



# The USBA Newsletter 3-Cushion Billiard News

www.USBA.net

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## Chris Billiards

Chris Billiards in Chicago Illinois held a USBA Nationals Qualifying event February 12-14. Thirteen players competed for a chance to win a paid entry into the National Championship. Four players emerged victorious in their quest.

The thirteen players who assembled were split into one flight of 7 and one flight of 6. Round Robin play continued where the top three players from each of the two preliminary flights moved on to the round robin finals.

Felipe, Alfredo, Thang and Olegario will now move on to compete for the 2016 USBA title.



Five of the six finalists are pictured above (left to right): Sabina Manriquez (5th), Felipe Razon (1st), Alfredo Sanches (2nd), Luis Milan (6th) and Olegario Gallo (4th). Not shown is Thang Le (3rd).

FINALS	Thang	Felipe	Alfredo	Luis	Sabino	Olegario	WIN/LOSS	TOTAL POINTS	FINAL RANKING
Le							2		
Thang		21	24	25	25	22	3	117	3
Razon							5		
Felipe	25		25	25	25	25	0	125	1
Sanches							4		
Alfredo	25	11		25	25	25	1	111	2
Milian							0		
Luis	21	14	15		19	22	5	91	6
Manriquez							2		
Sabino	17	11	20	25		25	3	98	5
Gallo							3		
Olegario	25	17	25	25	12		2	104	4

## **USBA Qualifier at Burbank Elks Lodge 1497 – Burbank, CA.**

This year, local player and tournament organizer Gilbert Najm had something special planned for his comrades at the Burbank Elks Lodge. Gil organized an intimate and prestigious 3-cushion billiard qualifier event for his fellow playmates in the United States Billiard Association. What was special was the fact that play in the event was shared with hundreds of players and fans around the country through the Live-Stream feed provided by Daniel Busch and POVPool.com. For two days we all watched these great local players fight it out on the tables for a chance to compete in the USBA National Championship. We hope to see more events like this in the future, especially when we can all enjoy them through the Internet.

The eighteen players who came were split into 3 groups of 6.

Play began in round robin format with the top two from each group, along with the two best third place finishers overall, moving on to the final round. The finals were played in single elimination knockout format. Another special feature of this event was that no prize money was awarded. Instead, all the tournament prize money was used to maximize the players rewards by providing six of the eight finalists a paid entry to compete in this year's USBA National Championship. The 2016 National Championship tournament is scheduled to take place March 16-20 at Million Dollar Billiards in North Hollywood California.

The players who qualified were:

- |                      |                     |
|----------------------|---------------------|
| 1. Francisco Palafox | 2. Ricardo Carranco |
| 3. Vicky Pineda      | 4. Carlos Alvarez   |
| 5. Hillario Augustin | 6. Bilal Khalifa    |



**L to R) Kelly Kendrick, Ross Bradley, Axel Brutz, Don Schall, Hector Ocampo, Joe Bello, Gilbert Najm, Vicky Pineda, Francisco Palafox, Bilal Khalifa, Hillario Augustin, Ramon Mesa, Carlos Alvarez, Ricardo Carranco and Peter Banyai**

## **President's Desk**

Congratulations to Hugo Patino, our 2016 USBA National Champion! I am so proud of Hugo and all of the players who provided the audience at Million Dollar Billiards in Hollywood, California with beautiful and exciting matches during the recent USBA Nationals. I hope viewers at home also enjoyed the wonderful play broadcast live by PovPool.com

Next big event scheduled is in Oaks, Pennsylvania where an invitational 3-Cushion tournament is being sponsored by Professor-Q-Ball and Dennis Dieckman in conjunction with the Allen Hopkins Super Billiard Expo. I will be teaching 3-Cushion Billiards to youngsters during special lessons available free of charge at the event. So parents, bring your young bil-

liard enthusiasts and we will show them the fine art of the game and hopefully excite a whole new generation of players. Who knows, maybe our future champion will catch 3-Cushion fever at the show. I hope to see you there April 14 to 17th at the Greater Philadelphia Expo Center.

