



The USBA Newsletter 3-Cushion Billiard News

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US Captures Top Prize in Team and Individual Events

Six-time national champion Pedro Piedrabuena extended his dominance of three-cushion billiards by capturing his second Pan American Championship. Held in Cali, Colombia from June 23 to June 30, the tournament featured the best players of North, South and Central America. To get to the finals, Piedrabuena defeated defending champion Carlos Campino from Colombia in the quarter finals (40-33 in 25) and Cesar Garzon, also from Colombia, in the semi-finals (40-17 in 18).

In the finals, Piedrabuena faced another Colombian, 22-year old Huberney Cataño, who jumped to a 24-7 lead. With Piedrabuena struggling, the players took the mid-game break. After the respite, Piedrabuena started scoring and Cataño began feeling the pressure of Piedrabuena's charge. Holding a 31-28 lead, Cataño missed and left the table open for Piedrabuena, who ran a 10. After another Cataño miss, Pedro ran 2 and out to reach 40. In the equal inning, Cataño ran another 2 to make the final score 40-33.

In addition to winning his second title, Piedrabuena also took home the honors for the highest grand average (1.687) and the best game (3.333). His high run in the tournament was 13, second only to Andres Naranjo's 16. His resiliency and come-back in the final demonstrate how mentally tough Piedrabuena has become over the last two to three years. With the victory, he qualifies for the World Championship in Antwerp, Belgium, in October 2013.

Also reaching the victory stand during the championship week were Americans Hugo



Hugo, Michael, Pedro & Mazin

Patiño and Mazin Shooni, who won the team championship with a 59-44 victory over Venezuela Team A (Merlin Romero and Miguel Canton). The Patiño-Shooni pairing met its stiffest competition in the quarterfinals when they squeaked out a 58-54 victory over fellow Americans Piedrabuena and Michael Kang.

All four members of the United States contingent made the final 32 in the individual tournament. Shooni bowed out to Colombian Heriberto Aristizabal in the round of 32. Patiño met fellow American Michael Kang in the round of 32, with Kang coming out on top. Kang fell the next round to Huberney Cataño, leaving Piedrabuena as the remaining American in the hunt for the gold. In the final rankings, Kang finished 16th, Patiño 18th and Shooni, 29th.

With the Americans taking the top prizes in the team and individual tournaments, the Pan American championship week was truly a special even for American billiards. The host country, however, showed its strength, with 16 Colombians finishing in the top 32, including taking places 2 through 10.

Photo courtesy of Kozoom.

Handicap Event At Amazin Billiards

Mazin Shooni, 2006 USBA National Champion, hosted 22 USBA members in a handicap tournament at his private club, Amazin' Billiards, in Malden, Mass., and took away the top prize.



Play began on June 8. The 22 players were grouped into 4 flights for round-robin preliminary action. After a full day of play, the top two players from each flight advanced to an 8-player final. The finalists were placed into two groups of 4 for the second day of round-robin play. The top two players from each Sunday group then played for positions 1 through 4. Shooni took home the top prize, besting Ellis Lawrence. John Johnson topped Tony Ferrara for third place.

Aside from the players who cashed, some of the highlights came from players who played in their first 3-cushion tournament. Baran Yildirim finished 2 - 3 with several close losses. Ken Beers bested a seasoned veteran in Lenny Collibee, while going 2 - 3 and costing Collibee a spot in the semi-final. Leo Pais lost his first game badly but recovered to win 3 out of 4 games and just missed making the semi-finals; Walter Burr and Andemar Perdomo, both going 2 - 3, also showed well.

All in all, it was a very competitive and hard fought handicap event.. Many thanks to Jim Shovak once again for organizing the schedule and reporting results and thanks and congratulations go out to the incomparable Mazin Shooni for his devotion to the game, the invitation to his room and for his stellar play in besting twenty-two 3-cushion players all gunning for him. Finals: Mazin Shooni (1st) defeated Ellis Lawrence (2nd) John Johnson (3rd) defeated Tony Ferrara (4th)

Dubuque Open Three-Cushion

Ashby Wins Title Again

Defending champion George Ashby managed to repeat as the winner of the fourth Dubuque Open Three-Cushion Tournament. The event concluded Sunday night in the billiard room of the Masonic temple at 12th and Locust.

Ashby, of Murrayville, Ill., got a stiff challenge from Kyung Yim, a player from Denver, in the final game, but prevailed at the end with a series of spectacular, pressure-packed shots coupled with tight defense. He took first prize of \$700.

