



Three Cushion Billiard News

Cover Story Special

New Wave Billiards in Miami, Florida, was the host location for the 2006 USBA Nationals Championship. The preliminary matches began Wednesday, February 8 and ran to Friday the 10th. Then, the final matches started Friday night and ran until Sunday, February 12th.

The best forty-six players in the country came to meet the most ferocious 3-Cushion billiard competitors in the USA. The top five payers from last year's Nationals - Sonny Cho, 2005 National Champion; Pedro Piedrabuena, 2005 Runner Up; Michael Kang, Mazin Shooni and Roberto Arana (third, fourth and fifth place 2005 finishers respectively) - were seeded in different flights of the prelims by random draw. The dress code of dark slacks, collar shirt, tie and vest and was strictly enforced for all matches.

EQUIPMENT: Six heated Wilhelmina's, Aramith Spotted Balls, and newly installed Simonis cloth.

FORMAT: Based on 46 Players Preliminaries: Wednesday, Thursday and Friday 4 flights of 8 and 2 Flights of 7 - 25 Point Matches - Top two (2) from each flight advance to the next round for a total of 12 finalists as follows:

Sonny Cho	New York, NY
Pedro Piedrabuena	Los Angeles, CA
Michael Kang	New York, NY
Mazin Shooni	Boston, MA
Roberto Arana	Miami, FL
Adrian Viguera	Chicago, IL
Khalil Diab	Vallejo, CA
Robert Raiford	Miami, FL
Doug Brink	Raytown, MO
Armando Wong	Ft Lauderdale, FL
Aaron Steinberg	Ft Lauderdale, FL
Young Lee	New York, NY

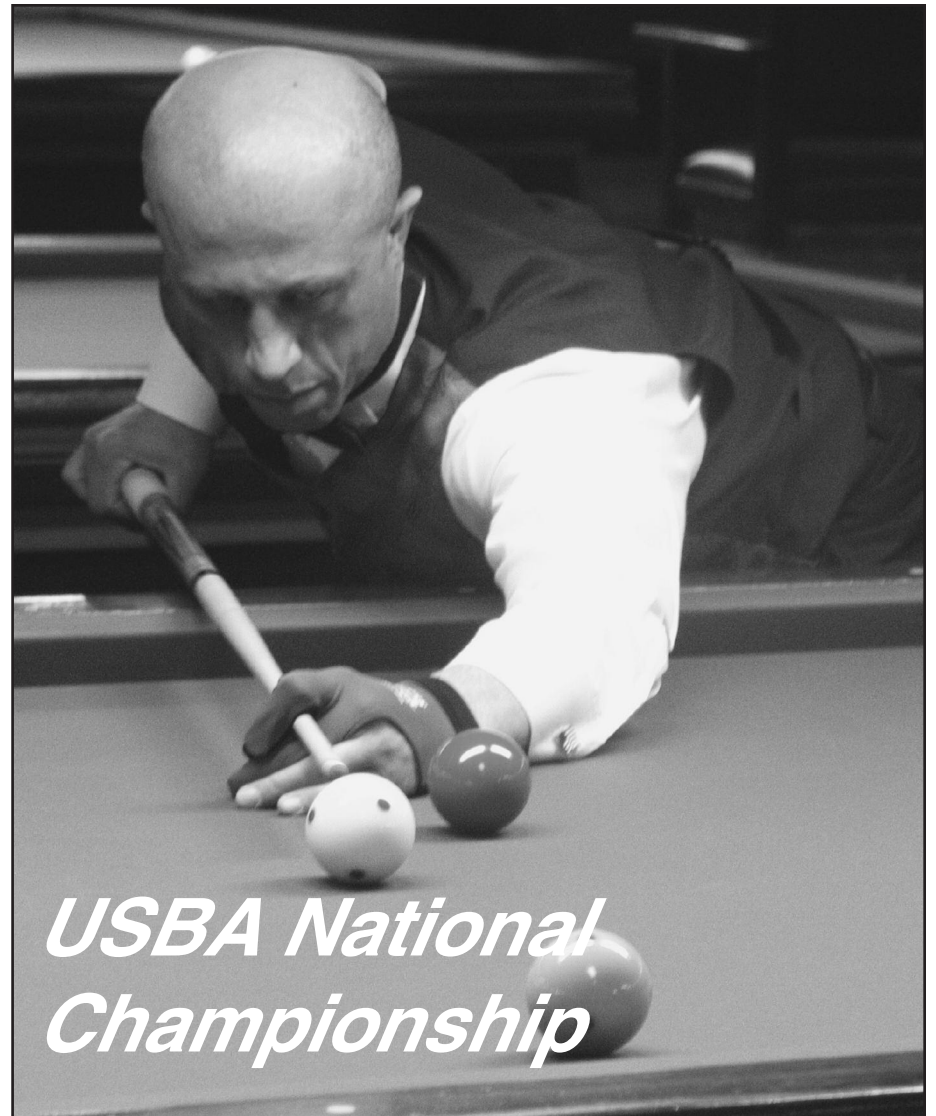
"The Amazing" Mazin Shooni Runs 18 in the "Race to Victory"

