



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

Andrew Janquitto
 RUXTON, MD
 410-599-8177

Secretary/Treasurer

Jim Shovak
 EAST ISLIP, NY
 516-238-6193

Northeast Directors

Mazin Shooni
 2006 USA CHAMPION
 NASHUA, NH
 CELL: 248-910-4466
 WORK: 603-623-5330

Merrill Hughes

HUNTINGTON STATION, NY
 CELL: 631-338-9698
 HOME: 631-421-6814

Southeast Director

Victor Cuzzi
 MIAMI, FL
 786-366-7293

Mid-America Directors

Steve Andersen
 WYOMING, MI 49519
 616-530-8665

Juan Elizalde Sauz

DALLAS, TX
 214-908-2411

Felipe Razon

CICERO, IL
 708-878-4197

Northwest Director

Tommy Thomsen
 MILTON-FREEWATER, OREGON
 509-240-2027

Southwest Directors

Pedro Piedrabuena
 SAN DIEGO, CA
 213-458-3950

Raye Raskin

Larkspur, CA
 415-497-8732

At-Large Directors

Doug Deitel
 KATY, TX • 281-858-5948

Ricardo Carranco

LOS ANGELES, CA
 323-490-8075

First USBA Tour B Tournament held at Trish Bida, Houston Texas



On Friday August 24th sixteen players assembled at Trish Bida in Houston Texas for the very first USBA Tour B tournament held in the city. Players came from as far away as Des Moines, Iowa as well as San Antonio and Dallas Texas. We registered 10 "C" players and 6 "B" players to start.

The preliminary rounds were held on Friday and Saturday with round robin play in two flights of eight. Doug Deitel, USBA director at large and tournament director for the event seeded three "B" players by random draw into each flight... then the remaining "C" players were also assigned by random draw. In the prelims no player went undefeated and all the matches were hard fought. The top four from each flight moved on to the 8-man round robin finals.

The eight finalists who made it through were Manuel Chau (B), Lupe Cruz (B), Kiet Nguyen (B), Joel Rivera (B), Duy Tran (C), Dung Nguyen (B), Patrick Tran (C) and John Tran (C). Play in the finals began Saturday afternoon. By Saturday evening only two players remained undefeated after three rounds of play. Dung Nguyen had the best game with a fantastic 1.316 against a fellow local player Joel Rivera while Lupe Cruz of Des Moines, Iowa wowed the crowd with his best performance of 1.136.

On Sunday we completed the remaining four rounds of the finals. Dung Nguyen who had been averaging over 1.0 the previous day slipped back, while Joel Rivera caught his rhythm and began his run to the top. But in the penultimate round where Lupe Cruz met Rivera the contest was decided. In a hard fought game Cruz prevailed 25-22 handing Rivera only his second loss and clinching the win. In the last round Cruz bested Dung Nguyen to go undefeated 7-0 (.799)

as the clear winner. Joel Rivera took second with a record of 5-2 (.710) while Dung Nguyen hung on for third at 4-3 (.762). The remaining order of finish was John Tran, Manuel Chau, Kiet Nguyen, Duy Tran and Patrick Tran.

Jimmy Vong the owner at Trish Bida was a gracious host providing a great environment for play with his seven Gabriels Emperor tables recently recovered with Simonis cloth by top billiard mechanic Yura H. Ra. In addition Jimmy added \$1500 to the prize fund. With the USBA sponsors of the Tour events adding an additional \$1800 the total payouts to the finalists exceeded \$5000. A cue stick from Tiger, another USBA sponsor, was raffled off and won by a lucky local player who just came to watch the action. Everyone who attended, players and spectators alike, agreed it was a great first event and all are looking forward to many more in Houston.

Pedro Piedrabuena, Invincible at the Carom Cafe

by Frits Bakker

The American player Pedro Piedrabuena has grown in three-cushion to the level of an international star player, who undoubtedly can make the step to the top of the world. In the Open Verhoeven tournament in New York, where he met a great field of players, the 40-year-old American champion (21 August 1971), who lives in San Diego and was born in Montevideo (Uruguay), grabbed victory in a thrilling final battle against Torbjörn Blomdahl: 40-37 in 29 innings.

Pedro Piedrabuena, who received the \$8,000 dollar bonus for his win, played a tournament in the Carom Cafe in which he showed himself invincible: in the first round the champion won all his seven matches, in the final group of ten, he defeated all his opponents. And at the end he claimed victory in his duel with one of the most famous players in three cushion: Torbjörn Blomdahl.

On his way to this sensational victory the American faced some great competitors. Roland Forthomme for instance, the Belgian who in 2008 won the Sang Lee tournament in a final against Frédéric Caudron. Forthomme was in the other final group, where he finished second behind Blomdahl.

Raymond Ceulemans, the 75-year old master, who has lost something of his glamour as a world class player, but still is a formidable opponent.

