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Felipe Razon Dominates the Olhausen II

Felipe Razon, in his last "B" tournament, demonstrated excellent billiards to his fellow "B" players. He lost just one game in the preliminaries and was undefeated in the finals, averaging .862, but was averaging almost .950 before the last match.

Brian Haff finished 2nd, averaging .711, but was averaging almost .900 before losing his final 3 matches against Bill Johnson, Jim Shovak and Felipe Razon.

Dan Kolacz finished 3rd, Bill Johnson came in 4th, Bassel Elsaar finished 5th, Jim Shovak came in 6th, Mercedes Gonzales finished 7th and Dave Mason came in 8th.

There were 28 players altogether. The high run money was shared by Felipe Razon, Bassel Elshaar and Jim Shovak for their runs of 6 in the finals.



I-r, Brian Haff (2nd), Felipe Razon (1st), Dan Kolacz (3rd).

The Minneapolis Billiard Club Fall Classic Tournament Lived up to its Name

Eighteen players from 5 states came to do battle on Verhoevens to see who would find their way to victory.

On Sunday morning as the finals continued, Tom Rossman defeated Bob Byrne in fifteen innings for the tournaments best game of 1.667.

By early afternoon the finals bracket was becoming very interesting with Lupe Cruz being 3-0, Tom Rossman also being 3-0, and Bob Byrne being 3-1. It was time for Lamers to play Rossman and Lamers managed a victory of 25-12 to leave Rossman at 3-1 and Lamers with 2-2.

Next up was Lamers and Cruz, and Lamers' victory against Cruz guaranteed Lamers second place with a record of 3-2 and a record of 46 points in his two losses. That set the stage for Cruz and Rossman both being 3-1. The winner of that match would win the tournament and the loser would get third place. Lupe Cruz, being a very skilled player, won the match and the tournament with 25-14 in 25 innings.



I-r, Fred Lamers (2nd), Lupe Cruz (1st), Tom (Dr. Cue) Rossman (3rd)

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Cue & Cushion Billiards

The USBA Tour continued in Hooksett, New Hampshire at Cue & Cushion Billiards, owned by 2006 USBA Champion, Mazin Shooni.

This event was a handicapped tournament, with "B" players going to 20 points, Gilbert Najm (a "B+" player) going to 23 points and "A" players over .900 average going to 27 points.

There were not too many upsets. One upset was Drew Dangelmayer beating Mazin Shooni by scoring 20 points in just 23 innings. In the finals, Gilbert Najm defeated Mazin 23-18 in 23 innings.

The finalists were Pedro Piedrabuena, Mazin Shooni, Gilbert Najm, Tim King, Drew Dangelmayer and Bob Page in a 6-player round robin.

After Round 4 was completed, Pedro was 4-0, Mazin was 3-1 and Gilbert was 3-1. Mazin needed to defeat Pedro in Round 5 and then force a playoff match in order to win the tournament. Mazin defeated Pedro 27-23 in just 16 innings. Gilbert won his match creating a 3-way tie for first place, all having 4-1 records. The two-best averages would play for 1st & 2nd place.

Naturally, that was Pedro and

Mazin, although Gilbert did average .920 in the finals! Great shooting, Gilbert!

The playoff match between Pedro and Mazin was about to begin and frankly, nobody expected what was about to happen. It might have even been U.S. 3-cushion billiards history in the making.

Both players played phenomenal. After just 9 innings, Mazin Shooni had an astounding 18 points, for a 2.000 average. However, it was not nearly good enough. The game ended after just 9 innings with Pedro scoring 27 points for a 3.000 average! Can you imagine averaging 2.000 and losing?

Pedro had some other astounding games during the tournament including 27 points in 16 innings, 27 points in 15 innings, 27 points in 13 innings, 27 points in 10 innings and 27 points in just 8 innings!

Pedro averaged 1.467 in the prelims and over 1.800 in the finals including the playoff match. What a performance!

Congratulations to Pedro, Mazin, Gilbert and the other finalists.

Prizes:

Pedro Piedrabuena	\$1,300
Mazin Shooni	\$1,000
Gilbert Najm	\$800
Bob Page	\$500
Tim King	\$150
Drew Dangelmayer	\$150



President's Desk

In October I attended the UMB Congress and Assembly in Madrid. Besides showing the flag of the USBA and making contacts, here is what I learned. Some countries have well developed carom communities and/or programs. South Korea has several million players and about 30,000 Clubs(rooms). For several years France has had a training program for carom trainers and a certification program for clubs that have training schools. Spain treats carom as a sport with a sophisticated 4 to 6 year training program beginning at age 10. With a large player base Turkey and Colombia reinvigorated the organized carom game in their countries over the last several years. Mexico and Italy have significant carom communities. But many country federations, including some where carom has a history, are having difficulty attracting new players. Possible causes of this situation were suggested but no conclusions reached. A lot was said about the need to attract new players, but there were no ready answers. A presentation made on sports marketing pointed to a possible solution if that avenue is pursued. But regardless of these uncertainties, my sense was that the UMB intends to make more of an effort to address this situation than in the past. In the meantime the USBA will seek to apply lessons from the success stories where it can.