On behalf of the USBA, I would like to extend a special thank you to Jim Shovak, who has been honored with a lifetime membership. As former President and Secretary/Treasurer to the USBA, his contribution has been immense.

Now that we are through with the Nationals, we are scheduling tournaments for the year, so keep your eye on USBA.net for future events.











*"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**

# Professor-Q-Ball Promotions



Presents at the  
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Greater Philadelphia Expo Center  
**April 14-17 2016**



**A Special 3-Cushion Clinic for  
Youths 18 & Under**



With National Champions  
Mazin Shooni & Hugo Patino



**Professor-Q-Ball Presents**   
**3-Cushion Tournament**  
**with Champions**

For more information on how to enter all events.  
Contact: Paul Frankel (901) 210-7251

All Players Are Welcome

**Evening Events**

Tournament Arena  
Hall A

**3 Separate Tournaments - April 14-16th**

Starts on Thursday at 7:pm, Friday-7:pm, Saturday-7:pm

**IBS 3-Cushion Open Tournament**

Race to 5, Single Elim - Entry Only \$20!!

 1st \$1,000 - 2nd \$250 - 3rd \$100

Based on  
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Payout each night

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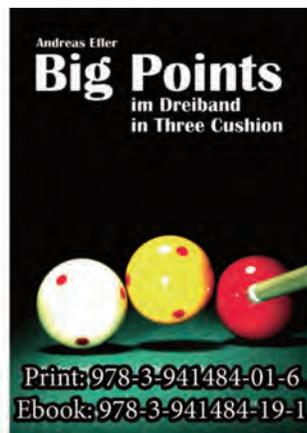
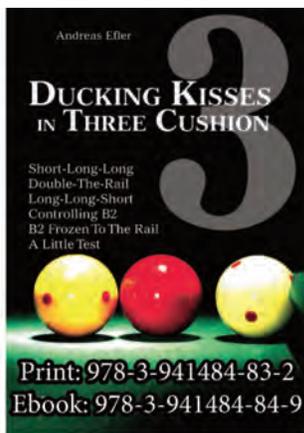
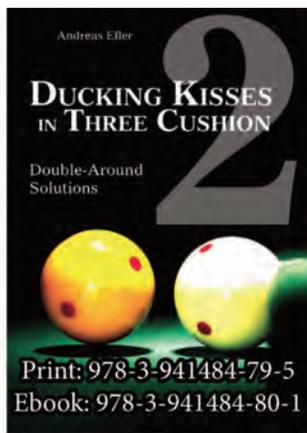
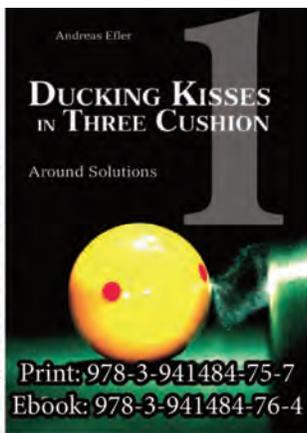
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**(901) 756-2594 Or Cell (901) 210-7251**

**www.professorqball.com**

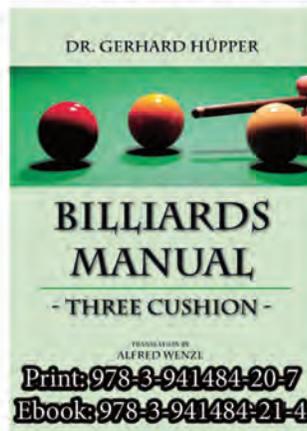
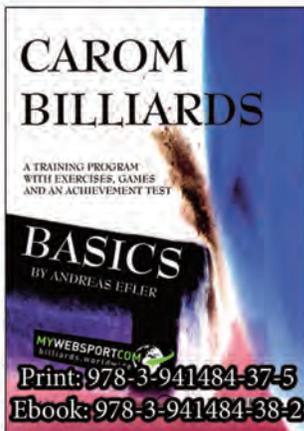


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# Ken Higgins Memorial at Tacoma Elks

The Tacoma Billiard Federation, hosting the USBA Ken Higgins Memorial on March 4-6, attracted eighteen entrants. The tournament was run as a mixed handicapped event, where any player can win. That made for some exciting action.

