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Development team:

Although we gathered a huge amount of experience by supplying tables for tournaments, we also rely on the input of some of the best players in the World.

Their feedback is imperative for the continuous improvement and evolution of our products. This team consist of the following athletes:



Torbjörn Blomdahl:

41 World-cups, 14 UMB World titles. The Swede dominated the game of 3 cushion for more than a decade, probably the most experienced player the World has ever seen.



Sung-Won Choi:

2014 UMB 3-Cushion World Champion. One of the top players from Korea, the country where billiards is growing stronger every year. The player with the best focus and concentration power on the circuit. Current N°2 on the UMB -ranking.



Dick Jaspers:

20 World-cups, 5 UMB World titles. He is the player with the highest accuracy and best speed - control. You are never sure of a victory over Dick until the last ball has been played.



Nikos Polychronopoulos:

The "Whirlwind", multiple Greek champion, sharpshooter. When Nikos is on a run, he is very hard to beat. Exclusive Gabriels distributor for Greece.



Jérémy Bury:

Upcoming talent from France, he has been improving his ranking year after year and is considered as the man for the future. 9 times European and 26 times French champion.



The USBA Newsletter
3-Cushion Billiard News

www.USBA.net

Would you like to write an article or submit a shot?
 email articles to:
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 you can mail to
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**Ferrara, DeAmato Win at
 Amazin Billiards Nationals Qualifier**



Left to Right: Tony Ferrara, Joe DeAmato, Bob Page, Charlie Delorme

Tony Ferrara and Joe DeAmato secured spots at the USBA 3-Cushion Nationals during the qualifier held at A'Mazin Billiards Sunday, January 11, 2015.

Ten 3-cushion players competed for the two spots in the Nationals, two be held in New York this year. Two flights of five playing to 25 points with the top two players heading into a four-man final, also to 25 points, was the format decided upon.

One flight had Myron Goldenberg, Eric Zeiwey, Scott Hewitt, Charlie Delorme and Bob Page in it, while the other five-man flight consisted of Tony Ferrara, Bob Ferrara, Dave Egdahl, Kevin Perry and Joe DeAmato.

Ferrara went undefeated in his flight and advanced alongside of DeAmato, who finished 3 and 1.

In the other flight, three players finished 3 and 1 leaving the result to be determined by points scored. Delorme, Page and Hewitt (all 3 and 1) took turns beating each other, but

Hewitt lost out by scoring only 14 points in his one loss. Delorme and Page advanced to the final four.

The final had a round robin format. Game one saw DeAmato beat Delorme 25 to 10 while Ferrara edged out Page by 25 to 24. The winners and losers matched up in round two, resulting in another Ferrara win over Delorme 25 to 15. DeAmato bested Page with the tournament's best averaging game, 25 to 5 in only 11 innings.

As a result of two 2 and 0 records versus two 0 and 2 records, the third round was cancelled as mathematically Ferrara and DeAmato had already secured first and second place and became winners of the qualifying spots into the Nationals. The tournament was highly competitive and lasted a grueling 12 hours for the four finalists.

Congratulations to Tony Ferrara and Joe DeAmato on their wins, and to all the players who participated. A sincere thanks to A'Mazin Billiards and Mazin Shooni, the Tournament Director.

Official Players Levels for Tournament Play

Rankings, Levels and Handicaps

The USBA has several ways to measure and track our players' performance.

The USBA Ranking System measures the success of active players across all levels. Players compete in ranking events and receive rankings points with a rolling 12-month total. Every year a player is crowned the ranking champion at their designated level based on the total points accumulated in tournament play through December 31. More complete explanation of the Ranking system can be found on the USBA website at <http://www.usba.net/tournaments/rankings>.