Yim was second and Fred Lamers, representing the Minneapolis Billiard Club and winner of the first two editions of the Dubuque Open, was third. The surprise fourth-place finisher was Eric Spencer of the Illinois Billiard Club, whose unorthodox style was enough to give Ashby his only defeat. Spencer also won the best-game prize for scoring 25 points in only 20 innings.

The other two money-winners were fifth-place finisher James Richards of Milwaukee and sixth-place finisher Bob Byrne of Dubuque, the tournament director.

The field was limited to 18 players and featured entrants eight different states, including Yim of Colorado and Ray Piworunas of Sicorro, New Mexico. Action took place on three reconditioned Brunswick pocketless tables that date from the building's opening in 1932. Billiard tables are larger than pool tables and three-cushion played with only three balls. Points are scored by making the cueball contact both object balls with various restrictions.



Kyung Yim, 2nd; Eric Spencer, 4th; Bpb Byrne, 6th; Fred Lamers, 3rd; James Richards, 5th, and George Ashby, 1st.

President's Desk

As we reach the mid-point of summer, I wanted to take this opportunity to make an important announcement. Sometime in the fall, the USBA will hold a series of regional champion tournaments involving all players who are not classified in the "A" category. We are now finalizing the details. Most of the hard work is being done by the "B" Championship Committee, which consists of USBA Board Members Steven Andersen, Doug Deitel and Jim Shovak. The committee currently believes that there will be 6 tournaments

We hope the tournaments would generate not only great interest but, more importantly, great participation by players. Each tournament would crown a regional champion. Winning a regional title would be an honor onto itself, but, in addition to the prestige, each champion would also qualify to play in the "B" Championship tournament to be scheduled alongside the USBA National Open championship. This will be the opportunity for all non-A players to show who is the best of the rest.

We are looking at sites with established rooms and a large number of players. Of course, we immediately think of the centers of billiard action, Boston, New York, Miami, Houston, Chicago, Los Angeles, San Francisco. We should be able to make a formal announcement of the dates and locations in the next few weeks. Please keep an eye on the USBA website for additional information.



USBA Women's Invitational Tournament

Klompenshouwer Tops Best In World

Therese Klompenshouwer won for the second time the prestigious women's tournament at Carom Cafe in New York. Posting a perfect 10-0 record and a 1.012 grand average, the 30-year old from Holland showed she is the best female player in the world.

In the final, Klompenshouwer faced Orië Hida, a former world champion. With one loss, Hida needed a win to force a playoff. The match was close for five innings, but Klompenshouwer gradually pulled away and finished far ahead, 25 to 17 in 17 innings. This is the third major title this year for Klompenshouwer. She can now place the Carom Café trophy on the mantle alongside those from the European Women's tournament and the Femina Belgian Open. For her efforts in New



I-r, Su Ah Park, 3rd
Therese Klompenshouwer, 1st & Orië Hida, 2nd
photo by Joseph Ratke

York, she won \$2,500. Hida, from Japan finished second and pocketed \$1,500 and 3rd paid \$800 to Su Ah Park.

	Higashiuchi	Klompenshouwer	Jetten	Mitterböck	Hayashi	Park	Hida	Hida	Park	Eckel	Lee	WIN/LOSS	TOTAL POINTS	TOTAL INNINGS	GRAND AVERAGE	HIGH RUN	BEST GAME	FINAL RANKING
Natsumi	16	4	44	41	33	2	34	38	35	25	40	5	33	6				
Higashiuchi		15	25	25	23	22	15	25	25	25	25	4	225	342	0.658	8	1.000	5
Therese Klompenshouwer	17	4	20	25	21	9	38	17	19	21	39	30	25	10				
Klompenshouwer	25		25	25	25	25	25	25	25	25	25	25	25	0				
Kanna	44	16	3	22	27	8	31	26	39	29	4	48	53	6				
Jetten	23	7		25	25	19	11	25	25	25	25	25	25	4				
Helga Mitterböck	40	24	21		29	43	16	54	61	55	53	3	171	406	0.421	3	0.463	9
Mitterböck	18	13	8		15	17	6	25	19	25	25	7	171	406	0.421	3	0.463	9
Nariko Hayashi	34	3	20	27		36	4	44	41	45	54	7	217	359	0.604	5	0.833	4
Hayashi	25	9	17	25		25	16	25	25	25	25	3	217	359	0.604	5	0.833	4
Su Ah Park	35	5	37	43	36		31	4	50	27	4	47	39	7				
Park	25	23	25	25	21		25	19	25	25	25	3	238	376	0.633	5	0.926	3
One Hida	36	17	27	16	26	31		34	36	32	24	8	239	283	0.845	8	1.563	2
Hida	25	16	25	25	25	23		25	25	25	25	2	239	283	0.845	8	1.563	2
Kazumi Hida	37	4	18	38	43	4	50	33	44	41	46	3	193	405	0.477	5	0.610	7
Hida	15	9	12	24	21	25	14		23	25	25	7	193	405	0.477	5	0.610	7
Esther Park	25	4	20	4	29	3	27	2	38	44	8	3	167	381	0.438	6	0.581	8
Park	16	9	11	25	18	7	11		25	20	25	7	167	381	0.438	6	0.581	8
Sylvia Eckel	39	3	38	55	47	47	31	41	53	3	58	2	185	458	0.404	7	0.472	10
Eckel	12	18	13	21	18	18	14		21	25	25	8	185	458	0.404	7	0.472	10
Olivia Lee	33	2	30	3	52	63	53	38	42	1	58	0	132	439	0.301	5	0	11
Lee	11	13	19	11	21	11	2		20	5	19	10	132	439	0.301	5	0	11
													TOURNAMENT AVERAGE:		0.552			