Tournament director Tim Poole set two flights of nine while using the established USBA handicaps and mixed the flights accordingly with players from each level: A's, B+, B's, C+, and C's. The target scores for the players would in turn be set as: 30-25-21-17-15.

At the end of two days of play, the top two players from each flight from the A/B group would advance into the finals to play in a four man round robin. Likewise the top two from the C/C+ group in each flight advanced into the four man round robin finals for that division. This format yields interesting results, some expected and some unexpected. It also gives every player whose handicap is accurate an opportunity to share in the winnings.

In the end, the final standing for each division were:

**C/C+ Division:** 1st Dave Law, 2nd Salvy Hernandez, 3rd Richard Kenney, 4th Matt Lind

**A/B Division:** 1st Mark St Angelo, 2nd Jesus Quinonez, 3rd Kip Hocking, 4th Ertan Tarhan

There was one especially well-played game that deserves mention. Kip Hocking defeated Ertan Terhan in the finals with a score of 21 in 14 innings for a 1.50 average. Well done Kip! And an honorable mention goes out to the players with

FINALS C+/C	Hernandez (17)	Kenney (17)	Law (15)	Lind (15)	WIN/LOSS	TOTAL POINTS	TOTAL INNINGS	GRAND AVERAGE	HIGH RUN	BEST GAME	FINAL RANKING
Hernandez (17)	42	42	20	2	1	48	104	0.462	C+	0.850	2
Kenney (17)	10	41	43	1	2	42	126	0.333	C+	0.395	3
Law (15)	15	15	47	3	0	45	130	0.346	C	0.366	1
Lind (15)	7	13	12	0	3	32	110	0.291	C	0.000	4
TOURNAMENT AVERAGE:											0.355

2016 Ken Higgins USBA Handicap Tournament- March 4,5,6 Tacoma Elks Lodge #174

FINALS A /B/B	Tarhan (30)	Quinonez (25)	Hocking (21)	St Angelo (21)	WIN/LOSS	TOTAL POINTS	TOTAL INNINGS	GRAND AVERAGE	HIGH RUN	BEST GAME	FINAL RANKING
Tarhan (30)	46	14	33	1	2	63	93	0.677	A	0.903	4
Quinonez (25)	25	33	28	2	1	60	107	0.561	B+	0.758	2
Hocking (21)	14	11	58	1	2	49	105	0.467	B	1.500	3
St Angelo (21)	15	21	21	2	1	57	119	0.479	B	7.500	1
TOURNAMENT AVERAGE:											0.540

the longest drive, Mark St Angelo from New Mexico, and Matt Lind from Minneapolis, MN.

Thanks to Ed Brasfield, the Tacoma Elks Lodge, the volunteers who served in the Sports Bar, Tom DuCharme, Ralph Miller and Kip Hocking for their support of the event, and to all those who support Three Cushion Billiards in the Pacific Northwest. Mac MacInroy receives special thanks for his attention to clean tables and balls every morning.

## Upcoming USBA Tournaments

### April 14-17

Professor-Q-Ball Promotions at the Super Billiard Expo  
3-Separate events See ad on page 24

### April 22-24

11th Annual Mike Kelley  
3-Cushion Tournament - Marshalltown, IA  
\$110 Entry for USBA members  
For more info call or text John @ 641-751-4696

### April 29 - May 1

3rd Annual Parker Hess Memorial  
USBA "Endorsed" B/C 3-Cushion Tournament  
Friday, Saturday, Sunday  
Ashland Elks Lodge # 944

28 PQB April/May

255 E. Main- Ashland, Oregon 97520

Tournament Directors: Mark Williams, 541-941-1291 and Tom Thomsen 509-240-2027

### June 3-5

Amazin Billiards  
248 910 4466  
USBA Open Tour  
Details will be posted on usba.net