Here are the player levels:

- .900 average and higher = A level
- .700-.899 average = B+ level
- .550-.699 average = B level
- .400-.549 average = C+ level
- .399 average and below = C level

The effort is just the beginning of a larger plan. As part of this motion passed by the Board of Directors, the USBA Rankings Committee will also work on the following items:

Determine the best way to ensure that averages are kept at as many USBA Tournaments. Obtain documentation on players' recorded averages in local tournaments from tournament directors around the country. The Committee will also include all recorded averages from USBA Tournaments as well.

Review all players' recorded averages over the past 3 years and also the official USBA Player Level that has been assigned for that player and make sure that the player's recorded averages and assigned player level are consistent.

If a player's recorded averages and player level are not consistent or if there is no player level assigned, the Committee will consider their personal knowledge of what they know about a particular player and determine the player's proper player level.

In the event that the Committee is still uncertain of the level to assign, the Committee will contact a local tournament director familiar with a particular player or whoever else is more familiar with that player's ability to determine a solution. If the Committee still cannot find a solution, then the player's level will be left blank until more reliable information can be obtained.

The Rankings Committee will adopt the rules regarding the number of tournaments or length of time that will be used in determining a player's level in the future including the rules for whether or not a player's level will be moved up or down.

Kyung Yim Qualifies at Dick Takano Memorial

The annual Dick Takano Memorial Qualifier was held at Tacoma Elks Lodge on December 5-7, 2014. Finishing first and qualifying to the National Championship to be held March 5-8, 2015 at Carom Café Billiards in Flushing, NY was Kyung Yim. Second was Jesus Quinonez, third was Ramses Verlinden and fourth was Tim Poole. Congratulations to Kyung Yim and to everyone that participated!

President's Desk:

Qualifiers for the National Championship are being held and scheduled right now so



make sure you look at our website often for new qualifiers being posted on the tournament calendar. The 2015 USBA National Championship will be held at Carom Café Billiards in Flushing, New York from March 5-8, 2015. Pedro Piedrabuena will be defending his U.S. Title which he has now won 4 years in a row and 7 times overall. Pedro was at the World Championship in Korea and set a new World Championship record with his dazzling run of 18. The cast of usual suspects will be there to overtake the 7-time Champion: Hugo Patiño, 2-time U.S. Champion (2003 and 2009), Sonny Cho (2005), Mazin Shooni (2006), Miguel Torres (2008) and Jae Hyung Cho (2010). Please consider participating in the tournament or simply being a spectator to support the event and our organization. The event will most likely be available to view live on the CaromTV camera. Check details often on the tournament page for the National Championship Tournament on our website: www.USBA.net The Verhoeven Open at Carom Café will most likely be held from July 21-26 preceded by an International Women's Tournament from July 18-20. Don't miss it! The best in the entire world will be there.

Later in the year we will be organizing a "B" and "C" player Championship Tournament. Details have not yet been arranged but please check your emails for communication from the USBA and also the website.



67th World championship

SEOUL – The main starplayer in Korean billiards has finally his golden medal and Korean billiards, with its thousands of quality players, a world champion. Sung-Won Choi (37) won the title this Sunday afternoon in the Seoul Olympic hall, against Swedish legend Swede Torbjörn Blomdahl. A crowd gone wild, some 350 spectators in the stands, saw their favorite write history when he recorded a 40-37 win in twenty innings.

The best Korean of this golden generation gave the ultimate gift to the sport that has become so popular in his country. Sung-Won Choi claimed the title in a final that went neck and neck all the way. In the 20th inning, Torbjörn Blomdahl missed a round-the-table shot that would seal his fate. Under tremendous pressure, the Korean produced his last few, difficult points and started a roar of joy and cheers in the packed arena. Sung-Won Choi shouted out, embraced Blomdahl, bowed to the crowd in all four directions and relished in the festivities that ended this historic championship.

The 67th world championship was also a battle between the two players who carry the flag for the Molinari cue brand. The final was attended by 350 spectators, with 11 cameras recording every shot.

Pedro Piedrabuena wows 'em at the World Championship in Korea

The fivefold American champion Pedro Piedrabuena has launched the World championship three cushion in Seoul with a world-class match. In the group in which Filipos Kasidokostas is the leader, Piedrabuena dazzled in his match against Turk Tolgahan Kiraz to a victory in eight innings: 40-16.