This amazing feat was performed in a 35-point match in only 9 innings against Armando Wong, which is now a new record high run during the USBA National Championship. The previous run was by the late, Mr. Sang Lee during his career winning 12 USBA titles in a row. Mazin played with an **Schuler Custom Cue**



Mazin Shooni

Born August 25, 1961
US Nationals Runner-Up
1996 & 1998
Current USBA Eastern
Director
Past USBA Central
Director
Won over 80 tournaments
nation wide
High Run-22
USBA Nationals High Run
Record - 18
USBA Nationals Best
Game Record - Nine
Innings (35 Billiards)
Newly married 6/18/05
Manages World Class
Billiard in Peabody, Mass.
**And now the 2006 US
National Champion**



(abv right) 2006 US National Champion Mazin Shooni

Twelve finalist (right)

with an Allen Gilbert taper shaft. Weight 19 1/4 - 12.2mm medium Tip-Tiger.

As Saturday night of the finals came to an end, one of the upset matches was Adrian Viguera vs. Pedro Piedrabuena. Viguera won 35 to 28 putting Piedrabuena, at 6 wins and 1 loss record. Now the only two with a no loss record is Mazin Shooni and Sonny Cho. They each had 7 wins and 0 losses. On Sunday play started at 10:00am with 4 rounds left to go to see who will be the next USBA 2006 3-Cushion Champion.

Bob Jewett (New President of the USBA) and Secretary Brian Morgan were also on hand to help out. I would like to mention David Levine and Hernando,



owner of **New Wave Billiards**, for there generous donations along with other contributors, *Aramith, Tiger Products, Professor-Q-Ball, Dennis Deskman, Sid Banner, Iwan Simonis, Schuler Cue, Corner Pocket Billiards, Don Sperber, Len Relic and Carl E. Anderson*. It is people like this that keep our sport going.

Shooni Wins the USBA 3-Cushion Nationals

It was Mazin Shooni and Pedro Piedrabuena that went into the heat of battle to see who was going to be