Eddy Leppens, who was marvellous in his matches against Blomdahl and Hofman, but missed the top four due to some unlucky losses.

Glenn Hofman, the young Dutchman, also in the other group of the final, who, although he didn't have a strong start, later demonstrated his class with some wonderful matches.

Torbjörn Blomdahl of course, the Swede who for so long is at the top of the world and actually was launched as the big favorite for the win. He finished with the best average: 1.708 and took \$5,000 dollar for his second place. Roland Forthomme played a great tournament as

continues page 28



President's Desk

Watching a table mechanic assemble a carom billiard table is fascinating on many levels, but what has always struck me is the time it takes. It is much more laborious than you think. Just when you conclude the job will be completed in a few more minutes, another hour or two go by as the joints are sealed and sanded, the table bed is cleaned, the cloth is stretched and stapled and the holes are cut for the rail bolts. A meticulous mechanic will take extra time to make certain that everything is correct. If you're sitting with cue in hand waiting for the job to be completed so you can knock the balls around, I'm certain you'll appreciate that the last few minutes can be frustrating.

At the USBA, we've encountered the same issue with our new website. It's taken a little longer (maybe a lot longer) than we first thought, but we've got it up. We started the project nearly 8 months ago. We've had a very meticulous web master working diligently on the project. By the time you read this column, the new site should be up and running. It will be a work in project for a few weeks, or more, but we wanted to revamp the site's infrastructure to make certain we could move forward with a modern, workable site that could expand to meet our growing needs. In the coming weeks, we'll be adding more features. Meanwhile, the USBA Board will be working on the location for the 2013 national tournament. More about that in the next column.



well, averaging 1.658.

The strong Colombians with Robinson Morales, Carlos Campino and Andres Naranjo. And the Americans, who Piedrabuena meets so often in the tournaments in his country: Hugo Patino and Sonny Cho.

Pedro Piedrabuena overpowered them all, culminating in his top finals match against Cho in eleven innings (3.182 average).

The spectators at Carom Cafe often watched breathlessly the undisputed star of the tournament when he came to the table. Piedrabuena combined his strong attack and a highly technical game with a solid defensive concept. He is not one of the fastest players in the circuit, but can be devastatingly strong in the decisive moments of a match.

And so he towered far above his opponents, showing his great talent. He showed his power in each match, in which he often flaunted with a kickstart. He hugely impressed his opponents, of which Torbjörn Blomdahl was the most dangerous. The Swede suffered two defeats in his group against Carloman Ortiz (35-28) and Eddy Leppens (35-18), but entered the final by a last win against Roland Forthomme (35-33 in 18).

The Belgian grabbed third place beating Hugo Patino in a direct match 35-19 in eighteen innings and two final runs of 9 and 5.

Eddy Leppens defeated Robinson Morales for fifth place 35-31 in 24. Glenn Hofman took seventh place with a 35-12 victory against Javier Terán in 26 innings.

2012 USBA Tour Sponsors:

David Levine, Jim Shovak, Bob Jewett, Creative Billiard Shirts, Marty Isserlis, Paul Frankel, Tommy Thomsen

USBA Sponsors: Simonis, Gabriels, Tiger Cues, Aramith, Consumer Credit Services, Prize Fund: \$34,750* with the top 20 finishers receiving prizes:

2012 Verhoeven Open

Carom Café Billiards August 1 to 5

Final Matches for Positions 1 thru 10

9th & 10th Place

MATCH	NAME	PTS	INN	AVG	HR	W/L
#01	Glenn Hofman	35	26	1.346	4	W
	Allan Jensen	12	26	0.462	5	L

7th & 8th Place

MATCH	NAME	PTS	INN	AVG	HR	W/L
#02	Mazin Shooni	21	25	0.840	6	L
	Raymond Ceulemans	35	26	1.346	9	W

5th & 6th Place

MATCH	NAME	PTS	INN	AVG	HR	W/L
#03	Eddy Leppens	35	24	1.458	5	W
	Robinson Morales	31	23	1.348	4	L

3rd & 4th Place

MATCH	NAME	PTS	INN	AVG	HR	W/L
#04	Roland Forthomme	35	18	1.944	9	W
	Hugo Patino	19	18	1.056	5	L

Championship Match

MATCH	NAME	PTS	INN	AVG	HR	W/L
#05	Torbjorn Blomdahl	37	28	1.321	7	L
	Pedro Piedrabuena	40	29	1.379	6	W

1st \$8000	11th \$550
2nd \$5000	12th \$550
3rd \$4000	13th \$500
4th \$3500	14th \$500
5th \$2700	15th \$450
6th \$2200	16th \$450
7th \$1700	17th \$425
8th \$1200	18th \$425
9th \$1000	19th \$400
10th \$800	20th \$400

Upcoming USBA Tournaments

September 28-30: Carom Cafe "B+" Tournament Flushing, NY Michael Kang- 718 358-8585