Highlight in the match was the run of eighteen, which was decisive and gave him a big margin. The Turk, who played the World's team championship with Tayfun Tasdemir, remained stunned in his chair and lost with 2.000 average.

The high run of 18 was never made before at a World championship. Frédéric Caudron ran 17 in 2012 and 2013. Korean Dong Koong Kang played a match in 7 innings last year in Antwerp, but was eliminated in the group stage.

The 43-year-old Pedro Piedrabuena was born in Montevideo, Uruguay, but lives already for many years in San Diego (California), where he is the owner of a billiards room. As American champion, he was the successor of the legendary Sang Chun Lee, who came from Korea to New York and was US champion between 1990 and 2001.

In the first rounds of the World's in Seoul, Tatsuo Arai defeated Jérôme Barbeillon (40-28 in 31) in the group in which Frédéric Caudron is the leader. Xuan-Cuong Ma bested Kostas Papakonstantinou (40-37 in 24) and played against Torbjörn Blomdahl in his second group match. And in Group C (with Jaspers) Luis Aveiga won his first match against Arnim Kahofer



**I-r: 2nd Torbjörn Blomdahl (Sweden)
1st Sung-Won Choi (South Korea)
3rd Jean Paul de Bruijn (Netherlands)
3rd Hyun Min Seo (Korea)**

40-29 in 31.

The final result of the 67th World championship:

- | | |
|------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| 1 Sung-Won Choi (S Kor) | 2 Torbjörn Blomdahl (Sweden) |
| 3 Jean Paul de Bruijn (Neth) | 3 Hyun Min Seo (Korea) |
| 5 Tayfun Tasdemir (Tur) | 6 Eddy Merckx (Belgium) |
| 7 Ruben Legazpi (Spain) | 8 Jae Ho Cho (South Korea) |
| 9 Pedro Piedrabuena (USA) | 10 Dick Jaspers (Neth) |
| 11 Dani Sánchez (Spain) | 12 Frédéric Caudron (Belgium) |
| 13 Jung Han Heo (S Kor) | 14 Quyet Chien Tran (Vietnam) |
| 15 Marco Zanetti (Italy) | 16 Huberney Catano (Colombia) |
| 17 Sameh Sidhom (Egypt) | 18 Glenn Hoffman (Netherlands) |
| 19 Choong-Bok Lee (S Kor) | 20 Tolgahan Kiraz (Turkey) |

The new world ranking (+ up in the ranking, - down in the ranking):

- | | |
|-----------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| 1) T. Blomdahl 411 (+1) | 2) Frédéric Caudron 389 (-1) |
| 3) Sung-Won Choi 373 (+3) | 4) Eddy Merckx 331 (-1) |
| 5) Dick Jaspers 278 (-1) | 6) Jae Ho Cho 268 (+4) |
| 7) Dong Koong Kang 247 (+1) | 8) Marco Zanetti 238 (-1) |
| 9) Kyung-Roul Kim 232 (-) | 10) T. Tasdemir 222 (+1) |
| 11) Filipos Kasidokostas 216 (-6) | 12) Dani Sánchez 208 (-) |
| 13) Quyet Chien Tran 194 (+2) | 14) Jean-Paul de Bruijn 183 (+5) |
| 15) Jérémy Bury 176 (-2) | 16) Roland Forthomme 173 (-2) |
| 17) Choong Bok Lee 158 (-) | 18) Murat Naci Coklu 143 (-) |
| 19) N. Polychronopoulos 139 (-3) | 20) R. Legazpi 136 (+10) |
| 21) S. Sidhom 135 (+1) | 22) Quoc Nguyen 132 (-) |
| 23) Jung Han Heo 123 (-) | 24) Lütfi Cenet 123 (-3) |
| 25) E Leppens 120 (-1) | 26) Hyung-Bum Hwang 114(+1) |
| 27) Henry Diaz 112 (+2) | 28) Riad Nady 109 (-3) |
| 29) Dinh Nai Ngo 102 (-3) | 30) Christian Rudolph 101(-2). |

