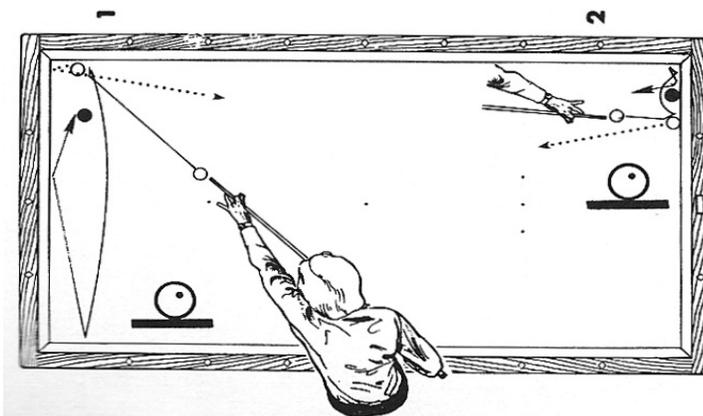
Contributing Writer • from Byrne's "Advanced Techniques in Pool & Billiards" with permission



When a cue ball with topspin hits an object ball at an angle the carom path will be curved. Keep in mind that sidespin has practically no effect on the path of the cue ball off the object ball – it is topspin and backspin that introduce distortion. How far the cue ball travels from the object ball before its path begins to curve depends on how hard you hit it.

**Shot 1-** is a cross-table. Note that the red ball is farther from the end rail than the white, which means that the cue ball has to travel “uphill” off the first rail to get around the red, then bend forward because of the follow action. A touch of right English is sometimes needed to make the cue ball rebound properly off the first rail. The same shot sometimes comes up in the center of the table, where the cue ball hits three side rails before scoring.

**Shot 2-** this is not an easy shot. It's a double the rail with the curve ball curving around the second ball. Don't shoot too hard or the cue ball won't have time to dip into the corner for the third rail. I once saw Boston Shorty make this against Luis Campos with the cue ball at the other end of the table.



Robert Byrne has a new book, “Behold My Shorts - The Best of Robert Byrne”.

To see him in his polka-dot shorts, go to:

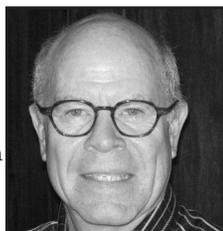
<http://www.thonline.com/store/bookBrowse.cfm>

To view his new book's Press Release, go to:

<http://www.usba.net/BreakingNews/ByrnePressRelease-11-2-09.pdf>

## Bruce Warner Elected President by the USBA Board of Directors

Bruce Warner, one of the South-west Regional Directors, has been elected to the office of President by the USBA Board of Directors to replace the recently vacated position held by Dennis Dieckman.



We are excited about the choice and wish Bruce the very best in his new position.

See *President's Desk* page 29

## Pan American Championship Results

The PanAmerican Championship was held July 5-8, 2010 in Arequipa, Peru. The USBA sent 3 players: defending PanAmerican Champion Pedro Piedrabuena, current USBA Champion Jae Hyung Cho and Michael Kang. Kang was knocked out before reaching the top 16. Piedrabuena made it to the top 16 but was then knocked out. He finished in 9th place. Jae Hyung Cho made it to the top 8 before finally losing. The USBA will be sending Jae Hyung Cho and Pedro Piedrabuena to the World Championship Tournament in Sluiskil, Netherlands, October 20-24, 2010. Congratulations to all of our fine players!

## Bob Ameen Passes Away

Ameen, Robert “Bob”. Born December 20, 1926 in Monmouth, Illinois, the oldest son of Albert and Najeby Ameen, who came to America in the early 1920s from Lebanon, passed away June 26, 2010. He was preceded in death by his wife, Cecelia (Ceil) in 2007 who was an elementary school principal in Livonia for 27 years. Mr. Ameen received a B.S. degree from Carthage College, Carthage, IL. He worked for the State of Illinois and the Illinois State Journal newspaper in Springfield, IL before moving to Michigan in 1968. Mr. Ameen was a professional three-cushion billiard player and was rated one of the top players in the United States for 30 years. In 1971 he won the national title. He also won the Michigan state championship in 1968 and numerous other top tournaments among some 400 in which he participated. Mr. Ameen served in the United States Air Force and was stationed in Panama at the end of World War II. He was editor of the Livonia Observer and Livonia Eagle newspapers in 1968-71 and legislative aide to Sen. Carl Pursell in Lansing in 1971. He is survived by a son, Randolph “Randy” Ameen of Henry, IL; a sister, Ruth Wade of Monmouth, IL; and a brother, Richard “Jack” Ameen of Nevada, IA. He was preceded in death by a brother, Albert Ameen, Jr. of California.

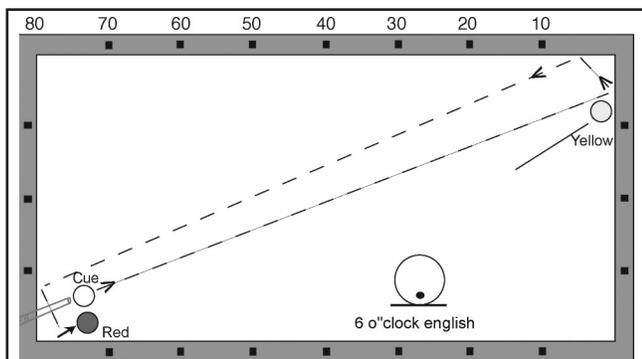
## Rip's Tips

### 'Rev' Up the Cue



Even a great hit using left hand running English probably will not make this shot with the cue ball ending up in the 50-60 diamond area. Although there are a few easier shots that can be played from this position let's stick to this pattern. Blink a few times to clear up your vision and using that same great hit as previously noted, but this time use a very firm stroke, hit the cue ball at 6 o'clock and the cue ball should come back to the red ball zone. Nice Shot!

"George Rippe is a former billiard room proprietor and artistic billiard enthusiast," He can be reached at 978 975-9958



## 2010 Upcoming Tournaments

**August 20-22**

USBA TOUR "B" - World Class Billiards - Peabody, MA

Contact: Joe DeAmato or John Magulas: 978-535-7000

**August 20-22**

Mike Fahey Memorial - Tacoma Elks, WA

Contact: Darrel Stutesman: 253-584-3994

**September 10-12**

USBA TOUR OPEN - Chris's Billiards - Chicago, IL

Contact: Eric: 773-286-4714

**Sep 24-26**

USBA TOUR Olhausen "B"-The Carom Club- Wyoming, Michigan

Contact: Gary Scharf: 616-805-0316

**October 1-3**

Minneapolis Billiard Club Fall Classic - Minneapolis, MN

Contact: Fred Lamers: (763)300-6370

For more information, go to [www.USBA.net](http://www.USBA.net) or call Jim Shovak at 516-238-6193.

### " USBA Membership"

To become a USBA member and receive the PQB publication for free, fill out and return this form.

### USBA Membership • Dues \$50

New Member \_\_\_\_\_ Renewal \_\_\_\_\_

PRINT PLEASE

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City, \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Cell Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

E-Mail Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Referred by \_\_\_\_\_

Send completed form and check or money order payable to USBA to Jim Shovak/USBA Secretary  
58 Hawthorne Ave. • East Islip, NY 11730.

For Instructional videos or the latest Event News, Visit us at [www.professorqball.com](http://www.professorqball.com)



Adam Cue Company

**aramith.**  
THE BELGIAN BILLIARD BALLS

*Swan Simonis*  
SIMONIS CLOTH  
The Official Cloth Sponsor of the United States Billiard Association