2006 USBA National Championship

New Wave Billiards February 8 – 12

	Arana	Brink	Cho	Diab	Kang	Lee	Piedrabuena	Raiford	Shooni	Steinberg	Viguera	Wong	WIN/LOSS	TOTAL POINTS	TOTAL INNINGS	GRAND AVERAGE	HIGH RUN	BEST GAME	FINAL RANKING	
Roberto	44	5	35	49	5	33	28	4	67	4	29	4	30	4	39	41	4	4	4	
Arana		35	27	25	32	30	18	35	21	35	34	35	4	327	435	0.752	6	1.167	8	
Doug	43	4	19	39	7	28	2	32	19	4	53	28	44	4	33	61	4	4	4	
Brink	31		12	35	15	35	13	29	10	35	18	35	7	268	399	0.672	7	1.094	9	
Sonny	35	5	20	7	18	8	30	5	19	10	19	4	22	5	31	3	24	5	30	
Cho	35	35		35	35	35	21	35	24	35	35	35	9	360	273	1.319	10	1.944	3	
Khalil	49	4	38	4	17	3	30	7	40	5	27	4	45	5	22	7	53	33	33	
Diab	35	30	13		26	31	26	35	30	35	35	35	5	331	386	0.858	9	1.094	7	
Michael	40	5	28	4	30	4	30	8	27	5	21	3	30	5	35	5	20	38	38	
Kang	35	35	20	35		28	17	35	28	35	35	29	6	332	331	1.003	8	1.750	5	
Young Gull	34	5	31	3	18	5	41	4	23	8	19	29	5	31	41	10	38	49	49	
Lee	35	25	20	35	35		15	35	31	35	32	35	6	333	360	0.925	10	1.250	6	
Pedro	29	7	19	8	20	9	27	6	22	5	20	8	20	7	29	4	38	38	41	
Piedrabuena	35	35	35	35	35	35		35	35	35	28	35	10	378	303	1.248	9	1.842	2	
Robert	67	4	54	3	21	4	44	3	30	3	29	4	19	2	26	3	30	39	55	
Raiford	27	35	12	25	16	22	6		11	35	18	35	3	242	414	0.585	6	1.167	10	
Mazin	29	4	28	7	31	6	23	6	36	4	32	7	29	5	27	6	24	5	30	
Shooni	35	35	35	35	35	35	28	35		35	35	35	10	378	298	1.268	18	3.889	1	
Aron	29	3	43	6	24	4	53	4	20	4	40	2	37	3	29	4	23	4	56	
Steinberg	16	31	16	26	16	21	23	18	23		22	34	0	246	419	0.587	6	0.000	12	
Adrian	39	5	33	4	30	4	32	5	38	4	39	5	39	4	39	4	30	4	57	
Viguera	35	35	31	27	28	35	35	35	35	15	35		35	7	346	411	0.842	6	1.061	4
Armando	41	4	60	4	25	3	32	4	32	4	48	2	40	5	55	3	66	35	3	
Wong	20	33	12	18	35	15	25	25	5	35	14		9	237	442	0.536	5	1.094	11	
Mazin Shooni wins a playoff match against Pedro Piedrabuena 35 to 28 in 20 & 19 innings													TOURNAMENT AVERAGE:		0.845					

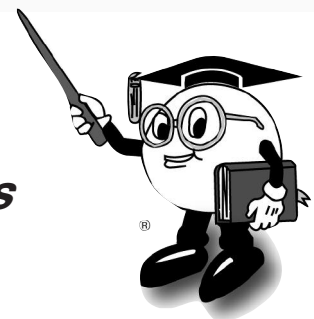
the new USBA Champion. Mazin won the lag and ran 2 points. Pedro snaps off a 10 and the crowd goes wild. Mazin comes back and runs 8 and the crowd roars. With a blink of an eye the score in the 2nd inning is already 10 to 10. Pedro misses and Mazin runs 3 more, then a 2 and another 3 and still another 3. Then Pedro runs 3 and another blink of an eye and the score is 21 to 13 Mazin lead. Pedro makes a point and then runs 6 and at the end of 10 innings the score is 24 Mazin and Pedro 23. Both players are on fire and the crowd is burning for more action. Mazin comes back and runs another 1 and then 4 more, while Pedro makes an unbelievable shot. Score is now 29-25 Mazin is still in the lead. Mazin runs 2 and he makes an unbelievable shot. 32- 26. Pedro got a lucky roll and kisses a point in and then makes an unbelievable shot that had the crowd going. Mazin now only needs 3 and he takes his shot and gets a kiss and then kisses again and makes his point. Mazin then went on to win and now he is crowned the USBA 3-Cushion Champion of 2006.

Mazin average for the final game against Pedro was 1.75 avg. and his overall average in the finals was 1.3

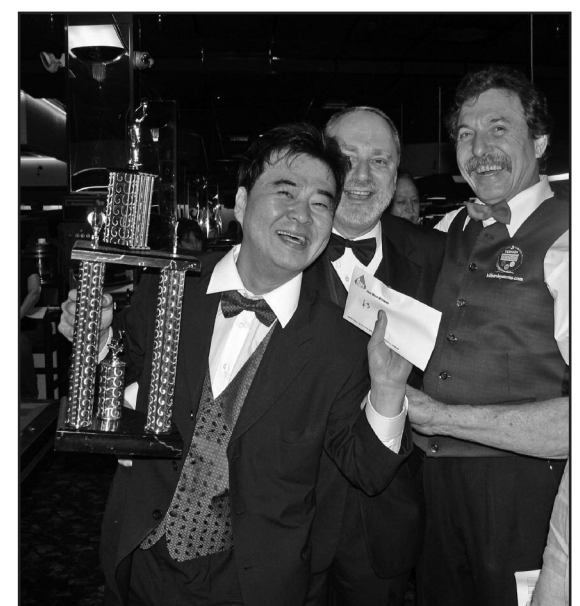
The chart below shows all the 12 finalists wins and Losses, Total Points, Total innings, Grand Average High-Run Best Game and Final Ranking.