Upcoming USBA Tournaments

August 4, 2013

Edgie's Endorsed Handicap Tournament, Milpitas, CA
Contact: Antonio Rivera 415-730-5226

This event is cancelled:

August 23-25, 2013: Mike Fahey Memorial Tournament, Elks Club, Tacoma, WA

Contact: Tommy Thomsen 509-240-2027 or 541-938-6889

September 8, 2013

Edgie's Endorsed Handicap Tournament, Milpitas, CA., Contact: Antonio Rivera 415-730-5226

September 13-15, 2013

USBA TOUR OPEN: Amazin Billiards, Malden, MA., Contact: Mazin Shooni 248-910-4466

November 8-10, 2013

2013 USBA TOUR Open Tournament: Edgie's, Milpitas, CA: . Contact Susie: 408-942-9500

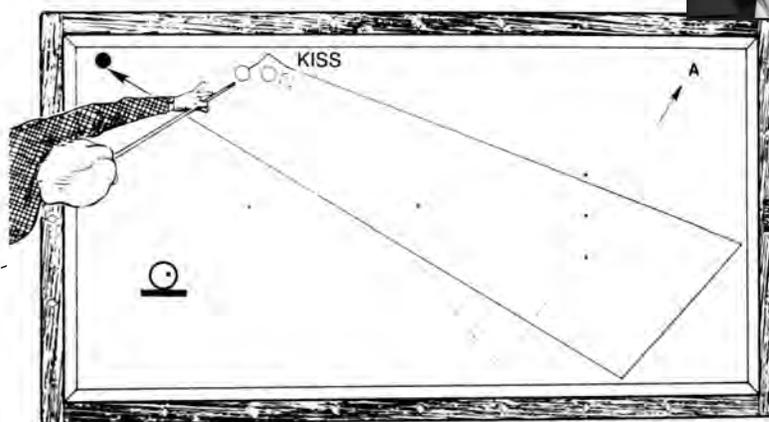
Shots From A Master Play

by Robert Byrne

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



This shot would be a cinch if the first object ball was a little farther from the rail. As it is, even an extremely thin hit will bring the cueball in short of the red, and the white is so close to the rail it's hard to get through the hole without a kiss. So play the kiss! Feather the white, and as soon as the cueball comes off the rail it hits the white again and is realigned into a scoring path as shown. Stroked with the proper speed, the white often banks across the table (dashed line) to a favorable position near the corner at A.



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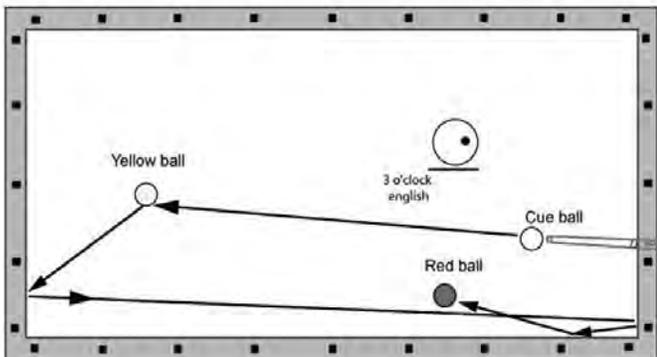
Rip's Tips

Unintentional Nice Shot

Friend Tom Thomsen of Oregon, sent me this diagram which proves once again that some of the best shots in billiards are made by accident. (Come on now, smile and admit it.) He says Fred Swaha, owner of Edgie's Billiards in Milpitas, CA, was going for the corner on this shot but hit the yellow ball too thin with the above fantastic result. Great shot Fred. Anyone else wants to submit a unique shot, (or did you play it that way), please send it to this column c/o Professor Paul Frankel