Bruce Warner

Carom Cafe Crystal

Twenty Four players entered the Carom Cafe Crystal tournament on October 15-17. The tournament included "C" players (under .500 average) and also some "C+" players who had averages slightly above .500. The "C" players went to 15 points and the "C+" players went to 18 points. The players were divided into 4 groups with 6 players each, round robin. The top 2 from each group advanced to the finals along with 1 auction and 1 lottery winner.

Finalists: Sung Youn Seo, Hugo Flores, Seong Sil Park, George Hobson, Rodrigo Gonzalez, Luis Miguel Valdovinos, Jorge Gonzales, Jose Luis Lopez. Auction winner was Woo Gon Kim and lottery winner was Ester Park .

The 10 players were then divided into 2 groups of 5 players each, round robin. The top 2 finishers in each group advanced to a 4 player single elimination. Those 4 players were Seong Youn Seo, Jorge Gonzalez, Ester Park and Rodrigo Gonzalez.

Jorge Gonzalez and Seong Youn Seo won their matches and Seong Youn Seo defeated Jorge Gonzalez in the finals 24-16 to win the tournament. Jorge Gonzalez finished 2nd, Rodrigo Gonzalez finished 3rd and Ester Park came in 4th.



l-r, Jorge Gonzalez 2nd, Ester Park 4th, Seong Youn Seo 1st

Aveiga Outlasts The Field at Doral Billiards

Doral Billiards in Doral, FL, hosted a 2010 USBA Tour Open Tournament with twenty players, the tournament directors decided on two flights with ten players each in the preliminaries, round robin to 25 points. The top four players would advance to the finals with one lottery and one auction winner.

Flight A: Sonny Cho, Luis Aveiga, Hugo Patino and Jamil Isreal advance. **Flight B:** Jae Hyung Cho, Pedro Piedrabuena, Miguel Torres and Carlos Hallon advance.

Sang Jin Lee won the lottery and Jim Shovak won the auction. The players were then divided into two groups with five players each, round robin to 30 points. The top 2 in each semi-final group would then advance to a 4-player single elimination round. The players were ranked 1 through 10 based on their preliminary round performances and placed into the 2 semi-final groups.

Semi-Finals-Flight C: Pedro Piedrabuena, 1st, Miguel Torres, 2nd, Jae Hyung Cho, 3rd, Jamil Isreal, 4th and Sang Jin Lee, 5th. **Semi-Finals-Flight D:** Luis Aveiga from Ecuador finishes 1st, Hugo Patino, 2nd, Carlos Hallon, 3rd, Sonny Cho, 4th and Jim Shovak, 5th.

The top 2 in each group then advanced to a single elimination semi-finals. The 3rd place finishers in each group played one match to 35 points for 5th and 6th place in the tournament. The 4th place finishers did the same.

9th and 10th place: Jim Shovak, (9th) defeated Sang Jin Lee



(10th). **7th and 8th place:** Sonny Cho (7th) defeated Jamil Isreal (8th). **5th and 6th:** Jae Hyung Cho (5th) defeated Carlos Hallon (6th).

Single Elimination Semi-Finals:

Match 1: Hugo Patino defeated Pedro Piedrabuena.

Match 2: Luis Aveiga defeated Miguel Torres.

Single Elimination Finals:

Match 1: Miguel Torres (3rd place) defeated Pedro Piedrabuena (4th place).

Match 2: Luis Aveiga (1st) defeated Hugo Patino (2nd).

High run was 10 by Ellis Lawrence.

Best game was by Hugo.

Special thanks to Mike Brodie, George Theobald & William Higgins. Henry Ugartechea and Mercedes Gonzales for running the tournament. Robert Raiford providing live-streaming. The fantastic owners and managers at Doral Billiards who were extremely gracious during this event. Bill Smith for donating his book and DVD, "The Concise Book of Position Play" and to Noel Mendoza for donating a Schuler Cue. Miguel Torres and Luis Aveiga for treating the crowd to Artistic Billiards Exhibitions.

Jim Shovak Wins the Carom Café “B” Tournament

Forty-two players came to Flushing, NY to participate in the 2010 USBA Tour “B” Tournament at Carom Café Billiards, owned by Michael Kang.