More stories and pictures on page 28

Final Results



Second place finisher Pedro Piedrabuena (center)

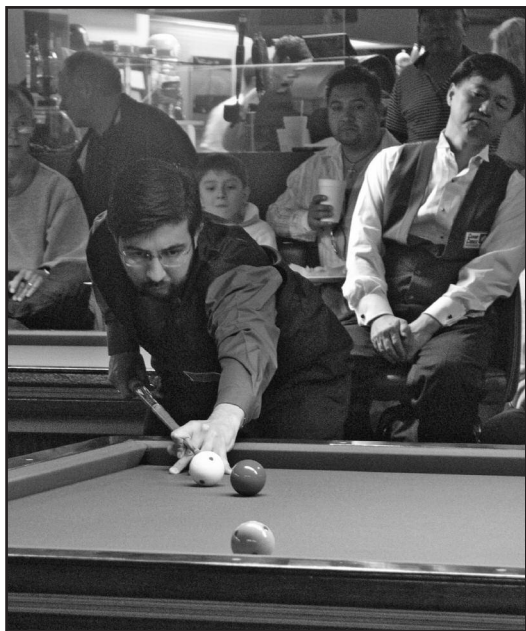


Third place finisher Sonny Cho with check

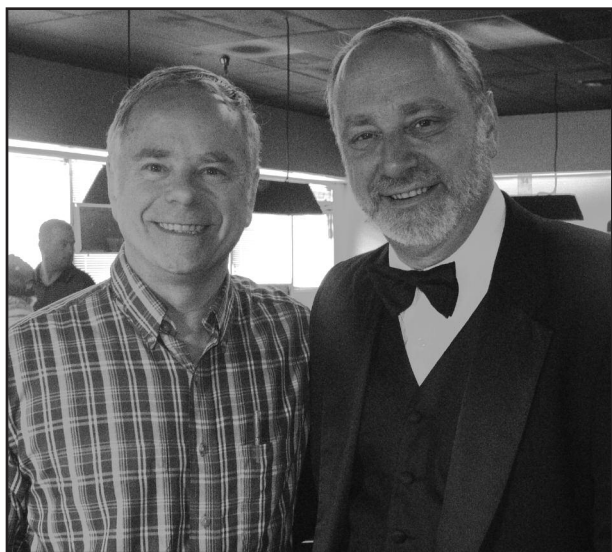
Cover Story Special cont.



Mr. & Mrs Mazin Shooni



Second place finisher Pedro in early play.



(above) President, Bob Jewitt of the USBA and Secretary, Brian Morgan

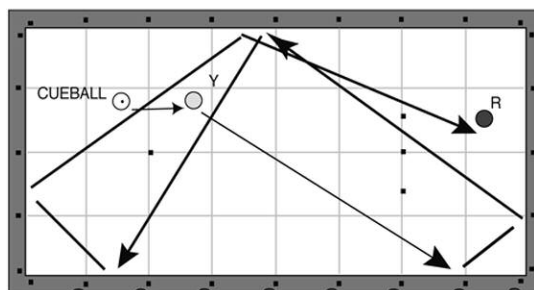
(right) Tournament Directors Roberto Arana and Sid Banner

Special thanks goes out to Sid Banner and Roberto Arana (tournament Directors), Hernando Pineras, Charlie Brown, George Aronex and all the Refs and score keepers.