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



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THE BELGIAN BILLIARD BALLS

Caudron Wins Verhoeven Open

2013 VERHOEVEN OPEN

Carom Café Billiards July 21, 2013

Final Ranking

FINAL RANK	NAME	TOTAL POINTS	TOTAL INNINGS	GRAND AVERAGE	HIGH RUN	BEST GAME
1	Frédéric Caudron	314	152	2.066	17	3.636
2	Eddy Merckx	315	167	1.886	11	2.500
3	Torbjörn Blomdahl	307	167	1.838	12	2.500
4	Raymond Ceulemans	276	161	1.714	11	2.667
5	Roland Forthomme	300	174	1.724	10	2.500
6	Gerhard Kostistansky	289	230	1.257	9	1.818
7	Miguel Torres	286	213	1.343	10	1.905
8	Pedro Piedrabuena	286	179	1.598	12	2.857
9	Semih Sayginer	244	159	1.535	12	2.105
10	Eddy Leppens	251	122	2.057	10	3.636
11	Hugo Patiño	239	186	1.285	11	2.222
12	Sameh Sidhom	230	182	1.264	11	2.105
13	Javier Teran	153	131	1.168	10	1.905
14	Brian Yi	178	159	1.119	8	1.290
15	Carlos Palafox	150	138	1.087	6	1.333
16	Harry Pena	140	142	0.986	8	1.143
17	Ricardo Carranco	143	182	0.786	6	0.889
18	Luis Aveiga	135	113	1.195	9	1.905
19	Julian Torres	139	127	1.094	8	0.930
20	Allan Jensen	175	164	1.067	8	1.538
21	Joel Switala	86	142	0.606	6	0.851
22	Mazin Shooni	149	145	1.028	8	NA
23	Sang Jin Lee	102	136	0.750	5	NA
24	Daniel Reyes	124	170	0.729	8	NA

Frédéric Caudron survived not only an oppressive summer heat wave, but also the competition from fellow countrymen Eddie Merckx, Roland Forthomme, Eddie Leppens and Raymond Ceulemans not to mention a few other notable ex-World Champions, Torbjörn Blomdahl and Semih Sayginer, to win the 2013 Verhoeven International Open at Carom Café in Flushing, New York. Caudron finished with a 2.066 grand average and a high runoff 17.

In a week where outside temperatures reached 98 degrees, about the recommended temperature for the slate on a heated table and inside temperatures climbed into the 90s, sixty-four players entered preliminary play. It was the largest field at a summer Carom Café tournament since 2007. The players were placed in eight groups of eight, with 18 players advancing based on their play. In addition, two players advanced based on the auction and the lottery. Joel Switala from France won the auction, and Ricardo Carranco from Los Angeles earned a spot in the semi-finals via a lottery ticket purchased by a friend over the telephone. These players were then placed with the four seeded players, Blomdahl, Caudron, Sayginer and Ceulemans—in the four semi-final groups of six. The top two from each group of six advanced to the 8-man knock out finals played on July 21. The top four third place finishers played for 9th through 12th places.

Caudron sweated out the competition with the only blemish on his record being a 40 to 34 loss to Forthomme in the last game of the semi-final flights. In the finals, Caudron first avenged his loss by besting Forthomme 40 to 23, then crushed Ceulemans 40 to 16 in 11 innings. In the match for the trophy, he whipping another Belgian, Merckx, 40 to 35 win in 19 innings. For his efforts, he pocketed \$8000. Merckx took home \$5000 for second place with tournament paying out up to 24 places. In other final action, Blomdahl defeated Pedro

Piedrabuena in a tense match 40 to 38 in the first round, fell to Merckx 40 to 39 in the second round and defeated Ceulemans in the third-place consolation match 40 to 19. The American crowd was very appreciative of the fine play demonstrated by Ceulemans—Mr. 100—who at age 76 showed that he can still match wits with the best the world has to offer.

The highest finishing American was Miguel Torres, who finished 7th with a 40 to 26 victory over countryman Pedro Piedrabuena. Hugo Patiño finished 11th. Leppens finished 10th but had the second highest grand average (2.057). Crowd favorite Semih Sayginer took 9th place. Kozoom live-streamed all matches throughout the five-day tournament. Many of the

matches are preserved for replay for Kozoom members (www.kozoom.com).

The tournament was run by Michael Kang and Charlie Brown, with great assistance from Merrill Hughes and Herman Nie along with the many volunteer scorers. Special thanks to our title sponsor Verhoeven



photo by Joseph Ratke

l-r, Roland Forthomme,5th, Torbjorn Blomdahl, 3rd Eddie Merckx, 2nd Federic Caudron, 1st & Raymond Ceulemans,4th





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