The first place prize was \$2,200 + \$150 credit into any Open Tournament. The competition was fierce. The players were divided into 7 groups with 6 players each, round robin to 20 points. The top 2 finishers of each group would advance to the next round along with one lottery and one auction winner.

Preliminary Highlights: Jim Watson had a 12 inning game for an average of 1.667. Jim Shovak, Lloyd Wallace, Dan Kolacz, Joseph Hwang and Martin Abreu all had 13 inning games for an average of 1.538. Shovak had the high run of 9.

The players who advanced were Rigoberto Cuevas, Jose Lizarraga, Lloyd Wallace, Jim Shovak, Man Young Kim, Jim Watson, Arturo Herrera, Edwar Gomez, Young Ha Choi, Armando Rodriguez, Jae Cheon Seong, Won Sik Kang, Min Soo An and Rich Vitzthum. The winner of the lottery was Dan Kolacz and John Kim paid \$925 in the auction for a spot in the next round. The 14 preliminary round winners + the auction and lottery winner were then ranked from 1 to 16 based on order of finish, wins/losses, total points scored and total points against. The players were then placed into 4 groups of 4 players each to properly balance each group. The matches were played to 25 points. The top 2 finishers of each 4-player group would advance to the next round.

Semi-Final Groups:

Group A: Jose Lizarraga wins the group going 2-1 with 72 total points scored and a .828 grand average. Lloyd Wallace comes in 2nd going 2-1 with 69 total points scored and a .734 grand average. Won Sik Kang just misses out going 2-1 with 66 total points scored despite a phenomenal 1.048 grand average!

Group B: Young Ha Choi goes 3-0 with a .815 grand average. Dan Kolacz goes 2-1 with a .872 grand average.

Group C: Jim Shovak wins the group going 2-1 with 63 total points scored. Armando Rodriguez comes in 2nd, going 2-1 with 62 total points scored. Arturo Herrera just misses out, losing 25-24 to Jim Shovak in one of the most exciting matches of the tournament.

Group D: Jim Watson wins the group going 2-1 with 68 total points scored and a .731 grand average. Edwar Gomez also finishes 2-1 with 60 total points scored and an amazing .938 grand average. Edwar also had the tournament high run of 10. Jae Cheon Seong just misses out, losing to Jim Watson 25-22. He averaged .773 in this round.

The 8 finalists were then ranked 1 through 8 based on order of finish, wins/losses, total points scored and total points



l-r, Young Ha Choi (3rd), Jim Shovak (1st) and Jim Watson (2nd)

against. Number 1 would play number 8, number 2 would play number 7, number 3 would play number 6 and number 4 would play number 5. This round would be a Single Elimination Round to 30 points.

Single Elimination Quarterfinals:

Young Ha Choi defeats Edwar Gomez 30-25.
Jim Shovak defeats Lloyd Wallace 30-22.
Jim Watson defeats Dan Kolacz 30-26.
Jose Lizarraga defeats Armando Rodriguez 30-23.

Single Elimination Semifinals:

Jim Shovak defeats Young Ha Choi 30-19 in just 33 innings (.909 grand avg).
Jim Watson defeats Jose Lizarraga 30-16 in just 22 innings (1.364 grand avg). Jim also had a high run of 9 in this match.

Single Elimination Finals:

Young Ha Choi defeats Jose Lizarraga 30-29.
Young Ha Choi finishes in 3rd place overall. Jose Lizarraga finishes in 4th place.

Jim Shovak defeats Jim Watson 35-28. Shovak had a run of 7.
Jim Shovak wins the tournament and Jim Watson finishes in 2nd place.

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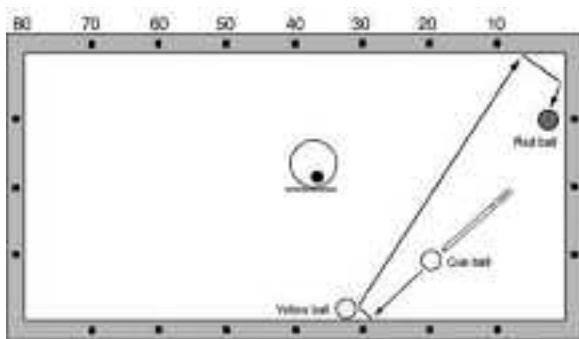
Rip's Tips

Rail First Draw Shot



Hit the 29 minute mark on the cue ball with a quick hand and a firm short stroke and hit the rail first to score on this shot. For a real test keep moving the first object ball farther along the rail to find you limitations. Around the table shot can also be made from this position.