### August 1-6

Carom Café, Flushing Queens, NY  
Verhoeven Open

Attention Room Owners interested in USBA events call Mazin Shooni 248 910 4466

# Rushville 3-Cushion Tournament

When George Ashby and Gary Eake were looking to make their Spring Rushville Three Cushion Tournament something special they enlisted the help of their friend Paul Frankel (aka Professor-Q-Ball.) The result was the spring tournament held at Rushville Billiards March 4-6 was more than just about producing a tournament winner. The event itself continues its tradition of being a winner to players and fans alike.

The March tournament in Rushville Illinois attracted 28 players to the warm and friendly atmosphere of Rushville Billiards. With former US Champion George Ashby both directing and playing everyone geared up for a challenging and competitive three days of billiards. The 28 players were split into four flights of seven for round robin preliminaries. The top two from each flight along with the two best third place finishers moved on to the final rounds.

The ten finalists, Pictured above left to right: Jonathan Anderson, Nam Cho, Adrian Viguera, David Tucker, Jim Bishop, Brian Haff, Fred Lamers, Lupe Cruz, Gary Eake and George Ashby) went on to another round robin flight! All we can say is wow... 6 games in the prelims and 9 games in the finals! That's a lot of billiard joy!

### What Made The Rushville Tournament So Special?

Unlike other tournaments in the US, the Rushville event is supported by all the players in many ways. Probably the most significant is the players willingness to volunteer by keeping score and recording innings while they were idle in any round.

That means the statistics for the event are complete for both Prelims and Finals.

The Rushville event was also unique because it honored more than just the top players from the finals. Several players received cash and recognition in different categories:

\$100 to Joshua Alldridge for High Run in Prelims

\$100 to Fred Lamers for High Run in Finals

\$100 to Chris Czaja receiving the Ernie Presto Sportsmanship Award Trophy as voted by the players.

A raffle was held for a rare piece of 3-cushion billiard memorabilia. The Original Front Cover of the 1981 National Billiard News magazine featuring George Ashby winning the USBA National 3-Cushion Championship. The raffle was won by David Tucker.

Rushville is truly a coming together of lovers of the game. Gary Eake and George Ashby performed the tournament director duties and ran an exemplary event, the tournament and large prize fund wouldn't have been possible without the generosity of the many sponsors, including:

Green Gables Motel, Los Charros Mexican Bar & Grill, Professor-Q-Ball's Pool & 3-Cushion News, and Dennis Dieckman

With Ashby winning the prelims and having the highest average he looked favored to win the event. But Fred Lamers stepped up with his best game and went undefeated in the 10-man final round robin flight to win the event and the \$1200 first prize. Here are all the payouts:

- 1st Fred Lamers (pictured) \$1,200
- 2nd George Ashby - \$950
- 3rd Brian Haff - \$800
- 4th Adrian Viguera - \$660
- 5th Lupe Cruz - \$530
- 6th Jim Bishop - \$420
- 7th Nam Cho - \$325
- 8th David Tucker - \$265
- 9th Gary Eake - \$210
- 10th Jonathan Anderson - \$175

Total \$5,535.00

The players and organizers are already talking about the next Rushville event maybe as soon as October. See you there!

For more pictures and results from the event visit [www.professorqball.com](http://www.professorqball.com) and [www.3cushionbilliards.com/](http://www.3cushionbilliards.com/)



Professor-Q-Ball 3-Cushion Tournament Rushville IL March 4th, 5th and 6th 2016														WIN/LOS	TOTAL POINTS	TOTAL INNINGS	GRAND AVERAGE	HIGH RUN	BEST GAME	FINAL RANKING
FINALS																				
	Ashby	Eake	Lamers	Cruz	Haff	Cho	Viguera	Tucker	Bishop	Anderson										
George																				
Ashby	25																			
Gary		25																		
Eake	20		11																	
Fred		25	25																	
Lamers	25	25		25																
Lupe			17																	
Cruz	17																			
Brian				17																
Haff																				
Nam					15															
Cho	15																			
Adrian																				
Viguera	25	25	20																	
David																				
Tucker	12																			
Jim																				
Bishop	16																			
Jonathan																				
Anderson	11	25	13																	
Points Against	164	223	117	162	195	191	192	203	200	224										
TOURNAMENT AVERAGE:																	0.641			