September 28-30: FALL CLASSIC - Minneapolis Billiard Club Minneapolis, MN, Fred Lamers -763 300-6370

October 12-14: Carom Cafe "C" Tournament, Flushing, NY Michael Kang- 718 358-8585

October 12-14: USBA TOUR "B+" - Napoles Billiards East Boston, MA, Mazin Shooni- 248 910-4466

October 13-14: ENDORSED "B" - Edgie's Billiards Milpitas, CA Raye Raskin (415-497-8732)

October 19-21: USBA TOUR "Open" - Paris Bida Billiards Houston, TX, Doug Deitel 713 319-5335

November 2-4: USBA TOUR "B+" - World Class Billiards Peabody, MA, Joe DeAmato/John Magulas - 978 535-7000

November 4: USBA 3-Cushion Shot Contest – The Rack Memphis, TN, Paul Frankel 901 210-7251

November 9-11: ENDORSED - Hood River Elks - Hood River, OR, Tommy Thomsen 509-240-2027

November 16-18: USBA TOUR "Open" w/Torbjorn Blomdahl – Carom Cafe – Flushing, NY, Michael Kang 562 867-7733

December 7-9: National Qualifier – Medford Elks – Medford, OR Tommy Thomsen 509-240-2027

December 14-16: USBA TOUR "Open" – Hard Times Billiards Bellflower, CA, Eddie - 562 867-7733

Carom Cafe "B" Tournament



left to right, 1st, 2nd, 3rd,
Woo Gon Kim, Jimmy Ruan,
Jorge Meza



Final Ranking	
FINAL RANK	NAME
1	Woo Gon Kim
2	Jimmy Ruan
3	Jorge Meza
4	Eddy Pantoya
5	Rudy Legler
6	Armando Rodriguez
7	Nayiv Ramirez
8	Johnny Alejandro
9	Hector Ruiz
10	Bill Walsh
11	Miguel Torres
12	Andre Cho
13	Mike Lee
14	Julian Molina
15	Hugo Flores
16	Martin Abreu

"The Official Hotel Sponsor of the United States Billiard Association"

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

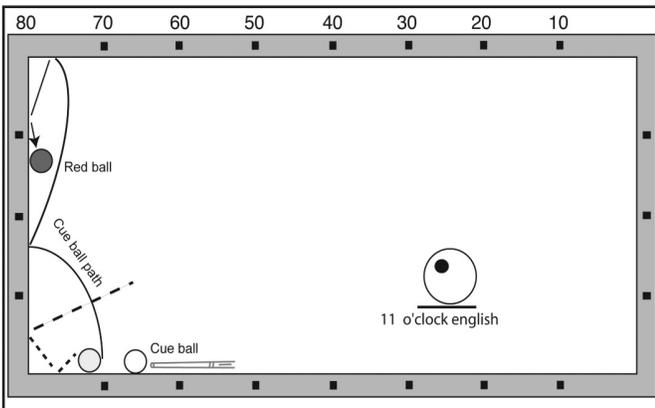
Rip's Tips

Two Shots... not quite the same



If you want to test your hand speed and spin retention, this shot will challenge you quite well. Especially on a hard cushion table. With a 4-inch stun stroke, using high left English on the cue ball, hit the yellow ball almost full, right of center to wind the cue ball up for the journey. Take one point if made on soft cushions, and two points if made on hard cushions because you'll deserve the bonus.

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



"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.

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

aramith.
THE BELGIAN BILLIARD BALLS



Kronos



The Gabriels is the most renowned table in Gabriels history. This piece of craftsmanship and superior technique exceeds the demands of billiard players all over the world.

NEW MODELS
Now In Stock

Elements

Exclusive U.S. Distributor

Call now for more information
Paul Frankel "Professor-Q-Ball"
901 756-2594 or Cell 901 210-7251
www.professorqball.com



The Great American Cues Classic

Prepay Entry Via:

PAYPAL

Lonestartour@gmail.com

or Mail To:

Bogies Billiards



www.greatamericancues.com

3040 FM 1960 East Ste. 101 Houston, TX

\$5,000 ADDED Event
Dec 7th, 8th, 9th, 2012

\$3,500-Added 9-Ball Event - Races 9 & 7 (Limited 128 Players)

\$1,000-Added \$100 One Pocket - Races 4 & 3 (Limited 32 Players)

\$1,000-Added-\$100 Ladies 9-Ball Bar Table - Races 7 & 5 (Limited 32 Players)

Friday, Dec. 7th @ 7pm
9-Ball & One Pocket
auctions & Draws Only
Must be present
One round of one pocket

Saturday, Dec. 8th
10:00am Open 9-Ball &
Matches Begin
12pm One Pocket
Matches Resume

Sunday, Dec. 9th
10:00am Open 9-Ball &
One Pocket Resumes
12pm Ladies
Auction & Draw-Must be present

Call for more information: Bogies Billiards & Sports Bar - 281 821-4544