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



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Upcoming Tournaments

December 10-12: Regional Qualifier

US Billiards- Houston, TX

Contact: Timo Nguyen: 281-701-4947

December 17-19: USBA Tour Open

Edgie's - Milpitas, CA

Contact: Raye Raskin: 415-497-8732

January 14-16: Regional Qualifier

Pendennis Club - Louisville, KY

Contact: Paul Frankel: 901-756-2594 or 901 210-7251

January 28-30: Handicap -

Best Billiards lv - Las Vegas, NV

Contact: Ermanno Scalas: 702-990-0502

May 10-14: USBA National Championship

Tropicana Hotel-Las Vegas, NV

Contact: Jim Shovak: 516-238-6193

USBA National Championship to be held at Tropicana Hotel in Las Vegas

The 2011 USBA Nationals will be held in Las Vegas, Nevada at the Tropicana Hotel. Our event will be held alongside the ACS (American Cue Alliance) National 8-ball & 9-ball Championships. This venue will allow 3-cushion to receive major exposure to thousands of pool players.

The Architect of this event is Professor-Q-Ball (Paul Frankel), who had been working on this for many months with John Lewis, the Executive Director of the ACS and the table manufacturer, Gabriels, who will be providing 6 heated tables for the event.

The tentative dates are May 10-14, 2011. Those dates are not yet official. When the date becomes official, we will be making a formal announcement. No entry fees will be accepted at this time. More information to follow.



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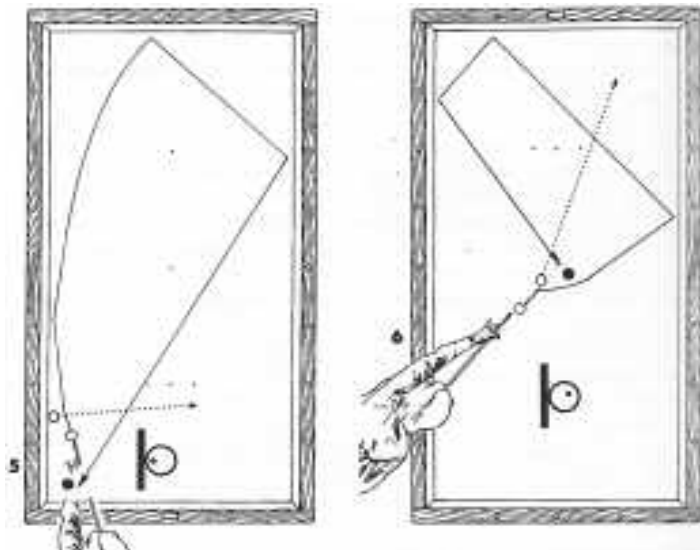
by Robert Byrne

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



Shot 5, is very instructive. The red is big in the corner, but at first sight there seems to be no way to take advantage of it because the white can't be hit thin enough. Or can it? Not with running English. Low draw is needed in order to bend the cueball path as shown. The trick is to hit the white really thin- just barely feathers it.

I've seen shots like 6, passed up by good tournament players in favor of all sorts of goofy wing-dings. It's true that at first sight it looks as though there is no scoring angle off the right side of the white, but don't forget the curve that follow will give it. Practice this one. It comes up all the time and is often overlooked.



Robert Byrne has a new book, "Behold My Shorts - The Best of Robert Byrne".

To see him in his polka-dot shorts, go to:

<http://www.thonline.com/store/bookBrowse.cfm>

To view his new book's Press Release, go to:

<http://www.usba.net/BreakingNews/ByrnePressRelease-11-2-09.pdf>

Recent Qualifiers for the 2011 Nationals

Congratulations to Fred Lamers, John Jacobson, Adrian Viguera and William Kim for qualifying for the 2011 Nationals

Twenty players entered the Qualifier in Marshalltown, Iowa. 4 flights of 5 with the top 2 from each going to 2 flights of 4. The top 2 out of each win a spot in the Nationals.

Fred Lamers and John Jacobson were undefeated, and William Kim and Adrian Viguera had one loss each in the finals.



**Fred Lamers,
John Jacobson**



**Adrian Viguera,
Billy Kim**



Carom Café Billiards in Flushing, NY held a Regional Qualifier. Winners Hugo Patino(bottom) and Min Jae Pak (top) qualify for the 2011 Nationals



Hugo Patino 2009 USBA Champion coached Annie Robinson at the BCA Trade Show in July 2010. The shot in the diagram was her very first time she tried and nailed it. We hope Annie will stay with the game and go on to playing it.

ANNIE MAKES HER FIRST 3-CUSHION SHOT