# Hugo Patino Wins the USBA 2016 3-Cushion National Championship

Story courtesy of [www.3CushionBilliards.com](http://www.3CushionBilliards.com)

**H**ugo Patino (right) wins the USBA 2016 3-Cushion National Championship. This is Patino's third championship title, having won thirteen years ago in 2003 and again in 2009. Pedro Piedrabuena, the 8-time former champion was 2nd. Jae Hyung Cho, also a former USBA champion was third. For Patino it was especially gratifying after overcoming unexpected losses in the semi-finals in order to advance. And his victory was even sweeter as he finally defeated his long-standing rival Piedrabuena in an exciting final match to secure the crown.

On March 15th, 40 players met for the draw in the 2016 USBA National 3-Cushion Championship. On hand at Million Dollar Billiards in North Hollywood California were defending champion Pedro Piedrabuena, five former champions including 2-time winner Hugo Patino.

In the preliminary rounds the entrants were divided into five flights of 8 to play round robin format in a race to 25. The top 3 from each flight would move on to the semi-final rounds. Tiebreakers were based on total points scored. With such a short match, any one of the talented players could run out at any time. That made for tense and exciting play.

After exciting play in the preliminary rounds 15 players moved on to the semi-finals. The semis split the players into three groups of five for round robin play in a race to 30 points. In the semi-finals the tiebreaker rule changed to highest average, so every inning and every billiard would count... and it did!

## The Semi-Final Action Proved Even Tougher

**Group A**, had two former champions Pedro Piedrabuena and Mazin Shooni. It was no surprise that Pedro went 4-0 to take the flight. He had the high run of 12 as well. But Carlos Palafox surprised Shooni, as did Ricardo Carranco. Shooni ended 1-3 and was out of the tournament. Palafox at 3-1 moved on along with enjoying best game of the group at 1.579. Carranco would also advance with a 2-2 record and a 1.176 average as the best third place finisher.

**Group B**, also had two former champions Miguel Torres and Jae Hyung Cho. It was Cho who outplayed the field this time going 4-0 and had best game of 1.875. Torres got stung by Justin Lee but at 2-2 was awarded 2nd spot with a 1.186 average. Torres did post the high run of 9 for the group. Carlos Alvarez (0.929) was third and Justin Lee (0.783) was fourth

both also with 2-2 scores. But neither moved on as only the two best thirds had that privilege.

**Group C**, was led by former champion Hugo Patino who seemed like a sure thing to move on based on his experience and performance in the prelims. But Patino had to fight for his life losing two games - one to Vicky Pineda and one to Young Gull Lee who was the 2015 second-place finisher. In fact, Lee went undefeated to win the flight at 4-0, Patino took second with a record of 2-2 and average of 1.039, and Vicky Pineda once again moved on also at 2-2 (1.028) as the last best third place finisher. Patino did have best game, but only a 1.304. Vicky Pineda had the high run of 13, which earned him half of the high run honors for the event. In fact it was Vicky Pineda's relentless march and great play that would yield even more fireworks in the final round.

## The Finals Were Filled With Surprises

The eight finalists for 2016 were Jae Hyung Cho, Pedro Piedrabuena, Young Gull Lee, Carlos Palafox, Miguel Torres, Hugo Patino, Ricardo Carranco and Vicky Pineda. The finals were run as an 8-man round robin in a race to 40 points. The top four former champions in the group - Cho, Piedrabuena, Torres and Patino - all had the skills and experience to win. Young Gull Lee had made it to the finals for the second year in a row and was hoping to better his last year's second place effort. The three newcomers, Palafox, Carranco and Pineda had proven their skills in the prelims and the semi-finals, and were ready to do so once again.