Difficult Shots That Help Your Game

By Phil Panzera
Contributing Writer

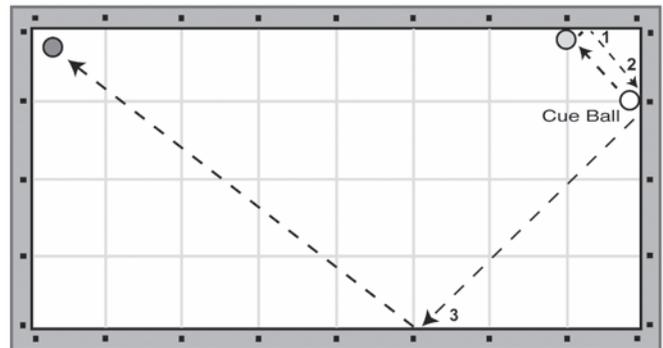


A primary goal for this new column will be to highlight techniques from trick or artistic shots that can improve your game. Making this difficult shot requires max high and max right. Address the CB at 1:30, with as level a cue as possible (elevation jumps the ball off the table). The high ball hit creates an immediate sharp hook off the first OB back toward the long rail, plus a second helpful hook between the second and third rails. A fuller hit seems necessary, but all you need is a half-ball hit.

The correct speed is a bit more than medium (4 to 5 rail speed). If you're not getting the right action, speed is almost certainly the culprit, so try different amounts. You may experience a little hop to the second rail; it's not necessary, but it's usually helpful. You want a "quick" (not hard) stroke, and a lighter grip is better than a firmer one.

Let's look at a real game situation. With the first OB anywhere along the long rail (especially when close to the red), and the CB at a similar steep angle, you can use these techniques to lengthen the CB and hit the red. Note that high-right is much easier than low-right, however if the OB is more than about a

half inch off the rail, the initial hook is not as effective, and a low-right hit should then be considered. You generally want to hit this closer to a 3/4 ball hit than a half-ball hit, but the fullness of the hit will depend on the angle to the first rail. You don't need a gorilla stroke; back off the power and make it with stroke; 4 to 5 rail speed is enough. For a video, with the red even worse at the middle of the short rail, see the rocketceo page in YouTube.



Upcoming USBA Tournaments

Feb 6-8 Minneapolis Billiard Club, Minn., MN, .600 and under-10-Man Round Robin, \$120 Entry for USBA Members. Fred Lamers (763-300-6370)

Feb 7-8 National Qualifier- Carom Café Billiards, Flushing, NY- Contact: Charles Brown 646-528-3238

Feb 14-15 National Qualifier-Snookers Billiards, Livonia, MI, Contact: Bill Johnson 734-368-3315

Feb 14-15 National Qualifier-Chris's Billiards, Chicago, IL, Contact: Felipe Razon 708-878-4197

Feb 20-22 USBA TOUR EVENT A/B+ Handicap, College Billiards, San Diego, CA. Contact: Ricardo Carranco 323-490-8075

Feb 21-22 National Qualifier Bay Shore Billiards, Bay Shore NY. Contact Merrill Hughes 631-338-9698

Feb 21-22 National Qualifier-Doral Billiards, Miami, FL, Contact: Victor Cuzzi 786-366-9273

Mar 5-8 USBA National Championship Tournament, Carom Café Billiards, Flushing, NY

Mar 6-8 Ken Higgins Memorial, Tacoma Elks, WA Contact: Mark Williams 541-941-1291

Mar 27-29 Spring Tourney, Hood River Elks, OR Contact: Mark Williams 541-941-1291

Apr 16-19 Professor-Q-Ball presents at the Super Billiard Expo a special 3-Cushion events. See ad on page 30-31

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