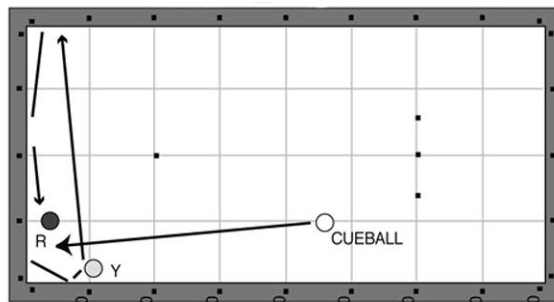
Comments from Mazin

"The past year has had many highs and lows for me. I was married this summer and then lost my mother in September. When I entered the tournament, I was determined to do the best I possible could in honor of my mother and my new marriage. My wife was at my side and supported me 100% for the entire tournament, and I know my mother answered more than a few prayers. My friends from Boston and Detroit were behind me every step of the way, and the audience was incredible. Winning this tournament is a dream of a lifetime, and I am extremely grateful to everyone who was behind me."

Carom Shots of the Tournament



Mazin Shooni played this incredible shot at the 2006 USBA Nationals against Pedro. Even though he missed it by a hair, I thought you would like to see it. Very high speed was used.



Pedro Piedrabuena made this incredible shot at the 2006 USBA Nationals against Mazin Shooni



Prize fund

1- \$3,500.00	9 - \$850.00
2- \$3,000.00	10 - \$700.00
3- \$2,500.00	11 - \$600.00
4- \$2,000.00	12 - \$500.00
5- \$1,700.00	13 - \$300.00
6- \$1,400.00	14 - \$300.00
7- \$1,150.00	15 - \$300.00
8- \$1,000.00	HI-Run \$200



Bill Johnson (Regional Director) from Berkley, Michigan, was showing off his new cue stick that he made.

Bill fell in love with the game about 35 years ago. Knowing Dennis Dieckman of Dieckman Custom Cues, Bill had some interest in making his own cue.

The cue is called the Batman Cue. There is 85 man-hours of inlay work, Bill said, "look for more cues in the future."

Congratulations to Owners of new 3-Cushion Billiard tables.

George's Billiards Boynton Beach, Florida-(561-735-7802), bought two new tables and now has 3 Gabriel tables in his poolroom. He welcomes all players to come by and test out their skills on his new tables.

Samples Billiards- 3622 Lamar Ave Memphis, Tenn. is now a proud owner of a new Imperator table in his billiard room. If you are a billiard player passing through Memphis check us out. (901 756-2594 Paul Frankel)

Gary Eake, purchased a new Imperator 3-Cushion table for his home and invites you to call him if you are ever in the area of Oshloh, Wis. Give me a call and let's play Billiards, the real game. (920-426-0417)

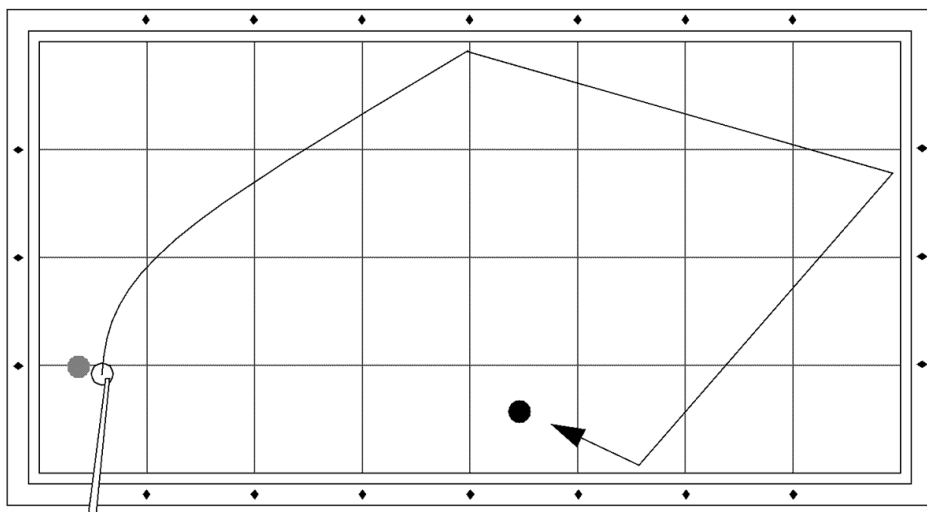
Stanly Lambardo, of Lawrence, Kansas (785-842-7010) purchased a new Imperator 3-Cushion table for his home. When in the area give him a call and he would love to invite any one to play a game.