With the early pairings keeping the previous champions away from meeting with each other, the match proceeded pretty much as expected. Except once again it was Vicky Pineda with a 40-22 win who sprung the early surprise, this time against Miguel Torres. At the midway point the leaders were Jae Hyung Cho 4-0, Pedro Piedrabuena 4-0, Hugo Patino 4-0 and Miguel Torres 3-1. Vicky Pineda, having performed so well in the semi-finals and with an early win against Miguel Torres in the finals had one more big game to unleash. In a surprise upset Pedro Piedrabuena fell victim to Pineda 40-38 in 37 innings in their second meeting in the event. Pineda was



playing a great tournament and really demonstrated his offensive and defensive skills in defeating the 8-time champion. Pineda's win put Pedro in a tough spot. He could not afford another loss.

In the next round Jae Hyung Cho met Pedro Piedrabuena in a match that saw Pedro fall behind early after Cho ran 7 followed by 13 to be the first to reach 20 and the break. But in typical fashion, and with nerves of steel, Pedro whittled away at the lead and came back to win the match 40-36 in 20 innings giving Cho his first loss. Cho's run of 13 did net him a share of the high run prize with Pineda.

The final round match-ups that would determine the championship were Miguel Torres vs Jae Hyung Cho and Hugo Patino vs Pedro Piedrabuena. Cho was in a must-win situation, having posted one loss against Pedro, he needed a win to hang in for at least a playoff match. But Miguel Torres with a run of 11 proved too strong and finished 40-31 in 26 innings (1.538) to end Cho's chance for a 2016 title.

And so it was fitting that the Patino-Piedrabuena match - the final game of the event - would be the decider... and both players knew it. This was not unfamiliar territory for either player. Piedrabuena and Patino had met many times in the past. And in fact Piedrabuena had bested Patino in previous years all their final round matches for a championship. But with courage, skill and steady nerves Patino piled on point-after-point. And with a high run of 10 took a lead he never gave back. The last three points to reach the final score of 40-33 in 21 innings (1.905) will be points Hugo will savor for many years to come. Congratulations to Hugo Patino, the 2016 USBA National 3-Cushion Champion.

The total prize fund for the event was \$20,300. Here are the final results and prize payouts:

- |                                  |                                     |
|----------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| 1st Place \$4,000 Hugo Patino    | 2nd Place \$3,000 Pedro Piedrabuena |
| 3rd Place \$2,000 Jae Hyung Cho  | 4th Place \$1,800 Miguel Torres     |
| 5th Place \$1,600 Vicky Pineda   | 6th Place \$1,400 Carlos Palafox    |
| 7th Place \$1,200 Young Gull Lee | 8th Place \$1,000 Ricardo Carranco  |
| 9th Place \$800 Carlos Alvarez   | 10th Place \$600 Justin Lee         |
| 11th Place \$600 Jose Lizarraga  | 12th Place \$600 Mazin Shooni       |
| 13th Place \$500 Kyung Yim       | 14th Place \$500 Hillario Agustin   |
| 15th Place \$500 Raye Raskin     |                                     |

Best Game \$100 Pedro Piedrabuena 2.667

High Run \$100 split- Vicky Pineda & Jae Hyung Cho ran 13

USBA and Maazin Shooni, President, wishes to acknowledge the contributions and support of everyone who helped make the National Championship Tournament a success. Thanks goes out to:

Million Dollar Billiards and our gracious host Hector Ocampo, All the Staff at Million Dollar Billiards: Freddy, Lourdes, Chavita, Fernando, Rudy, George Sr. & George Jr (Food guys), Tournament Director Charles Brown and Merrill Hughes for running a great event, POVPool - Daniel Busch and Geraldine for a fantastic job on the Livestream, Professor-Q-Ball's National Pool & 3-Cushion News (pictures courtesy of Professor-Q-Ball), Billizone.com - Electronic Scoring System, and the official USBA Sponsors Tiger Products, Aramith Balls, Simonis Cloth and Verhoeven Tables.



**Hugo and Pedro lagging**



**Jae Hyung Cho ran**



**Vicky Pineda**

**Story continues page 32**

# USBA 2016 3-Cushion National Championship

	Cho	Piedrabuena	Lee	Palafox	Torres	Patino	Carranco	Pineda	WIN/LOSS	TOTAL POINTS	TOTAL INNINGS	GRAND AVERAGE	HIGH RUN	BEST GAME	FINAL RANKING									
Jae Hyung <b>Cho</b>		19 1.895	13 1.333	30 1.333	5 1.053	38 1.192	5 1.667	26 1.212	9 1.429	24 1.667	9 1.212	33 1.429	7 1.429	28 1.429	5 1.429	2	267	198	1.348	13	1.667	<b>3</b>		
Pedro <b>Piedrabuena</b>	20 12.000		7 2.105	19 1.212	8 1.212	33 2.667	6 1.571	15 1.571	12 1.571	21 1.571	7 1.571	25 1.600	7 1.056	36 1.056	4 1.056	5 1.056	2	271	169	1.604	12	2.667	<b>2</b>	
Young Gull <b>Lee</b>	29 0.862	19 1.000		6 1.000	32 0.969	5 0.969	33 0.636	4 0.636	30 0.833	4 0.833	46 0.870	4 0.870	30 1.067	5 1.067	5 1.067	1 1.067	6	193	219	0.881	6	0.870	<b>7</b>	
Carlos <b>Palafox</b>	37 0.730	5 1.125	32 1.125	11 1.250	32 1.250	5 1.250	31 1.065	8 0.692	26 0.692	3 0.692	27 1.481	10 1.481	44 0.909	6 0.909	6 0.909	3 0.909	4	234	229	1.022	11	1.481	<b>6</b>	
Miguel <b>Torres</b>	26 1.538	8 0.929	14 1.212	6 1.212	33 1.290	5 1.290	31 1.571	7 1.571	21 1.571	11 1.571	21 1.905	9 1.481	32 0.688	4 0.688	4 0.688	4 0.688	3	228	178	1.281	11	1.905	<b>4</b>	
Hugo <b>Patino</b>	23 1.478	8 1.905	21 1.333	8 1.333	30 1.481	5 1.481	27 1.818	10 1.818	22 1.818	10 1.818	27 1.481	6 1.481	36 1.111	6 1.111	6 1.111	6 1.111	1	274	186	1.473	10	1.905	<b>1</b>	
Ricardo <b>Carranco</b>	32 0.656	5 1.292	24 0.778	7 0.778	45 0.519	6 0.519	2 0.429	21 1.231	4 1.231	26 1.231	7 1.231	32 0.281	7 0.281	7 0.281	7 0.281	0 0.281	7	167	207	0.807	7	0.000	<b>8</b>	
Vicky <b>Pineda</b>	28 0.929	5 1.081	37 1.081	6 1.290	31 0.841	44 0.841	4 1.212	33 0.571	5 1.212	35 1.212	4 1.212	33 1.212	9 1.212	9 1.212	9 1.212	4 1.212	3	243	241	1.008	9	1.290	<b>5</b>	
<b>TOURNAMENT AVERAGE:</b>																							<b>1.154</b>	

All of the USBA championships matches from the qualifying rounds to the finals are viewable for free on POV Pool's YouTube Channel at [www.youtube.com/povpool](http://www.youtube.com/povpool) - Over the course of the next 60 days, the existing video on this channel will gradually be replaced by the HD version with the match title for players to share with fans. If there are any media inquiries, feel free to contact Point Of View Pool Media, directly at [daniel@povpool.com](mailto:daniel@povpool.com) or [geraldine@povpool.com](mailto:geraldine@povpool.com)



below l-r, Young Gull Lee, Miguel Torres, Pedro Piedrabuena, Vicky Pineda, Carlos Palafox, Jae Hyung Cho, Hugo Patino (Winner) and Ricardo Carranco