The Masse Option

by Bob Jewett
Contributing Writer

A major change occurred in three-cushion billiard play with the arrival of European-style tables with super-fast cloth. The slate beds of the tables are two to three inches thick and they are heated. The heating — just warm to the touch — drives out moisture and makes the play much more consistent in humid weather. The fast cloth allows shots that would be almost impossible on the slower, napped cloths that were used 50 years ago.

In the diagram is a shot that's actually reasonable, these days. It comes from a match between Frederic Caudron (Belgium) and John Thyssens (The Netherlands) in the 2003 Las Vegas WorldCup tournament. Thyssens is among the first of the international players to go for a masse in an apparently hopeless situation, and it



paid for him this time. A picture of Thyssens shooting the shot is available for free on the Accu-Stats web site in the listing for item 3C03-01 for either the VHS or DVD version of the match.

His cue ball was almost touching a ball as shown, and while there are some shots off the far ball, none of them is inviting when jacked up. English would help such shots, but with the required elevation over the interfering ball, accuracy of the hit on the first ball would be lost.

Thyssens elevated to about 60 degrees — this is not a full masse — and played with right draw. On the fast cloth, a free-hand bridge is not required; an open V-bridge allows sufficient power. The cue ball took a nice arc to the first cushion and then spun into the needed angle for the 3-cushion “natural.” The first object ball actually banked off the end rail and got to the second object ball very slightly before the cue ball scored, but the small kiss didn't affect the shot. If you try the shot, this timing will give you some idea of how full to hit the first object ball.

In top play, it's not uncommon to see two or three of these half-masse shots during a match. Usually, they are played when the cue ball is very close to an object ball. This is for two reasons. First, it's much easier to get an accurate hit on the ball when it's close. Also, the very closeness restricts the shot selection, making the masse shot the best of limited possibilities.

If you want to try some half-masse shots, start with a position like the one shown, but with the second object ball closer to the lower right corner so you don't need so much elevation or power. Also, to make the shot easier, turn the cue ball-object ball pair a little clockwise.

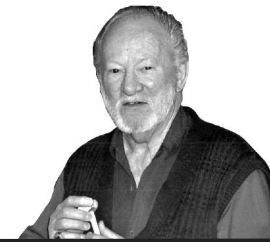
If the table is not your own, ask before shooting. The best time to convince the owner to let you practice these is the week before the table is recovered.

Good luck.

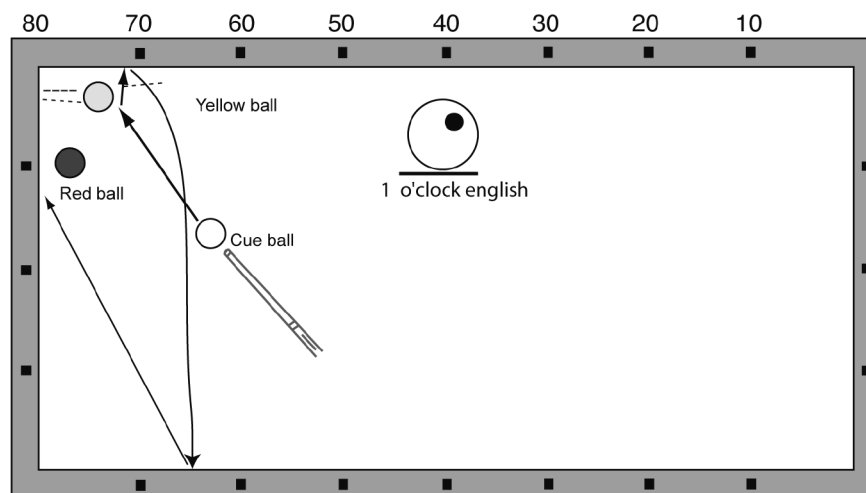
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Rip's Tips

3-Cushion



Two Directional Stroke Shot



With top right hand english, (1 o'clock) and a very quick stroke and long follow through, make a 1/2 ball hit on the yellow ball to get the cue ball to curve to the second rail and zoom upward to score on the red ball. Sort of a fun shot to play that will put a little spice in your game.

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

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